

December 6, 1928, Mrs. L. R. Button found Pine Siskins numerous on McLain's Island in the Platte River near Fremont. Six of them were seen on the Island as late as December 23, and an occasional one occurred in the city of Fremont during the winter. On December 28, the Misses Ellsworth and others noted ten of them in the Fontenelle Forest near Omaha. The Brooking Bird Club at Hastings noted one there on January 1, 1929. Mr. C. S. Ludlow saw a flock at Red Cloud on February 5, and the members of the Fairbury Nature Study Club saw fifteen of them on February 22.

Late in February and early in March there was a reappearance, or an increase in numbers, of the Pine Siskin in southeastern Nebraska. Mr. C. S. Ludlow saw eight of them at Red Cloud on March 1, and by March 15 a flock of twenty was present there. The first ones seen at Hastings were on March 4, and they were still present there on May 18, according to the records of the Brooking Bird Club. Mrs. H. C. Johnston reported the first ones at Superior on March 16. At Fairbury Mrs. H. F. Hole reported them paired in her yard on March 20.

At Lincoln, the first ones were seen—five of them—on February 28 by Miss Louisa Wilson, who saw others on March 1 and 7. The writer first noted them on the College of Agriculture campus on March 14, and Miss Wilson found them commonly in another part of Lincoln on March 16. By April 27 they were present in pairs in the vicinity of the College of Agriculture campus. The monthly mean temperature for March, 1929, was  $42.6^{\circ}$ , or  $5.1^{\circ}$  above normal. For April it was  $54.2^{\circ}$ ; or  $2.7^{\circ}$  above normal. For May it was  $60^{\circ}$ , or  $1.7^{\circ}$  below normal. According to the conclusions reached on pages 91 and 92 of my paper in the June, 1929, WILSON BULLETIN, there might have been attempts to nest by the Pine Siskins in March, and probably would be nesting in May. Surely enough, Mrs. Swenk and the writer found a nest about thirty feet up in a spruce tree on the College of Agriculture campus on May 5. The birds were seen at the nest on May 17 and May 19, but on May 26 had disappeared. This constitutes the twenty-second breeding record of the Pine Siskin in Nebraska, and further corroborates the relation between nesting and spring temperatures pointed out in the paper above mentioned.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Neb.*

**Does the Great Horned Owl Have a Poor Memory?**—During latter December, 1928, and early January, 1929, Mr. E. C. Rosenberry, of Enola, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, lost chickens and guinea fowl almost every night. He could not find the culprit, but inferred that a bird of prey was taking them, since no footprints could be found. On the night of January 2 he placed a steel trap on a post near the poultry yard. A few feathers had been found at the base of this post, suggesting that the victims had been carried there. On the following morning the trap was gone; evidently it had not been fastened securely. Another trap was wired to the post and set. On the morning of January 4, a large female Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) was found in the trap, caught by its left foot. On the right foot was the other trap, its chain dangling. The bird was brought to this office for identification.

According to my experience certain species of birds, Crows for instance, would not have made the mistake of returning so promptly to a perch where they had encountered a trap. But the owl, either poor of memory, or excessively hungry, had returned within about twenty-four hours, though she bore upon her

foot a constant reminder of the disagreeable experience. It is probable that hunger and the memory of source of sustenance are respectively stronger and more accurate in this muscular, bold creature than any recollection of pain or inconvenience which may have been caused at or near the source of food supply.—

GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

**The Breeding Range of the Black-necked Stilt.**—The breeding range of the Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) has been steadily increasing throughout different parts of southern and central Florida during the last few years. Where it was not found at all a few years ago it now breeds. In 1909 I found these birds nesting at Kissimmee and also at Lake Kissimmee on Rabbit Island. In 1915 they bred in numbers at Lake Harney, Seminole County. These places are still used as breeding places to the present date, May, 1929. They breed at Marco Island, some of the Keys, Puzzle Lake, Seminole County, Merritt's Island, along the St. John's River between Sanford and Lake Harney, and at Geneva Ferry.

The latest places discovered were at Turkey Hammock, Osceola County, which is where the Kissimee River begins at the south end of Lake Kissimee. About a dozen pairs were found evidently breeding, judging from their behavior, by Messrs. Arthur H. Howell and W. H. Ball, and me, on May 12, 1929. We also found four breeding pairs at Alligator Bluff, which is along the Kissimee River, on May 11, 1929. In March, 1908, March, 1910, and in 1912, I had covered this same territory and failed to see Black-necked Stilts in these two places. I could not have overlooked them had they been here.

Since the lowering of Lake Okeechobee, the river has been far below its normal level, thus leaving exposed mud flats, suitable to the needs of this bird and it has taken advantage of conditions offered.

Three other new breeding places have been just discovered, and eggs collected. A few pairs were found in May, 1929, and one nest with four eggs collected five miles west of Indian River City, Brevard County, in a brackish swale between St. John's River and Indian River. On May 15, 1929, Mr. H. Redding sent me two sets of three eggs and two sets of four eggs. Three sets were collected from a small colony on the sandy shores of Lake Winder (part of St. John's River), Osceola County. The eggs were slightly incubated, and some were fresh. A fourth set was taken close to Lake Washington at the "Jams." The eggs of this set were half incubated. The Indian River district and the latter are both new breeding localities.

A wide jump was made when the birds were found breeding at Lake Conway, five miles south of Orlando, Orange County, in May, 1927, for the first time. No eggs or young were seen, but their actions betrayed them, and it was not until May, 1928, that Messrs. J. C. Howell, Jr. and Wray H. Nicholson found two sets of three eggs each at this place. The author first saw them in 1927. At the most the birds could not have come earlier than 1926. Again in 1929, I saw the Stilts there on May 24, 1929. Only four pairs have ever been seen. This is another instance of the lowering of the lake, and causing mud banks to form. The birds breed several hundred yards from a main highway, where a meadow runs to the border of a lake. This is the only breeding record for Orange County.