

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

The Lark Bunting at Sioux City, Iowa.—While driving along the highway about three miles south of Morningside, May 17, 1925, a male Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) flew about twenty-five feet in front of the car. Plainly seeing his wholly black general color with large white wing patches we knew from experience with the species in western South Dakota that this was the Lark Bunting. It alighted on a fence not far away, and through field glasses we observed it there and also while feeding on new plowed ground in company with Prairie Horned Larks and other species, for about fifteen minutes. One hundred fifty miles west of Sioux City this bird is common, but it seems to be rare in northwestern Iowa.—T. M. MURDOCH and WALTER W. BENNETT, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

The Arkansas Kingbird in Central Iowa.—Having been a close observer of the bird life of Boone County, Iowa, for a number of years, I am always interested whenever I find a new one, but I have been especially interested in one bird which seems to be extending its range farther east. This bird is the Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Boone County is almost in the center of the state of Iowa and we have the Des Moines River running through the center of the county. During the summer of 1924 one of my farmer friends came to me one day and said he had noticed a "different kind of Kingbird" out in the country, and asked me if the Arkansas Kingbird was found here. I told him that I had never seen one here and rather doubted the accuracy of his report. However, a few days after this, while driving in the country in a different township, I saw my first Arkansas Kingbird in this county, and then I knew my farmer friend was right. This was on June 1, 1924, and this being a rather late date for migration, the bird may have been nesting, although I saw but the one individual. It sat on the barbed wire fence along the side of the road, in genuine Kingbird fashion, and I stopped my car and followed it for some distance at close enough range for perfect identification without the use of glasses.

No other individuals were observed during 1924, but on the evening of May 18, 1925, while driving to the river I saw two more of these birds and drove quite close to them. They were on the wire fence as usual, by a pasture but very near the edge of the timber along the Des Moines River. The next morning, together with my son Junior and Robert Walker, I started at 5 a. m. for an all-day bird trip, and while we listed eighty-nine varieties during the day I felt that the most interesting thing of the entire day's experience was the thrill we felt when, shortly after starting, as we neared the timber along the same road we had seen the Arkansas Kingbirds the evening before, we found four of them, together with several Kingbirds. My first record of the year for the Kingbird had been made just five days previously (May 13). We watched them for a few minutes, all carefully noting their coloring and markings, and I especially wanted the younger boys to learn this bird as I had already become very well acquainted with it in North Dakota, where it is very plentiful. I have had fifty field trips this year, but have seen no Arkansas Kingbirds since and have concluded that these individuals passed through here. But it is singular that I should have seen my first one last year and then see six individuals this year on two succeeding days. If this ratio of increase continues each year they will soon be plentiful here. It certainly would be interesting to hear if anyone has observed this bird farther east than central Iowa.—W. M. ROSEN, *Ogden, Iowa.*