

NOTES HERE AND THERE

Conducted by the Secretary

Mr. Edward Von S. Dingle, whose bird portraits were mentioned in this column, in a letter to the Secretary tells a number of interesting things about his location and his work: "I have been interested in birds for many years and have been drawing and painting them for about fifteen years. So far my work has been confined to birds of South Carolina. I live on the sea coast near Charleston, in a territory rich in bird life. From my windows I can see, feeding at low tide, all the Herons, including the American and Snowy Egrets, the latter breeding in sight of my house. I can see Willets, Oyster-catchers, Loons, Caspian, Royal, Common, Black, Forster and Least Terns; Black Skimmers and Brown Pelicans; Florida Cormorants, Wood Ibises, Hudsonian Curlews, Turnstones, and many other shore birds. There have been four Mississippi Kites over my house at one time and on several occasions Duck Hawks passed by. Bald Eagles, Fish Hawks, and Horned Owls breed within sight of my house. All the marsh sparrows winter here and come into my yard: Sharp-tailed, Nelson's, Acadian, Seaside, and Macgillivray's; in the broom grass fields less than a mile away Henslow's and LeConte's Sparrows winter." How the Secretary, with his meager opportunity to see shore birds, envies Mr. Dingle!

Oscar McKinley Bryens, McMillan, Michigan, reports that the Evening Grosbeak is as common with him this winter as the Blue Jay; that he has recorded the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker a number of times; that he has found the Snowflake several times since September. One especially large flock of Snowflakes he estimated at nearly 2000. He at one time in 1924 saw a Hairy Woodpecker take 27 black ants at one meal, from some split wood where he found a colony of ants and placed the wood near his feeding shelf.

William A. Brock, a member of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, reports to the Secretary that the Bronzed Grackle has been abundant in Louisville right up to Christmas, a rather unusual thing for this territory. As late as December 25, 1924, he saw a flock of 100 or more.

The Reverend W. F. Henninger, an account of whose collecting was recently summarized in this column, is teaching in a mission college at Cachoeira, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The Secretary has recently had a good letter from him, in which he says that this very column was started by Mr. Henninger himself when he was the Secretary of the W. O. C. His collecting has been held up often by revolutions, which cause him to lose the right to use his gun. Then he turns to his butterfly nest. He has identified, in spite of heavy teaching work and often delicate health, 190 species of birds and has taken specimens of 142 species. Several of his students are aiding him in his collecting, especially of insects. He believes that he has several new species in his collection of over 20,000 butterflies and beetles.

Mr. R. A. Wilson, who conducts a very interesting column in the *Nashville Banner* called *Fins, Furs, and Feathers*, gave a large part of his column of Sunday, December 7, 1924, to a review of our annual W. O. C. and I. B. B. A. meeting, November 28-30. Among other fine things he said, "It is too early to measure what these evangelists of bird lore have done for us, but it is safe to say

that the slowly growing movement in the South to study and protect the birds has received the greatest impetus it ever had, and may spread widely and yield a rich harvest."

One of the interesting things at the annual meeting was a paper loaned to the club by Mrs. Alicia Bakewell Shaffer, of Cincinnati, Ohio. It was a fragment found in the papers of her father, William J. Bakewell, the brother-in-law of Audubon, and was a series of recollections of the famous naturalist, especially of his residence in Kentucky. Mr. Bakewell, then a boy, came with his sister and brother-in-law to Kentucky, where he lived for two years, helping the naturalist collect birds and animals. Mrs. Shaffer is at present planning to issue this paper and several others dealing with her illustrious uncle in book form. We regret very much that it cannot be published the columns of this magazine.

Mr. E. D. Nauman, Sigourney, Iowa, contributed a paper to the annual program telling how two farmers in Keokuk County, Iowa, succeeded in practically taming a flock of wild geese, the common Canada Goose. Food was scattered in the snow for the flock, which remained all winter and returned year after year.

Our annual letter to members, announcing the meeting at Nashville, found Henry B. Skeele, formerly of Savannah, Georgia, but now of Bethel, Maine, at San Remo, Italy, where he is now spending the winter.

Henson H. Thomas, Pomeroy, Ohio, one of our new members, had the good fortune to identify in his territory 93 species in his first year of study there. He says that nearly all of these are land birds, for there are no swamps or streams near.

The Massachusetts Audubon Society maintains at Sharon, Massachusetts, for the special benefit of their members a bird sanctuary, called Moose Hill Bird Sanctuary. It is protected by a resident warden.

Miss Laura Gano, Thonotosassa, Florida, sent a paper for the annual meeting which bore the title, *Birds of a Florida Farm*. The farm has 147 acres and is located near Tampa. Because of the varied nature of the farm, bird life is especially prominent. Miss Gano says that summer is the quietest time of the year, in marked contrast to her former home in the North. For the farm area alone she reports 109 species identified in five years. Many of the species are semi-tropic birds which are known to most of the W. O. C. members only through books or museums or zoological parks.

Mr. R. J. Longstreet, Daytona Beach, Florida, recently was called upon to draft a law making Bird Study a part of the course of study in his state. The law was passed and is now in effect.

Mr. W. A. Strong, San Jose, California, reports that the year 1924 was especially notable for him in his collecting of rare or semi-rare species. He found a nest of Sennett's Warbler which was double, four inches high, the bottom nest never having been used. He also banded a number of nestlings, nearly all of them of western species.

Our President, A. F. Ganier, sends in a very interesting note: On January 24 he found a set of two fresh eggs of the Great Horned Owl. The nest was located in the cavity of a big beech tree. On the next day he found another of the same species on a ledge on a cliff over Stone River. This last nest had been

visited a week before, that is, January 18, when it contained one egg. This is an exceedingly early record, Mr. Ganier says.

Professor L. Y. Lancaster, of the Kentucky Teachers College, Bowling Green, Kentucky, reports seeing Crows fighting Mallards on November 11, 1924, the first time he has ever seen Crows attacking any species of water birds.

Paul J. Adams, Knoxville, Tennessee, reports that he has seen Herring Gulls several times during the winter, his first winter record of this species. The Secretary saw two Herring Gulls on January 12, his only winter record for the species.

"The past three summers," says T. Gilbert Pearson, President of The National Association of Audubon Societies, in an article in *Nature Magazine*, "have been lamenting the failure of their storks to return. The platforms on poles in the yards remain tenantless—the old nests on the house roofs, through lack of repairs, are falling to pieces. What has become of the storks? 'Killed by eating grasshoppers poisoned by the Transvaal farmers', is the answer one will hear."

W. M. Walker, Jr., Hopkinsville, Kentucky, writes the Secretary that he was agreeably surprised at the large number of Red-headed Woodpeckers seen during Christmas week. The Secretary, who lives about fifty miles away, has recorded the same species for the second winter during his fifteen years at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

On December 13, 1924, our good friend Professor Dayton Stoner, of the University of Iowa, broadcasted from station WHAA an address on "Winter Birds." It has since been published as a number of the *University of Iowa Bulletin*.

O. M. Bryens, McMillan, Michigan, reports to the Secretary that he saw a Rusty Blackbird on November 17, 18, and 19, a very late date for this species. The two kinds of Crossbills have also been noted by him during the winter. The Blue Jay has also taken a freakish notion to stay this winter near his station.

An attractive little folder has come to the Secretary, announcing the opening of the Zoological Field Laboratory of The University of Kentucky in Braethitt County, Kentucky. The prime mover of this laboratory is our good friend Professor W. D. Funkhouser. Two of the courses to be offered in the next summer session are of especial interest to ornithologists: Animal Ecology and Field Biology, and Bird Study.

Professor J. M. Robinson, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama, reports that some of his students, who are greatly interested in banding, have been successfully using a flash-light and a butterfly net at night, catching numbers of birds at the roosts.

"THE BETTER BULLETIN CLUB"

The response to President Ganier's appeal for funds with which to wipe out our deficit has been exceedingly gratifying to all of us. Some have raised their membership to a higher class; others have kept their old status and contributed an additional sum; still others have done both of these things. The officers are very grateful and much encouraged by this ready response. The following lists will make acknowledgment of receipts up to the time this copy is prepared.

The following members have taken Sustaining Membership: Allen H. Wood, Jr., C. K. Knickerbocker, Mrs. Charles R. Gleason, W. H. Osgood, Frank Breun, Fred. H. Kennard, A. W. Blain, T. Gilbert Pearson, Jesse L. Smith, A. D. Tinker, Harry C. Monk, P. B. Phillip, W. I. Mitchell, Junius Henderson, Herbert L. Stoddard, W. E. Saunders, Thomas S. Roberts, George Miksch Sutton, F. C. Willard, A. G. Prill, Gus Stucker, G. D. Hibbs, R. A. Gilliam, Myron H. Swenk, Thomas M. Earl, Leroy Titus Weeks, Waldo L. Rich, Charles H. Rogers, Louis B. Bishop, Harold H. Bailey, Gordon Wilson, R. M. Strong, Charles W. Richmond, Gayle B. Pickwell, J. C. Boyce, F. M. Phelps.

The following members have taken Active Membership: Grover Cook, R. H. Dean, E. A. Doolittle, Orange Cook, L. J. Cole, B. S. Bowdish, Charles A. Bruun, Henry W. Davis, Sallie Cavaness, Ethel Gowans, Frank W. Commons, Oscar M. Bryens, Albro D. Morrill, Mrs. Lena S. Millar, Edward S. Thomas, Marjorie Ruth Ross, J. A. Laughlin, Edward Von S. Dingle, R. D. Camp, Charles A. Stockbridge, Lewis E. Fifield, George E. Ekblaw, John B. Lewis, John A. Gillespie, Verdi Burtch, Albert M. Ingersoll, R. J. Longstreet, A. W. Honywill, Luke Francis Savage, Gardner P. Stickney, Marjorie Lee Guest, Charles J. Spiker, James L. Ortega, J. A. Neff, Anne Stuart, J. E. Guthrie, J. R. Pemberton, Arthur David Moore, Luther Little, W. M. Rosen, Arthur A. Allen, Josselyn Van Tyne, William A. Worthington, Karl Plath.

The following members have contributed to the Better Bulletin Club, either by raising their membership or by making a contribution: Samuel E. Perkins III, Allen H. Wood, Jr., William I. Lyon, Gordon Wilson, Carl D. Herdman, George L. Fordyce, Gabriel Cannon, D. R. Gray, Grover Cook, Karl W. Kahmann, C. K. Knickerbocker, H. G. Morse, Mrs. Charles R. Gleason, R. H. Dean, Paul Bartsch, A. H. Wright, T. S. Palmer, E. A. Doolittle, W. H. Osgood, Frank Bruen, Orange Cook, Fred H. Kennard, Dayton Stoner, S. Prentiss Baldwin, E. A. McIlhenny, Edward R. Ford, L. J. Cole, R. S. Bowdish, Ralph E. DeLury, A. W. Blain, T. Gilbert Pearson, Florence Merriam Bailey, Harry W. Dunkelberger, W. L. McAtee, Charles A. Bruun, Jesse L. Smith, Mrs. Beryl T. Mounts, Marion Pellew, A. D. Tinker, Harry C. Monk, P. B. Phillip, Henry W. Davis, Sallie Cavaness, W. I. Mitchell, Junius Henderson, Herbert L. Stoddard, W. E. Saunders, Thomas S. Roberts, S. S. Visher, Ethel Gowans, Frank W. Commons, George Miksch Sutton, Oscar M. Bryens, F. C. Willard, Albro D. Morrill, Mrs. Lena S. Miller, Thomas H. Whitney, A. G. Prill, Gus Stucker, Edward S. Thomas, G. D. Hibbs, R. A. Gilliam, Sherman Coryell, Myron H. Swenk, Marjorie Ruth Ross, Charles B. Floyd, J. A. Laughlin, Mrs. Tracy W. Guthrie, E. von S. Dingle, R. D. Camp, Thomas M. Earl, Charles A. Stockbridge, LeRoy Titus Weeks, C. W. Chamberlain, Lewis E. Fifield, Waldo L. Rich, Charles H. Rogers, George E. Ekblaw, John B. Lewis, John A. Gillespie, Verdi Burtch, Albert M. Ingersoll, R. J. Longstreet, A. W. Honywill, Jr., Louis B. Bishop, John P. Young, Luke Francis Savage, Gardner P. Stickney, Frank L. Burns, Harold H. Bailey, Marjorie Lee Guest, Charles J. Spiker, R. M. Strong, James L. Ortega, Dr. Guy C. Rich, Charles W. Richmond, J. A. Neff, Gayle B. Pickwell, Anne Stuart, J. G. Boyce, Margaret M. Nice, F. M. Phelps, J. E. Guthrie, J. R. Pemberton, Arthur David Moore, Clarence S. Jung, Luther Little, J. H. Fleming, William E. Praeger, W. M. Rosen, Arthur A. Allen, Josselyn Van Tyne, Charles T. Ramsden, William A. Worthington, Stephen S. Gregory, Jr., Karl Plath.