

NOTES ON SOME LESS COMMON BIRDS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS.

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In the WILSON BULLETIN for June, 1927, I was especially interested in the article by my friends and former students, Jean Linsdale and E. R. Hall, on birds of Douglas County, Kansas, since the period of observations there covered corresponds very closely with the period of my own observations in the same county. Their list of species agrees in most particulars with my own, but since a number of birds of which I have records for the county are not mentioned by them it seems worth while to add these to the list here. During my four years on the staff of the Zoology Department at the University of Kansas, it was my privilege to conduct the classes in ornithology, and the daily field excursions with these classes, especially during the spring migration period, afforded me many opportunities for observations in this interesting region, which I might not otherwise have had. Some of the species which are listed below are not, judging from my own experience, of common occurrence, at least in the particular part of the county concerned, and the truth of this statement would seem to be confirmed by the fact that they are not mentioned by Linsdale and Hall whose observations extended over a considerably wider area than did my own.

WHITE PELICAN. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. On April 24, 1920, a flock of forty were seen soaring in short circles, low down, above the Kansas River, just north of Lake View station. They kept moving slowly up the river and soon were lost to sight as they descended and apparently alighted in the river or on its banks.

BUFFLEHEAD. *Charitonetta albeola*. In the afternoon of March 26, 1923, just as I was approaching with my bird class, a male and a female Bufflehead alighted in Potter's Pond (a small pond on the University grounds). The pair soon rose, circled a few times and again alighted in the pond; this was repeated a second time, whereupon they flew in the direction of Stubb's Pond, a similar little pond about a quarter of a mile distant, and here a student reported seeing them a half hour later.

BLUE GOOSE. *Chen caerulescens*. On March 25, 1923, my wife and I found a dead Blue Goose on the east shore of Lake View. It had evidently been dead a few days. On March 15, 1921, among a flock of Lesser Snow Geese were three others which I concluded were Blue Geese, but the direction of the light made positive identification somewhat uncertain.

LESSER SNOW GOOSE. *Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus*. On March 15, 1921, a flock of sixteen flew over the southern part of the city of Lawrence, at 7:40 A. M.; and these were followed at 11:30 by a flock of thirty-five, among which were the three believed to be Blue Geese mentioned above. On March 16, 1922, at 9:00 A. M., a flock of fifty passed over the same part of the city; on the 23rd, two flocks were heard during the night, and on the 25th, a flock of a hundred was seen at 9:00 A. M. All these flocks were flying from east to west and all took the same route over the city.

SANDHILL CRANE. *Grus mexicana*. On March 25, 1920, at 1:30 P. M., while returning with my wife from an ornithological visit to Lake View, when about half way to Lawrence, we heard the trumpeting of Sandhill Cranes and immediately were greeted with the sight of eight of these large birds passing by to the north of us, flying rather low. They soon began circling, evidently looking for a place to alight, but after some minutes rose higher and continued on their way north-westward.

WHITE-FACED GLOSSY IBIS. *Plegadis guarauna*. In the early evening of May 9, 1923, while with my class at Lake View, two White-faced Glossy Ibises were seen among a host of shorebirds at the north-western end of the lake. They were feeding in the shallow water with the other birds, and did not keep near together, but each seemed rather to follow the particular group of shorebirds it happened for the moment to be among, moving about at our approach as these did.

STILT SANDPIPER. *Micropalama himantopus*. On May 11, 1923, a single individual was seen among other shorebirds at the north-western end of Lake View. One was also seen in the same locality in May of the previous year, but through an oversight the exact date was not recorded.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. *Buteo lineatus*. On May 5, 1923 one was observed, soaring directly overhead, about half a mile east of the Corn-ing farm, on the east side of the city of Lawrence.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. *Buteo platypterus platypterus*. On May 11, 1923, one was seen at Lake View.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW. *Antrostomus carolinensis*. On May 11, 1923, while my wife and I were the guests of Misses Vera Smith and Nadine Morrison, at their cabin at Lake View, we heard the characteristic call of this species issuing from the deep woods at the edge of

which the cabin was situated, on the south shore of the lake. The first calls were heard between 7:30 and 8:00 o'clock in the evening; as the evening wore on they came more frequently, and were repeated at shorter or longer intervals for about an hour, now nearer, then farther away. It soon became evident that there were two individuals calling, their calls now and then overlapping, at other times coming from different directions, one nearer, the other farther away.

POOR-WILL. *Phalaenoptilus nuttalli*. At dusk on the evening of June 9, 1920, while listening for evening bird notes, my wife and I heard the call of a Poor-will along the roadside at the western end of the University campus. The road is, or was, here bordered by a pastured slope, covered largely with Osage orange trees, shrubbery and weeds. The Poor-will was seen repeatedly as it flew about, low down, along the road and over the slope, always keeping within a limited area. The calls were repeated several times within a period of about fifteen minutes, at times quite close to where we were standing. It is my belief that the bird was one of a nesting pair.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. On May 29, 1920, one was seen in the Osage orange hedge bordering Louisiana street road, about a mile south of Lawrence.

BEWICK'S WREN. *Thryomanes bewicki bewicki*. A specimen was taken on April 1, 1919, in the hedge bordering the Louisiana street road, just north of the bridge at Wakarusa Creek. (Reported in the *Auk*, 1921, vol. 38, p. 119).

WILLOW THRUSH. *Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola*. An individual bird which I determined to be this form was seen on May 9, 1921, on the ground beneath the hedge bordering a pasture, about a quarter of a mile south of the University campus; and on May 21, 1923, one was seen at the edge of Marvin's Grove on the University grounds.

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