

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

Fifteen Minutes of Bird Observation in a Duck Blind in Indiana.—

During the last fifteen years, I have done a considerable amount of field work in connection with bird study and as a nature guide. During the month of March, 1933, I was at the Indiana Department of Conservation Jasper-Pulaski Game Preserve, taking a wild life census of the five thousand acres of the preserve. Part of this time was spent in a corn crib which we had fixed up as a duck blind twenty feet from the duck pond, which lies in about the center of the preserve. On several occasions, Mr. Nathan Anderson, also of the Department, and I had seen a thousand ducks of three or four species on the pond at one time, but never, I believe, have I seen as many kinds as I saw on the afternoon of March 25. On the preceding night a three-inch snow had fallen, the day had been cloudy and very cold, and at 6:30 p. m. the birds were apparently hustling around to feed before nightfall. The corn crib in which we were concealed was set on posts about three feet from the ground, giving us a good observation of the grounds before us. We had cleared snow from several places on the ground and had scattered corn there, as well as on the water at the edge of the land. Within a period of fifteen minutes from 6:30 p. m. on, all within forty feet of our observation post, the following birds were seen, feeding on the ground or the edge of the water unless otherwise noted:

One hundred male Red-winged Blackbirds, chattering and calling; twenty-eight male and twelve female Cowbirds squeeking; one male Cardinal; five Meadowlarks, singing and calling (during the fifteen minute period two male Meadowlarks had a very vicious fight in front of us); six Crows, cawing and flapping their wings as they walked and fed before us; six Mourning Doves; two Bluebirds, singing as they sat on a sunflower stalk to our right; seventy-five Slate-colored Juncos; two Killdeers (one flock of eight flew over our heads, calling as they flew); twenty Tree Sparrows; six Song Sparrows, two singing; eleven Bob-whites, crooning and eating under the corn crib directly under our feet; a male and a female Marsh Hawk flying low over the marsh close by; one White-breasted Nuthatch calling as he fed on the ground; eighteen Robins, calling and singing; twelve Blue Jays, squeaking as they fed; two Downy Woodpeckers, calling as they fed on the ground; one Red-headed Woodpecker; and at the pond's edge before us the following: one Great Blue Heron; five Coots; three Baldpates; twenty-eight Mallards; thirty Ring-necked Ducks; two Red-legged Black Ducks; and two Pintails (several other flocks of ducks of various kinds were seen flying north during that time). The total seen during the fifteen minutes was 389 individuals of twenty-five species.—SIDNEY R. ESTEN, *Indianapolis, Ind.*

Some Birds of Judith Basin County, Montana.—In 1903, P. M. Silloway published "Birds of Fergus County, Montana" (Bulletin No. 1, Fergus County Free High School), an annotated list of 179 species of birds observed by him in that county, or reported from that locality by earlier workers—drawing particularly upon an early publication by J. A. Allen (Notes on the Natural History of Portions of Montana and Dakota. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., XVII, 1874). Since that time, so far as I know, very little has been published concerning the bird life of that central section of Montana. The territory included within the boundaries of Fergus County in 1903, and covered by Silloway's list of birds,