

The Bulletin

Iowa Ornithologists Union

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, 1929 NUMBER 3

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. CAROLINA WREN

Mrs. Toni Wendleburg of Des Moines Obtains Interview and Reports for the Readers of the Bulletin.

MR. EDITOR:

One day, just two years ago, my wife and I were taking a little journey; house-hunting, in fact. It had been a hot spring day and we were tired and thirsty. We happened to see a bit of water gleaming up from an otherwise dry landscape and we hurried down to it. Nothing ever tasted better than the water from that little pool. Things were so quiet and peaceful there that we decided to look about a little while.

There were many tall trees and many shrubs, oh! so much wild grape tangle. Many pretty wild-flowers were in bloom nearby. Many bird friends were flitting about and I presently said to my wife. "Well what do you think of this? Oh! my dear, let's stay here. No one seems to live here except birds." So we decided to try this place and had a dandy time all afternoon.

During the next hour or two we scouted around the place a little more. We found vine-covered arbors and piles of old logs, which we dearly love to explore, and lovely brush-piles.

I was just bursting with happiness—I am a happy fellow—so I sung my vesper song in my finest way. The lady looked all about and seemed excited, my wife said. I kept on singing but moved about very stealthily from place to place. "You teach! You teach! You teach!" I sang. She looked about more still but I kept myself well concealed.

In the next few weeks we got accustomed to seeing her, most days we saw her only in the early morning or late afternoon. I know it was several months before the lady at last saw us for I always hid from her and tried to fool her. My wife heard her say to a friend, "You see, I'd never heard a Carolina Wren before, and only once before had seen one." She got to know my different songs—"You beat it! You beat it! You see? You see? You see? Je be bit, Je be bit"—my own secret, that last one.

No small children ever molested us, and very seldom did we see a cat nearby. That is of great importance for we are on the ground a great deal and WE HATE CATS.

That first summer we hid our nest well, but last summer we choose the loveliest brush pile,

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MRS. DALES' BANDING STATION

"My trapping station is only a small mid-city lot with no shrubbery to speak of. I operate nine or ten traps part of the time. In going thru my files this is a summary of what I found: Since I began banding birds in 1924, I have banded a total 1809 birds representing 37 species. I have had 170 returns, 33 being from dead birds, 29 of them found in and about the City, and 4 reported from away. Two from Texas, one from Missouri, and one from Oklahoma. These four had all been shot. The birds were, Mourning Dove, one Brown Thrasher, and two Robins. These reports coming from the Southwest seem to show the trend of migration for these birds to be in that direction. The reports also prove the need for protection for the birds in the south. There has been only one report for a live bird from away, and that was for a Robin banded Sept. 31, 1927. It was captured by F. Huber, at Pierce, Nebr. The bird had flown into a shed during a storm March 31, 1929. In the five years of banding activity I have trapped but one bird banded by another operator, and no operator has ever trapped one of my birds.

The oldest bird to repeat in my traps was a male Cowbird that I banded five years ago. He came back for the first time this year. Where he had been in the meantime he did not divulge.

Children knowing of my interest in birds, often bring me sick or injured birds, and young birds that have fallen out of their nest for one reason or another. Oftimes I think a vermin infested nest drives them out before they are quite ready to care for themselves. Last year there was brot to me three young Robins with a malformation of the feet something like club feet in humans. I dispatched them since they would never be able to walk. Their inability to grasp the nest was the reason, very likely, for their being shoved out of the nest.

This year my paper boy brought me a male Rose-breasted Grosbeck, with an infected eye. At first I thought the eye had been pierced by some sharp object, but after bathing the affected eye in a boric acid solution for a few days, the infection went down and I found the eyeball intact, but opaque as in cataract. For a few days the bird was quite sick and ate but little. After that it perked up wonderfully, and even sang snatches of his song. From the first he took kindly to life in a canary cage, so kindly in fact that after two weeks he did not know that he cared to leave. I put the cage on a pedestal food table and opened the door.

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THE BULLETIN

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DR. F. L. R. ROBERTS, Editor Spirit Lake, Iowa

EDITORIAL NOTES AND COMMENTS

Dr. H. S. Connard would like to receive pressed or live specimens of *Tradescantia* from western Iowa for the Grinnell College Herbarium and Botanic Garden.

A few days ago I received a pamphlet headed, "A Crisis in Conservation." The authors are certainly right when they say that the scientific ornithological associations have been indifferent to conservation problems. We have left conservation to the sportsman, whose interest is to save from extermination only game birds, and these only that he may kill them. The magazine, *Forest and Stream*, has been interested in real conservation, but they class as vermin all species that are in any way harmful to game. They do not consider the pleasure we, who do not hunt, derive from the crow's challenging call, ringing thru the crisp autumnal air; or the majesty of effortless circling of a hawk high overhead. Many of our so-called conservation organizations are dominated by the ammunition makers.

Howard Graesing, Mrs. Roberts, and I visited the nest of a Prairie Horned Lark which contained three eggs. Fifteen minutes later it contained only one egg. There was no evidence that the others had been destroyed by snakes or gophers (The nest was at the base of a corn stalk near the center of a well tended field) and we are wondering if the mother could have carried away the eggs as the old-world larks are said to do. Has any Iowa observer any evidence on the subject either from reading or observation?

This is Dickcissil year with us. We observed 39 on the fences and telephone wires along a little less than ten miles of road. After that we did not see another for more than ten miles, tho' we passed thru the same type of country.

Mrs. Roberts and I have got more Intermediate (Gamble's) Sparrows than White Crowns in our banding traps and we see more in the field. Conversation at the convention showed that others had suspected the condition to exist. Other Iowa observers should watch to see if this is a local or temporary condition.

We have had several returns from banded birds this summer. Those of you who do not band are missing an opportunity for pleasure and service.

Minnesota ornithologists organized a Union early this spring.

There is available an illustrated lecture on birds that has been prepared by the Biological Survey. This is primarily of an economic nature and may be obtained by writing to the Office of Visual Education, Extension Service, Washington, D. C. The Office of Motion Pictures, Dept. of Agriculture, has two or three films, showing birds, chiefly in the federal reservations in the southern states. The charges for such material are usually only transportation charges both ways.

The American Ornithologists Union lists the following Iowans: Life Member, Althea R. Sherman; Member, Dr. T. C. Stephens; Associates, Arthur F. Allen, Oscar P. Allert, W. W. Bennett, Mrs. Marie Dales, Dr. C. E. Ehinger, Mrs. Henry Frankel, Mrs. A. B. Funk, Ralph Handsaker, C. E. Hoskinson, W. F. Kubichek, W. R. Mills, Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, W. M. Rosen, A. J. Weber.

Mrs. Bailey, our secretary, is now in Europe. She will return in the fall.

This spring we saw fifteen Ruddy Turnstones in a flock on the shore of Spirit Lake.

This will be an eight page edition. We cannot afford to continue to publish so large an edition unless we have an increase in membership. Our present membership will justify four four-page editions, but, as the advertisements in the last Bulletin more than paid for it, we can have this one. It seems a shame not to publish all of the interesting and important news that is coming in.

The Iowa Geological Survey has for free distribution a 240 page book, "The Raptorial Birds of Iowa", by B. H. Bailey.

Dr. T. C. Stephens tells me that during the last four and a half years, fifty-one long and short articles on the bird life of Iowa have been published in the *Wilson Bulletin*. No other magazine publishes as much. Iowa bird lovers should certainly become members of the *Wilson Ornithological Club*. Their Bulletin is edited by Dr. Stephens, an Iowa man and an exceptionally capable ornithologist. The coming meeting of the *Wilson Club* in Des Moines this winter is an added incentive to become a member. This meeting with the American Association for the Advancement of Science will probably be the most important meeting of scientists in Iowa's history.

I will give a talk on the Spotted Sandpiper at the Lakeside Laboratory of the University of Iowa on July 31.

A sea-worm, *Convoluta*, descends into the sand and comes out again periodically as the tide ebbs and flows. When placed in a box of wet sand, it continues to descend and re-appear. It is suggested that a similar periodicity may be partly responsible for bird migration.

We are planning a big change for this fall. I expect to rent my practice and attend college, probably at Ames, to study along some biological line. If there were a little more demand for teachers of ornithology, I would specialize in that. As it is, I shall make it my minor subject and probably major in entomology. I have been reasonably successful in my professional work here, but my heart is in biological work and one should find his greatest happiness in his work. It will be a long pull, these seven years of college ahead, but it will be a wonderful opportunity, too. Mrs. Roberts, who has a bachelor's degree, will begin work toward a master's, and probably later toward a doctor's, degree.

While home on a visit from New York, Mr. Phil DuMont, one of our faithful I. O. U. members, this spring found that a pair of Cedar Waxwings were nesting near the top of a mulberry tree in their back yard in the city of Des Moines. While in Des Moines a few days later I drove out to see this nest as I had never observed the nest of these beautiful birds. The nest was composed of a large amount of string and the female was incubating. Being in a place where photography was practically impossible I could only study it from the ground. Imagine my surprise upon returning to my home in Ogden to find another nest of Waxwings in the top of a mulberry tree in my neighbor's yard not over 150 ft from my home. The female is still incubating (July 10th) and this nest is also inaccessible so I am watching it from the ground. I had traveled 50 miles to see a Waxwing nest when there was one at home directly over the sidewalk where I walk a dozen times a day and I had never seen it before. Let's keep our eyes and ears open just a little bit more.

On May 15th my friend, Jack Eaton, the game warden at Grand Junction called me over long distance stating that there was an unusual kind of bird on the pond north of Grand Junction and wanted to know what it was. I could not tell him from his description over the phone. The next day he drove over after me saying that the bird was still here and he wanted me to see it. There were a large number of pasture ponds on both sides of the road and there were many ducks and shore birds on all of them. On the pond just east of the road was this big fellow which was so conspicuous and different from all the rest. Fixing my binoculars upon him I found that it was a beautiful specimen of the Hudsonian Godwit, my first record of this bird. Near him were also four Northern Phalaropes, four Wilson Phalaropes, a Dowitcher, some Least Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpipers and both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Overhead were flying Blue Winged Teal and Shoveller Ducks and about 25 Black Terns. This made a pretty picture and one long to be remembered, this beautiful large Godwit feeding so leisurely around the edges of the pond surrounded by the graceful Sandpipers and Phalaropes.

The ponds of Iowa will soon be but a memory and with them will go these beautiful birds and I am glad that I can still find groups of this kind

to give me one of the real thrills that come only to a true bird student.

One of our new I. O. U. members, Mr. E. W. Sells of Paton, called me saying that there were a number of Plovers just west of Paton (Greene Co.) I drove out immediately and Mr. Sells accompanied us to the field where they had been seen the day before. It was a corn field which had just been planted. The birds had been around in the field the day previous when the last of the corn had been planted. We tramped across the field and soon encountered a flock of ten of the Golden Plovers running about feeding in the freshly planted field. A short distance away we found another flock of twelve and over the hill was still another flock of fifteen. These flocks finally worked around together and raised and started directly north as if drawn by a great magnet at the north pole. I have two previous records of the Golden Plovers here but never have I seen thirty-seven of these fine birds together. Please don't tell this to some of our so-called "conservationists" as they will immediately start a campaign for an open season for Plovers. This bird, once so plentiful was all but wiped out. I earnestly hope that they will "come back". Let's hope so and fight for their protection.

W. M. ROSEN, Ogden.

On Sunday, April 7th, I saw my first Loon in Iowa. I found the bird at the mill-pond at Independence, Buchanan County, and it was a genuine thrill, for I have been on the lookout for this species every year that I have done bird work at the mill pond region. I first saw the bird in the air, but it soon alighted on the surface of the water where it gave me a good exhibition of its skill in diving and swimming for long distances under water. I had become familiar with the Loon at Round Lake, Crow Wing County, Minn., in September, 1926, and so it was easy to recognize the bird again. I did not hear the bird call at the mill-pond; it certainly has the wildest, most thrilling cry that I have ever heard from a bird.

In addition to the Loon, the millpond region at Independence gave me three other new species for my Buchanan county list. I found a flock of 15 Red-breasted Mergansers there on April 21. On April 28 I saw a White Pelican winging its way over the northern edge of the millpond. I had several times before believed that I saw the Pelican, but I had been uncertain of the identification. This time, however, the big bird flew almost over me and there was no uncertainty. A Western Willet was at the Mill-pond on the morning of May 5, in company with a flock of 50 Yellowlegs of the two species. This was a very interesting bird.

I have 192 species on my complete list for Buchanan County, which some time I hope to publish. These are of my own observing and I have a dozen or two other records which I could use when I publish my list. The latter are the records of other people whom I know to be reliable.—Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Iowa Ornithologist's Union and Nebraska Ornithologist's Union held a convention at Sioux City, May 10 and 11. They were the guests of the Sioux City Bird Club. Registration began May 10 at 8:30 in the lobby of the West Hotel. 90 ornithologists were present; of these, 46 were from Iowa, 32 from Nebraska, 1 from Minnesota and 11 from South Dakota. A. J. Palas, president of the Iowa Union, presided during the program, which was carried out as announced in the last Bulletin.

At 4 p. m. the two societies began separate business meetings. The Iowa section elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, W. W. Bennett of Sioux City; Vice President, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg of Des Moines; Secretary, Mrs. Mary L. Bailey of Sioux City; Treasurer, Oscar P. Allert of McGregor; Editor, Dr. F. L. R. Roberts of Spirit Lake; Members of the Executive Board, W. F. Kubichek of Cedar Rapids, J. G. Whitney of Atlantic and Dr. T. C. Stephens of Sioux City.

A resolutions committee, consisting of W. M. Rosen, Mrs. Mary Price Roberts, and Miss Kate LaMar submitted the following resolutions, which were approved:

Resolved, that we extend our sympathy to Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, one of our faithful members who suffered such a painful accident, and we recommend that a copy of this resolution be sent to her at Des Moines.

Resolved, that we spread on our minutes our sincere regret of the loss of Rev. George Bennett of Iowa City who passed away since our last annual meeting. His kindly face will be greatly missed at all of our meetings.

Resolved, that we congratulate the bird lovers of Minnesota upon the founding of their new State organization and wish them success and hope that we may have a joint meeting with them at some future date.

Resolved, that we express our pleasure at being able to meet with the Nebraska Ornithologists Union and the association together with the bird lovers from South Dakota and Minnesota.

Resolved, that we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Sioux City Bird Club for their kindness, hospitality, and entertainment while in the city.

It was decided that the Bulletin should be continued as planned by the editor and a subscription price of 50c a year was decided upon. Hereafter 50c of the regular dues will be set aside as payment for a year's subscription to the Bulletin.

It was decided that the present membership fees should pay up to the time of the next convention.

The question of accepting local bird organizations for affiliation was not disposed of but was left for a committee to report on at the next meeting. This was a serious mistake as it is not probable that it would be detrimental to the Union and it will probably prove a handicap to the use-

fulness and growth of our organization.

A motion to appoint a committee to recommend the purchase of bird refuge land in Iowa, under the federal Norbeck bill, was passed.

The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union invited us to meet with them at Omaha next year and their invitation was accepted.

At 6:30 the associations met for their annual banquet at the Elks Club. Following this a program was given in the lodge hall. The main feature was an illustrated lecture by Wm. Kilgore on *The Wild Life of Minnesota*.

Saturday, May 11, was field day. Rain fell during the early morning hours but it began to clear soon after the members assembled at the West Hotel at 5:30 a. m. By 9 o'clock the sun appeared fitfully. About fifty people attend this field trip. They divided into three groups under W. W. Bennett, Dr. T. C. Stephens, and Mary L. Bailey. All returned to the Sioux City Country Club for a 1:30 luncheon as the guests of the Sioux City Bird Club. Here the composite list for the day was compiled.

The Iowa members who attended the convention were Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Palas, Kate E. LaMar, Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Rosen, W. F. Kubichek, Mrs. Della C. Cutter, H. R. Morne, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Kinnard, Wier R. Mills, J. P. McGraw, B. O. Wolden, Dr. T. C. Stephens, Dr. and Mrs. A. N. Sloan, Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, R. O. Malcomsen, Miss Julia Ross, Mrs. D. M. Goldie, Mrs. W. J. Armour, Wm. Youngworth, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Fields, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Hissong, Mrs. W. A. Kifer, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Felton, Mrs. L. Wallace Farquar, C. N. Ainslie, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Murdock, Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Dales, Mrs. E. R. King, Mr. C. B. Knowles, Mr. O. S. Dean, Mr. A. B. Darling, Mrs. M. E. Dutton, Miss Anna Erskine, Mrs. J. Ed. Johnson.

April 29, 1929 an Osprey was shot and killed near Hayesville, Keokuk county, by a twelve year old boy. This is the only bird of this species seen here for many years.

Single individuals of the Mockingbird were seen here both last summer and this. A pair were reported nesting in an orchard near South English, this county, in the season of 1928.—E. D. Nauman, Sigourney.

A pair of Cedar Waxwings built a nest this spring in an elm tree at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Labagh in this city. The brood has hatched at this time.

Dr. T. Gilbert Peason, of New York, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, will spend several days at McGregor, Iowa, at the American School of Wild Life Protection which convenes August 5 to 17. Dr. Pearson will be present for a few days beginning August 12. He will speak three or more times, both daytime addresses will be without slides. The evening address will be with slides. Doubtless many bird student will plan to attend.—Charles R. Keyes, Mt. Vernon.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Growth of interest in bird study during the past ten years in America has been remarkable. Look back. Magazines satisfy public demand by using more articles about birds. More courses in ornithology are being offered in colleges. Laws protect birds better. Thousands of new students have joined the ranks. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are pouring into funds for protection of birds. Innumerable new clubs are being formed for studying and enjoying America's bird life.

It is a great movement! It has only begun!

Work ahead is great. In spite of past efforts many species have lost their members. More effort must be put forth in the future to save what is left. Some we cannot save because man will be man. The public wants to know birds. The bad boy has a sympathy for feathered friends. The sportsman is broad minded. It is the enviable task of the Iowa Ornithologists Union to do a noble part in the great movement of studying, enjoying, protecting Iowa's remarkable bird population. Let's go!

WALTER W. BENNETT, President
Sioux City, Iowa

If any members of the I. O. U. are within 500 miles of Sioux City, Iowa, during the next few months they are cordially invited to call at the office of the new president, Walter W. Bennett, at 309 Warnock Building. He wants a good chat with everyone interested in birds who can call.

Some new ventures are planned by the new president and his executive committee and will probably be announced in the next Bulletin.

If you know anyone interested in studying or protecting birds in your community please send a list of their names to the Bulletin as we are anxious to get a complete list of all Iowa bird students.

Many readers would like to hear about your interesting bird experiences. Tell us, so we can tell them.

Those who have attended our annual convention and field trip have been highly elated over friends they have met there and hearing about their experiences. Des Moines, Ames, Atlantic and Sioux City have been remarkable meetings. Those who have gone will understand what enjoyment they will have next spring when we meet at Omaha, Nebr. We have been invited by the Nebraska Ornithologists Union in order to return the compliment of our invitation to them at Sioux City last May.

Omaha has many lakes, sloughs, woods, prairies and skies. All are full of birds and they can show us a wonderful time. Plan now.

One of the Congressional investigating committees would like to know why Dr. Roberts, editor of our bulletin, is leaving his medical practice to study bugs at Ames. One of our members suggests he got the bugs off the birds.

(Editor's Note: He got that way from associations at I. O. U. Conventions.)

MRS. DALE'S BANDING STATION

(Continued from page one)

I watched for a long time, but he made no move to leave until someone stepped up and frightened him. He flew to an elm and stayed there for half an hour, when he finally flew away. For several days he came back and fed in the vines. Then I saw him no more. I presume he went back to the locality from which he came, I did not learn how far away. I have wondered if there was enacted another Enoch Arden drama, or had his mate remained true to him?

I was quite delighted to band a young Pine Siskin July 7, the first young Siskin I have ever had.

I have had fewer Brown Thrashers at my station than usual, and I have wondered why. This spring a woman reported that she had found a Brown Thrasher caught on a twig in her lilac bush. The Thrashers are such active birds, they dash about so, hither and yon. I wonder how often they are so caught. Then too, being so active I believe they wear out their bands sooner than do other birds. Last year I retrapped a Thrasher that I banded four years ago. His band was worn so thin I doubt if it would have lasted another year. I replaced the band with a new one.—Marie Dales, Sioux City.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. CAROLINA
WREN

(Continued from page one)

made of crab apple twigs and grape vines, for our nesting place. We raised two lovely babies but they are not with us now.

As I cannot send you our pictures, I will tell you how I look, my wife is very similar. I believe I am the largest of the wrens. My head and back are reddish brown, my breast is buff colored. My throat is white and I have a very distinctive white line that runs from my bill right over my eye and to the nape of my neck.

People call me the best looking of the wrens, and I say I have none of the bad habits of my cousin, Jenny. I am always happy and I sing winter and summer. People love my song and say I have quite a repertoire, whatever that is.

My favorite game is to try to fool the lady's friends when they come to see me. I sing a favorite thrilling song, flitting about all the time and trying to keep them hunting me. The only time they see me plainly is when I am busy hunting worms and bugs and am too busy to play hide and seek.

I just love the old logs and brush piles on this home-place of mine, the suet sacks too; but I do so love to seek for worms under the bark of these old logs or in the decaying tree stumps.

We have been here over two years and I hope we can live here forever. (So does the lady).

—TONI R. WENDELBURG, Des Moines
(With apologies to A. A. Allen.)

I wish the membership could be increased so that a monthly bulletin could be issued at least during the spring and fall months when the migration is heaviest. Mr. Dole and I listed 77 birds May 12th and in our efforts to identify the warblers we missed a good many that we ordinarily see—swallows, sparrows, killdeer, prairie horned lark and others. It was cloudy in the morning and grew cloudy about 4 o'clock so our day was rather short as it is very hard to get the little warblers unless the sun is shining.

Mourning Doves have been wintering in this part of the country. In January there were 50 of them at one feed lot and this flock gradually dwindled until there were 18 on February 8th. There were others at farms in the neighborhood. While migration is not thoroughly understood by ornithologists, the lack of food is one of the principal reasons for migration. I know that birds do change their habits. For instance: the Cardinal was unknown in this part of the country when I was a boy and it is quite common now. I am wondering if there is any evidence that possibly the Mourning Doves, being almost exclusively grain and seed eaters, are changing their habits as feed lots become more numerous and they can find something to eat.—Paul S. Junkin, Fairfield.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Kubichek, of Cedar Rapids spent several weeks this spring near Webster, S. D., Rush Lake, Waubay Lake, and Bitter Lake. They report that most of the water birds were not as abundant as in the past two years. An American Egret was collected on Rush Lake on June 4th, the first record of the species for the state. While they got fair movies, the continuous high winds interfered with photography. They went as far as the Black Hills before turning homeward. Mr. Kubichek is curator of the Coe College Museum.

While fishing on lake Miltona, in Minnesota, on July 4th, a Black Tern appeared, circling around the boat in which we were fishing. Having heard of a Tern being about the lake which would take food from the hand, I picked up a dead minnow and held it up for him. After making one or two passes it took the minnow from my hand, but as it was dried and shrunken, the Tern appeared to be disgusted and dropped the food. I offered it another of the same kind, as we had no live minnows with us. The Tern again took hold of the minnow, but seeming to recognize the condition of the food, did not take it out of my fingers but let go his hold and flew away across the lake.

Two days later he appeared again and, being offered a live minnow, he took it from my hand as I held it up, then returned and accepted another one. The next morning he again appeared and took a minnow offered him by my daughter, Mrs. Bedell, and then took a second one from her fingers. We were told that this Tern had been taking food, live minnows, in this manner for two years.—C. W. Price, Spirit Lake.

Wm. Youngworth and I took a hurried trip up into South Dakota from June 4 to the 8th. We had two and a half days of good field work, the rest of the time was spent in traveling. We spent a day with Adrian Larson at Lake Poinsett, and a day and a half with W. F. Kubichek at Rush Lake and Bitter Lake. About all I did was get places located. At Lake Albert we found the nests of the Savannah Sparrow and the Short-eared Owl. At Bitter Lake we found the nests of the Wilson Phalarope, the Western Willet, (Sennett's) Nighthawk, Killdeer, and several ducks. The Marbled Godwits were there in considerable numbers, but we did not succeed in finding a nest. At Rush Lake we found at least a dozen nests of the Western Grebe (all with eggs), and also nests of the Pied-billed Grebe, Holboell's Grebe and Coot. The Eared Grebe was nesting but we did not have time to locate a nest. I made a good many exposures, but have not developed any yet. At the last two lakes we were with Mr. Kubichek. All of any luck was due to his kindness and guidance, with the assistance of Mrs. Kubichek and Mr. and Mrs. Lundquist.—T. C. Stephens, Sioux City.

I offer the suggestion to visit Long Pond west of Perry where one is almost sure of a surprise. Also visit Little Wall Lake north of Ames. We had the good fortune to see a Sanderling and some Nelson's Sparrows at Long Pond last June and I saw a Ruddy Turnstone at Little Wall Lake the same season.—Phil DuMont, (Home Address) Des Moines.



The Bartramian Sandpiper, ("Upland Plover") once abundant on Iowa's wild prairies, is now listed as one of the species doomed to extinction. Are there any fields in your neighborhood, occupied by this fine bird, which you can have set aside as a bird refuge to help in saving the species?

ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following should have been reported as members in the last edition of the Bulletin: Elizabeth Lichty, Des Moines; Mrs. C. B. Trewin and Mrs. R. W. Johnson of Dubuque; R. H. Banning, Cresco.

The following is a list of new members since the publishing of the former list: Byron Evans and Gaynor Evans, Cedar Rapids; C. E. Hoskins, Clarinda; Miss Winnifred F. Gilbert, Cedar Falls; Myra G. Willis, Cedar Rapids; Lavinia Dragoo, Cedar Rapids; Aloise J. Weber, Keokuk; O. R. Clark, Iowa Falls; Hilda Malcomsen, Sioux City; W. R. Felton, Sioux City; Ada M. Hood, Sioux City; Joe Carmichael, Des Moines.

Mr. William Youngworth of Sioux City has just returned from a trip thru the North Dakota Badlands, the Black Hills and the South Dakota Badlands. He studied several interesting birds, among them the McCowan Longspur, Mountain Plover, and Sage Hen.

W. M. Rosen of Ogden, our first president, Orphus M. Schantz, president of the Illinois Audubon Society, and a representative from the U. S. Biological Survey will conduct the classes in ornithology at the Wild Life School at McGregor.

In June I had a trip to Mammoth Cave, where the Wood Thrush could be heard almost any time. I stopped in St. Louis and saw my first Mockingbird. I recognized the notes of several birds he was imitating, even the English Sparrow. He seemed to be repeating them over to himself and for his own amusement, tho easily heard from a distance.—Harvey Nichols, Waterloo.

Mrs. Wm. Nimms has a pair of Cape May Warblers which seem to be nesting in her orchard.

Mr. R. C. Carr had two male Yellow headed Blackbirds in his landscape garden on east Main Street. We have had reports of these birds from Clear Lake on the west and Cresco on the east, but I have never recorded it before from Mitchell county. In the same garden we noticed a flock of seventy Cedar and Bohemian Waxwings from June 2 to 9.—F. May Tuttle.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Kinnard of Valley Junction found a Mockingbird near there on the morning of June 4th. A. J. Palas of Des Moines went out with them the following day to see it. Later the nest and egg of the bird was found. Young were hatched, but before they were old enough to fly, some accident happened to them, tho the nest was not destroyed.—Mockingbirds seldom nest this far north.

The pupils in my classes are very anxious that the Robin be selected as Iowa's bird.—Ella June Winter, Carroll.

In spite of the hard winter for quail, I am delighted to find that they are unusually abundant in this part of the state. It seems to me that I have not seen so many quail for years as I have noted this summer along the country roads. Last winter I found some frozen quail. Early in the fall, however, I saw many unusually large flocks. The protection these birds have had during the past few years enabled them to increase in numbers so that, when a hard winter came, enough hardy birds survived to make a good showing. This is as it should be. Had they been sadly reduced in numbers previous to the hard winter, it might have resulted in extermination of the species. I believe this is a significant point that should be brot home to the bird lovers of the state. Even though the quail should become quite numerous we should never consent to having it killed for sport.—Homer R. Dill, Director of Museum, Iowa City, Iowa.

In 1927 I knew of seven colonies of Burrowing Owls in this county. I did not make any systematic effort to count the number of individuals. There were generally several holes where the birds were seen, and they flew from one hole to another as they were approached. I also knew of Burrowing Owls in Sioux County and in Nobles County, Minn. Last year some of the pastures where the birds lived had been plowed and I did not have time to try to locate them. I did see some of the birds frequently, however.—O. S. Thomas, Rock Rapids.

In March of this year the Dubuque Bird Club was formed. It is the first club of the kind that the city has had, tho there are many bird lovers here. I have the pleasure of serving as the first president. We have 15 members and expect to grow.—Mrs. R. W. Johnson, Dubuque. (Mrs. Johnson has been doing exceptionally good work in the field identification of the shore and water birds.—Ed.)

Dr. Roberts discovered the nest of a Burrowing Owl about three miles from home. On July 11 Mrs. H. C. Bruner of Des Moines and I visited the nest and observed five almost fully grown young. We saw one yawn and then enter the burrow, perhaps to nap. Another yawned and then when we thought he was about to yawn again he disgorged a pellet. They tipped their heads and watched a dragon fly go by but made no effort to get it. Would they have done so had we not been there? We got within 20 to 24 feet of the last owlet before he entered the burrow. Near the nest we found many pellets and the wing of an adult Burrowing Owl. As only one parent was in evidence, we surmised this to be the wing of the other. What could have happened to it that its remains should be left near the burrow we could only conjecture.—Mary Price Roberts, Spirit Lake

**BIRDS SEEN AT SIOUX CITY
CONVENTION**

The authenticity of some of these records has been questioned. In all such cases the birds are listed, followed by a question mark.

Pied-billed Grebe.
Forsters Tern (?)
Black Tern
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Shoveler
Pintail
Lesser Scaup Duck (?)
Ruddy Duck
American Bittern
Green Heron
Sora
Coot
Wilson's Phalarope
Pectoral Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Lesser Yellowlegs
Upland Plover
Spotted Sandpiper
Killdeer
Bob-white
Ring-necked Pheasant
Mourning Dove
Marsh Hawk
Sharp-shinned Hawk (?)
Cooper Hawk (?)
Red-tailed Hawk
Sparrow Hawk
Long-eared Owl
Barred Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Chimney Swift
Arkansas Kingbird
Crested Flycatcher
Phoebe
Wood Pewee
Traill's Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher (?)
Prairie Horned Lark
Blue Jay
Crow
Cowbird
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Baltimore Oriole
Bronzed Grackle
Goldfinch
Pine Siskin
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Harris Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow

Gambel's Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Towhee
Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeck
Dickeissel
Purple Martin
Barn Swallow
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Rough-winged Swallow
Cedar Waxwing
Red-eyed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Bells Vireo
Black and White Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Myrtle Warber
Magnolia Warbler
Ovenbird
Grinnell Waterthrush
Northern Yellowthroat
Wilson Warbler
Redstart
Catbird
Brown Thrasher
House Wren
Long-billed Marsh Wren
Brown Creeper (?)
White-breasted Nuthatch
Black-capped Chickadee
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Wood Thrush
Gray-checked Thrush
Olive-backed Thrush
Robin
Bluebird

Our and your Yellow-throats are, of course, all the northern form as the southern form is confined to the south Atlantic region and Florida. There might be a tendency toward the western race in some individuals but not enough to so call it. Under the plan adopted in the A. O. U. Checklist of 1910, Maryland Yellow-throat would be used for the type race, Florida Yellow-throat and Western Yellow-throat being the names used for the other two races, "Northern" Yellow-throat was not used officially tho some writers seemed to want to employ it. It may be used in the next edition of the Checklist as some changes are being made in the designation of sub-species.
—Dr. T. S. Roberts, U. of M., Minneapolis.