

- Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*). Only migrating.
- Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*). Very abundant.
- Warbling Vireo (*Vireo griseus griseus*).
- Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). On bushes at a creek.
- Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). In winter.
- Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*). Very abundant. The young ones leave the nest before middle May.
- Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). Rare.
- Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*).
- Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*). Breeds from the end of March.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*). At a creek in the shrubs.
- Robin (*Planesticus migratorius*). Abundant in winter.
- Bluebird (*Sialia sialis sialis*). They nest in the second half of February.

GEORGE BAUM.

#### FIRES IN TIMBER DESTROY MUCH VALUABLE WILD LIFE

The conservation of forested areas and particularly their protection from fire must go hand in hand with the conservation of most game, in the opinion of the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. Shelter and food are necessities in the lives of the majority of animals and birds. Decrease one or both of these vital elements, which are supplied to a large degree in our forests, and the numbers of valuable wild creatures are correspondingly diminished.

Forest fires not only destroy the forest but eliminate the necessary food and shelter. The belief that burning over in certain localities is beneficial because it promotes a new growth of grass, ignores the fact that the grass thus obtained does not compensate for the destruction of trees and the shelter and food required by animals. Partridges in particular suffer from forest or brush fires. When their favorite places are burned over and their food and shelter are gone they are obliged to seek new localities and face new dangers.

Indiscriminate setting of spring fires in the southern states dislodges deer, opossums, raccoons, foxes, squirrels, rabbits, and other animals and endangers ground-nesting of birds in the timber, such as the woodcock, pheasants, wild turkey, and whip-poor-will. The woodcock is in some danger of extermination at the present time and deserves all possible protection. In seasons of drought, forest fires even invade marshy places and drive out fur-bearing animals as well as waterfowl and shorebirds. Many think that burning results merely in temporary inconvenience to the game, and may not realize that the food of many birds is largely the seeds and berries of the year before. Burning the brush also eliminates for months all shelter from natural enemies.

Burning of the ground cover in forests of longleaf and shortleaf pines kills the young trees as they emerge and results in thin, straggling growth. The burning of timber and other ground cover which should absorb and retain moistures also accelerates the run-off and af-

fects the stream flow at different seasons to such an extent that the supply of fish may be materially decreased.

During forest fires, game and other wild animals may be surrounded by flames and killed outright. If they succeed in escaping to adjoining areas they come into direct competition for food and shelter with the game already on that area and the chances of survival are lessened for all.

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#### NIGHTHAWK MIGRATION NOTES

A decade ago the Nighthawk was a common summer resident in this part of Iowa. It returned in numbers each spring and made the Iowa environment its summer home; when it remigrated southward in the fall its ranks had been enlarged by many individuals—a result of safe nesting grounds to be found here. Without the sight of this graceful, long-winged bird, widely circling the sky in its erratic flight maneuvers, and producing the well-known sound so aptly described as tearing a piece of cloth, the calm summer evenings would have lacked a certain amount of charm that the regular evening nature chorus did not contain, however varied and interesting the latter might be. For years the Nighthawk added an important bit to the associations of city and rural life.

Now it is changed. The Nighthawk is no longer a summer neighbor and is surely missed. While it is true that a few Nighthawks are still summer residents here, the cases are isolated, and the bird can be classed only as a rare summer resident. The reason for this evidently cannot be laid to decrease in numbers of the species, but to a change in nesting grounds, which has perhaps been forced by the growing practice of the over-industrious farmer of turning every available acre of pasture or other semi-waste land into tillable soil to increase his own profits. Their natural nesting grounds become scarcer every year.

While it is apparent that the Nighthawk has appreciably decreased in many parts of the United States, it is not probable that it will ever become extinct, or perhaps any less abundant than at the present time. It seems to be very erratic in migration and choice of nesting grounds, sometimes being unusually abundant at a certain place for a time, then suddenly disappearing almost entirely for several seasons, as seems to be the case in my region.

Being especially interested in this subject, I have kept yearly records since 1919, and these show that the bird does not stop here to breed, probably going farther north, because it passes through in numbers in the fall migration and is not present in the summer. These records, given in part below, pertain to Buchanan County, with the exception of the 1919 Cedar Rapids record.

My 1919 list contains but three records of the bird. The first date is May 25, when a lone bird was noted at Cedar Rapids, Iowa; the others were August 23, two birds, and August 28, a flock of 25 (approximately).

In 1920 the Nighthawk was noted only three times, as follows: May 10, 1; August 30, several; September 12, 1.

The next season, 1921, the Nighthawk made a much larger represen-