

BURROWING OWL BREEDING IN IOWA.

On September 20, 1914, seven members of the Sioux City Bird Club made a trip to a point about eight miles southeast of the city, to observe a small colony of Burrowing Owls. Three pairs of these owls have occupied holes, in which they have reared their young, in this pasture during the past summer. The owls have been coming to this locality for a number of years, during which time their habits have been observed closely by the boys on the farm. The holes occupied by the owls were probably originally dug by coyotes or other mammals. The birds have occupied the same holes from year to year. The holes are on the side of a hill—the northwest exposure. As we approached first one and then another started in flight, flying perhaps 300 yards before alighting again. The birds were very shy, and it was not possible to get close to them or to get a good view of them. The holes in which they have their nests are not deep, the boys say, they having dug out one or more of them. After entering the ground, the holes make a turn, and at the end, where the nest is located, is a cavity three or four feet in length. There is no evidence that any other animals except the owls occupy the holes. When the owls have young in the nests they are much bolder than at other times. When a dog belonging to the place would enter the holes he would be attacked by the old birds on the outside. At other times the owls would attack the dog while he was following the cattle through the pasture. The owls migrate for the winter, and will leave, according to their habit, about the first week in October.

A. F. ALLEN.

NOTES FROM COLUMBIANA, OHIO.

An incomplete census of nesting birds within sight from the porches of our house shows nests (or sites of nests not plainly visible) of the following: One pair of Oven-birds, one of Red-eyed Vireos, one of Scarlet Tanagers, one of Wood Pewees (on a limb in a maple within thirty feet from a window!), one of Phœbes, one of Flickers, one of Bluebirds, one of House Wrens, one of Chipping Sparrows, one of Song Sparrows, one of Catbirds, and four of Robins. I am quite certain that continued searching would have revealed the nests of Indigo Buntings and Cardinal Grosbeaks very near at hand. This autumn we find several on the leafless limbs that we missed in the summer.

One afternoon this autumn a Red-tailed Hawk flew into a field near the woods, and capturing a small animal, flew into a leafless elm. With my glasses I could see the Hawk plainly, but not his

prey, which, however, could not have been much larger than a field mouse. The incident was of especial interest because three or four chickens were scratching in the grass within a few rods of where the Hawk struck for the mouse. The field was far enough from the house that it is not probable the Hawk left the chickens undisturbed out of fear, and the story lends strength to the argument that the Red-tailed Hawk, as a rule, attacks chickens only when other prey is not to be found.

ALICE EDGERTON.

Columbiana, Ohio.

THE SUMMER Tanager AT HILLSBORO, OHIO.

A pair of Summer Tanagers was first observed on May 4, 1913, fitting through the dazzling noonday sunlight and alighting on a nearby wire fence. The favorite places of these birds are the borders of the forest, where they may be seen flying about among the trees or perching on the telephone poles. The latter part of June the frequent visits of a pair to a particular spot revealed their secret. The nest was in a catalpa tree about twenty feet from the ground and two feet from the end of a limb, carefully concealed. The young left the nest July 1st.

KATIE M. ROADS.

FIELD NOTES FROM CAMBRIDGE, OHIO.

The list is unusual, only because the birds have all been found within a radius of less than a mile. Others seen, but not within this radius, are omitted. The selected area contains a little of almost every attraction for bird life: woodland, meadow, hedge, orchard, evergreen, thicket, stream and pond. Being unable to hunt the birds every day during the migratory season, I have not seen the entire list in one year. But, with the few exceptions, which I have marked rare, no doubt they might all be recorded the same year.

The Bobolinks, Stilt Sandpiper and Bonaparte Gull made their first appearance within this radius this last May. The Bachman Sparrow is very rare. Another bird student and I together saw the bird and heard the clear sweet song.

The Mockingbird, Evening Grosbeak, Pileated Woodpecker and Black-crowned Night Heron are accidentals; no other record being had from this locality, that I know of.

A decrease in the number of Hairy Woodpeckers has been noticeable for two or three years; while this season a decided increase in Blue Jays, Robins, Brown Thrashers, Wood Thrush, Cedar Waxwings, and Shrikes is marked, and never have we had such flocks of Juncos