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Notes on Dr. Solon R. Towne and Early Bird Study in Omaha and Nebraska

Dr. Solon Rodney Towne was born at Stowe, Vermont, Dec. 20, 1846. His father was Jesse Towne, a shoemaker, and his mother was Salome Seabury Towne. The latter was descended from John Alden and Priscilla, and the former from William Towne who came to Salem, Massachusetts, in 1640.

Solon Towne attended the local school and academies and was graduated from Dartmouth College from the classical course in 1872, and from the medical college in 1875. In 1873 he married Harriet C. Somers of Greensboro, Vermont. They had four children — Jessie, Mary, Robert and Alice.

In 1876, after practicing medicine a year in Brookfield, Vermont, Dr. Towne moved with his family to Enfield, Massachusetts, where they lived until June, 1888.

In 1886, when Dr. Towne was 40 years old, he could identify but one bird, a Robin. One of Dr. Towne's patients was the Rev. Charles A. Savage, the minister of the Congregational Church attended by the Towne family. He also had been a boyhood friend in Stowe and a classmate at Dartmouth. When the Rev. Savage objected that there was nothing he like to do outdoors, Dr. Towne suggested that he take up the study of birds and offered to go with him.

*Taken from an unpublished article by this name written by his daughter Alice T. Deweese (Mrs. Fred W.) of Lincoln. Her information was gathered from a number of publications and interviews.

After a few experimental walks, Rev. Savage's interest was still not aroused, but Dr. Towne's was! A few days later when the doctor was driving home in his gig behind his fast little horse, Kit, he heard a bird song. Rather like a Robin, he thought, but not quite. He realized that the warble was sweeter and more prolonged than a Robin's. Tying his horse, he stalked the bird, observed its markings, and drove home to look it up in a pamphlet he had secured. It was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. His next identification was of the Maryland Yellowthroat.

In 1888 the Towne family moved to Omaha where Dr. Towne established an office with his brother-in-law, Dr. A. B. Somers. He soon specialized in Hygiene and State Medicine which he taught in the Creighton Medical College from 1894 to 1900. Then he changed to the Omaha Medical College which was soon absorbed by the University of Nebraska. He taught there until 1917. He was Assitant Commissioner of Health for the city of Omaha from 1892 to 1898 devoting most of his attention to the control of contagious diseases in the city at large, and in the schools where he also worked to improve sanitary conditions. From 1899 to 1905 he was employed by the State Board of Health as State Inspector of Contagious Diseases during a wide-spread epidemic of Smallpox.

When the Nebraska Tuberculosis Association was organized in 1907, Dr. Towne was made chairman of the Board of Directors to carry on the actual work of the Association

with an Executive Secretary. He continued to supervise this work until 1928.

Conservation of life thus became his master motive, mainly in the prevention of diseases and premature death not only of human beings but of plant, animal, and especially bird life.

Nebraska was a fine place for bird study, with eastern birds in the deciduous forests along the Missouri River and the eastern ends of smaller streams, and western birds in the varied grasslands of the prairies and plains. Northern and southern birds were present also. Omaha had many wooded areas in parks and in unimproved tracts like Redick's Grove which was only four blocks west of Dr. Towne's home at 26th and Farnam Streets. Beyond the wooded areas were the open fields.

Dr. Towne, alone or with one of his three daughters, explored all of the territory in and around Omaha, opera glasses in hand, a stub of a pencil in his pocket and a convenient cuff for listing the birds he saw or heard. His favorite haunts were Childs' Point, and the river bluffs north of Florence which he reached by the first morning street car and on foot. He was more interested in hawks and owls than in game and water birds. Song birds were his great love.

On these rambles he observed not only the birds but also all the trees and the native plants. He admired the Kentucky coffee tree. When he found a ginkgo tree which had been set out some years before near the corner of 25th and Davenport Streets, he was excited about looking it up and taking all the family to see it. He gathered field mushrooms and puff balls for the table,

or to dry for winter use. Brought up in rocky New England, he took much interest in the fertile wind-blown loess soil which stood up firmly in perpendicular banks on many cuts along Omaha streets.

He did not have to leave home for all of his nature interests. He identified nine kinds of ants in his big yard. On a steep bank west of his home where the native prairie growth had not been disturbed, he found 40 kinds of plants. Weather observation was daily with him, especially the study of winds and clouds that might promise the rain which was often so badly needed.

In 1897 Dr. Towne was appointed physician of the Deaf and Dumb Institute. He was distressed at the meagerness of the mental life of the children. He pointed out to them the trees on the spacious grounds of the Institute and the birds that frequented them. Then with the permission of Father William Rigge, the astronomer at Creighton College, the doctor arranged for the older children and a teacher to meet him at the observatory where they looked through the telescope. This was the beginning of a pleasant acquaintanceship with Father Rigge and the first of a series of visits by the doctor to the observatory when there was something special going on in the sky.

In the mid-nineties, Dr. Towne had his first contact with the professors in the University of Nebraska. Mrs. Towne had been one of the three founders of the Omaha Woman's Club in 1893, and was president of that organization in 1895-96. At her instigation the club brought Prof. Charles E. Bessey to talk on the Flora of Nebraska and Prof. Erwin H. Brabour who lectured on the geologic ages. These lectures were as meat and drink to Dr. and

Mrs. Towne and they took all of the family to hear them.

There was an especial reason for Dr. Towne's interest in Prof. Bessey. In 1888 in an address to the Nebraska Scientific Society in session at Bellevue College Prof. Bessey had declared that the river woods near the town contained specimens of plants and birds not found elsewhere in the state. Dr. A. A. Tyler, professor of botany at the Bellevue College, heard the address, investigated the region for himself and began publicizing the idea of making the Childs' Point area a reserve. When Dr. Towne learned of the plan, he became indefatigable as a worker for making a reserve of the region for bird and plant observations.

In the nineties Dr. Towne began making talks to the schools urging the boys to stop the common practice of collecting birds' eggs and killing birds with gun and sling shot. In this decade he became acquainted with other Omaha bird observers. Mr. I. S. Trostler was a bird student, but he was a collector of birds' nests and eggs, a practice of which Dr. Towne highly disapproved. The doctor believed that only specimen birds should be collected, and then only for scientific purposes. Another bird observer was Mr. L. Skow, a fur-dresser for the Aulabaugh Fur Co. and a taxidermist.

By 1900 Dr. Towne was recognized as a leading bird authority in Omaha, and a small group of like-minded bird-lovers was beginning to gather around him. There were no hunters or collectors among them. Included were Mrs. George Payne, Mrs. H. D. Neely, Miss Elizabeth VanSant and her cousin, Frank Shoemaker; Miss Edith Tob-

itt, city librarian; Miss Ione Duffy, Miss Jeannette MacDonald, and Miss Joy Higgins. Others were Mrs. F. J. Burnett, Misses Lila and Louise Burnett, Mrs. John Ringwalt, Miss Mary Ellsworth and her sister Mrs. William F. Baxter, Dr. Harold Gifford, an ophthalmologist; Dwight Pierce, an entomologist; Dr. George Miller and Miles Greenleaf, a cartoonist and newspaper reporter. L. O. Horsky, who came to Omaha as a young man in 1903, happened almost at once upon something Dr. Towne wrote for one of the newspapers and became immediately a companion and lifelong friend of Dr. Towne, and developed into a leader in Nebraska bird activities.

The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was organized in the winter of 1899-1900. It developed out of the Nebraska Ornithological Club composed mostly of Lincoln people and led by Prof. Lawrence Bruner and Prof. Robert Wolcott. The first officers of the N.O.U. were Prof. Bruner, president; Mr. Trostler, vice-president (later becoming president); Prof. Wolcott, recording secretary; and Mr. W. D. Hunter, corresponding secretary. The first annual meeting of N.O.U. was held in Lincoln in December, 1899. There were many interesting papers and a membership roll of over 90. Annual meetings were held regularly at first in the winter, and later in May so that they might be combined with field trips.

The N.O.U. leadership included serious students, collectors, hunters for sport, and a few schoolmen. The University professors dominated the group. First among them was Lawrence Bruner, professor of entomology and ornithology. Myron Swenk was a pupil of Bruner's who fol-

lowed in his footsteps and succeeded to his position. Dr. Charles E. Bessey was professor of botany, and his pupil, Dr. Raymond J. Pool, followed him as professor of botany and chairman of the department. Dr. Erwin H. Barbour was director of the State Museum as well as professor of geology, and was succeeded much later by his student Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz. Dr. Henry B. Ward and Dr. Robert H. Wolcott were professors of zoology. Prof. Barbour, Bruner and Wolcott each served as president of N.O.U., the latter two more than once.

Another member of the group was Frank Shoemaker who had lived in Omaha and had had an office job for the Union Pacific. His hobbies were nature study and photography. He moved to Lincoln and supported himself meagerly by doing photography for the University departments of natural sciences. He never married and lived alone in a rooming house down town and indulged in many hobbies as collecting stamps, unusual books, and corresponding with people in other countries. He went wandering weeks at a time over Nebraska taking exquisite photographs principally of flowers which he hand-colored and sold, often as transparencies for window decorations. Eventually he specialized in human pathology, photographing for the University College of Medicine.

Wilson Tout was superintendent of schools in North Platte for many years. Charles Fordyce was professor of education and zoology at Nebraska Wesleyan and came to the University of Nebraska in 1898. W. D. Hunter was a student of Bruner's who became an assistant at the University and later was game

warden in California. Others were L. E. Hicks, professor of geology; B. Shumate, instructor in zoology; and F. W. Taylor who had taught at Peru Normal and became professor of horticulture at the University. A number of doctors, too, were serious bird students. Among these were Dr. H. B. Lowry and Dr. F. L. Riser of Lincoln, and Dr. M. L. Eaton of Fairbury. Dr. G. H. Peebles of Lincoln made a collection of birds, embalming them. Later he gave his collection to August Eiche. Dr. Towne joined the N.O.U. in 1902 and later was president as was Dr. Lowry.

Many bird enthusiasts were sportsmen like the Mocketts, Edwin R., E. E. ("Eb") and a cousin Fred. Eb and Fred Mockett were expert marksmen. Eb Mockett was also a champion bicycle rider on high and safety bicycles, and toured the country to advertise the Stearns bicycle. A number, as Fred J. Brezee (Brazee?) were also taxidermists.

August Eiche, a Lincoln florist, did much bird observation with Prof. Bruner and Wolcott. The three often took the train to Weeping Water and walked back to see how many species they could identify. They thought nothing of walking 20 or 25 miles. Mr. Eiche was a taxidermist and gave over a thousand mounted birds to the State Museum.

While there were a number of Omaha people in the N.O.U., some of them as well as some other Omaha residents wanted to study, enjoy, and protect birds but it was inconvenient for them to go out of town for meetings. Thus the Omaha Audubon Society was founded by Dr. Towne who was its first and long-continued president.

The destruction of birds was appalling. Pioneers took for food anything they could get from an apparently inexhaustible environment, and hunting was one of the few recreations for pioneer men. So hunting birds served a double purpose. Quail on toast was a breakfast delicacy in the 1890's. Stuffed birds, often under a glass dome, were considered ornamental; and bird students kept and sold collections of mounted specimens. The farmer shot small birds convinced that they robbed him of his grain. Hawks were shot because they killed an occasional chicken and sometimes were nailed to the side of the barn—150 of them together—by farmers who didn't realize how the hawks checked deprivations by rodents. Horticulturists destroyed birds that pecked the fruit. Market hunters in the western part of the state killed thousands of Prairie Chickens, Curlews, Snipes, ducks and a few geese. After the entrails were pulled out and the cavities filled with grass the birds were put on a night train east. In Omaha they were a specialty on the menu offered at Ed Maurer's Restuarant and Saloon at 13th and Farnam Streets.

In the territorial days before becoming a state in 1867, Nebraska had had some laws to safeguard the supply of game birds; but the laws were not adequate, and there was not enough public support for them to insure their enforcement. In 1864 a statute was passed forbidding the killing of deer, antelope, elk, grouse and Prairie Chicken during the breeding season. By 1866, with some changes in the length of the season, turkey and quail were added, and it was made unlawful to ship or sell them.

Samuel Aughey, a highly educated Lutheran minister with a scientific turn of mind since his childhood in Pennsylvania, came to Dakota City in 1864. After making collections of soils and shells, he studied the native flora, enlarging the list of the 300 species then known in Nebraska to 2300 according to A. T. Andrew's "History of Nebraska." He became professor of natural science at the University of Nebraska in 1871, and in 1874 was appointed "Director of Cabinets" as the Director of the State Museum was then called. He remained at the University in these capacities until 1883.

Aughey, Nebraska's first naturalist, was the first man in the United States to make extensive examination of the contents of birds' stomachs to find out what they actually eat. His study continued over 12 years and included 90 species and 630 specimens. He found many grasshoppers and their eggs in birds, stomachs and discovered that many birds lived almost entirely on grasshoppers during an infestation. He urged that the preservation of birds as insect destroyers be given national attention.

In 1878 Aughey published a list of birds found in eastern Nebraska giving their common and scientific names, telling when and where he found them, and adding his observations. His 1879 reports to the U.S. Entomological Commission established that same year included not only his list of birds but his findings of their stomach contents.

In 1881 it was made unlawful in Nebraska to kill any of 16 named species of insect-eating birds, or any bird that was attractive in appearance or cheerful in song. A second law forbade the killing of birds ex-

cept by the common shoulder gun, thus stopping the use of guns which killed a great number of birds with one shot. These two laws, together with a third law prohibiting both the killing of game birds during the breeding season and going on another person's land to hunt without permission of the owner were quoted by Bruner in 1896 as Nebraska's three protective laws.

Samuel Aughey had made the first contribution to Nebraska and to the nation in proving the economic value of birds. His successor was Lawrence Bruner, Nebraska's greatest naturalist.

Lawrence Bruner was born in Pennsylvania in 1856, the year Samuel Aughey graduated from college in the same state. The family moved to Nebraska in 1858 and lived until 1869 on a farm west of Omaha. Two of the old cottonwoods planted by Lawrence's father still stand, in 1962, at 1701 North 60th Street, Omaha, in the yard of L. O. Horsky.

In 1869, the Bruner family moved to West Point where they lived until 1888. During his boyhood, Lawrence was an observer of nature and interested in natural science. When he attended the Jones Select Academy of Omaha, he was instructed in natural science by Samuel Aughey who came up from the University of Nebraska. He learned the craft of taxidermy for himself and also to sell specimens to earn money. During the grasshopper plague from 1874 to 1876 he studied and classified grasshoppers. He worked with the U. S. Entomological Commission until 1887.

In 1888 Bruner was appointed entomologist at the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station which had been organized the year before. He continued as Special Agent for the U. S. Entomological Com-

mission, became Nebraska's State Entomologist and later professor of entomology and ornithology. He became a world authority on grasshoppers and spent a year studying their control in Argentina. He was elected president of the American Association of Economic Entomologists in 1915. At the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915 he was honored as Nebraska's most distinguished citizen. Among his students was Myron Swenk who succeeded him at the University.

Bruner wrote articles for **The Nebraska Farmer** on the economic value of birds. When the "Twentieth Century Farmer," published by the **Omaha Bee**, issued a special bird number on May 13, 1903, he wrote the lead article on "Birds as Insect Destroyers." A second article, "Habits of Common Birds," was written by A. S. Pearse who was a teacher, coach and commandant for a time at the Omaha High School. Both articles were illustrated by photographs taken by Frank Shoemaker.

In 1896, with some help from W. D. Hunter, Bruner issued "Some Notes on Nebraska Birds." In 1902 with Robert Wolcott and Myron Swenk he wrote "Preliminary Review of the Birds of Nebraska," including data from bird students over Nebraska. It was the best list up to that date. After Aughey's initial list of birds in eastern Nebraska in 1878, only one unfinished list had been issued (1888-89) titled "Notes on Nebraska Birds" by W. Edgar Taylor and A. H. Van Fleet of the Normal school at Peru.

Rev. John M. Bates, an Episcopalian minister, was born in Connecticut in 1846 and educated at Trinity College. He came to Topeka, Kansas, as chaplain and head master of Bethany College in the mid-eighties and later moved to Omaha, but was

sent west to cure a bad cough. He moved to Valentine where he lived for 15 years. He had 21 stations scattered from Neligh to Rushville. He rode, drove, or walked from one station to the other holding services for small groups of parishioners in sod churches, halls, stores, or saloons. Thus he had ample opportunity to observe nature and he sent many reports on birds to the Lincoln ornithologists. After a stay in Calloway in Custer County in 1903, he was stationed at Red Cloud where Willa Cather was one of his communicants. There he had eight stations. Although always observant of birds of which he had a large mounted collection, plants were his main hobby. He published an article on Nebraska sedges. Later he became interested in fungi, especially rust fungi. He contributed many specimens to the collections of E. Bartholomen of Kansas. One species was named for him by Bartholomen. Rev. Bates was made an honorary member of N.O.U. at the Omaha meeting in 1926.

In Omaha Dr. Towne was assuming his place in bird study and conservation. His study of natural history had been broad enough to give him an idea of the physical environment as a unit and of the interdependence of soil and water, plant and animal life. He understood the precariousness of the balance of nature and saw the necessity of the natural predators. He recognized nature's care for the species and her carelessness of the individual as was illustrated in a reply he gave late in life to a contemporary who asked the eternal question, "Why are we here?" "To take care of the next generation," the doctor replied. He felt strongly that as a member of the human family, and a part of God's whole creation,

it was man's function to observe, conserve, and enjoy nature.

Although he realized the necessity of predators to preserve the beauty of the whole, and indeed to prevent the prey species from eventually destroying themselves by over-population, he deplored the unrestrained cruelty of man in destroying life. For one of the doctor's outstanding attributes was his compassion.

Dr. Towne worked for conservation at first alone or with a few friends then through the Omaha Audubon Society which he founded. The organization machinery was very simple, without differentiated committee work. Supplies were kept at his house. He became a one-man information bureau on birds.

One of the first things the Society did was to print and distribute cards stating its purposes. There were four: to encourage the study of birds, particularly in schools, and to distribute literature about birds; to work for the betterment and enforcement of state and federal laws about birds; to discourage the wearing of any feathers except those of the ostrich and domestic fowl; to discourage in every way the destruction of wild birds and their eggs.

Official stationery was secured with a picture of Audubon on it. When a **World Herald** editorial appeared condemning the use of live birds for pigeon shoots, Dr. Towne wrote a letter to the paper commending the editorial. This was copied in pamphlet form and distributed by the Omaha Audubon Society in co-operation with the Nebraska Humane Society.

An important contact for the doctor was with Mr. L. O. Horsky who came from Wilber, Nebraska, to Omaha as a young man in 1903. He

became a life-long bird student and conservationist, very active in the Omaha Audubon Society and the N.O.U. which he served as president in later years. He was also a founder of the Omaha Nature Club which eventually grew out of the Omaha Audubon Society and was a leader in local and state bird activities. Mr. Horsky and Dr. Towne were devoted companions.

The article which aroused Mr. Horsky's interest publicized the idea of Prof. A. A. Tyler to make a reserve of Childs' Point. The article was on the front page of the **Omaha World Herald** of July 14, 1903, and reported an action taken by the Omaha Audubon Society. The Society deplored the destruction of the forest along the Missouri River in Sarpy County, just south of Douglas County. It resolved to second any effort made by the state or federal government to preserve the forest.

Dr. Towne never relaxed his agitation for making a reserve of Childs' Point, working first with Dr. Tyler of Bellevue College and then with his friend, Dr. Harold Gifford. He inspired and supervised the work of the Omaha Audubon Society. Its projects included buying 8,000 celluloid buttons with a meadowlark in color on them and distributing them among school children. It sponsored a contest in building bird houses which were exhibited at the City Hall. Jay Burns, the baker, distributed cards with colored pictures of birds with his bread. Dr. Towne acknowledged this assistance by interpreting one meadowlark song as "Buy your bread of Jay Burns."

In November, 1912, the Fontenelle Forest Association was formed with a group of Omaha's most public spirited and far-seeing men elec-

ted as trustees. Among them were bankers, business and professional men, Prof. Tyler, Dr. Gifford and Dr. Towne. In April of the next year, 1913, the Association was chartered by the state, and in recognition of his devoted efforts, Dr. Towne was asked to be the first to sign the articles of incorporation.

With a responsible group of men now in charge, Dr. Gifford advanced money and 365 acres of Childs' Point were purchased as a beginning for the new reserve. Sixty-five thousand dollars were raised by public subscription to which Dr. Gifford was not only a lender but a generous donor. Roy Towl is remembered as one who raised much money at the packing houses. Through the years more land was added, 100 acres from Dr. Towne's childhood friend and a generous patron to Omaha's good causes, Mrs. Sarah Joslyn, and 200 acres from Dr. Gifford and his heirs.

At four o'clock Saturday, June 17, 1916, Fontenelle Forest was officially dedicated in the presence of 3,000 people seated in a natural amphitheater in the forest. Rev. John M. Bates was an honored guest.

Special street cars were run to the terminus nearest the forest where jitney service was provided for those who did not care to walk. The audience not only came but stayed, showing a kind of interest not hitherto evinced by the Omaha public.

The program arranged by the Nebraska Audubon Society began with an orchestra playing Grieg's "Morning-mood." Miss Hazel Silver sang "The Song of the Hermit Thrush." By this time the audience was ready for the hour and a half presentation of the bird masque, "Sanctuary." After the Omaha production, the masque went on the Redpath Chau-

tauqua circuit with Ernest H. Baynes to promote bird conservation.

The cast included Joy Higgins, Harte Jenks, Harry O. Palmer, A. W. Jefferis, Pleasant Holyoke, Hugh Wallace, and five school children from Omaha and the South Omaha Audubon Society. Mrs. Effie Steen Kittelson was director. An epilogue, written by Joy Higgins and dedicated to Fontenelle Forest, as Childs' Point was to be known in the future was read by A. W. Jefferis.

The entire production was in charge of a "Sanctuary" committee with Mrs. W. F. Baxter as chairman. On her committee were Mrs. Sarah Joslyn, Mrs. Lowrie Childs of the Childs' Point family, Mrs. John Ringwalt, Joy Higgins, Jeanette McDonald, and Miles Greenleaf. The event was a great success and was the crowning single effort of the Omaha Audubon Society.

By 1964 the Forest contained approximately 1650 acres of wooded bluffs, hollows, marsh, swamp, streams, lake and flood-plains. It is preserved in its wild state where there are more than 16 miles of trails. Signs marking the trails as well as improvements at the Forest entrance from Bellevue Boulevard were put up in 1937-38 by the National Youth Administration in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Fontenelle Forest Association. The names given by pioneers to the many hollows were retained. Historic sites such as Logan Fontenelle's grave, the site of a Mormon camp of 1846, the first Indian trading post, and remains of Indian lodges are indicated on the trails or on maps published by the Association. Robert Gilder who painted many scenes in the Forest, built his "Wake Robin" cabin nearby. Certain magnificent views up

the river or over the nearby country are also indicated.

The Forest is a resort not only for individual nature lovers, artists, photographers, historians and hikers, but of many groups. The camps of the Y.W.C.A. (Camp Brewster), the Boy Scouts and the Omaha Walking Club are nearby. The Omaha Audubon Society and the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union have made many bird observation trips through the Forest. The Omaha Botany Club under the leadership of Hazel Zimmerman prepared a booklet, "Plants of Fontenelle Forest," recording over 390 kinds of trees, shrubs, vines and herbs. More than 22 species of mammals, eight of snakes, three of turtles and six species of amphibians live in the region. One interesting plant is the hog peanut with one bean in its underground pod. It was an important food for the Indians. There are 150 varieties of birds—resident and migrant. Wiley Point, the bottom land beyond the Forest bluffs and the railroad track were purchased by the Giffords from Solon L. Wiley.

At last the dreams of Prof. Bessey, Prof. Tyler, Dr. Towne and Dr. Gifford have come true. The Forest is as safe as a sound legal and financial status and a public-spirited dedication can make it.

In 1926 came the crowning event in the doctor's personal career as a bird student and conservationist. The annual meetings of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union were held in Omaha on Friday and Saturday, May 14 and 15. Col. T. W. McCullough, associate editor of the **Omaha Bee** gave an address, speaking for the citizens of the community in honoring Dr. Towne giving him credit for "making the Audubon Society a vital factor not only in Omaha, but in Nebraska, enabling it to

shape the thought of the men, women and children of the state, and finally to secure the enactment of the tenets into laws that are observed as faithfully as laws can be."

On the beautiful morning of the next day after their field trip, the members of the Audubon Society and the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union gathered at a spot not far from the entrance to Fontenelle Forest. There Dr. Harold Gifford made a short presentation speech of a bird bath dedicated to Dr. Towne. It still stands at the entrance to Fontenelle Forest. The bowl was inscribed to Dr. Towne—"Friend of the Birds." Dr. Towne's acceptance was a plea for the protection of birds. After the ceremony people broke up into little groups. All at once they became aware of hitherto unsuspected spectators as two bull snakes suddenly dangled from a branch overhead. Everyone drew back except two boys who tried to kill them. Dr. Towne ran toward them his face stony and his blue eyes blazing. "Stop!" he cried. "This is a Sanctuary. You may not injure any living thing here." The boys froze with astonishment for a moment, then faded into the crowd while Dr. Towne, quite relaxed, re-joined his friends.

In 1909 Dr. Towne and his family built a cottage on a plot of several acres conering at 54th and Charles Streets just beyond the city limits of Omaha and a few blocks east of the old Bruner farm. He lived there until his death in 1932. This was a fine place for bird observations with open field nearby, a walnut grove a block away to the southeast, a big patch of sunflowers on a neglected tract to the south, and a small wooded creek two blocks to the west at the bottom of the slope. In addi-

tion the family planted trees and shrubs which would attract birds. One year Dr. Towne identified 63 species from the home place. One year a bluebird nested in an unused box, once put out for newspapers at the next home.

Dr. Towne was in his 63rd year in 1909. He did no more paid public health work but continued with some private patients, his lectures at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, and his attendance at medical society meetings. He spent most of his time taking care of a vegetable garden covering most of his 17 lots, supervising and promoting the work of the Nebraska Tuberculosis Association, and on his bird activities.

He continued giving talks on bird study using 50 slides that had been bought by the Omaha Audubon Society. These had been prepared by Louis Agassiz Fuertes, ornithologist and painter at Cornell University in New York. He wrote for the newspapers a weekly series of boxed articles on individual species, and special articles like one on a distinctive meadowlark song heard year after year from his home place. This particular song was unlike other meadowlark songs and was heard by the family for 24 years altogether.

By this time the Omaha Society had developed into the "Nebraska Audubon Society" with Dr. Towne still retained as president. The Society sponsored speakers like Henry Oldys of the Biological Survey, Enos Mills, the Colorado naturalist, and Ernest Harold Baynes of New Hampshire, writer and lecturer on wildlife conservation.

One notable event was Dr. Towne's trip with a neighbor and friend, Mrs. Harriet Dakin MacMurphy, to the site of Logan Fon-

tenelle's grave in the Childs' Point tract. She had known the Fontenelles and relatives of Logan Fontenelle, the last chief of the Omaha Indians. Robert Gilder went with them.

Another thrilling moment was when he found some hand-made nails on the site of the Childs' Mill. Charles Childs had put up the first grist mill in the region in 1856. He had a stream sawmill and put in a run of stone to grind corn, which he did once a week. Farmers came from as far away as Grand Island to have him grind their corn.

In 1909 the doctor began to take the Omaha Christmas Bird Census for **Bird Lore**, the official publication of the National Audubon Society. This required four hours of bird observation on some day between December 22 and 27. Those reports he sent in with one of two exceptions until 1918. At 79 he was still taking these cross-country walks.

In a grove of walnut trees 500 feet from his home was the nest of a Field Sparrow. The bird sang in the common rhythm, four notes followed by a trill, but the trill was a minor just a tone and a half above the last introductory note. Since this was a strictly individual song, it was simple for the doctor and his daughters to count the number of times it was repeated in one day. The bird sang five times a minute hour after hour, from four in the morning until eight in the evening, thus approximately 5,000 times a day. This kept up most of the days for three months with no variation.

A longer and more absorbing project was the notation of 23 songs of his favorite bird, the Western Meadowlark. For days he strolled about his suburban place armed with the pitch pipes listening intently to the

meadowlarks. Humming the song he went often into the house to the piano and noted the song as accurately as possible on the musical staff. Eighteen of the songs are reproduced in the article his daughters wrote after his death for the "Nebraska Bird Review" of April, 1935. To some songs he added one of his pet sentences to emphasize the rhythm: "Whoopla! Potato Bug," and "Singing just as usual."

In 1929, November 29, Mrs. Towne died. His out-door companion of years, Dr. Harold Gifford, died the same week. His own strength was giving out, and to his dismay, his hearing failed to such a degree that he could not hear the bird songs. Mentally active, he kept up his reading until his death after a few days illness with pneumonia, January 27, 1932.

He "named all the birds without a gun, Loved the wood-rose and left it on its stalk." He studied and enjoyed wild living things without interfering with their lives. He remained true to his deepest purpose, not only in preventive medicine, but his own locality making it safer for all life.

HARRY C. OBERHOLZER

Dr. Oberholzer who was elected to Honorary Membership in the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union in 1924 died in Cleveland, December 25, 1963, at the age of 93.

Dr. Oberholzer was one of the first men in this country to learn about migration routes and habits of birds. He was associated with the Fish and Wildlife Service and its earlier organization for 46 years. As a result of his work there and with other institutions, 11 new families and subfamilies, 99 genera and 560

species and subspecies of birds were named. He published nearly 900 technical and popular articles about birds among which is a book, "Birds of Louisiana," and another, "Birds of Texas" still to be published.

FRANCIS LEE JAQUES

A well-known artist of natural subjects is Francis Lee Jaques, an Honorary Member of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union since 1960. Besides paintings, usually oils, and illustrating 35 books of which seven are the delightful books of Mrs. Jaques, he has painted an estimated 30,000 square feet of background surface in museum displays. These museums include the American Museum of Natural History in New York, Museum of Science in Boston, Peabody Museum in New Haven, Academy of Sciences in Philadelphia, Iowa State Museum, Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota (where he just finished one of the Passenger Pigeon), and the University of Nebraska.

Mr. Jaques' father was a market hunter in Kansas and Nebraska and taught the boy about wildlife from the time he was quite small. Mr. Jaques was born in Geneseo, Illinois, Sept. 28, 1887, and from there the family moved to Kansas. About 1903 they moved back to northeastern Minnesota by covered wagon and "father and I walked most of the way," he says. They crossed the Platte River at North Bend.

He became interested in waterfowl at an early age as he hunted with his father, and study of other birds was a side issue to spading new land for a garden in Minnesota.

Before he settled on his present occupation he spent 10 winters in a

taxidermy shop in Aitkin, Minnesota, and other time in farming, lumbering, railroading, U. S. Army, electrical work, and commercial art. From 1924 to 1942 he was associated with the American Museum of Natural History where he was assigned to several expeditions to the Panama, Peru, the Bahamas, England and Switzerland. Two long trips took him to the Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean on a ship with Capt. Bob Bartlett, and another six and a half month trip to the eastern South Pacific.

He writes that he has many other interests, one of which is railroads. Mr. and Mrs. Jaques live at Ten East Oaks Road, North Oaks, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

(This information was taken from a letter from Mr. Jaques written January 11, 1964.)



ROBERT J. NIEDRACH

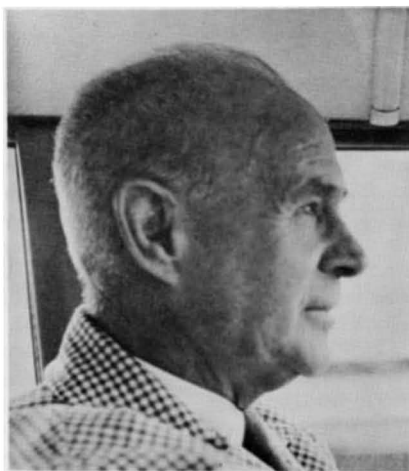
Elected as an Honorary Member of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union in 1932, Robert J. Niedrach, is Curator of Birds and Assistant to the Director of the Denver Museum of Natural History. The following has been taken with few changes from a letter written by him January 15, 1964.

I was born in Hudson County, New Jersey, November 9, 1889, and spent my early years particularly in the Hackensack Meadows where I not only observed Black and Yellow Rails, but had the fond memory of meeting Frank Chapman and showing him some of the wonders of "my" marshes. I started birding there, and along the Palisades of the Hudson River, became a bird taxidermist, and had a job in a commercial shop.

After high school a wanderlust started me westward. I did taxidermy work in Denver from 1910 to 1912 and met the late Fred Lincoln, Curator of Birds at the Denver Museum of Natural History, in 1912 and became his assistant the following year. For the past half century plus, I've been associated with the Museum. I have seen it grow, and hope I have made contributions to its exhibits and educational programs during the past five decades. Where only a handful of visitors came to the out-of-the-way location in remote City Park in the 19-teens, we now have an attendance of around 700,000 visitors annually. They tell me I'm responsible for starting the Colorado Bird Club. I taught a course in Ornithology at Denver University for a period of years, received an honorary degree from the University of Colorado, and have been privileged to have as my friends the many naturalists of the Denver area for many years.

While most of my field work has been in Colorado, my travels have taken me throughout this country, Central America where again I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Chapman and spending two months birding with him at his Tropical Air Castle on the Island of Barro Colorado, Canal Zone. Later I was with Dr. Bailey in the Pacific Islands from Midway through the Hawaiian to Canton Island on the equator and Fiji Islands to the southwest. Our Museum carried on extensive work in Australia and I was privileged with others of the Museum staff to work in that interesting land.

Much of my interest has been in exhibition, and I've had a hand in the preparation of all displays since we started the reconstruction of exhibits in 1936. At present we are compiling data on Colorado birds and Dr. Bailey and I hope to publish our two volume **Birds of Colorado** in the near future. It will be illustrated with about 500 black and

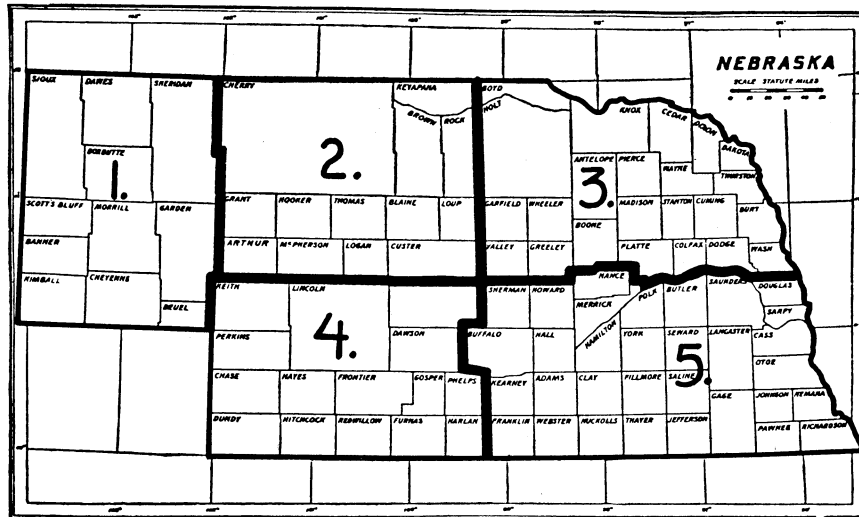


white photographs and 124 plates will be of use to our ornithological showing more than 400 species of friends in Nebraska, Kansas, New birds in color. We hope the book Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Following is a list of Mr. Niedrach's publications:

- 1923 Two interesting additions to the known Avifauna of Colorado. Condor, 25:182.
- 1924 The white-necked raven nesting in eastern Colorado. Condor, 26:105.
- 1926 (With Bailey, Alfred M.) The Franklin's gull in Colorado. Condor, 28:44-45.
- 1931 (With Bailey, Alfred M.) American egret in Colorado. Condor, 33:250.
- 1932 (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Domain of the camp robber. Amer. Forests, 38:492.
- 1933a (With Bailey, Alfred M.) The mountain plovers of the prairies. Natural History, 33:75-80.
- 1933b (With Bailey, Alfred M.) The Avo-chic. Natural History, 33:209-217.
- 1933c (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Prairie falcon. Amer. Forests, 39:356-358.
- 1934 (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Photographing the western horned owl. Amer. Forests, 40:18-20.
- 1936 (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Community nesting of western robins and house finches. Condor, 38:214.
- 1937a (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Trailing birds of prey. Amer. Forests, 43:218-220, 251.
- 1937b (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Five species new to Colorado. Condor, 39:132-133.
- 1937c (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Notes on Colorado birds. Auk, 54:524-527.
- 1937d (With Bailey, Alfred M.) A day with a nesting goshawk. Nature Magazine, 31:38-40.
- 1938a (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Brewster's egret nesting in Colorado. Condor, 40:44-45.
- 1938b (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Western grebe in Colorado. Auk, 55:119.
- 1938c (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Nesting of Virginia's warbler. Auk, 55:176-178.
- 1938d (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Notes on Colorado geese. Auk, 55:519-520.
- 1938e (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Nelson's downy woodpecker from Colorado. Auk, 55:672-673.
- 1938f (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Rose-breasted grosbeak in Colorado. Auk, 55:676.
- 1938g (With Bailey, Alfred M.) The chestnut-collared longspur in Colorado. Wilson Bull., 50:243-246.
- 1938h (With Bailey, Alfred M.) The red phalarope and ruddy turnstone in Colorado. Condor, 40:227.
- 1939a (With Rockwell, Robert B.) The birds of Denver and Mountain Parks. Colo. (Denver) Museum of Natural History, Popular Series No. 5, 196pp.
- 1939b (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Notes on jaegers and gulls of Colorado. Auk, 56:79-81.
- 1939c (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Eastern hermit thrush in Colorado. Condor, 41:123.

- 1939d (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Snowy plover from Colorado. Condor, 41:127.
- 1939e (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Filming the golden eagle. Amer. Forests, 45:446-449, 476-477.
- 1939f (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Piping plover from Colorado. Condor, 41:216.
- 1939g (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Fan and bubble dance. Rocky Mt. Sportsman, 2: no. 5, 8-11, 30-31.
- 1944 (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Spring in the high marsh. Bird-lore, 46:71-75.
- 1945 Colorado nesting records of the starlings. Wilson Bull., 57:261.
- 1946a (With Neff, Johnson A.) Nesting of the band-tailed pigeon in Colorado. Condor, 48:72-74.
- 1946b (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Duck hawk nest in Colorado. Auk, 63:253.
- 1951a (With Edgerton, Harold E. and Van Riper, Walker) Freezing the flight of the hummingbirds. Natural Geographic Magazine, Vol. C, no. 2, 245-261 (August).
- 1951b (With Bailey, Alfred M.) Stepping Stones across the Pacific. Museum Pictorial no. 3, Denver Museum of Natural History, 63pp.
- 1952 (With Van Riper, Walker and Bailey, Alfred M.) Nature Photography with the High-Speed Flash. Museum Pictorial No. 5, Denver Museum of Natural History, 63 pp.
- 1953 (With Bailey, Alfred M. and Bailey, A. Lang) The red crossbills of Colorado. Museum Pictorial no. 9, Denver Museum of Natural History. 63pp.
- 1954 (With Bailey, Alfred M. and Murphy, Robert Cushman) Canton Island. Museum Pictorial no. 10, Denver Museum of Natural History. 78 pp.



1963 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT IN NEBRASKACompiled by **GAIL SHICKLEY**

A state total of 85 species were observed and reported on the 1963 Christmas bird counts. Of these, only ten species appeared on all of the lists; hence, there was considerable variation, according to the area of the state and type of habitat covered. Counts were made in five of the state's seven areas, the majority of them being made in areas 5 west and 5 east. The longest single list, with 46 species, was reported by the Lincoln Audubon Naturalists' Club.

In general, weather conditions ranged from cold, snow, and wind in the eastern end of the state to warm, clear and calm in the west. The reports made by the groups of observers in eastern Nebraska clearly indicate that weather conditions were no deterrent to successful field trips.

For purposes of compilation of the state has been divided into the same areas as used in compiling the nesting reports. Christmas bird counts were received from areas one, two, four five west and five east. The groups reporting from these areas were as follows:

AREA 1. Dawes County; Mary Peyton, Marj Blinde, Alberta DeFlon. Doris Gates (compiler). Time 8 AM-3 PM. Temperature 44 degrees -38 degrees. Clear to rain. Total—21 species.

AREA 2. Logan County; Earl Glandon. Time 9 AM to 12:20 PM and 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Temperature from 32 degrees to 51 degrees. Light breeze and clear. Covered river valley, sandhills north of valley and upland south of valley. Habitats wooded, grassy fields and

swampy areas. Total—19 species.

AREA 4. Keith County; C. W. Huntley. Time 7 AM to 4:30 PM. Weather clear, warm and calm. Total—36 species.

Lincoln County; Gail Shickley and Edith McIntosh. Time, 9 AM to 5 PM. Weather Clear, warm and calm. Total—40 species Both observers in this area experienced difficulty in estimating the numbers of individuals in the larger flocks of birds. This was especially true of the Red-winged Blackbirds and Mallards in Keith County, and of the Robins and Red-winged Blackbirds in Lincoln County. Rarest find in Lincoln County was the Purple Finch, but shortly after the count period it became evident some small flocks of Purple Finches were wintering in the county.

Area 5W. Buffalo and Kearney Counties; George W. Brown, Randy Brown, Margaret E. Bliese, John C. W. Bliese (compiler). Time, 7:30 AM to 12 noon. Temperature 30 degrees to 42 degrees. Clear. Wind 15 - 20 MPH. Total — 29 species. Not included in the count was a dead Goshawk which had been shot. A flock of 45 Evening Grosbeaks had been seen during the period, but were not seen on count day.

Adams County; Burton Nelson and son. Total—40 species.

Adams County; Elsie Davies, Bill Fink, Vera Maunder, Ellen Ritchey, Albert Jones, Margaret Jones (compiler). Time 8 AM to 5 PM. Temperature 18 degrees to 40 degrees. Total—34 species. Seen during count period, but not on count day: Townsend's Solitaire and Evening Grosbeak.

AREA 5E. Jefferson County; Glen Hoge. Total—26 species. Red-winged Blackbirds were present in unusually large flocks, and numbers could be only roughly estimated.

Lancaster County; (Lincoln Audubon Naturalists' Club) Oscar Alexis, Dr. Howard P. Doole, Doris Gates, Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Pogge, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Pritchard, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sandstedt, Hazel Scheiber, Mr. and Mrs. George Spidell, Mr. and Mrs. Harold V. Whitmus, Ralph Harrington (compiler). Time 8 AM to 5 PM. Temperature, 13 degrees to 17 degrees. Light snow in morning, clearing by 9:30 AM. Total—46 species. Additional species seen during count period but not on count day: Shoveler, Cooper's Hawk, Bobwhite, Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Brown Thrasher and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Gage County; (Beatrice Audubon Society) Vera Anderson, Mrs. Marie Baier, Mrs. Gertrude Klotz, Mrs. Mildred Lubben, Mary Sturmer, Mrs. Esther Smith, Mrs. Roxanna Peckman, Nellie Watson. Time, 8

AM to 5 PM. Temperature, 19 degrees to 23 degrees. Cloudy. Total—33 species.

Gage County; (Blue Hill) Mrs. Lynn Hardin, Verneil Griffin, Mrs. F. J. Patton. Temperature, 18 degrees to 24 degrees. Cloudy. Total—34 species. Seen during count period, but not on count day: Sharp-shinned Hawk and American Goldfinches.

Sarpy and Cass Counties; Omaha Bird Club as reported in Omaha World-Herald. Total—44 species.

Nemaha County; Ida May Heywood, Alice Vernon, Ruth Wensien, Doris Gates. Time, 8 AM to 4 PM. Temperature 8 degrees to 20 degrees. Overcast. Total—28 species.

Nemaha County; Ida May Heywood, Ruth Wensien, Alice Vernon (second trip). Time, 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 2 PM to 5 PM. Temperature around freezing in morning and overcast. Afternoon clear, with high of 59 degrees. Total—24 species.

The complete reports of these observers have been compiled into the following table:

Species	Area 1	Area 2	Area 4	Area 5W	Area 5E
Great Blue Heron			1		
Canada Goose					x
White-fronted Goose					x
Snow Goose					x
Blue Goose					x
Mallard			1004	20 x	323
Gadwall				1 x	
Pintail			10		
Green-winged Teal			4		
Common Goldeneye			125		
Common Merganser			15		
Sharp-shinned Hawk					2
Red-tailed Hawk			3	1 x	44
Krider's Red-tailed Hawk					1
Rough-legged Hawk		4	1		14
Ferruginous Hawk			1		
Golden Eagle			1		
Bald Eagle		1	12	2	
Marsh Hawk		3	8	3 x	25

Prairie Falcon		1			
Pergerine Falcon			1		
Pigeon Hawk			1		
Sparrow Hawk	1	1	3	6	17
Greater Prairie Chicken		12			
Bobwhite				5 x	24
Ring-necked Pheasant		2	9	x	33
Killdeer			2	3 x	
Common Snipe			5		1
Ring-billed Gull			50		
Rock Dove					12
Mourning Dove				1 x	151
Great Horned Owl	1			2 x	11
Snowy Owl					1
Short-eared Owl					1
Belted Kingfisher			3	2 x	
Flicker			12	6 x	21
Red-bellied Woodpecker				2 x	22
Red-headed Woodpecker					10
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					2
Hairy Woodpecker	2		5	6 x	14
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	11	18 x	50
Horned Lark	10		550	214 x	153
Blue Jay			2	16 x	98
Black-billed Magpie	31	5	56	1 x	
Common Crow	42	29	33	50 x	167
Pinon Jay	10				
Black-capped Chickadee	10	5	29	69 x	182
Tufted Titmouse					19
White-breasted Nuthatch				3 x	29
Red-breasted Nuthatch			15	10 x	11
Brown Creeper	2		12	3 x	43
Mockingbird			1		1
Brown Thrasher				1	
Robin			1025	20 x	5
Eastern Bluebird					1
Mountain Bluebird			59		
Townsend's Solitaire	1		25	x	2
Golden-crowned Kinklet			1		6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					4
Cedar Waxwing				30 x	1
Northern Shrike	1		4		
Loggerhead Shrike	1				11
Starling	42	46	1500	995 x	495
House Sparrow	80	4	125	562 x	1951
Meadowlark	2	25	525	262 x	224
Brewer's Blackbird			500		
Common Grackle				2 x	
Red-winged Blackbird			16000	2 x	1004

Cardinal		3	4	35 x	230
Evening Grosbeak			21	4	1
Purple Finch			1		15
Pine Siskin		8	3	x	21
American Goldfinch	7		56	9 x	185
Red Crossbill					79
Rufous-sided Towhee					4
Slate-colored Junco	57	1	30	36 x	794
Oregon Junco	3	6	125	8 x	3
Tree Sparrow	18	24	150	105	617
Chipping Sparrow					10
Harris' Sparrow	1		35	118 x	339
White-crowned Sparrow			4	x	6
White-throated Sparrow					7
Lincoln's Sparrow					1
Song Sparrow			10	9 x	37
Lapland Longspur				1 x	

GENERAL NOTES

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS IN NORTH PLATTE

On October 11, 1936, 1 Observed

On October 11, 1963, I observed an immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker moving about on the trunk of a tree in Cody Park, apparently searching for food in the bark of the tree. No red showed on the head or throat of this individual, and its position was such that I could not see any yellow on the belly. It did have the large white patch and other typical markings of the immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

After I had watched the bird for several minutes it flew away and I took a closer look at the tree where it had been. The large branch had one hole large enough to be a nesting hole, but the inside of it was clean and had no signs of use. Near it was a smaller hole, and scattered all about were very small holes; but they were not arranged in the orderly rows typical of sapsucker drilling.

On October 30, a great amount of bird noise in the trees across the street from my home attracted my

attention, and I stepped out on the porch with my binocular to locate the Myrtle Warblers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Black-capped Chickadees, and Golden-crowned Kinglets that were all audible in this assembly of birds. While I had my binocular focused on the trunk of a large white poplar, another Yellow-bellied Sapsucker moved up the tree trunk into the field of my glasses. This individual had a red forehead and throat, and considerable yellow on the belly, but where the typical adult sapsucker is black, this individual had a smoky appearance, and the black plumage had more brown than black in it. Its plumage in general lacked the well-defined marking and sleek elegance of an adult sapsucker. I assume that it was a young male, probably somewhat older than the bird observed on October 11.

On November 24, I observed

another immature sapsucker feeding in the bard of deciduous trees along the river bank on the north border of Cody Park. This one was in a state of plumage between the first two, with some red on top of its head and a tinge of yellow appearing on the belly when it was in the right light. On December 18, I located an immature sapsucker near the site of the first observation on October 11. As this individual seemed to be in nearly the same plumage stage as the first bird, I wondered if it might be the same bird. Again, in Cody Park on February 1, 1964, I saw an immature sapsucker which appeared to have plumage similar to the bird (or birds) I saw on October 11 and December 18. From these observations it would appear possible that at least one individual may have spent the winter season in this area.

Since observing the first of these birds, I have made a rather thorough check of the trees in Cody Park and find that the majority of the ponderosa pines in the park have been well drilled by the sapsuckers. The drilling is most prevalent on trees in rather dense stands. In one group of fifty-five ponderosas in a small area, every tree shows some signs of sapsucker drilling, and most of them are well-covered by it. Where the trees stand in a single row, with considerable distance between the trees, almost no sapsucker work is evident. I found no work on trees other than the ponderosas. I also made a check on the ponderosas at the University of Nebraska Experimental Station and at the state fish hatchery. The only signs of sapsucker work on these trees was in a dense stand at the experimental station, and the holes in this location had the appearance of being several

years old.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is rated as a rare migrant in the North Platte area. — Gail Shickley, North Platte.

SOME DAWSON COUNTY RECORDS.—These are some arrival and departure dates for the years 1928 through 1950. The location is our farm some eight miles west of Lexington in Dawson County and the road to Lexington by the Darr Bridge. At that time I had more opportunity to notice arrivals and departures and while I was frequently gone a pattern for certain of the more common birds has evolved. GREAT BLUE HERON: 1936 Apr. 17; 1937 Apr. 12-Sept. 11; 1938 Oct. 6; 1940 Mar. 31; 1941 Sept. 14; 1942 Sept. 30; 1945 Apr. 16. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: 1943 Sept. 29. AMERICAN BITTERN: 1939 Apr. 29; 1940 Sept. 9; 1941 Apr. 28; 1943 Apr. 24; 1947 Apr. 20; 1949 Apr. 30. COMMON MERGANSER: 1936 Feb. 28; 1938 Feb. 27-Mar. 7; 1939 Jan. 1-Mar. 1. WHOOPING CRANE: 1936 Apr. 3; 1938 Mar. 20-Apr. 20; 1939 May 1; 1941 Mar. 6. SANDHILL CRANE: 1930 Feb. 24; 1931 Mar. 13; 1932 Feb. 26; 1934 Mar. 2; 1935 Mar. 2; 1936 Mar. 4-May 1; 1938 Mar. 10-Apr. 1; Oct. 8; 1939 Oct. 9-Nov. 5; 1940 Mar. 28; 1941 Feb. 12-Apr. 3; 1942 Mar. 9; 1945 Mar. 8; 1946 Mar. 14; 1947 Sept. 25-Oct. 31. KILL-DEER: 1929 Mar. 1; 1930 Mar. 25; 1931 Mar. 23; 1933 Apr. 14; 1934 Mar. 19-Oct. 20; 1935 Mar. 14-Oct. 5; 1936 Mar. 7-Nov. 5; 1937 Mar. 21; 1938 Mar. 13; 1941 Oct. 9; 1942 Mar. 21; 1943 Oct. 2; 1945 Mar. 23; 1947 Sept. 28; 1948 Mar. 22-Sept. 7; 1949 Oct. 28. WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 1936 May 3; 1938 Apr. 10; 1939 Apr. 29; 1940 Sept. 9; 1941 May 8. MOURNING DOVE: 1928 Mar. 25; 1925 Apr. 5; 1930 Apr. 17;

1931 Apr. 15; 1932 Apr. 3; 1933 Mar. 29-Oct. 4; 1934 Oct. 13; 1935 Apr. 17-Oct. 5; 1936 Mar. 29-Oct. 4; 1937 Apr. 17; 1940 Apr. 16-Sept. 5; 1941 Mar. 24-Oct. 6; 1942 Apr. 3-Oct. 5; 1945 Mar. 18; 1946 Mar. 27-Oct. 21; 1947 Apr. 2; 1949 Mar. 21. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: 1936 May 24; 1937 May 30; 1938 May 25; 1941 May 23-Sept. 16; 1942 May 28; 1943 May 28; 1949 May 7-Sept. 12; 1950 May 23.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: 1935 Apr. 28. This is the one and only that I've ever seen and heard in Nebraska. What it was doing that far west is hard to say, but there was never any doubt of its identity.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: 1928 May 11; 1930 May 10; 1931 May 10; 1932 May 4; 1933 May 13-Sept. 28; 1937 May 4; 1938 May 5-Sept. 16; 1936 May 9-Sept. 28; 1937 May 4; 1938 May 5-Sept. 16; 1939 May 7-Nov. 5; 1940 May 2-Sept. 6; 1942 May 11; 1944 May 4-Oct. 3; 1948 May 13; 1949 May 9-Sept. 11. EASTERN KINGBIRD: 1929 May 2; 1930 May 1; 1931 May 1; 1932 May 3; 1933 May 6; 1935 May 11-Sept. 10; 1936 May 1-Sept. 9; 1937 Sept. 22; 1938 Apr. 10-Sept. 5; 1939 May 5-Sept. 8; 1940 May 2; 1942 May 8; 1943 Apr. 28-Sept. 4; 1945 May 6; 1947 May 2; 1948 May 12; 1949 May 7; 1950 May 11. WESTERN KINGBIRD: 1928 May 4; 1929 May 4; 1930 May 1; 1931 May 7; 1932 May 6; 1933 May 6; 1934 May 6-Sept. 10; 1935 Apr. 24-Sept. 10; 1936 Apr. 30; 1937 May 4; 1938 Apr. 30-Sept. 10; 1939 May 7; 1940 Apr. 26-Sept. 6; 1941 May 1; 1942 Apr. 29; 1943 May 4; 1945 May 5; 1948 Apr. 29-Sept. 25; 1949 May 7-Sept. 11.

BARN SWALLOW: 1928 Apr. 29; 1929 Apr. 27; 1930 May 3; 1931 Apr. 27; 1932 Apr. 3; 1933 Apr. 19; 1934 Apr. 24; 1935 Apr. 24-Oct. 2; 1940 May 1-Sept. 3; 1948 May 12; 1949

May 7-Sept. 11. HOUSE WREN: 1928 May 27; 1930 May 21; 1932 May 13; 1935 Sept. 13; 1937 May 1; 1938 May 1; 1939 May 8; 1940 May 3-Sept. 6; 1941 May 2; 1942 May 9; 1946 May 1; 1947 May 2; 1948 May 2; 1949 May 1-Sept. 16; 1950 May 5. MOCKINGBIRD: 1939 May 24; 1930 Apr. 30; 1931 Apr. 9; 1937 Apr. 29; 1933 May 3; 1936 Apr. 20; 1938 May 3; 1943 Apr. 14; 1948 May 8.

BROWN THRASHER: 1928 May 8; 1931 May 1; 1932 May 1; 1933 Apr. 27; 1935 Apr. 30-Sept. 20; 1936 May 6-Sept. 22; 1937 Sept. 11; 1938 Apr. 26-Sept. 30; 1939 Apr. 25; 1940 May 2-Sept. 5; 1941 Apr. 30; 1942 Apr. 21; 1943 Apr. 27; 1945 Apr. 26; 1946 May 3; 1948 Apr. 24-Sept. 10; 1949 Apr. 30-Sept. 10; 1950 Apr. 23. YELLOW WARBLER: 1928 May 13; 1929 May 3; 1930 May 3; 1931 May 3; 1932 May 11; 1933 May 6; 1935 May 2; 1938 May 4; 1940 May 3; 1941 Apr. 29; 1942 May 1; 1943 May 2; 1944 May 11; 1946 Apr. 20-Aug. 28; 1947 May 4; 1948 May 4; 1949 Apr. 23; 1950 May 2. MYRTLE WARBLER: 1935 May 2; 1937 Apr. 23; 1940 Apr. 29; 1941 Apr. 27; 1949 Apr. 28; 1950 Apr. 22-Sept. 27. YELLOWTHROAT: 1933 Apr. 30; 1935 May 12; 1936 May 10; 1939 May 10; 1941 May 10; 1948 Apr. 16; 1949 May 7; 1950 May 5. ORCHARD ORIOLE: 1928 May 14; 1929 May 12; 1930 May 17; 1931 May 5; 1932 May 13; 1937 May 14; 1935 May 6; 1936 May 6; 1938 May 13; 1941 May 8; 1942 May 14; 1943 May 12; 1949 May 4; 1950 May 12. BALTIMORE ORIOLE: 1928 May 6; 1929 May 6; 1930 May 3; 1931 May 10; 1932 May 13; 1933 May 7; 1935 May 4; 1936 May 6; 1938 May 3; 1939 May 5; 1941 May 7-Sept. 5; 1942 May 2; 1943 May 3; 1946 May 5; 1947 May 5-Sept. 5; 1948 May 6-Sept. 16; 1949 May 3; 1950 May 5.

(continued on page 40)

TREASURER'S REPORT—1963

Cash and Bank account January 1, 1963	\$ 424.56	
Investments-Bonds and Savings	1,074.54	1,499.10
Receipts for year		
157 active memberships	471.00	
38 sustaining memberships	190.00	661.00
Subscriptions to Review		
20 direct	70.00	
1 via foreign agency	3.08	
13 via domestic agency	39.00	112.08
Occasional Papers		
No. 1 through No. 5	22.50	
Revised Check list sold	15.00	
Field Cards sold	9.60	
Reviews sold	3.00	
Memberships list sold	5.00	55.10
Interest on Investments	46.20	46.20
Spring meeting registration and dinner	333.60	333.60
Overpayment of memberships and subscription	1.65	1.65
		1,209.63
Increase in prepaid membership and subscription over last year		28.92
		\$1,238.55
EXPENDITURES		
Graham printing service for Review		
January Review	\$ 145.59	
April Review	115.90	
July Review	127.54	
October Review	152.24	541.27
Officer's Expenses		
Doris Gates	109.65	
Lee Morris	16.59	
C. W. Huntley	7.80	134.04
Refunds for overpayment of memberships and subscriptions	1.65	
Fidelity Bond for Treasurer and Custodian	10.00	
Due cards printed	16.95	
State permit for 1962	3.00	31.60
Spring meeting room rental, lunches etc.	61.85	
Spring meeting conference and dinner	284.25	346.10
Duplicator paper	19.90	19.90
		\$1,072.91
Total Expenses for 1963		
Cash and bank balance December 31, 1963	336.50	
Investments, Dec. 1963 including \$200.00 transferred from bank to Saving Account and \$23.70 Interest	1,298.24	1,664.74
		-1,499.10
Increase in cash and investments over December 31, 1962		165.64
Receipts minus expenses for 1963		\$ 165.64

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
Chadron State College
Chadron, Nebraska
Return Requested

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Permit No. 10
Chadron, Nebr.

COMMON GRACKLE: 1936 Mar. 19-Oct. 17; 1937 Apr. 5-Nov. 6; 1938 Apr. 4-Oct. 12; 1939 Apr. 2-Oct. 20; 1940 Apr. 14; 1941 Mar. 18-Oct. 27; 1942 Apr. 2-Oct. 4. BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: 1929 May 12; 1930 May 7; 1933 May 9; 1935 May 1; 1936 May 13; 1938 May 15; 1941 May 10; 1945 May 6; 1947 May 8; 1948 Apr. 29. LARK SPARROW: 1935 Apr. 27; 1936 Apr. 28; 1937 Apr. 27-Oct. 9; 1938 Apr. 23; 1940 May 2; 1948 May 26; 1950 May 1. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: 1936 Apr. 28; 1937 Apr. 12-May 1; 1938 Apr. 23-May 2; 1939 Apr. 10; 1944 May 6; 1945 May 6; 1946 Apr. 26; 1948 Apr. 26-May 9; 1949 May 2. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: 1937 May 9; 1950 May 7; 1958 May 11.—Carol Kinch, Lincoln.

“I saw a Barrow's Goldeneye on the canal below the powerhouse Dec. 16 (1963). I was sort of idly watching a large flock of Common Goldeneyes but kept coming back to one of the males because he seemed a little different than the others. Then he turned broadside and I finally woke up to the fact that he had a white crescent instead of a dot.

“Ella Nielsen was excited yesterday to find and identify a female Pine Grosbeak in her yard (Dec. 17,

1963). (Others) at Lake Maloney and in the southwest part of town have both had small flocks of them feeding in their back yards for some time. Both places have had flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, too, and one has a Mockingbird coming to her feeder every morning.”—Gail Shickley, North Platte.

“Sept. 23 (1963) we saw about 150 to 200 pelicans fly over the Little Sandy Creek. Sept. 29 we saw 40 pelicans go over about one mile from where we saw the first ones. These were circling a farm pond. We went over the next day at 5:30 A.M. They were on the pond and were fishing. We did not want to get too close to them because we did not want them to fly, but our guess is they were eating tadpoles because that is about all the pond has in it.”—Mrs. Glen Hoge, Powell.

“(Friends) found a male Prairie Chicken on their farm (three miles south and a mile west of Auburn). They heard it booming first, a sound like wind through a pipe, they said, and then they saw it. They threw a little clod toward it, and it raised its ‘horns’ and puffed out the orange pouches, and challenged them! They kept on flicking little bits of dirt towards it, and it came up to them and they caught it! And released it, of course.”—Ruth Wensein, Brownville.