

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