

the Common Tern and the Red-breasted Merganser, by Dr. R. M. Strong (illustrated); The Ottawa River in Canada as a migration route and bird boundary, by C. W. G. Eifrig.

Before adjournment a short business meeting was held in which the revised constitution was read by Dr. Strong for the committee. Resolved, to adopt this and recommend it to the club for ratification.

EVENING SESSION.

This, as well as the afternoon meeting, was open to the public. Two illustrated lectures were given, the first by Prof. Lynds Jones on the winter habits of birds; the second, by Mr. G. A. Abbott, on the birds of the Calumet Region near Chicago.

C. W. G. EIFRIG, Secretary.

Note: The new secretary's address is as follows: Mr. O. M. Schantz, 5215 W. 24th St., Cicero, Ill.; the treasurer's: Mr. P. B. Coffin, 3232 Groveland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Field Notes

Unusual Central Ohio Occurrences.

Professor J. S. Hine, of the Ohio State University, sends a note to the effect that a Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax naevius*) in the female plumage of the year, was taken near Columbus on December 18, 1913.

Mr. Thos. M. Earl, of Columbus, reports the receipt of a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) sent to him for mounting from Coshocton county, in November, 1913.

Queer Practice of Wood Thrushes.

If more evidence is needed to substantiate the statement that a wood thrush frequently attaches a large piece of paper or cloth to its nest and lets it hang in conspicuous display, as if to mark the location of the nest, I will say that a piece of white tissue paper, several inches wide and perhaps half a yard long, hung from the nest of a wood thrush at Chautauqua last summer.

The nest was about eight feet high, in a thicket, and not to exceed a rod from the public street.

Birds are so well treated at Chautauqua that they are not very wild, and this bird seemed undisturbed by those who frequently stopped with inquisitive eyes as they passed by on the street.

There were several of these birds on the grounds, and their singing was so much in evidence that boys took it up and could often be heard whistling an imitation.

L. B. CUSHMAN.

North East, Pa., Dec. 30, 1913.

Sandpiper Notes.

The fall migration of 1913 proved to be rather unusual in regard to the sandpiper movements. Many species lingered later than usual in this locality and several new species were noted. Immense mixed flocks of shore birds fed on the mud flats around the bayous from Aug. 20 to Sept. 12. In these flocks the usual Pectoral, Semipalmated, Least, and Solitary Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs were abundant. In addition Baird's Sandpipers (*Pisobia bairdi*) were present in considerable numbers from Aug. 22-27, and several specimens were taken. One Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) was noted Oct. 6. From the 12th of September the numbers decreased rapidly, although a few individuals remained much later. The last records for the more common species are as follows: Pectoral Sandpiper (*Pisobia maculata*), Nov. 12; White-rumped Sandpiper (*Pisobia fuscicollis*), Nov. 7; Least Sandpiper (*Pisobia minutilla*), Oct. 12; Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*), Oct. 12; Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*), Nov. 1; Solitary Sandpiper (*Helodromus solitarius solitarius*), Oct. 5; and Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), Oct. 8.

On the 6th of October, after the bulk of the shore birds had departed, a flock of four Red-backed Sandpipers (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*) were noted feeding on the deserted mud flats and one was taken. The birds were tame and unsuspecting and allowed a close approach. On the 10th the ponds were visited again and a flock of about sixty found in the same place. Four were taken at this time. All authorities to which I have access state that this species is uncommon in the interior in the fall and it was a surprise to me to find them so numerous at this time. This is the first time that I have noted this form in the fall. A few lingered until the 25th of October, when the last one was seen.

IRA N. GABRIELSON, Marshalltown, Iowa.

“The Guide to Nature.”

Many magazines, hundreds of schools and thousands of teachers and parents have tried to instruct children in a knowledge of nature. Yet the really natural child takes to nature for enjoyment like a duck to water.

Why urge the duck, why compel it to go into the water? When we destroy spontaneity and liberty, we prevent enjoyment and all consequent benefit. “We love the things that love us.”

It is, however, not nature nor even natural science as a matter of instruction, as the adult understands it, that the child wants, but the fun of seeing things. Where is the boy or girl that is not pleased by the