

draining of marsh lands in many places has driven them from some of their old feeding and breeding haunts.

Greater need is evidenced for the Government purchase and maintenance of large tracts of marsh lands, where the birds would be secure from molestation. Such natural asylums, it is said, are becoming fewer and consequently are affording less protection each year, due chiefly to the large areas being reclaimed for commercial purposes. The birds are quick to discover when they are in places where they are safe from hunters.

NOTES ON SOME FLYCATCHERS OBSERVED NEAR MINDEN, NEBRASKA

After reading the article on the distribution and migration of the flycatchers of Nebraska in the September, 1921, number of the Wilson Bulletin, it seems desirable to place on record the fact that in company with two other observers I noted a scissor-tailed flycatcher here at Minden, Kearney County, in the spring of 1917. I also found the crested flycatcher here in the spring of 1919, and the least flycatcher is a common migrant here both in the spring and fall. The fall migration this year is much less than I have observed it to be for many years. Mr. Mortenson and myself saw a mockingbird October 28, 1921, which is much later than I have known one to be here before.—H. Hapeman, Minden, Nebraska.

AN UNUSUAL EASTWARD MOVEMENT OF THE MAGPIE IN NEBRASKA

Ordinarily the magpie does not move eastward in the fall beyond the 100th meridians, except along the northern border of Nebraska, and records of its occurrence east of the 98th meridian are few, usually not more than once every few years. The present fall of 1921, however, has brought these birds in unusual numbers into eastern, and even southeastern Nebraska. The first report of the occurrence of the magpie in southeastern Nebraska this year came from the rather heavily wooded Salt Creek bottoms in southern Lancaster County, south of Lincoln, during the first week in October. Numerous Lincoln observers reported the magpie from that region during October, usually but one bird seen, except that Mrs. George O. Smith noted two birds on October 9. The last date on which the magpie was noted in that region was on October 23, when one bird was seen by Mr. N. F. Peterson. On October 11 the magpie was noted by Mrs. John Loder on her farm near Waverly in northeastern Lancaster County, and the bird was present there until at least October 30, when it was last noted. On October 23 Mr. L. W. Dawson of Lincoln, saw three magpies near Weeping Water, Cass County, within a few miles of the Missouri river. About October 29 a flock of five magpies

appeared near Fairbury, Jefferson County, making their headquarters about a slaughter house and refuse dump two miles from town, and were still there on November 12, on the authority of Mrs. H. F. Hole of Fairbury. No doubt there are other records from other localities in southeastern Nebraska that have not come to our attention, but the above is sufficient to indicate a movement of magpies into southeastern Nebraska greater than has taken place for at least the past twenty-five years, during the present fall.—Myron H. Swenk and Ralph W. Dawson, Lincoln, Nebraska.

BIRD COLLECTIONS OF THE MILWAUKEE MUSEUM

Many bird lovers and ornithologists of the middle west are perhaps unaware that the Public Museum of the city of Milwaukee has one of the finest exhibition collections of birds to be seen in this country.

The excellence of the Taxidermy and attractive installation, particularly of the North American collection, is largely due to the efforts of Mr. George Shrosbree, for twenty-two years Chief Taxidermist of the institution. All specimens in the systematic collections are on limbs, twigs, artificial rockwork, etc., attached directly to the backs of cases, doing away with the unsightly rows of polished stands and bases.

The North American systematic collection contains about 1370 specimens, representing 720 species and sub-species. Over forty small groups of Wisconsin birds with nestlings are shown and two especially attractive large groups. A unique feature of the collection is the large number of very young, unfledged nestlings shown. There are a number of other birds groups, both foreign and North American. The foreign systematic collection contains about 1300 mounted specimens.

"Milwaukee Region" collections containing 210 species of birds that regularly visit the locality, is especially interesting to local students. A bird's position in the case indicates whether it is north of, south of, or in the area, the specimens being changed frequently during the migrations.

The oologist will be delighted with the fine R. F. Goss collection of North American bird eggs containing, among many other rarities, the eggs of the Trumpeter Swan.

A beautifully prepared Pigeon Exhibit shows thirty-four of the more striking domestic breeds and the Rock Pigeon from which they were derived. Bird skeletons, a synoptic collection, and the study skins are there for those who desire to use them.

Plans have been made for, and considerable preliminary work already done on a series of large North American bird groups to be constructed in the near future.

Milwaukee, Wis.

HERBERT L. STODDARD.