

On May 14, 1944, I saw two male Lark Buntings (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) in a cornfield seven miles northwest of Stillwater in Payne County. They were in full breeding plumage. Margaret M. Nice (1931, "The Birds of Oklahoma," *Okla. Biol. Surv.*, 3, No. 1) lists a number of records of the species for the western part of the state but knows of no records for central Oklahoma (letter).

I flushed an American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) two and a half miles northwest of Stillwater on November 8, 1944, and observed another on the Lake Carl Blackwell Project seven and a half miles northwest of Stillwater on November 25, 1944. "The Birds of Oklahoma" lists several records of the species from the eastern, but none from the central, part of the state.—FREDERICK M. BAUMGARTNER, *Department of Entomology, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma.*

Ring-billed Gulls fly-catching.—The literature contains few references to the Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) capturing flying prey. On four evenings between September 13 and 30, 1944, we observed flocks of 18 to 82 gulls fly-catching over South Bass Island, Ottawa County, Ohio. We record here only the observations made on September 20 because the behavior of the gulls was the same on all four evenings. On September 20 a group of 70 to 80 Ring-billed Gulls fed from two hours before sunset until sunset. Throughout their feeding the gulls remained in a roughly circular flock-formation about 100 yards in diameter; all were on approximately the same plane, 15 to 30 yards from the ground. The evening was warm and humid; a faint breeze barely ruffled the water's surface, and the anemograph at the Stone Laboratory registered a wind velocity of 0-3 m.p.h. Probably because of the absence of a strong breeze, and perhaps also because of humid conditions, the flight of the gulls was awkward and labored.

Immense numbers of insects were flying about, ranging in size from large dragonflies to small gnats. We observed the gulls eat only flying ants and beetles, all less than three-quarters of an inch in length. When capturing an insect, the gulls opened their mouths to apparently the widest extent, then vigorously snapped the mandibles shut. They captured comparatively few insects from directly in front of them; usually they stretched their necks to the utmost, right or left, to capture their prey. We saw none of the gulls swoop downward to make a capture, but many would fly until almost directly below an insect, abruptly check their flight by flapping their wings and fanning their tail, rise three to eight feet, and snap at their prey. This awkward "climbing" after insects was the most spectacular part of the feeding performance and quite unlike the graceful flight of this species while capturing flying grasshoppers as described by A. C. Bent (1921, *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. No. 113:137*).

Only seven of the gulls were juveniles; the others were in adult or intermediate plumage. No Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) were in the flock although many were flying overhead or sitting on the waters of the bay.

Once a fishing boat passed, with several Herring Gulls following it. Immediately about 20 of the Ring-billed Gulls that were nearest the boat began moving slowly and gradually away from the feeding flock. They flew about a third of the distance to the boat, then turned about and hurriedly rejoined the flock.—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN and MARY A. TRAUTMAN, *F. T. Stone Laboratory, Ohio State University, Put-in-Bay, Ohio.*