

The first record was on January 13, 1918, when at least one individual of this species was seen, with juncos, in a stubble field. Having no gun I could not secure the specimen, but a week later, January 19, I visited the locality again. This time I found five or six tree sparrows in a large weed field accompanying a flock of twenty-five cardinals. All were busily gleaning weed seed, and I secured two specimens. A small flock of song sparrows were nearby, also, gathering weed seed.

The following day I flushed an individual from under an old bridge and observed it at ten feet until it flew away. Later on in the day, near the end of a long tramp, I came upon three more feeding among the weeds at the edge of a country lane. A foot of snow was on the ground and the thermometer registered 12 degrees above zero. Two of the birds flew up and allowed me to approach within ten feet, making the use of my gun unnecessary.

My next trip afield was on February 3, when toward the end of a day's tramp, and in a locality several miles from the ones above mentioned, I located a group of six tree sparrows. They were in a small hillside thicket flanked by woods to one side and cultivated fields on the other. After observing them for a time I secured a female for my cabinet. The weather in the meantime had moderated, there being but little ice formed during the week previous. My field work having been curtailed during the balance of the month, I am unable to say how long they remained.

Under date of January 25, 1918, Mr. Ben J. Blincoc of Bardstown, Nelson Co., Kentucky, wrote me that he had seen a few there during the month. He stated that his only previous record was on March 5, 1912, when he secured a specimen, which he mounted.

A. F. GANIER.

Nashville, Tenn.

LOCAL BIRD NOTES AT AMES, STORY COUNTY, IOWA.

The notes following are culled from the fragmentary records of my hobby, kept while attending Iowa State College for two years. At all times, I used an eight-power stereo-binocular in making observations.

The locality about Ames is a very favorable one for bird study, the forested valleys of the Skunk river, Squaw creek, and their tributaries, attracting all kinds of woodland birds, while the adjacent farm lands are the favored habitat of the prairie loving species. Water birds are scarce as there is only one small pond and no large lakes or marshes in the vicinity.

I have given the records of the rarer specimens only.

SPECIES LISTED.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*).

On March 26, 1916, I saw one individual in "College Park," the wooded tract northwest of the campus and south of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. I first saw the bird flying, and later perched in a tall oak tree. Its black crown and back were very conspicuous against its lighter colored body. In some willow and honey locust trees bordering a little creek in these woods, was a colony of several bulky deserted nests about twenty to thirty feet from the ground, which I presumed belonged to this species. I was unable to return to this place until after the trees had leaved out and it was then impossible to see these herons in their tops.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*).

Two observed at a small pond northeast of Ames, about two miles, May 20, 1917.

Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*).

Several observed at the same pond, on the same day as above.

Florida Gallinule (*Gallinule galeata*).

One observed at the pond, May 20, 1917.

Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*).

One observed at the pond, May 20, 1917.

Barred Owl (*Strix varia varia*).

About six o'clock in the afternoon of May 2, 1917, I observed one of these owls in "College Park." I watched it for several minutes through the glasses, and it then flushed as I approached, alighting again a short distance away. After watching it a little longer I again flushed it to gain a better view of its size, when it flew out of sight.

Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*).

I saw a single individual of this species in "College Park" on May 12, 1916. I am sure of its identity as I am familiar with both this species and the crested flycatcher, with which it might be confused, at my home in Sac County.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*).

When a flock of eight twittering birds alighted near me in the pine forestry plantations of the college, one day in December, 1916 (I failed to record exact date), it required but a glance at their curved bills and the red plumage of three of them, to convince me that they were crossbills. About a week later I again saw them among the pine trees on the campus.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus nelsoni nelsoni*).

On May 20, 1917, as I was walking close to the water's edge of a small prairie pond about two miles northeast of Ames, I flushed a small sparrow heavily streaked with various shades of buff. It

flew only a few feet and I watched it through the glass for several minutes. A little further along the shore I flushed another similarly marked sparrow but with the markings somewhat paler. Reference to the sparrow illustrations in Bird Lore was required to make sure that they were male and female Nelson sparrows.

Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*).

I saw only one individual of this species, on May 19, 1917, at the Country Club south of Ames.

Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia maxillaris*).

I observed one April 23, 1916.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*).

I observed one April 23, 1916.

Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis*).

The cardinal is a resident species at Ames. I have the following records. One observed May 11, 1916. Four seen in "North Woods" in December, 1916. On May 20, 1917, I found a nest about six feet from the ground in a pine tree at the edge of the forestry plantations where these joined the oak woods. The female flew off with a sharp chip as I approached. I did not wish to cause her to desert the nest, so merely ascertained that it contained eggs and left immediately.

Blue-headed Vireo (*Lanivireo solitarius solitarius*).

I saw one in "College Park," May 20, 1917.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata celata*).

One individual observed on the college campus, May 17, 1916.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*).

One observed on the campus May 17, 1916.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*).

One individual observed on the campus May 16, 1916.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*).

On May 13, 1917, while following close to the stream's edge of a small creek in "West Woods," I flushed a small brownish-buff colored bird from the water's edge. It promptly alighted and I followed, watching it explore the water's edge for some time before I decided, from its size, actions and color, that it was a Carolina Wren. I am familiar with short-billed and long-billed marsh wrens in my home county, and there was no confusing it with either of these species. On May 19, 1917, I saw another Carolina wren. This one was exploring the water's edge of the Skunk river about three miles south of Ames. On May 20, 1917, I saw three Carolina wrens about the water's edge of the small prairie pond two miles northeast of Ames. The peculiar thing about their presence here is, that except for two willow hedges some distance away, there is no timber closer than a mile.

Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*).

On May 7, 1916, I approached very close to two of these birds in a tree close to Squaw creek in the "North Woods." I observed them for some time and noted that they were not nearly as active as chickadees; also that their tan colored flanks were very noticeable.

J. A. SPURRELL.

Wall Lake, Iowa.

Newport News, Va., July 7, 1918.

Editor of the Wilson Bulletin:

Mr. Shankland's article of the double Hummingbird's nest, in the June issue, recalls similar cases that have come under my notice, while spending the summers on my farm near here.

For six years a pair of Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) occupied the same limb on a dogwood tree on my front lawn, and for three years in succession built upon the remains of the nest from the previous year. This season they did not return, and I suppose that they must have died of old age or met some tragic fate.

Wood Pewees (*Myiochanes virens*), I have seen two double nests of; while Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogastra*), Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*), Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis sialis*), House Wrens (*Troglodytes aëdon aëdon*), Carolina (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) and Bewicks (*Thryomanes bewicki*) Wrens, and many others all use the same location, and build over or add to their old nests.

HAROLD H. BALIEY.