

An Unusual Scarcity of the Bobolink and Pine Siskin in South Central Virginia During 1925.—In looking over my "Bird Calendar" for 1925, I notice the almost total absence of records of the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) in the fall migration. Usually they are common in the soybean fields and wherever the foxtail grass has grown up on cultivated land, from about the middle of August until the middle of September; but last fall I saw them only once.

Another bird that has been conspicuous by its absence is the Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus pinus*), which was recorded only three times—on February 10 and 17, and on March 13. The Pine Siskin is always very erratic in its movements, and scarcely anything that it does is cause for surprise. During the winter of 1922-23 these little finches were more abundant here than I ever saw them anywhere, before or since. They swarmed in upon us in the very early morning of November 15, 1922, and were with us in large numbers until the middle of the following March. I happened to be an eye witness, or rather an ear witness, to the first arrival of this host of Pine Siskins. I was out at 5 o'clock in the morning on November 15, 1922. It was warm, and a dense fog hung low over the tree tops. From all around, both from straight above and from all sides, came the "chee-chip" of countless Pine Siskins, evidently flying low on account of the fog. I afterward often noticed them working on the seed balls of the Sweet Gum, apparently feeding from them.—JOHN B. LEWIS, *Lawrenceville, Va.*

An Unusual Flicker's Nest.—So many odd incidents have been related of the Flicker, its courtship and its nesting, that one might be disposed to attribute to it a sense of humor, or even to dub it a clown among the birds. While in the suburbs of Chattanooga, Tennessee, last spring, I noticed a Flicker engaged in what appeared to be a hopeless task in the way of nest excavation. An iron water tank, supported by steel columns forty feet high, was fed by a large iron pipe through its bottom, and, to keep this pipe from freezing in winter, it had been encased with a plank shaft two feet square that was filled with cedar sawdust. Our friend *Colaptes auratus* had evidently sounded the boards, and, sensing easy digging, had drilled a hole in the middle of one side about thirty feet up. When espied, he was enthusiastically pitching out quantities of sawdust, which I presume caved in about as fast as he dug, but during the half hour I was engaged near by there was no let up in the work. About a month later I was again in the vicinity and made it a point to go by the tank. On the ground below the hole was at least a bushel of sawdust, and in a few minutes I had the pleasure of seeing a Flicker enter the hole with food in its mouth, presumably to feed the young that had come to reward his perseverance.—A. F. GANIER, *Nashville, Tenn.*

The Red-throated Loon in Kansas.—An immature Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*), was collected on the Marais des Cygnes River, Franklin County, Kansas, on October 20, 1925, by Captain Joe R. White of Ottawa, Kansas. The specimen, a female, measured as follows: Length 605 (millimeters), wing 251, tail 77, head 75, bill 42, tarsus 63. Its gullet contained four fish of which three were hickory shad, *Dorosoma cepedianum* (Le Sueur), each about four inches long, and the remaining one a species of Cyprinidae unidentified. To my knowledge, the only lists of Kansas birds which have been published are the following: Goss (1891), Lantz (1899), Snow (1903), and Bunker (1913). Since the Red-throated Loon is not included in any of these, this capture records a new species

for the state. Identification of the specimen, now in the collection of the writer, was verified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture.—HOWARD K. GLOYD, *Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kans.*

New Winter Bird Records from Ann Arbor, Michigan.—Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*)—On January 30, 1926, I collected a female Swamp Sparrow on the bank of the Huron River. The bird was in good condition, even slightly fat. There seems to be but one previous winter record for the state. Mr. A. D. Tinker informs me that Mr. Otto McCreary saw one here on February 23, 1906.

Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)—The first wintering bird to be found in the state appears to be one I discovered here on December 26, 1925. The bird was subsequently seen in the same locality by Mr. A. D. Tinker and others.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)—In the very spot in Nichols Arboretum where the wintering Catbird had been first seen, a Carolina Wren appeared on January 3, 1926. It was again seen there on January 9, and on January 16, 1926, Mr. J. O. Kirby and the writer collected a fine male at a point more than a mile down the valley.

The above specimens have been given to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, the logical repository for all specimens representing Michigan records.—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *Ann Arbor, Mich.*

The Eskimo Curlew in Nebraska.—The last recorded instances of the occurrence of the Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) in North America are of the lone male specimen seen and killed about ten miles south of Norfolk, Nebraska, on April 17, 1915, by Mr. Paul Hoagland, then of Omaha, Nebraska, and the flock of five birds seen near the same place on about the same day by a brother of Mr. Mont Wheeler of Norfolk, as reported in my paper on "The Eskimo Curlew and Its Disappearance," published in the Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1915, pp. 338-339. When nearly a decade of time had passed without anyone reporting the observing of this bird anywhere in North America, and when ornithologists were just about ready to agree that the species was extinct, it was unexpectedly recorded in 1924 that a specimen had been taken at Rosas, F. C. S. Province Buenos Aires, Argentina, from among five or six birds in a flock of Golden Plover, on February 7, 1924, by Senor Juan B. Daguerre, who later collected another lone specimen at the same locality on January 11, 1925, both specimens being now in the Museo Nacional de Historia of Buenos Aires (Cf. *El Hornero*, iii, No. 3, p. 284, 1924; Forbush, *Birds of Massachusetts*, pp. 458-459, 1925).

In further substantiation of the undoubtable fact that the Eskimo Curlew is not yet extinct, I am now able to cite a positive instance of its occurrence in Nebraska during the present spring. On the morning of April 8, 1926, Mr. A. M. Brooking of Hastings, an ornithologist and taxidermist who is very familiar with this species through having spent much effort in assembling several specimens of it for his extensive collection, while driving from the village of Inland to Hastings along what is known as the "north road," saw a flock of eight birds alight in a newly plowed field, about four miles east of Hastings. He drove his car up close to the birds, and when within forty yards of them was able, to his astonishment, to positively identify them as unquestionably Eskimo Curlews. Mr. Brooking knows the species so well, and saw the birds so clearly, that in my opinion this