

The Arkansas Kingbird has been recorded a number of times as far east as the Atlantic coast, although its normal range extends hardly east of the Great Plains. These stray individuals on the east coast are, however, almost invariably found there in the autumn or winter, whereas it is noteworthy that the Michigan records have occurred during the summer and probably represent breeding birds. These Michigan records presumably mark the vanguard of the general eastward spread of the species described by Dr. T. S. Roberts (*The Birds of Minnesota*, 1932, Vol. 2, pp. 7-10).—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

Nest-building and Egg-laying of the Prairie Horned Lark.—Though the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) is a bird whose life history is comparatively well known, our knowledge concerning it cannot be said to be complete. Observations on nest-building, because of the bird's retiring disposition, are particularly hard to obtain. The following notes, being more than casually complete upon this point, seem therefore worthy of permanent record.

On April 12, 1932, on a grassy field at Deer Lodge, Winnipeg, the writer came upon a small symmetrical concavity, about two inches deep and two and one-fourth inches in diameter, scratched out of the ground. The freshly excavated earth was lying around it. The next day nothing further had been done to it, but on April 14 a wall two inches wide and one inch high, composed of pieces of grass, earth and cattle droppings, had been built around the rim. The birds did not appear near the nest, but a few hours later they were noted feeding a few yards from it.

On the morning of the 15th a firm rim of dead grass occupied the inner side of the wall. Some grass had also been placed around the bottom of the cavity. The female was working on it at 8 a. m. While I was examining the nest, she approached on foot to within a few feet of it.

On the 16th more grass had been added so that little of the earth wall was visible. The birds kept out of sight.

On April 17 more grass and two pieces of plant down (probably from sow-thistle, *Sonchus* sp.) had been added. The next day a great deal of sow-thistle down and flower heads lined the interior of the nest, and a little more appeared to have been added on the 19th.

At 10 a. m. of April 19 one egg was found in the nest. It was cold. No more were there that evening. In the morning of the 20th two eggs were present. The third was laid before 11 a. m. of the 21st, when the bird was found on the nest.

No more eggs were laid on the 22nd, and the three in the nest were still cold. From the 22nd to the 26th, during a period of cold cloudy weather, the eggs remained unincubated. On the 27th, however, they were found to be warm. Observations were rudely ended on the 28th, when one egg was found missing and another one smashed. On the 29th the nest was empty. The cause of this disaster was not learned. By May 1, the nest

had been pulled apart and its presence obliterated.—R. D. HARRIS, 178 Douglas Park Road, St. James, Winnipeg, Canada.

Notes on Tree Swallows and Bluebirds.—When I moved to my present house, late in the summer of 1926, a pair of Bluebirds were carrying food to a brood of young in a hole in a telephone pole at the side of the road. The following spring, a pair supposed to be the same birds, returned early in March and soon were examining the same nest site.

I had planned the erection of a number of nesting-boxes as well as the planting of trees and shrubs. But it was too early to begin planting and I had not put up any boxes as I felt they would not be attractive to the birds until partly screened by shrubbery. However, I now put up nest-box No. 1 and the Bluebirds flew across to it and at once took possession and before the end of April the female was incubating a set of eggs.

Then, one day, a pair of Tree Swallows arrived and decided they wanted that particular box. I hurriedly put up boxes No. 2 and No. 3 but the Swallows paid no attention to these new nests and after a day of constant bullying the Bluebirds surrendered their nest and eggs and retired to box No. 2. The Swallows remodelled the Bluebird's nest, incidentally disposing of the eggs in some way, and the Bluebirds started another nest in box No. 2. For awhile peace and quiet reigned and both pairs of birds had young a few days old when a second pair of Swallows put in an appearance. Once more there was fighting of a rather general nature among all three pairs of birds, but soon the Swallows in box No. 1 managed in some way to make good their title and the scene of battle centered about box No. 2. For two or three days this second pair of Swallows constantly harassed the Bluebirds, so that it was difficult for them to bring any food to their young, and at the end of this time they abandoned their nest and left the garden and vicinity.

The next move on the part of this second pair of Swallows was a distinct surprise to me. They lost all interest in nest No. 2, after driving the Bluebirds away, but took possession of box No. 3 where they spent most of their time perched on the roof. They did not attempt to nest but stayed about the garden until the young Swallows in nest No. 1 flew, late in June, when all left and were not seen again that year. About July first the Bluebirds reappeared and raised a late brood in box No. 2.

The following year the position of box No. 3 was changed, bringing it closer to box No. 1, and three new boxes were put up. Box No. 4 was in a tree rather close to the house; box No. 5 was fastened to the garage; and box No. 6, which was made with an entrance large enough for a Starling, was placed farthest away from the house. Quite early Starlings were seen about boxes No. 4 and No. 5 but they could not get in and after a few days left. The Bluebirds built early in box No. 4 but when the nest was finished, and before any eggs were laid, changed their minds and began building in box No. 2 where they raised a brood successfully.

The Tree Swallows arrived at the usual time and for awhile there was