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Notes on the Birds of South Dakota, with a Preliminary List for Union County

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NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF SOUTH DAKOTA, WITH A PRELIMINARY LIST FOR UNION COUNTY.

T. C. STEPHENS.

This paper is prepared for the primary purpose of publishing a few interesting or unusual records for the state of South Dakota which have been very kindly placed in my possession by Mr. A. J. Anderson, of Sioux City, Iowa. Mr. Anderson, in his professional occupation as a taxidermist, has received many specimens from a radius of two or three hundred miles, and the present paper was conceived for the purpose of placing on record such of these specimens from South Dakota (and two or three from North Dakota) as seemed worthy. At the same time it seemed that it might be worth while for the author to include such observations as he has, incidentally, made within that state, or has received from other observers.

Sioux City is peculiarly located in contact with three states, viz., Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Several lakes which are frequented by water fowl and shore birds, and which are easily reached from Sioux City, lie just across the river in Nebraska or in South Dakota. For this reason considerable field work has been done in these localities by local observers.

The annotated list which is here presented is not by any means complete, but may contain enough of value to justify its publication; especially since the writer has little expectation of doing more than sporadic work in this region in the future.

A brief statement may now be made as to sources of information, and as to the character of the region discussed.

The notes which compose the *raison d'être* of this paper have come from the records of Mr. Anderson, as stated above. Mr. A. F. Allen, who has occupied a cottage at McCook lake during the summer season since 1915, has supplied much information concerning the summer species. He has also done more or less spring and fall work in the same vicinity. The writer has relied to a very considerable extent upon the information received from Mr. Allen concerning the status of the summer birds in Union county, and is therefore under great obligation. Mr. George O. Ludcke has hunted on the lakes in Union county more or less since 1910, and he has kindly given me numerous notes on the water fowl and other large birds. A few notes

also have been received from Mrs. H. M. Bailey and Mrs. H. J. Taylor, of Sioux City. The writer should also not fail to acknowledge several very good notes received from Dr. Guy C. Rich, who made observations in the Sioux City Area for upwards of twenty years. My own desultory notes in Union county date from 1910.

All of the notes and records, except some of Mr. Anderson's, refer to Union county, which is separated from Sioux City and Woodbury county, Iowa, by Big Sioux river; it is separated from Dakota county, Nebraska, by Missouri river. Geographically, Union county tapers to a point which lies in the fork of Missouri and Big Sioux rivers.

Considerable care has been taken to make no statement without proper information or authority. Where the authority is not indicated, the writer assumes direct responsibility.

In the case of common birds, and where the knowledge is adequate, an attempt has been made to place an estimate on the relative abundance of species. In other cases, however, the writer has merely given the facts of particular records, and has omitted an estimate of relative abundance, even though our knowledge of the status of the species in adjacent localities might be ample to warrant such an inference. The purpose has been, therefore, to isolate the Union county work from that which has been done in adjacent counties.

It will be easily observed that the author has followed the nomenclature of the last Check List of the American Ornithologists' Union, except in the matter of trinomials. In a great many cases the subspecies which have been recognized have little or no biological significance. In many cases, also, even the taxonomist cannot determine the subspecies without the knowledge of its locality. Therefore, when the geographical ranges are once arbitrarily fixed, anyone can affix the appropriate subspecific term as correctly as can the author. Or, if it is objected that only through such local lists can the geographical ranges of subspecific forms be determined, then it might be answered that when skins are sent away to experts for determination, the results do not represent the knowledge or contribution of the author, and are, therefore, not required in his paper. It may also be a debatable question whether trinomial nomenclature and the further splitting of species, can contribute to the advancement of science, rather than to its embarrassment.

So far as the writer is aware, only two lists of birds have been previously published for the southeastern corner of South Dakota, although Coues included many notes in his work on "The Birds of the Northwest" which probably belong to this general region. One of these lists was written by Mr. Agersborg and published in 1885.¹ This list includes 226 named forms, some of which, however, belong in an hypothetical list, so far as the actual records are concerned. That is, some species were included on the strength of their occurrence across the river in Nebraska. The list is based upon observations made in Clay county, and portions of the adjoining counties of Yankton, Union, Lincoln, and Minnehaha. The paper does not indicate to what extent Union county was covered in field work, and one is naturally led to assume that it was limited in the main to the portions bordering Clay county.

The second list, by Dr. Visher,² covers Clay county only, and includes 255 forms. Although the list covers practically the same region as did Agersborg's, yet thirty years had elapsed between the two lists, and there are numerous important differences. A comparison of these two lists would be interesting, and the writer had entertained some thought of attempting such a discussion; but the limits of the present paper will not permit.

For convenience and accuracy the balance of the paper will be presented in two parts.

PART I.

In this division are listed a number of records for the state of South Dakota at large, not including Union County.

1. American Merganser. *Mergus americanus*. Mr. Anderson received one specimen for mounting on January 5, 1907, from Parker.

2. Red-breasted Merganser. *Mergus serrator*. Mr. Anderson received one from Zeeland, North Dakota, on May 20, 1914. Although this locality is just beyond the boundary of South Dakota, it is deemed desirable to include it in this list.

¹The Birds of Southeastern Dakota. By G. S. Agersborg. Revised by Prof. W. W. Cooke. The Auk, II, pp. 276-279, 1885.

²A List of the Birds of Clay County, Southeastern South Dakota. By G. S. Agersborg. The Auk, LXXVII, pp. 321-335, 1915.

3. Hooded Merganser. *Lophodytes cucullatus*. One from Parker, South Dakota, on November 1, 1905 (Anderson).

4. Mallard. *Anas platyrhynchos*. Mr. Clate Tinan, editor of the *Kimball* (South Dakota) *Graphic*, published in his paper a story of a mallard hen nesting in a tree twenty feet from the ground, in the summer of 1917. Inquiry by letter brought a very positive assurance of the correctness of the account. Ridgway (The Ornithology of Illinois, page 129, 1895) states that the mallard "has been known in rare instances to nest in a tree; in such cases occupying the deserted nest of a hawk, crow or other large bird." Eaton (Birds of New York) also makes a similar statement. Specific instances, however, are not easy to find in the literature.

5. Sandhill Crane. *Grus mexicana*. On April 14, 1911, one was received by Mr. Anderson from Aberdeen, South Dakota.

6. Dowitcher. *Macrorhamphus griseus*. Dr. Rich gives me the record of one being taken at Meckling on April 29, 1897. On the basis of locality this specimen may have been *scelopaceus*.

7. American Rough-legged Hawk. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*. One was sent to Mr. Anderson from Beresford on March 17, 1916.

8. Golden Eagle. *Aquila chrysaetos*. Mr. Anderson has kindly allowed me to gather from his books the following records of specimens which have been sent to him from South Dakota points for mounting. The dates indicate the date of mounting rather than the date of capture.

October	24, 1907, two from Wessington Springs.
May	17, 1909, one from Alexandria.
May	2, 1909, one from Emory.
December	16, 1910, one from Cold Springs.
February	16, 1911, one from Parkston.
December	2, 1916 one from Chamberlain.
March	4, 1918, one from Alexandria.

9. Bald Eagle. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. The following records also are taken from Mr. Anderson's books.

November	17, 1901, one from Parkston.
October	29, 1904, one from Oacoma.
November	3, 1909, one from Beresford.
November	29, 1909, one from Parker.
December	16, 1914, one from Alexandria.
November	28, 1918, one from Centerville.

10. Prairie Falcon. *Falco mexicanus*. On May 3, 1907, Mr. Anderson mounted one which had been taken about forty miles southwest from Rapid City. Four days later he received another specimen from the same locality.

11. Barn Owl. *Aluco pratincola*. The following South Dakota specimens were mounted by Mr. Anderson.

May 8, 1915, one from Centerville.
June 2, 1916, one from Ethan.

12. Great Horned Owl. *Bubo virginianus virginianus*. The following were mounted by Mr. Anderson.

November 17, 1917, one from Centerville (male, No. 2240)
January 25, 1918, one from Bridgewater (female, No. 2298)

13. Western Horned Owl. *Bubo virginianus occidentalis* Stone. This lighter owl is regarded as simply a subspecies, and has been variously designated by the terms *subarcticus*, *pallenscens*, etc. The best the present writer can do is to accept Ridgway's diagnosis and nomenclature. Mr. Anderson mounted one on October 23, 1907, from Zeeland, North Dakota. (Recorded here because of proximity to region discussed).

14. Snowy Owl. *Nyctea nyctea*. The following specimens were mounted by Mr. Anderson. All the specimens were sent in from South Dakota towns, except the five from Zeeland, which is just over the line in North Dakota.

January 26, 1902, one from Mt. Vernon.
February 10, 1904, one from Parkston.
January 13, 1906, one from Menno.
February 13, 1906, one from Zeeland.
February 15, 1906, one from Zeeland.
February 26, 1906, one from Zeeland.
December 25, 1909, one from Ethan.
January 4, 1910, two from Milltown.
January 13, 1910, one from Milltown.
January 13, 1910, one from Wessington Springs.
November 13, 1910, one from Scotland.
January 21, 1911, one from Zeeland.
January 21, 1911, one from Aberdeen.
November 21, 1914, one from Zeeland.
December 11, 1914, one from Centerville.
February 1, 1915, one from Centerville.
November 25, 1917, one from Meckling (not mounted).
December 4, 1917, one from Ethan (male, No. 2252).
December 5, 1917, one from Altamont (female, No. 2256).
December 26, 1917, one from Beresford (male, No. 2271).
January 3, 1918, one from Burbank (female, No. 2279).

Published by US S. D. W. Co. from Bridgewater (male, No. 3063).

15. Purple Finch. *Carpodacus purpureus*. On October 20, 1903, Mr. Anderson received a male of this species from Parkston. Another specimen was received from the same place on March 5, 1904. An effort was recently made to secure some information as to these specimens from the party sending them, but without success. Mr. Anderson says, however, that the birds had been shot, indicating that they probably had not been caged birds.

PART II.

Below is given the annotated list of birds for Union county. Only the "point," or southeastern corner of the county, has been under observation. This region includes two large "cut-off" lakes, or old Missouri river beds, several patches of rather dense timber and the timber bordering Big Sioux river, and considerable flat bottom land.

1. Eared Grebe. *Colymbus nigricollis californicus*. Noted on McCook lake on April 22, 1911 (Stephens).

2. Pied-billed Grebe. *Podilymbus podiceps*. It is very commonly seen on McCook and Goodenough lakes, and, no doubt, breeds locally.

3. Loon. *Gavia immer*. Noted on April 9, 1916, in back water of the Missouri near McCook lake (Allen, Ludeke).

4. Ring-billed Gull. *Larus delawarensis*. A tolerably common migrant; numerous records in spring of 1918 (Allen, Stephens).

5. Herring Gull. *Larus argentatus*. No positive records, though listed in the field notes of various observers.

6. Franklin's Gull. *Larus franklini*. A common migrant.

7. Forster's Tern. *Sterna forsteri*. This is the species believed to occur with regularity in the spring. Specimens have not been taken, so that we cannot positively eliminate *S. hirundo*. Mr. Allen found this species around McCook lake throughout the summers of 1915 and 1916, and in 1915 it was even more numerous than the Black Tern.

8. Least Tern. *Sterna antillarum*. This is a late migrant. On June 2, 1918, twenty-one were counted about McCook and Goodenough lakes. This tern hovers and plunges into the

water for its food, as do other members of the genus. It is not known to breed here, though it has been reported as breeding along Vermillion river in the adjoining county.

9. Black Tern. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. A common summer resident (Allen, Ludeke); but certainly rather scarce in 1918 (Stephens).

10. Double-crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus*. Seven were noted on Goodenough lake on April 14, 1918 (Allen, Ludeke, Hayward, Stephens); five again noted in same locality May 1, 1918 (Anderson, Stephens); four again noted in same place on May 5, 1918 (Allen); all probably of the same flock.

11. White Pelican. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. A very common migrant. On April 15, 1917, two immense flocks were seen in flight over Goodenough lake, and were variously estimated to contain from 300 to 500 individuals each (Allen Ludeke, Stephens). They were very numerous in the spring of 1918, and four flocks aggregating seventy-five individuals were seen as late as June 2.

12. American Merganser. *Mergus americanus*. Mr. Anderson has mounted two specimens on the following dates, both shot at McCook lake; one on October 2, 1912, and the other on the following day. Mr. Ludeke also saw a flock of about a dozen on Goodenough lake on March 24, 1918.

13. Mallard. *Anas platyrhynchos*. A very common species, and has apparently increased some in the last three years.

14. Black Duck. *Anas rubripes*. An uncommon species. On March 2, 1904, Mr. Anderson mounted one for Dr. Rich. Upon inquiry the following statement was elicited from Dr. Rich concerning this specimen: "The Black Duck was shot by Chas. Sangster on the Missouri river near the mouth of the Big Sioux, but probably off the banks of South Dakota. He had a camp a few miles above the mouth of the Big Sioux, and hunted along the Missouri and also about McCook lake. The sex was not given in my records."

15. Gadwall. *Chaulelasmus streparus*. The writer has seen this species at McCook lake both dead and alive. It is only a tolerably common migrant, known by the hunters as the Gray Duck.

16. Baldpate. *Mareca americana*. A common migrant.

17. Green-winged Teal. *Nettion carolinensis*. A tolerably common migrant.

18. Blue-winged Teal. *Querquedula discors*. An abundant migrant and occasional breeder.

19. Cinnamon Teal. *Querquedula cyanoptera*. A rare migrant. On April 2, 1911, a male of this species was shot at McCook lake and taken to Mr. Anderson, who mounted it; it remains in his collection.

20. Shoveller. *Spatula clypeata*. An abundant migrant.

21. Pintail. *Dafila acuta*. An abundant and early migrant.

22. Wood Duck. *Aix sponsa*. One was taken on McCook lake on October 12, 1904, and mounted by Mr. Anderson. The writer learned indirectly that several were seen (probably shot) by hunters at McCook and Goodenough lakes in the fall of 1916. Though seen or taken nearly every year by hunters, this species is no longer among the common ducks; it is uncommon, if not rare. It is because of its rarity that an instance of capture is made the subject of comment among those interested.

23. Redhead. *Marila americana*. Noted by A. F. Allen at McCook lake on April 11, 1915, and has been taken by Mr. Ludeke at the same place. It was very abundant on Goodenough lake in the spring of 1918. (Stephens.)

24. Canvas-back. *Marila valisineria*. Mr. Ludeke has taken this species on McCook lake, and he says with reference to the fall season that "Canvas-backs and Redheads are occasionally bagged but are not plentiful." The Canvas-back is uncommon also even in the spring. We visited Goodenough almost weekly in the spring of 1918, and saw only one flock of eight Canvas-backs. This was on April 14.

25. Lesser Scaup. *Marila affinis*. A very abundant migrant. It may possibly breed.

26. Ring-necked Duck. *Marila collaris*. A specimen which had been shot at McCook lake was received for mounting by Mr. Anderson on April 2, 1911.

27. Golden-eye. *Clangula clangula americana*. On November 22, 1911, Mr. Anderson mounted two which had been killed

at McCook lake. Mr. Allen noted the same species at the same place on April 1 and 8, 1917. Not a common species.

28. Bufflehead. *Charitonetta albeola*. On April 2, 1911, Mr. Anderson mounted a male which had been shot at McCook lake. Very uncommon species.

29. White-winged Scoter. *Oidemia deglandi*. Mr. Ludeke is authority for the statement that three of these Scoters were shot at the Loblolly (on Lake Goodenough) in the fall of 1914.

30. Ruddy Duck. *Erismatura jamaicensis*. The writer has seen it at various times on the smaller sloughs around McCook lake, and Mr. Ludeke also reports it. The writer has never seen it in flocks, but always alone or mixed with other ducks.

31. Snow Goose. *Chen hyperboreus*. A regular migrant in limited numbers. One taken at McCook lake and mounted by Mr. Anderson on March 19, 1911. Also noted by Mr. Allen on the dates of April 11, 1915, and April 1 and 8, 1917. The reader's attention is called to the report of Dr. R. M. Anderson on a large series of Snow Geese (see *The Birds of Iowa*) in which the conclusion is fairly drawn that there is no justification for the separation of the Greater Snow Goose from the Snow Goose; that, at best, the distinction is very doubtful.

32. Blue Goose. *Chen caerulescens*. A regular migrant in limited numbers. A flock of twelve was noted on April 1, 1917, (Allen, Ludeke), and a single one on March 24, 1918, (Ludeke).

33. White-fronted Goose. *Anser albifrons gambeli*. One was shot at McCook lake on April 9, 1911, and sent to Mr. Anderson for mounting. A flock of three were noted while flying over McCook on April 9, 1914 (Stephens); and a flock of 150 or more were noted in flight on April 11, 1915 (Allen, Ludeke); another flock, perhaps a little larger, was observed to settle on Goodenough lake on April 14, 1918 (Allen, Ludeke, Stephens).

34. Canada Goose. *Branta c. canadensis*. It is still a tolerably common migrant.

35. Whistling Swan. *Olor columbianus*. Dr. G. C. Rich tells the writer that he saw six or seven shot at McCook lake one fall earlier than 1903. One which had been taken at McCook lake was mounted by Mr. Anderson on March 24, 1911. Another specimen taken on Goodenough was mounted also by him on

November 17, 1913. The latter specimen is now in the possession of Mr. Ludcke.

36. Bittern. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. A common summer resident.

37. Least Bittern. *Ixobrychus exilis*. A single bird was seen at the upper end of Goodenough lake, which is more or less marshy along the borders, on June 2, 1918. No doubt breeds.

38. Great Blue Heron. *Ardea herodias*. A common migrant, arriving at McCook lake as early as July 11 (1915), and then increasing in numbers, until on September 5, fifty were noted in one day (Allen).

39. Green Heron. *Butorides virescens*. Noted on August 22, 1915, and again three were seen on September 5, 1915 (Allen). Mr. Ludcke also reports this bird as common throughout the summer.

40. Black-crowned Night Heron. *Nycticorax naevius*. A flock in flight over Lake Goodenough were noted on April 15, 1917, by Messrs. Allen, Ludcke and Stephens. Noted once in 1918 by Mr. Allen.

41. Coot. *Fulica americana*. A common summer resident.

42. Red Phalarope. *Phalaropus fulicarius*. A specimen which had been taken in the vicinity of McCook lake was mounted by Mr. Anderson on November 28, 1912, and is now in his collection. This specimen was first reported by the writer as an Iowa record (see Wils. Bull., XXVI, p. 103, 1914), but was later corrected (see Wils. Bull., XXVIII, p. 92, 1916).

43. Wilson Phalarope. *Steganopus trico'or*. Noted at Lancaster slough (since drained) on May 20, 1911, by Rev. M. B. Townsend.

44. American Avocet. *Recurvirostra americana*. Dr. Guy C. Rich has kindly furnished a note of one "shot by Sangster from a bar in the Missouri river a few miles above Sioux City, near McCook lake, South Dakota." This specimen was mounted and is now in the Rich collection in the museum of the Sioux City Academy of Science.

45. Woodcock. *Philohela minor*. Mr. A. J. Anderson informs the writer that he shot a Woodcock at McCook lake in 1896 or 1897. This is a very rare species in this region.

46. Wilson's Snipe. *Gallinago delicata*. Mr. Ludeke gives the following note: "Wilson's Snipe arrive in Union county about April 1st—some have been shot at the Loblolly this early. They appear again in fair numbers about the end of August and remain until the ice forms in October. In spring and fall migrations they can be classed as plentiful."

47. Long-billed Dowitcher. *Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaceus*. Noted at Lancaster slough on May 20, 1911 (Townsend). Of course, of the two subspecies it is assumed that *scolopaceus* is more probable.

48. Stilt Sandpiper. *Micropalama himantopus*. Noted at Lancaster slough on May 20, 1911 (Townsend).

49. Pectoral Sandpiper. *Pisobia maculata*. A common migrant. On September 26, 1914, the writer saw two at McCook lake. On August 26, 1917, Messrs. Allen and Luckde saw a flock of twelve, amongst a large mixed flock of sandpipers, at the same place.

50. Least Sandpiper. *Pisobia minutilla*. A flock of considerable size was noted at McCook lake on August 26, 1917 (Allen and Ludcke). The writer also has one record for the same place on September 26, 1914.

51. Semipalmated Sandpiper. *Ereuntes pusillus*. A number were noted among the large flock of sandpipers on August 26, 1917 (Allen and Ludcke).

52. Hudsonian Godwit. *Limosa haemastica*. One was shot at McCook lake by Chas. Sangster on May 14, 1896 (Rich). Doctor Rich and Rev. M. B. Townsend saw a flock of five at Lancaster slough on May 27, 1911. Mr. Townsend had noted them in the same place one week earlier.

53. Yellow-legs. *Totanus flavipes*. A common migrant.

54. Upland Plover. Bartramian Sandpiper. *Bartramia longicauda*. Mr. Allen reports seeing one on August 16, 1917, in the fields east of McCook lake. His son told him that there were others of the same kind farther over the fields.

55. Spotted Sandpiper. *Actitis macularius*. A common summer resident.

56. Long-billed Curlew. *Numenius americanus*. On October 25, 1914, Mr. A. J. Anderson was on a sandbar in Missouri river

opposite Union county. Two of these Curlews flew in from the north and alighted for a moment on the bar.

57. Black-bellied Plover. *Squatarola squatarola*. This species is still seen in small numbers on the sandbars in Missouri river opposite Union county. The writer has definite records of several being taken. They come through during the last week of October.

58. Killdeer. *Oryzochus vociferus*. A common summer resident.

59. Semipalmated Plover. *Aegialitis semipalmata*. Three were noted at McCook lake on August 26, 1917 (Allen and Ludeke). A flock of four were seen at Goodenough lake on May 1, 1918 (Anderson and Stephens).

60. Ruddy Turnstone. *Arenaria interpres morinella*. Several were noted at Lancaster slough on May 20, 1911, by Rev. M. B. Townsend.

61. Bobwhite. *Colinus virginianus*. This species is still present but in very limited numbers. On some of the timbered lands near Goodenough lake the farmers give it protection, and there it may be found. During the writer's own excursions into Union county within the last eight years he has come across it only four times.

62. Prairie Chicken. *Tympanuchus americanus*. The following note from Mr. Ludeke gives the status: "The Prairie Chicken strays into the district around the Loblolly and McCook lake occasionally, but can be slated as decidedly scarce." The writer flushed a single bird along the shore of McCook lake on March 24, 1918.

63. Mourning Dove. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*. A common summer resident.

64. Marsh Hawk. *Circus hudsonius*. A tolerably common migrant and summer resident.

65. Red-tailed Hawk. *Buteo borealis*. Noted on March 3, 1918, at McCook lake (Allen).

66. Sparrow Hawk. *Falco sparverius*. Noted as follows: On April 22, 1911 (Stephens); April 1, 1917 (Allen and Ludeke); and on April 14, 1918 (Allen, Ludeke, Stephens).

67. Osprey. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. This species is a frequent visitor at McCook lake, where it was seen in the fall of 1914 (two by Ludeke), and on April 25, 1915 (Allen and Ludeke). In 1918 it was noted on April 21 (Allen) and on May 1 (Stephens). The following specimens have been mounted by Mr. Anderson:

April 19, 1897, one from McCook lake.
 September 14, 1904, one from McCook lake.
 September 27, 1905, one from McCook lake.
 October 5, 1914, one from McCook lake.
 May 6, 1915, one from McCook lake.

68. Western Horned Owl. *Bubo virginianus occidentalis* Stone. Mr. Allen saw one of these light colored Horned Owls in the woods near McCook lake on March 3, 1918. Some facts on the abundance of this race during the winter of 1917-18 in the upper Missouri valley are recorded in another paper by the writer. There can be no doubt that two forms which are so different as the light and dark colored *Bubos* which occur here should be in some way distinctively designated. However, whether it should be done by means of binomialism or trinomialism is one of the difficult zoological problems not yet satisfactorily settled.

69. Snowy Owl. *Nyctea nyctea*. On December 21, 1917, a "white" owl was killed near McCook lake by farmers, because, they claimed, it had been taking chickens. The winter of 1917-18 marked a wonderful visitation of Snowy Owls in this general region. Some forty records were obtained during the winter and spring. A full report will be made in another paper.

70. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. *Coccyzus americanus*. A common summer resident.

71. Black-billed Cuckoo. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. Not to be compared in abundance with the preceding. The only record is one seen on May 17, 1918 (Stephens).

72. Belted Kingfisher. *Ceryle alcyon*. A common summer resident.

73. Hairy Woodpecker. *Dryobates villosus*. Tolerably common in both summer and winter, and probably breeds.

74. Downy Woodpecker. *Dryobates pubescens*. A common resident. *Medianus* is the subspecies listed for this locality.

75. Red-headed Woodpecker. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. A common summer resident.

76. Northern Flicker. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. A common summer and occasional winter resident.

77. Whip-poor-will. *Antrostomus vociferus*. The only note the writer has is from Mr. Ludeke, who states that Dr. Gould has heard it calling in the vicinity of McCook lake. There seems no reason why they should not be there in abundance, for the writer has heard them calling on the Iowa side of the Big Sioux, and has estimated the presence of fifteen or twenty birds.

78. Nighthawk. *Chordeiles virginianus*. May 30, 1915 (Allen); June 2, 1918 (Stephens).

79. Chimney Swift. *Chaetura pelagica*. One individual, which had probably strayed over from the city, was noted near Big Sioux river on May 20, 1918 (Stephens).

80. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. *Archilochus colubris*. Noted on August 26, 1916 (Allen), and on August 28, 1916 (Stephens).

81. Kingbird. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. A common summer resident.

82. Arkansas Kingbird. *Tyrannus verticalis*. A common summer resident, though less numerous than the preceding species.

83. Crested Flycatcher. *Myiarchus crinitus*. July 11, 1915 (Allen). In 1918 found in McCook lake woods, and probably breeding (Allen and Stephens).

84. Phoebe. *Sayornis phoebe*. A common summer resident

85. Olive-sided Flycatcher. *Nuttallornis borealis*. This species was found just in time to be included in this list, viz., on June 2, 1918. The writer had previously doubted its occurrence here. On this occasion the bird, which was at once recognized as a strange flycatcher, was perched upon the topmost branch of a dead tree located in the dense portion of the woods bordering McCook lake. It made frequent sallies out over the tree-tops, returning to the same perch or to similar ones nearby. It was easy to eliminate *verticalis* and *crinitus* because of the absence of yellow on the underparts. *Tyrannus* was eliminated because of the absence of the white-tipped tail. This bird sat in

a very erect attitude, and was distinguished from other flycatchers of similar size by its relatively short tail and robust fore part of the body. The dark grayish sides were very distinct, and stood out in strong contrast to the median line of white, which, however, showed a noticeable tinge of yellow or straw color. This field record was made jointly by Dr. Rich, Messrs. Allen, Anderson, Ludeke, and the writer. Visher lists this species as a "rare migrant" for Clay county, and we grade it in the same terms for Union county.

86. Wood Pewee. *Myiochanes virens*. A common summer resident.

87. Acadian Flycatcher. Green-crested Flycatcher. *Empidonax virescens*. A specimen was taken on June 2, 1918, in the McCook lake woods.⁸ We do not know much about the abundance of this species here, but it is believed to be rather uncommon.

88. Least Flycatcher. *Empidonax minimus*. Noted on May 12 and 15, 1918 (Allen), and on May 17 and 20, 1918 (Stephens). This is a tolerably common species here and, no doubt, breeds.

88. Prairie Horned Lark. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. This is a common species throughout the year. Mr. Allen has seen it in March, in the plowed fields near McCook lake in numbers estimated at about seventy individuals. It is one of the earliest birds to breed.

89. Bluejay. *Cyanocitta cristata*. A common summer resident.

90. Crow. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. A common resident.

91. Cowbird. *Molothrus ater*. A common summer resident.

92. Yellow-headed Blackbird. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. An abundant migrant, which also breeds in the upper end of Goodenough lake.

93. Red-winged Blackbird. *Agelaius phoenicius*. A common summer resident.

94. Western Meadow Lark. *Sturnella neylecta*. A common summer resident.

95. Orchard Oriole. *Icterus spurius*. A common summer resident.

96. Baltimore Oriole. *Icterus galbula*. A common summer resident.

97. Bronzed Grackle. *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*. A common summer resident.

98. Goldfinch. *Astragalinus tristis*. A common summer resident.

99. Pine Siskin. *Spinus pinus*. Noted April 18, 1915 (Allen).

100. Lapland Longspur. *Calcarius lapponicus*. Rare in this locality if one may judge from the lack of records. Rev. M. B. Townsend furnishes the only record, viz., April 1, 1911, in the fields near McCook lake.

101. Vesper Sparrow. *Pooecetes gramineus*. Five noted near McCook lake on April 22, 1911 (Stephens), and two on May 12, 1918 (Allen). Visher lists the subspecies *confinis* for Clay county, but a specimen from the Sioux City area was identified some years ago by Ridgway as *gramineus*, as indicated in the notes of Dr. Rich.

102. Savannah Sparrow. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. Noted April 22, 1911 (Stephens), and several times during first week in May, 1918 (Allen, Stephens).

103. Lark Sparrow. *Chondestes grammacus*. Noted April 25, 1915 (Allen); numerous records in May, 1918 (Allen, Stephens).

104. Harris Sparrow. *Zonotricha querula*. A common or abundant migrant from the middle of March to the middle of May (Allen, Ludcke, Stephens). Numerous October records by Allen.

105. White-throated Sparrow. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. Noted on April 11, 1915 (Allen), and on May 7, 1917 (Mrs. H. J. Taylor). Several spring records in 1918.

106. Tree Sparrow. *Spizella monticola*. A common winter visitor.

107. Chipping Sparrow. *Spizella passerina*. A tolerably common summer resident.

108. Clay-colored Sparrow. *Spizella pallida*. Noted on April 28, 1915 (Allen); numerous records in May, 1918 (Allen, Stephens).

109. Field Sparrow. *Spizella pusilla*. An abundant migrant and common summer resident.

110. Slate-colored Junco. *Junco hyemalis*. A common winter visitor.

111. Song Sparrow. *Melospiza melodia*. A common migrant, not known to breed.

112. Lincoln's Sparrow. *Melospiza lincolni*. A common migrant.

113. Fox Sparrow. *Passerella iliaca*. Noted on October 29, 1916, and April 8, 1917 (Allen); April 15, 1917 (Stephens); March 25, 1918 (Mrs. Bailey); and on April 8 and 14, 1918 (Stephens).

114. Towhee. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. A common summer resident.

115. Cardinal. *Cardinal cardinalis*. The Cardinal has become very well established as a permanent resident in this county (Union). It will probably remain and increase so long as sufficient patches of timber with undergrowth exist to furnish shelter and breeding sites.

116. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. *Zamelodia ludoviciana*. A common summer resident.

117. Indigo Bunting. *Passerina cyanea*. "Breeds at McCook lake every year, but is hardly common." (Allen.)

118. Dickcissel. *Spiza americana*. A common summer resident.

119. Scarlet Tanager. *Piranga erythromelas*. A tolerably common migrant, which may also breed.

120. Purple Martin. *Progne subis*. A small colony has occupied a martin house at one of the cottages on McCook lake each summer since 1915.

121. Cliff Swallow. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. Noted September 6, 1917 (Mrs. Bailey). No nests have been observed within the area.

122. Barn Swallow. *Hirundo erythrogaster*. A common summer resident (Allen).

123. Tree Swallow. *Iridoprocne bicolor*. Noted April 25, 1915 (Allen). Numerous records in April and May, 1918.

124. Bank Swallow. *Riparia riparia*. A common summer resident (Allen). Large migrating flocks observed in May, 1918. Breeds.

125. Rough-winged Swallow. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Two noted on May 5, 1918 (Allen). Found apparently nesting in bank near McCook lake late in May, 1918. More common along Big Sioux river, where the banks afford nesting sites.

126. Bohemian Waxwing. *Bombycilla garrula*. Noted on April 18, 1915 (W. J. Hayward).

127. Cedar Waxwing. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. Large numbers were seen in the woods by McCook lake through March, April, and May, 1918 (Allen, Ludeke, Stephens).

128. Red-eyed Vireo. *Vireosylva olivacea*. A common summer resident (Allen). Perhaps less numerous than the next species (Stephens).

129. Warbling Vireo. *Vireo gilva*. A common summer resident.

130. Blue-headed Vireo. *Lanivireo solitarius*. Noted on September 6 and 17, 1917 (Mrs. Bailey); and on May 10, 1918 (Mrs. F. J. Hayden). Migrant only.

131. Bell's Vireo. *Vireo belli*. A common summer resident.

132. Black and White Warbler. *Mniotilta varia*. Noted on September 6, 1917 (Mrs. Bailey), and on May 12 and 15, 1918 (Allen).

133. Tennessee Warbler. *Vermivora peregrina*. Noted on May 16, 1915 (Allen). Common in May, 1918 (Allen, Stephens).

134. Yellow Warbler. *Dendroica aestiva*. A common summer resident.

135. Myrtle Warbler. *Dendroica coronata*. A common migrant.

136. Magnolia Warbler. *Dendroica magnolia*. A tolerably common migrant.

137. Black-poll Warbler. *Dendroica striata*. A tolerably common migrant in May, 1918 (Mrs. Bailey, Allen, Stephens).

138. Palm Warbler. *Dendroica palmarum*. Noted on May 7, 1917, by Mrs. F. J. Hayden. Several other records were obtained the same spring in adjacent counties.

139. Grinnell's Water Thrush. *Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*. Noted on May 12, 1918, in vicinity of McCook lake (Allen).

140. Maryland Yellow-throat. *Geothlypis trichas*. A common summer resident.

141. Yellow-breasted Chat. *Icteria virens*. Noted in summer of 1916 in woods on west shore of Goodenough lake, and on May 15, 1918, in woods near McCook lake, by Mr. Allen.

142. Wilson's Warbler. *Wilsonia pusilla*. Noted by Mrs. Bailey on May 14, 1918, in woods along Big Sioux river.

143. Redstart. *Setophaga ruticilla*. A common migrant, and tolerably common summer resident according to Mr. Allen's notes.

144. Catbird. *Dumetella carolinensis*. A common summer resident.

145. Brown Thrasher. *Torostoma rufum*. A common summer resident.

146. Western House Wren. *Troglodytes aedon parkmani*. A common summer resident.

147. Brown Creeper. *Certhia familiaris americana*. Noted on October 29, 1916, and on April 7, 1918 (Allen).

148. White-breasted Nuthatch. *Sitta carolinensis*. A common winter visitor, and may breed sparingly.

149. Black-capped Chickadee. *Penthestes atricapillus*. A common summer resident and winter visitor.

150. Golden-crowned Kinglet. *Regulus satrapa*. Noted on April 1, 1917 (Allen and Ludcke), and on April 7, 1918 (Allen).

151. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. *Regulus calendula*. Noted on May 7, 1917 (Mrs. Taylor); on October 14, 1917 (Allen); and on April 28, 1918 (Stephens).

152. Wood Thrush. *Hylocichla mustelina*. A common summer resident.

153. Olive-backed Thrush. *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*. An abundant migrant.

154. Robin. *Planesticus migratorius*. A common summer resident.

155. Bluebird. *Sialia sialis*. A common summer resident.

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