

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

Caspian Terns in North-central Iowa.—A flock of eighteen Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*) was observed by the writer at Lake Cornelia, Wright County, Iowa, on September 12, 1934. While this species occurs somewhat regularly as a migrant in eastern Iowa, it is of irregular or rare occurrence through the central part of the state.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

Some Shore Birds Collected in South Dakota.—On September 15, 1934, while on an observation trip to Brant Lake, Lake County, South Dakota, a single Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) was seen and collected. Also, on September 16, 1934, a single Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*) was collected at Lake Herman, Lake County, South Dakota. Both of these specimens are now in the permanent possession of the Zoology Department of Iowa State College.—GERALD B. SPAWN, *Zoology Dept., Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa*.

Northern Phalaropes in Northwestern Iowa.—On September 13, 1934, the writer observed a flock of at least 110 Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*) on East Okoboji Lake, Dickinson County, Iowa. These birds were swimming and feeding in the shallow water near the State Fish Hatchery at Orleans Station. Their distinctive habit of "spinning" in the water, presumably to stir up food particles, was interestingly contrasted with the steady feeding of a pair of Sanderlings on the sandy shore near by.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

McCown's Longspur in Southwestern North Dakota.—The writer in May, 1934, made a trip through Grant, Adams, Slope, Hettinger, and Bowman Counties, in southwestern North Dakota, and noted particularly the near absence of McCown's Longspurs (*Rhynchophanes mccowni*). At first the idea of the prolonged drouth came to mind as an explanation of its absence; yet here were thousands of nesting Lark Buntings, Horned Larks, and Chestnut-collared Longspurs present, feasting on the tiny grasshoppers. It is apparent that the McCown's Longspur is actually deserting this part of North Dakota as a breeding ground. On the entire trip of a good many hundred miles, on highways and section lines, the writer did not see more than fifteen of the birds.—WM. YOUNGORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

An October Record of the American Egret in Lee County, Iowa.—A single American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) was observed by Deputy Wardens Walter L. Harvey, F. T. Tucker, and the writer on October 30, 1934, at Green Bay, Lee County, Iowa. This bird was seen feeding in one of the bayous, and we were able to watch it for some time. Apparently it had been wounded, but it still was able to fly short distances at a time. We concluded that this was the reason for finding this single bird at such a late date, several weeks after the flock of three hundred or more which had been present had moved southward.—LLOYD SMITH, *Lake View, Iowa*.

Specimen of Greater Scaup Duck Found in Northern Iowa.—An adult male Greater Scaup Duck (*Nyroca marila*) was found dead by William Schuenke at Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, on March 29, 1934. Mr. Schuenke believed the bird was killed by flying into the telephone wires. The head of this specimen was entirely green, no purplish reflections being apparent. The measurements of the specimen in inches are as follows: Wing (primaries straightened along the ruler), 8.75; wing (chord), 8.50; width of culmen, 1.07; exposed cul-

men, 1.87; length of "nail" on bill, .51. This specimen, which was preserved by Mr. Schuenke, constitutes the second authentic existing Iowa specimen of this bird.—PHILIP A. DuMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

Second Record of the Starling in Douglas County, Kansas.—On October 4, 1934, Mr. John McFarland brought to the Museum an adult male Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in the flesh. Mr. McFarland says it was taken about two miles east of Lawrence, from a flock of Cowbirds and Bronzed Grackles, but he could not determine whether there were any more in the flock. This is the second record of the Starling in Douglas County. The first was of two birds taken seven and one-half miles southwest of Lawrence, by Ora Scott and the writer, on December 25, 1933 (*Auk*, Vol. LI, No. 4, p. 534). This bird seems to be increasing rapidly, and has become so common around Wichita that we may expect a nesting record from there soon.—W. S. LONG, *Museum of Birds and Mammals, Lawrence, Kans.*

Eastern Tree Sparrows Wintering in Christian County, Kentucky.—Since Christian County, Kentucky, lies near the southern limit of the area from which wintering Eastern Tree Sparrows (*Spizella a. arborea*) are regularly recorded, the writer offers the following observations. Coming in at the end of an ice storm in late December, 1932, Tree Sparrows were seen periodically on the U. S. Government Hospital Reservation at Outwood, Christian County, Kentucky, for two months. The first record was made on December 25, 1932, eight birds. On January 5, 1933, the number had increased to twenty birds. Thereafter, until February 6, from five to fifteen Tree Sparrows were seen almost daily, consorting with numerous Field Sparrows of the sedge fields. From February 6 to February 22 the birds seemed to have dropped from sight, and none were recorded. However, on February 22, two birds were seen in the same area that the larger flock had occupied earlier. This was the last record of the season. Dr. Gordon Wilson has previously recorded this species a number of times in the WILSON BULLETIN from Bowling Green, Kentucky, which lies somewhat southeast of Outwood, but the writer knows of no time when the birds were seen over so long a period of time as that recorded above.—COMPTON CROOK, *Dept. Biology, Boone High School, Boone, N. C.*

Notes on the American Egret and Little Blue Heron in Iowa.—These two southern-nesting herons are each year becoming more common in Iowa during the late summer and early fall. The birds are found in all parts of the state where the necessary water and food are available, as is evidenced by the following reports. During late August, 1934, American Egrets were seen at East Twin Lake in Hancock County and at Elk Lake in Clay County. The next week a flock of nine of the birds were seen at Storm Lake in Buena Vista County. On August 11, 1934, four American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) were seen near Montrose in Lee County, and on the next day seven birds of this species were found feeding on the river at Fairport in Muscatine County. A few days later the first Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) was seen on the Iowa River west of Conesville, in Louisa County. During mid-September both species were found in greater numbers along the Mississippi River. On September 11, 1934, a lone American Egret was seen near Montrose in Lee County. A few miles up the river at Devils Lake, Lee County, a count revealed thirty American Egrets and twenty-one Little Blue Herons. The next day was spent in the Green Bay region, and here we saw more than 200 American Egrets