

English Sparrows that were in her way. She made one more visit to the new nest during the hour I watched.

Both parents gave battle to a passing Blue Jay, but a Nighthawk winged its way unheeded.

At one time all five babies were on the same branch, but they changed their positions frequently, sometimes flying to the place where a parent had mounted guard, sometimes hurrying over to beg frantically beside a lucky brother that had just received an insect. Between 6:00 and 7:00 A. M. the young were fed twenty-three times by both parents, one of whom worked much harder than the other.

Four days later I visited the same spot about 5:30 in the morning and found that the tails of the young shrikes were nearly as long as those of the parents. Mother was getting cotton and twine from the old nest for the new one. As she flew past she was fervently appealed to by a baby, but her mind was on other matters. One youngster begged from another, but, on seeing his mistake, tried to peck his brother. Two Mourning Doves were courting on the ground; a little shrike flew to them and they separated; he darted at one who retreated and then at the other. He hurried after a grasshopper but in vain.

A Mockingbird was driven by the parent shrikes from the elm in which their young had been perched on May 25, although none were there at this time.

Three babies congregated by the fence, hoping for a tidbit from father. They teased and teased whenever he was near. Two flew to the ground and experimented busily, picking up little bits of things and tweaking cotton stalks. One actually got something for himself, for he ate and ate. While they were foraging, one of them noted that father had darted to the ground. He hurried toward him and got his reward. Father fed eight times in fifteen minutes. All of the food given on both days that I was present consisted of insects.

The parent shrikes looked alike, but it seems probable that mother was the one moving house for the second brood and that father was taking most of the care of the fledglings.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

Some Notes on the Fall Migration of Shore Birds.—"Practically nothing is known as yet of the manner in which single birds travel", says Wetmore, "since our observations to date have been restricted mainly to group identification." And again, "Definite data as to the rate at which birds travel south in autumn are lacking" (*Migration of Birds*, pp. 113-114). This being the case I thought that certain observations on shore birds made by me during the past autumn might be of interest.

On October 27 I saw a Black-bellied Plover on the shore of one of our Madison lakes. I was interested in it not only because these plovers are of uncommon occurrence here in the fall but also for the reason that this individual had but one good leg, the right one being severed about half way up. In spite of this mishap, however, the bird appeared to be in excellent condition and flew in an entirely normal manner. Up to and including November 4, I saw it at the same spot on five different days, so that its stay covered at least nine days. The weather during this period had been unseasonably warm, but on November 5, after an unusually cold night, the bird was gone.

On five occasions from October 21 to October 29, inclusive (another period of nine days), I saw a lone Pectoral Sandpiper on a neighboring pond. In this

instance there was no such distinguishing mark as in the case of the plover, so that the evidence of its being the same bird each time was not so satisfactory, but I believe this was the fact. It was a late date here for this species, the latest in fact, on record, and although during this period I visited all the likely spots in our area I found no others of its kind.

So, too, I saw on October 8, 12, and 15, a period covering eight days, a little band of Dowitchers. Here again is a species that is decidedly uncommon here at this time of the year, there being only three previous fall records. Bent, indeed, gives no fall dates for any of the north-central states. There were three birds in the small flock in question and they were found each time in the same place, wading about in the shallow water of a tiny bay, feeding industriously with bills pointed downward in true Dowitcher fashion.

No variation in plumage could be discerned in any of these birds from day to day, a fact which is of only negative value since none but young birds are likely to appear so late in the year and they would look much alike. Their scarcity at this season, however, and the fact that they were always found in the same spot makes it highly probable that they were the same individuals. If this is so they were surely traveling in a leisurely manner.—JOHN S. MAIN, *Madison, Wis.*

Migration Notes on Swans West of the Mississippi.—During the hunting season of 1929, two reports of swans were received. Early in November a swan was shot and wounded at Honey Creek Lake, near Council Bluffs, Iowa. The bird was turned over to the State Game Farm, at Clive, Iowa. In the latter part of November, a hunter killed a swan at Swan Lake, near O'Neill, Nebraska, and he gave the bird to a Federal Game Warden.

The fall of 1930 furnished several records of the Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*). Two hunters killed a swan near Castana, Iowa, about forty miles south of Sioux City, during the last part of October. At about this same time eight swans were destroyed by hunters at Mountain Lake, in southwestern Minnesota. These birds were all given to a game warden. This same week witnessed the slaughter of six swans at Appleton, in western Minnesota, but in this case the birds were confiscated by a game warden and the men were fined ten dollars for each swan. I believe these latter birds were sent to the University of Minnesota Museum. Two immature swans were shot by error on October 20, 1930, from a sandbar in the Missouri River about a mile or two above the mouth of the Big Sioux River, which would be opposite the South Dakota shore. Both birds were identified by T. C. Stephens as *columbianus*, and were later turned over to the resident game warden.

Near the middle of November, three wounded swans were found by Game Warden C. C. Watters, of Long Prairie, Minnesota. One of the birds died and was given to the high school and the other two were cared for by Mr. Watters. The last swan reported killed was on November 23, when hunters at Yankton, South Dakota, saw two of the birds and shot one of them. This swan was identified as a Whistling Swan by Dr. A. P. Larrabee, of Yankton College, Yankton, South Dakota.

The writer thinks that the birds recorded above were in most cases not shot at deliberately, but were actually mistaken for Snow Geese, which come through this region in great numbers. Another comment is that these swans