

fastened tightly on the thorns of bushes or the barbs of a barbed-wire fence. All of these birds were found within one city block, close to the south residential section of Minneapolis, and it so prejudiced me against Migrant Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*) which were responsible for this destruction of song birds that when I found the shrikes' nest in the same city block I removed the five eggs so that there might not be more of the destructive birds in the vicinity. This was on May 17, and when I came back the next day, intending to take home the nest, I found the shrikes busy removing it, piece by piece, to another tree about fifty yards from the first one. Whether it was intentional or not on the part of the shrikes I do not know, but, whereas the first nest was only twenty feet above the ground and quite accessible, the second nest, built from the parts of the first, was placed about forty feet above the ground in a position which rendered it quite inaccessible, at least to human enemies. Both nests were placed in Black Oak trees.—GUSTAV SWANSON, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Further Notes on the Singing of the Magnolia Warbler.—On my arrival at Grey Rocks, Pelham, Massachusetts, the last of June, 1927, I found a Magnolia Warbler singing in the same haunts as his predecessor two years ago (WILSON BULLETIN, XXXVIII, pp. 185-199); this bird, however, sang the complete songs consistently, instead of the abbreviated forms of the 1925 bird. I discovered that the former bird's "*sing sweet*" was simply the tag end of one of the two most common songs of this species—as rendered by this bird "*wichy wichy wee-sy*," the "*sing sweet*" being nothing else than the "*wee-sy*." This is the "sprightly" song described by Thayer in Chapman's "Warblers of North America" (pp. 125-126), while "*weechy weechy weechip*" is the "duller" song.

As before, "*weechy weechy weechip*" was primarily the perch song, proclaimed during the day from the tops of cedars and never heard earlier than 5 A. M. nor ever in the evening; "*wichy wichy wee-sy*" was always the last song at night and on eleven days was heard very early in the morning.

"*Wichy wichy wee-sy*" was sung in the very same grove and at the very same times as "*sing sweet*" had been; the 1927 bird, however, sang a little later in the evening than the 1925 warbler had done. The latest song from the latter came at 7:49 P. M. (July 12); the last songs of this year's bird were recorded at the following times: July 1, 8:00; July 2, 7:53; July 3, 7:59; July 5, 7:57; July 9, 7:53; July 11, 7:52; July 12, 8:00; July 15, 7:39.

The rate of singing of both songs was not much different from the 1925 records. Five minutes of "*weechy weechy weechip*" on July 1 at 8:40 A. M. gave 8, 9, 9, 9 and 9 songs to a minute; the usual interval between the beginnings of these songs was from 5 to 7 seconds. Records of "*wichy wichy wee-sy*" ran as follows: 9, 8, 7, 7, 6, 7, 6, 5, 6, 6, 6, 8, 9, 8—an average of 8.7 songs a minute. The most common intervals between beginnings of songs in one sample was from 7 to 8 seconds, in another from 9 to 10 seconds.

Sometimes this bird interspersed little chirps—"tit-tit"—between his "*wichy wichy wee-sy*" song; at other times he did not. His rate of singing with the "*tit-tits*" the evening of July 1 was 7, 5, 6, 8 and 7 songs a minute. He sang thus for twenty minutes or more, part of the time flitting about and part of the time sitting still.

As I was away from Grey Rocks from July 23 to 27, I am not positive as to the date of the last songs of the season. The last "*weechy weechy weechip*" I

heard occurred about 5 A. M. on July 21; the last "wicky wicky wee-sy" was noticed by a member of the family about July 25. In 1925 the last songs were heard July 23 and 29, respectively.—MARGARET MORSE NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

The Olive-sided Flycatcher in Oklahoma.—On September 14, 1925, my husband and I saw our first *Nuttallornis borealis* in Oklahoma. It was perched high up on the dead branches of a large solitary cottonwood, across the road from woods bordering the South Canadian River in Cleveland County. The following day I observed another one by a small pond just west of Norman. It sat on the dead tops of trees and from there sallied out in pursuit of insects. The cottony tufts were visible twice; once after it had settled down from a flight, and once when it scratched itself. Later a second bird appeared.

On May 10, 1926, a fourth Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen on the very top of a dead tree near a stream south of Norman. On May 21, another was watched at the "Sloo," high on a dead tree; it caught a small insect and also a large dragonfly which it had some difficulty in swallowing. This was the only one of the five that was observed in dense woods.

None of these flycatchers uttered any note. Although the tufts were seen in only one instance, in every case the birds were watched at leisure through eight power glasses and the diagnosis was based upon their characteristic shape, the very dark sides, and the narrow median whitish or buffy line down the breast.

Mr. R. C. Tate, of Kenton, Oklahoma, writes me that he observed three Olive-sided Flycatchers on September 16, 1925. He was within ten feet of them, and obtained a good view of the white tufts.—MARGARET MORSE NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

Marsh Birds in Delaware County, Ohio.—In the study of nesting birds we find that most species are confined to some particular nesting association. Since, with the development of agriculture in western Ohio, many of these associations have been destroyed, species that cannot adapt themselves to the changed conditions will be driven out. Some species are already rare or wanting. But one fortunate thing in the agricultural development is that it opens wide fields to the pioneers of other species that find ideal nesting associations in the open and drained country, such as the Meadowlark, Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Dickcissel and some other species that make the open country their habitat. The Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) is probably the most abundant nesting species in western Ohio, while the most abundant winter bird in Delaware County is the Horned Lark. The resident form of Horned Lark is *O. a. praticola*, but the numbers of this bird are greatly increased by the winter visitors.

There are but few nesting associations left for the marsh birds between the Ohio River and the marshes of Lake Erie. One ideal oasis is located on the southeast corporate line of Delaware—a cat-tail marsh of three or four acres, bordered by a thicket of shrubs and vines, with water throughout the year and a depth of black ooze that is a challenge to the explorer. The Florida Gallinule, the Sora and Virginia Rails, and the Least Bittern have been nesting there for a number of years, though but few people have ever seen them. They are adepts at keeping hid when visitors are about, and if the visitors are noisy they speak in whispers, if at all. Yet for all their secretive habits they are not difficult to observe and study if some precautions are taken. The best plan we have found