

the west were noted, the Black-throated Blue on October 6 and the Black-throated Green on October 8.

Sprague Pipit: This species is regarded as sufficiently uncommon in Nebraska as to make the collection of a specimen on October 1 seem worthy of note.

Sage Thrasher: A single specimen was seen and collected in the sage brush a few miles north of the mouth of Monroe Canyon on September 27. But few definite records of the Sage Thrasher are at hand for Nebraska, but it is believed to occur regularly in small numbers in the badlands of Sioux county.

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The Present Status of the Whooping Crane.

There seem to be no published records of the occurrence of the Whooping Crane since the note recording the taking of specimens at Wood Lake, Cherry county, and Grand Island, Hall county, Nebraska, was published in *The Auk*, 1913, page 430, by the writer, hence the following notes possess considerable interest, especially as the suspicion has been expressed that possibly the species had become extinct.

On March 29, 1919, a small flock of Whooping Cranes was seen near Kearney, Buffalo county, Nebraska, on an island in the Platte river. In company with Mr. C. A. Black of Kearney, the writer interviewed the observers, who are wholly to be relied upon, a few hours after the birds were seen. The "white cranes" (= Whooping Cranes) were in a large flock of "blue cranes" (= Sandhill Cranes), but had departed upon our reaching the place late in the same day, though most of the smaller species remained. In the spring of 1920, Mr. C. A. Black, who is an able and wholly reliable field ornithologist, saw two Whooping Cranes in a flock of Sandhill Cranes flying northward at a considerable height, at Kearney, on April 2, and on April 14 he saw a flock of 56 Whooping Cranes at the same locality.

Since the publishing of the 1913 note above referred to, there have been several Whooping Cranes killed in Nebraska, according to reports. On March 10, 1915, one was killed at Ogallala, Keith county, and is now in a private collection at that place, and in the fall of 1915 two were shot on the Platte River in Hall county, north of Prosser, but were destroyed by fire in 1917; in the spring of 1917 one was shot near Minden, and is in a collection there, and in the fall of that year it is reported that three were killed near Kearney (by a hunter who buried the birds through fear of the law) and another along the Platte, somewhere near its mouth; finally, in the spring of 1918 six were seen on the Platte river near Kearney, by a very reliable hunter, who, to his credit, abstained from

killing any of them, while others were reported as seen in the fall of that year. In the case of birds killed since the approval and promulgation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act it has not been possible to get any reliable information about specimens reported to have been taken.

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Nesting of the Red Crossbill in Nebraska.

On March 28, 1920, Messrs. Miles Greenleaf and William Marsh, both of Omaha, found a nest of the Red Crossbill in Elmwood Park, in the western part of Omaha. The nest was in the crotch of a decayed boxelder tree in a well-protected ravine at a height of about twenty feet from the ground. The female crossbill was on the nest, evidently brooding, and the male bird was feeding her. The tree was too badly decayed to permit climbing, but the identification of the bird was beyond question, inasmuch as Mr. Greenleaf is an experienced bird observer, and the birds were watched carefully from a short distance. There were no conifers within 300 yards of the nest. Mr. Greenleaf notified the writer of his find on March 30 and plans were made to visit the nest, and if possible, to obtain some photographs of it within the next few days.

But on April 3 an unseasonable blizzard raged over eastern Nebraska, and it was evident that the trip would need to be postponed. Messrs. Greenleaf and Marsh, however, revisited the nest on Easter Sunday, April 4, and found the storm had wrecked the nest, leaving about half of it clinging in the crotch of the tree. As several inches of snow lay on the ground beneath the tree the fragments of any eggs that might have been in the nest could not be found, nor were they to be found later, after the snow had melted. The birds were still in the vicinity after the storm, and especially around the place where the nest had been, but no rebuilding of the nest was subsequently observed.

The disappointment of not having secured any tangible evidence of this nesting, which was the first record of the breeding of this bird in Nebraska, had scarcely subsided until information was received (on April 26) concerning another nesting, this time in a park in the little city of Broken Bow, Custer county, in the central portion of the state and near the eastern edge of the sandhills. This nest was found by a fourteen-year-old boy, Newell F. Joyner, and his mother, on March 20. This boy is a Boy Scout and keeps a record of the birds of his locality, so he is positive of the date. The nest was in a very open and exposed place in the park, in the crotch of an elm tree, about ten feet above the ground and directly above a side-walk. There are very few conifer trees in Broken Bow. The nest was not disturbed, and the female was ob-