

bred there. A male of the species was seen in the swamp on May 2, 1914, and one or more of the birds was observed there occasionally up to the time of finding the nest.

The following may also be of interest in this connection. On June 29, 1914, one male and two female Red-winged Blackbirds were observed in a cattail swamp near Truro, Nova Scotia, and probably within the limits of the town. The birds were easily and positively identified and presumably were breeding there. I can find no previous record of the breeding of the species in Nova Scotia.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Yarmouth, Nova Scotia*.

**Brewer's Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) **breeding in South-eastern Minnesota**.—It has long been definitely known and of late years frequently recorded that Brewer's Blackbird regularly nests in considerable numbers in *northwestern* Minnesota, especially throughout the valley of the Red River of the North and the region immediately adjacent to the eastward. A few scattered observations confirm its occurrence as a migrant further east in the state:—White Earth, Becker Co. April 6, 1885, W. W. Cooke, (Rep. Bd. Migr. Miss. Val. 1888, pp. 173-4); Bemidji, southern Beltrami Co., September 8, 1902, (L. O. Dart, MS. List); Parker's Prairie, southeastern Ottertail Co., "found here and breeds but is rather scarce during the breeding season," (Fred Barker, MS. List); and from still further eastward comes to the Minn. Nat. Hist. Survey a report from Rev. Severin Gertkin that "many" were seen on April 9, 1894, and "a small flock" on April 3, 1897, at Collegeville, in eastern Stearns County, a locality about fifty miles south of the geographical center of the State.

Dr. P. L. Hatch in his 'Notes on Minnesota Birds' 1892, p. 286, has the following to say in regard to the breeding of this blackbird in Minnesota: "They breed abundantly along the Red River from Big Stone lake to the Canadian line, and eastwardly along the shores of the woodland lakes and streams to Mille Lacs in Crow Wing county, and less commonly considerably further south." But the latter, and most important, part of this statement is unsupported by actual data and nothing up to the present time has been recorded to substantiate the presence of this blackbird east of the extreme western part of the State in the breeding season. Therefore the present circumstantial account of a nesting colony of Brewer's Blackbirds at a locality only thirty miles west of the eastern boundary of Minnesota is perhaps worthy of being placed on record, more especially as it is, as far as I can discover, the most eastern locality where it has been found nesting anywhere in its range.

The place where the birds were found is a swampy meadow of some two hundred acres in extent, resulting from the drainage, a few years ago, of a shallow lake or slough, called Palmer's Lake, a famous resort in times gone by of many kinds of wild fowl and marsh birds. It lies close to the northern limit of the city of Minneapolis. The discovery of the colony was made by Mr. F. H. Nutter on May 13 of the present year, 1914, while surveying this lake bed. Mr. Nutter has for many years been an earnest and intelli-

gent student of our birds and credit is due him for recognizing at once a bird that he had never seen alive before and had no reason to expect to find here. With characteristic modesty he kindly delegates to the writer the making of this report. On the date just mentioned Mr. Nutter found seven nests, all containing eggs. Four sets were collected and deposited in the collection of the Minnesota Academy of Sciences, which institution was the recipient several years ago, of Mr. Nutter's entire collection of eggs and nests. The eggs were prepared by Mr. J. W. Franzen, Curator of the Academy's Museum and proved to be partially incubated, indicating that nesting had been begun in the very early part of May.

On May 22, the writer accompanied by Mr. Nutter and Mr. Franzen, visited the blackbird colony, examined the nests found by Mr. Nutter and after a little search discovered four additional nests in the immediate vicinity of the others. All contained eggs, four or five in number.

On May 30, I again visited the locality in company with Mr. William Kilgore, another ardent student of bird life. Two more nests were found at this time. All the nests contained young birds just hatched except one of those found on the twenty-second in which there were still five unhatched eggs. So far as our observations went at this time the females alone were carrying food to the young.

On June 17, Mr. Franzen and myself again visited the marsh and found all the nests empty, except the one containing eggs on the thirtieth which had been abandoned before the eggs hatched, one of the original clutch of five being missing and two of the remaining four being broken. The young had apparently flown from the other nests, but neither parents nor young were to be found in the vicinity. This was a disappointment as we were equipped with an umbrella blind and photographic outfit. However, on the edge of the marsh a half mile away and close by a farm house, were found a number of birds where a small accessory colony had been located on the twenty-second. Here the birds were flying about in a bit of fenced-in marsh and in the tops of a grove of trees adjacent to the farm house. Four were shot and one of these proved to be a young of the year nearly full grown. A female contained an egg just about to be laid, suggesting that a second or belated nesting was in progress. One female was seen carrying food but no nests were discovered here. This small colony may possibly have been composed of the birds disturbed on May 13 in their nesting operations at the main colony out in the middle of the marsh.

Thus thirteen nests were found in all. We estimated that probably twenty or twenty-five pairs of these blackbirds were nesting in this marsh, chiefly in one colony, or rather two closely related colonies, the nests grouped rather closely about two foci, some five hundred paces apart. The spot selected was out in the middle of the meadow but close by a thick new growth of willows fringing the main drainage canal. The nests were all rather bulky affairs, on the ground and sunk to the rim in the soft marsh soil and without exception each was placed close to the base of a clump of Marsh Marigolds (*Caltha palustris*). When the nests were first built

they must have been protected only by the early flowering Marigolds for when discovered by Mr. Nutter on May 13, the grass was but just springing up, the bog being still frozen hard at a depth of only a foot or so from the surface, as was discovered on attempting to drive surveyor's stakes. By the twenty-second the grass was nearly knee high but was still overtopped by the Marigolds and the marsh was yet gay with the golden blossoms. By the time the parents ceased their nesting duties their domiciles were hidden at the bottom of a miniature forest of luxuriant meadow grass and marshy plants, more than waist high, with all the original land marks obliterated and not a vestige of the early Marigold shelter to be seen.—THOS. S. ROBERTS, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

**Southern Meadowlark** (*Sturnella magna argutula*) in Northern Illinois.—In November, 1913, it was my good fortune to attend the Annual Meeting of the A. O. U. in New York City, and later to inspect a number of collections of birds in the New England States.

At different points Meadow Larks were seen, some flying up quite near the train.

These birds appeared to be much larger than those of northeastern Illinois. This was verified upon examining some Massachusetts specimens in Mr. Hersey's collection at Taunton; their large size as compared with Illinois birds at once attracted my attention. Mr. Hersey and Mr. C. L. Phillips of Taunton sent me some skins of the Massachusetts birds. Later in looking over the skins of birds taken in Illinois, and on comparing them with true *Sturnella magna argutula* from Florida, I found them to be identical. Whether the type of *Alauda magna* Linn. was this subspecies, or represented the large New England *Sturnella magna*, I am not able to say, but the species which breeds in northern Illinois and adjacent states is not true *magna* as has been supposed, but *argutula*. The measurements following are from specimens in my collection referred to *Sturnella magna*.

*Sturnella magna.*

(Measurements in inches).

H. K. C.				Length of Skin	Wing	Tail	Tars.	Bill	Mid- toe
16850	♂	Chathamport Mass.	Jan. 29, 1913	10.5	5.00	3.63	1.63	1.25	1.60
16793	♂	" "	Nov. 22, 1913	10.25	5.00	3.60	1.63	1.25	1.60
16794	♀	" "	" "	10.15	5.00	3.70	1.62	1.30	1.60

*Sturnella magna argutula.*

10473	♂	Highland Park, Ill.	Apr. 2, 1906	8.50	4.60	3.15	1.48	1.20	1.10
9537	♀	" "	" 25, 1905	8.00	4.40	3.00	1.45	1.15	1.10
12692	♀	Lukeus, Fla.	Jan. 10, 1906	8.30	4.35	3.00	1.50	1.20	1.20
12691	♂	St. Marys, Ga.	Feb. 19, 1903	8.60	4.65	3.00	1.50	1.30	1.40

HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*