

a card with pencil in the front coat pocket, where it is so accessible that the matter of recording individuals becomes almost mechanical.

The cost of my cards printed on good white bristol board was \$4.50 per thousand. Care must be exercised that the right sized type be used in order that a sufficient space be left available for making the records.

Members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society are using this system altogether and are enthusiastic over it. The user of course may carry out his "office records" in as great detail as he likes, the cards being offered merely as a firm basis for the development of more voluminous notes should the observer have the time.

Nashville, Tenn. •

THE SAVING OF A POND, AND THE RESULTING BIRD LIST.

BY HOWARD C. BROWN.

One windy day during a heavy snowfall, in the spring of 1917, the telephone in my father's real estate office tingled. When answered, an excited woman began talking. Her name was Mrs. ———, and she had just been told by a person living near Schneider's Pond that someone was there cutting all of the willows. So she had phoned to my father as a real estate agent, to find out if he could tell her who owned the property, so that the cutting could be stopped at once. Further explanation for stopping the cutting of willows was quite essential, and it was speedily given.

"You see," she continued, "that place is a perfect rendezvous for birds, and it would be a shame to destroy it. I thought that if I could learn who the owner was, perhaps he would stop it. For it must be stopped, and at once."

My father not knowing the owner, but sufficiently interested in any project which would benefit the birds, proposed that they make a trip to the Pond at once, to have an interview with the chopper. So out into the snowstorm he went

after Mrs. ——— with his auto, and they made a trip to the scene of destruction. Great willows, which had been allowed the freedom of plenty of space for years, were being chopped off for the piteous bit of wood they would make. When arrived at the place, Mrs. ——— made at once for the chopper, and discovered that he was an old schoolmate of hers. But that made no difference. If they had not agreed in school, at least, there was a possibility that they could now. So she asked him whose authority he had for cutting the willows. He replied that the owner had given him permission to cut all the trees for the wood. Then she pleaded for the preservation of the trees, which of course meant the preservation of the Pond as well, and he became interested enough to stop work, to listen. "It is perfectly alive with birds at certain seasons of the year, and if the trees were cut, the Pond would dry up, the birds would forsake it, and we would only have a weed patch where we now have a Natural Bird Sanctuary. I am a member of the local Naturalist Club, and in the name of that organization which stands for the protection of Natural Beauty spots, and our wild life, I ask you to cease your cutting, until we can confer with the owner."

The owner was found to be a Mr. Smith, living at Monona, Iowa. So the chopper was finally prevailed upon to cease his action, for the present, and after making her way back to the car, dripping wet from the thickly falling flakes, she went home and wrote a letter at once to the owner. After this action, of which I knew nothing until it was all over, she felt that a big step was taken toward the preservation of a spot which deserved to be preserved, not alone from its natural beauty, for it had been used by many persons, unconscious of the beauty which was lurking near, as a dumping ground, but because of the many birds which visited the spot every spring and fall during the migration season.

It is no wonder that her enthusiasm was so great for the preservation of the spot, and that her indignation was well aroused, for the Pond, although small, had a slough on one side, a meadow on the other through which a creek made

its way, and houses on the other two sides. Only two blocks from the Illinois Central depot and Main Street, this little spot of not more than three acres was, it seemed, a favorite stopping point of all migrating birds. The varied conditions of the land about it gave to it a variety of bird life which I doubt is equalled by any place in the county of equal area.

So a letter was written to Mr. Smith telling him about the use the birds made of the place, and asking that he should stop the cutting of the trees at once, and give his permission to allow those members of the Naturalist Club, who would, help improve the general appearance of the spot and make it a Bird Sanctuary. His reply was very favorable. He hadn't realized that it had any value as it was and merely thought that he would have it cleaned up. But with the letter from Mrs. ——— he changed his mind. Orders were given at once for the chopping to be stopped, and permission was readily granted for cleaning up the place and making it a Bird Sanctuary. In time, it was thought that the City Improvement might be able to buy the place, and then it would always remain a place of natural beauty, and a valuable asset to the bird student. At present all that was done was to place the project before the Califor Naturalist Club and to create an interest in the spot among all who were interested in birds.

For a number of meetings the Junior Nature Study Club of the city met at the Pond, and spent their time in hauling cans, old stoves, etc., out of the Pond, and taking them all to one place, where they would be covered with ashes. It would not take long, then, for the plants to cover the ashes, and stopping further dumping of rubbish in the Pond was attended to. A sign was at once ordered, which would be hung by chains from some of the willows which faced the railroad track near-by, so that all strangers coming into the city would be greeted by this sign, showing the enthusiasm of Charles City, Iowa, over bird-life. As yet the sign has not been hung, and there is a great deal to do, but we have hopes that the day will come when the Pond, with its immediate surroundings, may

become the property of the city and may be used as a Bird Sanctuary for all time to come. Its close location to the central portion of the city makes it a most desirable place to preserve for future time as a Sanctuary.

Early in the spring I began making trips to the Pond and keeping a list of my observations. And that others may know something of the variety of bird-life about it, I have here given a list of the birds identified within the two months of April and May, 1917. Several species which I observed a block or so in from the Pond, I have included in this list, as there are others which I did not list there, but which undoubtedly were there and missed. The goldfinches, for example, were migrating on May 27, and were observed in flocks of great numbers not far from the Pond, but I have never seen a goldfinch sufficiently near to include it on this list. Of course it must be borne in mind that other birds, which come later in the season, and the winter birds will not appear in this list. And when you consider that this is only the observations of two months, I think the reader will agree with me that the place is well worthy of preservation. The name has been changed from Schneider's Pond, named from an early owner, to the Willow Pond Bird Sanctuary. I have listed quite a number of species here which I have never listed before. The black tern is one of this class. Purple martins, two years ago during the migrating season in the spring, came in flocks and stayed for a few days about our store awnings on Main Street. The street was fairly alive with their chattering. Many started nests near the awnings, but when the awnings were rolled up and down the nests were destroyed, and all left in a few days. Never since that time have I seen any numbers here. Last year (1916) I only saw a few in the spring around the Illinois Central depot, and this year, for one day, I saw quite a number at the Pond; a day or so after I saw one, and have not seen one here since. Towhees I have never seen before this year, but have several listed this time; also the Florida Gallinule. The warblers were unusually numerous this year, as were also

the rails, oven-birds, and redstarts. The redstarts I had seen only a few of before this year, but they came in flocks to the Pond this year, and lingered for over a week. Of the kinglets I have found the Golden-crowned to be much the rarer, as my list will show. Bobolinks have been more numerous this year than last, and hummingbirds have been very rare. I listed my first one for 1917 on August 8th.

In the following list of birds identified at or near the Pond during the two months of April and May, 1917, an (x) merely indicates that the species was identified that day. Where the species is a new one, or one not so commonly found, or migrants, I have used the initial letter of an adjective to indicate the numbers, or in the case of rare species, I have given the number of individuals seen. Nighthawks are not rare, but for some reason I have never been able to see very many. Only the one at the Pond this year. The question mark inclosed in parenthesis (?) indicates that the species is uncertain. Many times my trips to the Pond were made at noon, or at some time when I had to hurry back. At such times I often caught fleeting glimpses of thrushes, swallows, etc., which I did not take the time to hunt the species of. Again, the swallows were so numerous that I did not bother to list them by individual species after the first three or four. Beyond these explanations I think the list is self-explanatory:

List of Birds	April 10	April 17	April 27	April 28	May 1	May 2	May 5	May 6	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 15	May 16	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 27	May 31
	1. English Sparrow.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2. Robin.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3. Blue Jay.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4. Bronzed Grackle.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5. Catbird.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6. Northern Flicker.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
7. Meadowlark.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
8. Red-winged Blackbird.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
9. Phoebe.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
10. Mourning Dove.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
11. Red-headed Woodpecker.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
12. Slate-colored Junco.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
13. Purple Martin.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
14. Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
15. Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
16. Myrtle Warbler.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
17. White-throated Sparrow.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Swallows (?).....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
18. Brown Thrasher.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
19. Barn Swallow.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
20. Tree Swallow.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
21. Rusty Blackbird.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
22. Grinnell Water-Thrush.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
23. Chipping Sparrow.....	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Hawk (?).....	x																			
24. Song Sparrow.....	x																			
25. Veery Thrush.....																				
26. Brown Creeper.....																				
27. Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....																				
28. Little Green Heron.....																				
29. Olive-backed Thrush.....																				
30. Sora Rail.....																				
31. Yellow Warbler.....																				
32. House Wren.....																				
33. American Bittern.....																				
34. Crow.....																				
35. Black and White Warbler.....																				
36. Wilson Warbler.....																				
37. Chickadee.....																				
38. Western Meadowlark.....																				
39. Towhee.....																				
40. Killdeer.....																				
41. Baltimore Oriole.....																				
42. Chimney Swift.....																				
43. Bank Swallow.....																				
44. Belted Kingfisher.....																				
45. Md. Yellow-throat.....																				
46. Conn. Warbler.....																				
47. White-rumped Sandpiper.....																				
48. Bobolink.....																				
49. Parula Warbler.....																				
50. Redstart.....																				
51. Magnolia Warbler.....																				
52. Black-poll Warbler.....																				
53. Chestnut-sided Warbler.....																				
Thrush (?).....																				
54. Downy Woodpecker.....																				
55. Black Tern.....																				
56. Wood Pewee.....																				
57. American Coot.....																				
58. Florida Gallinule.....																				
59. Least Bittern.....																				
60. Mourning Warbler.....																				
61. Oven-bird.....																				
Flycatcher (?).....																				
Nighthawk.....																				

* M, many; n, numerous; s, several; f, few.

Charles City, Iowa.