

Prairie Falcon was seen near Flasher, and a lone Swainson's Hawk was noticed near Buffalo Springs, to sum up the birds actually seen. The Marsh Hawk is holding its own and many birds of this species were seen in all parts of the state. The Upland Plover was gone from the regions visited, and one lone pair was found at Buffalo Springs Lake in Bowman County. In many suitable places the writer found scattered pairs of Western Willets and Marbled Godwits, but the Upland Plovers were not to be found. Possibly the birds are being killed off in their winter home, as I doubt if many are killed in the summer or during migrations.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

"The House Wren.—The mischievousness of the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon* Verill) is well known. The following incident came under my observation a short time since. A pair of Martins had taken possession of a box that I had erected in the garden for their benefit; had built their nest, laid their eggs, and had commenced setting, when a pair of house wrens, who coveted their neighbor's house, entered it in the absence of the Martins, and coolly picked up their eggs one by one, carried them out, and dropped them to the ground below. While engaged in this impudent business, the Martins returned, and while going in at one of the entrances of the box, the daring marauders darted out at the other, and alighting on a tree near by chattered noisily, apparently in great glee. The Martins, finding that their nest had been despoiled, abandoned the box, which was then duly taken possession of by the wrens, who reared two broods of young hopefuls during the summer, the first about the beginning of June, the second the latter part of July.—M. S. Hill, East Liverpool, O." (In the *American Naturalist*, Volume III, March, 1870, page 49).

Winter-killing of Mourning Doves in Central Iowa.—Creek bottomlands grown up to wild hemp (*Cannabis*) are especially favored by late migrating or wintering Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) in the vicinity of Ames, Iowa. By late November of 1934, there seemed to be something less than a dozen Mourning Doves (I should judge between eight and ten) wintering about the hemp growths along approximately four miles of Squaw Creek, from the College north-westward. Most of these were concentrated in a tract of about fifteen acres of bottomlands, characterized by dense hemp patches and scattered large trees. To appearances, the food supply was immediately adequate, and the doves were not suffering any conspicuous mortality. Then a heavy snow fell from November 29 to December 3 and persisted for the next few weeks. As a consequence most of the hemp seeds were made unavailable to the doves with the exception of the small quantities still retained on the plants.

The favorite habitat of the Mourning Doves was the regular feeding ground of a covey of sixteen Bob-white Quail (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*) and was visited irregularly by a covey the wintering territory of which was adjacent to the south. With the advent of the December snow, the Bob-whites to the south turned for food to a cornfield in their territory, and thus averted a crisis. The resident covey lost half of its number, largely from starvation, by January 7, and starved out entirely during the winter.

From December 8 to 11, five Mourning Doves were found dead, including three so thoroughly cleaned up by scavengers that only feathers remained. Two carcasses were intact, however, and were carefully examined. Of these latter, one weighed seventy-nine grams and the other eighty-seven grams, or probably between sixty and seventy-five per cent of their full weights. Neither showed extreme