

Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science

Volume 26 | Annual Issue

Article 9

1919

The Birds of Marshall County, Iowa, II

Ira N. Gabrielson

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Copyright ©1919 Iowa Academy of Science, Inc.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias>

Recommended Citation

Gabrielson, Ira N. (1919) "The Birds of Marshall County, Iowa, II," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 26(1), 47-75.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol26/iss1/9>

This Research is brought to you for free and open access by the Iowa Academy of Science at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

THE BIRDS OF MARSHALL COUNTY, IOWA, II¹

IRA N. GABRIELSON

77. *Coccyzus americanus americanus*. Yellow billed Cuckoo. A common summer resident from May 9 to October 7. The yellow-bill seemed to be much more common than the black-bill. Nests were found May 30, 1914, two eggs; June 25, 1914, four eggs; August 3, 1914, two eggs; June 26, 1915, three fledged young. Of these the May 30 nest was in a bushy little elm which had been broken off and sprouts had grown out. This nest was about six inches from the ground and was later destroyed by high water. The nest of June 25, 1914, was on a broken over elm about twelve feet from the ground. The one found August 3, 1914, was in a willow tree about ten feet from the ground, and the one on June 26, 1915, was in a gooseberry bush about two feet from the ground.

78. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. Black-billed Cuckoo. The black-billed cuckoo was a less common summer resident than the yellow-bill. My earliest record is May 22 and the latest September 18. On June 2, 1914, a nest of this species containing four eggs was discovered by Harry Mann who guided me to the spot. It was built within two feet of the ground and was destroyed by a sudden freshet June 8.

79. *Ceryle alcyon*. Kingfisher. A common summer resident from March 28 to October 24. Fledgling young were a common sight in July or August. The writer watched a pair carrying food into a hole during the last week in June, 1914, but neglected to note the date. These nest holes were not uncommon along Iowa river.

80. *Dryobates villosus villosus*. Hairy Woodpecker. A tolerably common permanent resident most frequently recorded during the winter months. The writer has two nesting records. On June 5, 1915, a pair were watched carrying food into a hole high in an elm tree on Linn creek. The young birds could be heard calling almost continuously. On June 28, 1915, one of the boys at a boy scout camp cut down a willow and after the tree had fallen the discovery was made that it contained a brood of three nearly fledged Hairy Woodpeckers that were killed by the fall.

81. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*. Downy Woodpecker. The downy woodpecker was found to be a common permanent resident.

In 1914 during the warm balmy days of early February, the downies commenced the flight evolutions so noticeable in mating season. Cold weather followed this warm spell and this behavior was not again noted until early April. The writer failed to note the nests found. Consequently the only breeding record found in his notebooks is a nest of four fully fledged young found in the Marshalltown cemetery June 2, 1915. The nestlings left the nest at about noon of June 3.

82. *Sphyrapicus varius varius*. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A common spring migrant between April 6 and May 22 and a tolerably common fall migrant from September 7 to October 15. These birds come back to the same trees year after year and make their peculiar square punctures for the sake of the sap. In the cemetery the various conifers seemed to be favorites and along the streets maple (*Acer*) was more often attacked than others.

83. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Red-headed Woodpecker. An abundant summer resident and breeder from April 29 to October 4 and a rare and irregular winter resident. During the winter of 1913-1914 a little band of at least eight birds wintered in the cemetery at Marshalltown. (Wilson Bul., Vol XXVI, p. 104.) One or more of these were seen on every visit to this locality during the winter months. Eight, seen on March 17, 1914, was the greatest number found on one day until the migrants arrived May 1. In 1915, a single bird appeared in the same place on April 1 and remained there alone until April 29 when a large number of migrants arrived. This bird had probably wintered somewhere in the vicinity.

On May 31, 1913, the writer watched a pair at work on a nesting hole, and on June 7 found five eggs in this nest. They nested commonly along the streets of Marshalltown as well as in the woodland along the river. Several nests were seen in telephone poles. On June 24, 1914, two nests were found containing young, and the parents were observed to catch and carry crickets to them. On June 10, a nest was discovered in a stump about six feet high. This nest was located near the entrance to the Iowa Soldiers' home where hundreds of people daily passed within ten feet of it. The birds did not seem to mind them as they passed in and out to feed the young without hesitation.

These woodpeckers have very versatile feeding habits. It is no uncommon sight to see them in company with the grackles catching grasshoppers and other ground living insects. They also are expert at flycatching and often feed in this manner. I frequently saw²

them take cherries or mulberries to a roof or tree, lodge them in a crevice or crack and proceed to pick them to pieces. One was seen to catch a cicada on the wing one day, but this probably was an accident. On August 10, 1914, while beating a bunch of hazel bushes I disturbed a cicada which flew off buzzing loudly. It had not gone more than twenty or thirty feet when a red-head seized it and carried it off. The woodpecker was apparently just flying past, and the cicada unluckily flew in its path as the bird did not appreciably alter its course. The woodpecker certainly was not pursuing the insect as it was flying along in regular woodpecker fashion and not flying as the red-head does when fly-catching on the wing.

84. *Centurus carolinus*. Red-bellied Woodpecker. This species was not found during the summer months but appeared in small numbers from August 22 to May 23, being observed in greater numbers in April and November than any other months. It is possible that it bred rarely, but the writer never found it. One was taken April 4, 1913. One wintered in 1913-1914 in company with a band of red-headed woodpeckers. (See Wilson Bul., Vol. XXVI, p. 104.)

85. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. Flicker. The flicker was a permanent resident found in abundance March 8 to October 2 and in small numbers during the remainder of the year. Like the red-headed woodpecker they nested commonly along the streets of Marshalltown in trees or telephone poles. Nests with young were examined on June 24, 1914, and June 2, 1915. On July 3, 1915, several broods of young flickers were noted flying about the lawns, but still being fed by the regurgitative method.

86. *Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*. Whip-poor-will. A locally common summer resident from May 3 to September 10. Along Iowa river above Clay Bluffs and at Mormons Ridge they could be heard calling every evening in June and July. On June 27, 1915, Hartly Vogt found a nest containing two newly hatched young. This was below Marshalltown on Iowa river. Other nests were reported at Clay Bluffs.

87. *Chordeiles virginianus virginianus*. Night Hawk. A common summer resident from May 12 to September 26, nesting regularly on buildings in Marshalltown. On June 30, 1914, a nest containing two partly grown young was found on a building and a second nest was seen in the same sort of a situation on July 17, 1915. The young sat among the gravel stones on the roof and were hard to distinguish as long as they remained motionless.

In the fall flocks of considerable size are often seen sweeping back and forth over the country. On August 19, 1914, fifty-eight birds were counted in such a flock.

88. *Chætura pelagica*. Chimney Swift. An abundant summer resident from April 22 to October 1. The only nest seen was one found in June, 1914, in the chimney of a small cottage. It contained two young at the time of my visit.

89. *Archilochus colubris*. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. A tolerably common summer resident from May 7 to September 27. During September flocks of from four to six were frequently found in a small swamp north of the cemetery at Marshalltown. I never found the nest of this species in the county. On June 25, 1915, at Mormons Ridge a pair were found about a group of three or four oaks. Their behavior indicated that they had a nest in the vicinity, but it could not be found. On June 30 this pair was accompanied by a third,—evidently a young bird, as they flew about this grove.

90. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Kingbird. An abundant summer resident from May 2 to September 1. The kingbird nests more often in the groves about farmyards than anywhere else. This is another common species whose nests the writer neglected to note in the majority of cases. One nest containing four eggs was found June 6, 1913, and on July 4, 1915, a pair were discovered building a nest. This nest contained three eggs when visited again on July 16.

91. *Myiarchus crinitus*. Crested Flycatcher. The crested flycatcher is a common migrant and tolerably common breeding species from May 3 to September 7. A pair regularly built among some giant cottonwoods in the Iowa river bottom but the nest was not examined owing to its height. On June 20, 1914, a nest containing eggs was pointed out to be me by a small boy. This nest was closely watched and the results of the study have been reported elsewhere.²

92. *Sayornis phæbe*. Phœbe. A common summer resident from March 28 to October 12. A pair of phœbes nested every year in a vault in the Marshalltown cemetery. This pair had a completed nest May 4, 1913, as did another pair nesting under a bridge. On April 9, 1914, this pair was back again and starting to carry building material into the vault. No note was made of the 1915 dates. A new nest was constructed each year and from the number of fragmentary nests found in this vault they had been breeding there for

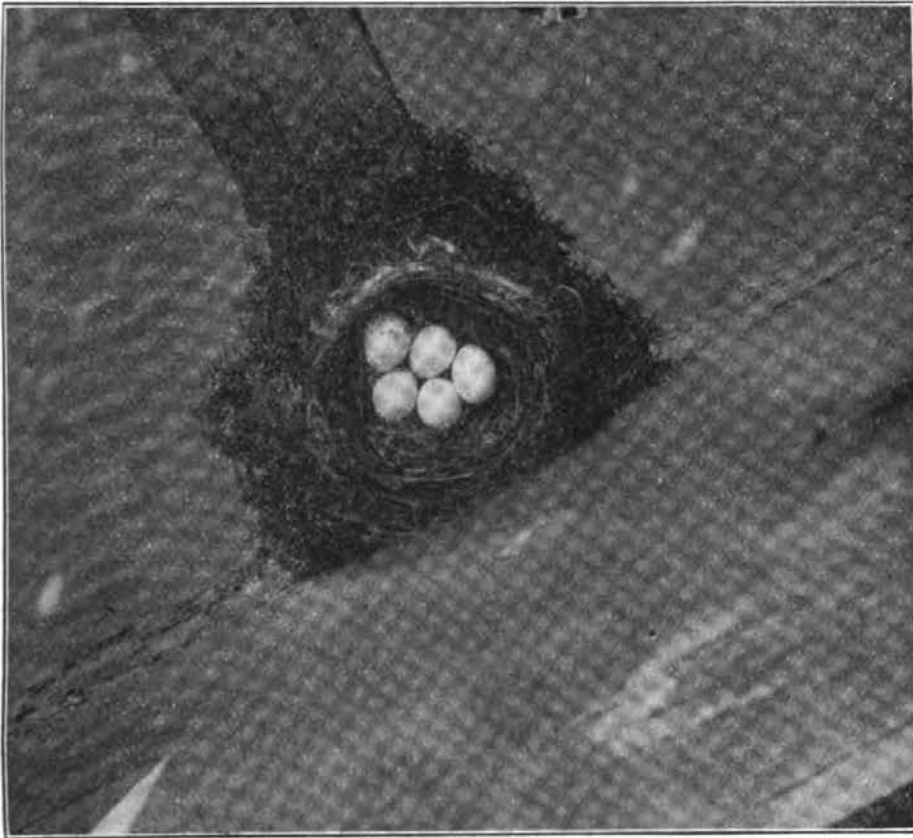


FIG. 1.—Nest and eggs of the Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*).

at least four or five years. On July 5, 1914, a nest was found containing five which hatched July 8. At least two broods were raised each season in this locality.

93. *Nuttallornis borealis*. Olive-sided Flycatcher. A rare spring migrant May 2 to May 22. It was not noted in the fall. My first record for the region was a female collected May 2, 1913. It was recorded on May 10, 12, 17 of that year, May 3, 1914, and May 22, 1915. Single birds were recorded on each of these dates except the last when two were seen.

94. *Myiochanes virens*. Wood Pewee. The wood pewee was a locally common summer resident wherever suitable conditions were found. Its earliest appearance was May 9 and the latest record is September 13. The plaintive whistle of this bird was regularly heard about the woodlands, but only one nest was discovered. This one, containing three eggs, was found at Mormons Ridge on June 30, 1915. It was saddled on a branch of an elm tree and was about fifteen feet from the ground.

95. *Empidonax flaviventris*. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. The small flycatchers of this group are all seemingly rather uncommon about Marshalltown. The yellow-bellied flycatcher was found only twice. On May 24, 1913, the writer collected two of this species. These birds were identified by Mr. H. C. Oberholser. On May 14, 1915, on the morning after a terrific hailstorm two more of these flycatchers were found among a number of birds picked up dead. Others were occasionally seen which might have been this species but none were positively identified.

96. *Empidonax trailli alnorum*. Alder Flycatcher. This species also appears to be uncommon. My first record is a specimen taken on September 12, 1913, and identified by Mr. H. C. Oberholser. Two more birds seen in the same spot on September 13 presumably were of this species as was another noted September 22, 1913. On May 22, 1915, one was taken and a number of others noted and on June 30 at Mormons Ridge a nest was found containing one egg. This nest was hung in some low bushes hanging over a little stream formed by a spring. The old bird was very tame and allowed us to approach within a few feet.

97. *Empidonax minimus*. Least Flycatcher. A common migrant from May 2 to June 2 and August 21 to September 20. Also an uncommon summer resident. A pair was seen about Mormons Ridge from June 25 to July 20, but no nest was found and no others were noted in the summer months.

98. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. Prairie-horned Lark. The prairie-horned larks were common permanent residents. They were more in evidence in March than any other season of the year. They commence to sing freely about March 1 (earliest date Feb. 28, 1914) and are quite conspicuous in the fields and meadows for the next two weeks. A brood of fledglings in the spotted plumage was noted July 8, 1915. A nest evidently of this species was described to me by a schoolboy in April, 1915, but it had been destroyed at the time of my visit. My winter specimens were all identified as this subspecies by H. C. Oberholser.

99. *Cyanocitta cristata cristata*. Blue Jay. A very common permanent resident. They nest commonly in Marshalltown in the trees along the streets but are so quiet that they are not often discovered. One nest found May 30, 1913, contained four eggs.

It was situated low down in a hawthorne tree and was the only nest actually inspected.

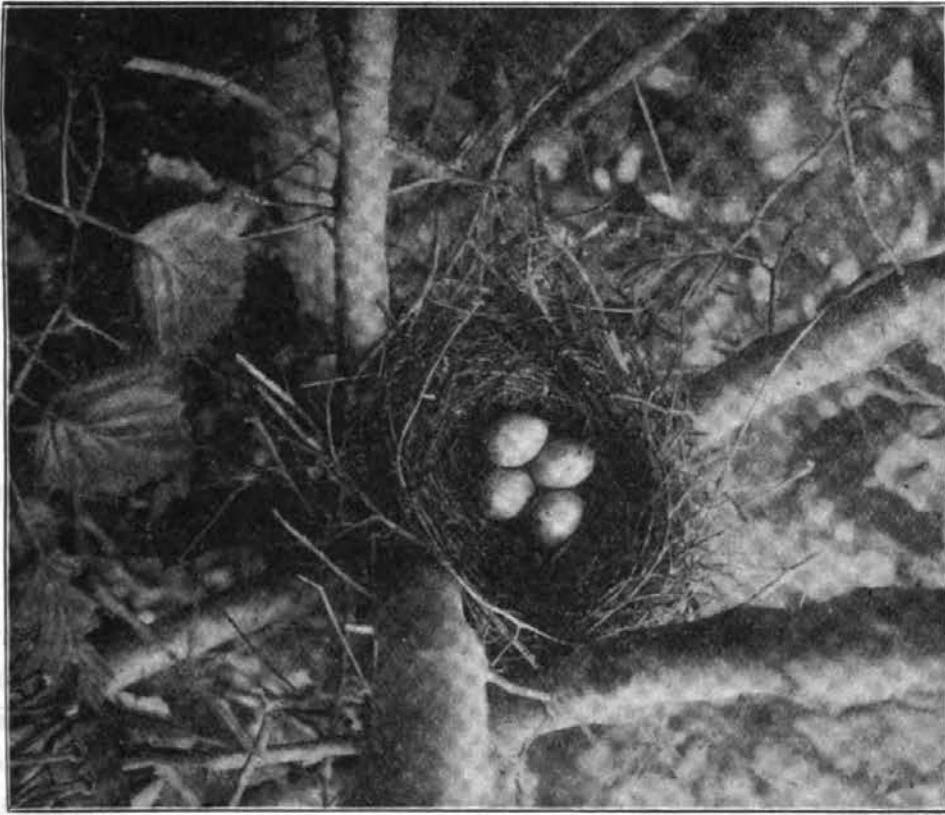


FIG. 2.—Nest and eggs of the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*).

One pair of birds were seen industriously filling a large crack in a maple tree by wedging acorns in it. This particular piece of industry brought them no return as the fox squirrels discovered the store and promptly devoured it.

100. *Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*. Crow. Another abundant permanent resident. They nested commonly along the river but their nests were usually so high up as to be inaccessible. The writer frequently saw them carrying sticks in March. On March 22, 1913, three partly completed nests were found. A female was found incubating a set of four eggs on May 10, 1913. On May 12 three young were found. This nest was visited May 17, 24 and 30 and photographs were taken of the young on each visit. On the 30th they had left the nest. On the third visit (May 17) the nestlings were of a dirty color with great blue pin feathers partly covering the body. On May 24 they were completely feathered out and were gone by the 31st. The old birds were never seen or heard during the various visits to this nest after May 10 when one was flushed from the nest.

There was a great deal of complaint against the crow but few evidences of serious depredations came to my notice in this region. Corn fields or vegetable gardens lying along the timber are more or less subject to attack and two cases where serious loss was occasioned were investigated. Both were near the woodland along Iowa river. On August 5, 1914, they were found to be pecking open watermelons as fast as they ripened. There were certainly several hundred melons damaged, in this field. Scarecrows had no effect in preventing their visits.

On August 10, 1914, and on several subsequent dates the writer found a flock of several hundred crows frequenting a corn field of thirty acres. A careful count of the ears showed that about forty-five per cent of the ears had been more or less damaged.

An interesting performance by a flock of crows was witnessed on December 1, 1913. I was standing in a dense clump of willows when my attention was drawn to a huge flock of crows some distance away and high in the air. Instead of flying in straggling crow fashion they were in a compact and orderly group and while I was watching they went through curious evolutions cawing noisily all the time. These evolutions were unlike any I had ever seen in gathering at a roost or on any other occasion. The flock wheeled, split and circled in opposite directions and then united again. This maneuver was repeated several times intermingled with others. The entire performance lasted from five to ten minutes after which the flock broke up and the birds flew off in various directions.

101. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Bobolink. During 1913 and 1914 the bobolink appeared only as a rare migrant being noted only on May 17 and 24 in 1913 and May 10 and September 7 in 1914. In 1915 the species appeared in some numbers and bred in the fields from which they had been absent the two previous years. In 1915 they were first seen on May 22 and the last date was September 5. Singing males were noted frequently, but only one nest was actually found. This was discovered on June 9, 1915, and contained five eggs.

102. *Molothrus ater ater*. Cowbird. The cowbird is an abundant summer resident from March 31 to November 4 except in the month of September for which month I have no records. A

BIRDS OF MARSHALL COUNTY

55

male and female were taken April 25, 1913. The eggs of this parasite were found in the nests of the following species:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Red-winged Blackbird. | 7. Red-eyed Vireo. |
| 2. Larksparrow. | 8. Yellow Warbler. |
| 3. Field Sparrow. | 9. Ovenbird. |
| 4. Cardinal. | 10. Redstart. |
| 5. Dickcissel. | 11. Wood Thrush. |
| 6. Scarlet Tanager. | |

103. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Yellow-headed Blackbird. Although the yellow head breeds abundantly in northern Iowa it was noted only once in Marshall county. This was on May 8, 1914, when a flock of four were seen along Iowa river. It was reported by several observers as having bred in former years in a small swamp near the Country Club.

104. *Agelaius phœniceus predatorius*. Red-winged Blackbird. An abundant migrant and common breeding species from March 14 to November 18. All my skins were examined by Mr. H. C. Oberholser who pronounced them *predatorius*.

One nest found May 24, 1913, and two on May 30, 1913, were built on or near the ground on bogs about the Goose ponds. One found on June 8, 1915, was built in a bunch of weeds on the Soldiers' Home grounds. Several discovered on June 30, 1915, were built in cattails in a small swamp. On July 14, 1915, one was found built in the clover in the center of a large clover field. All others discovered in this locality were built in the small willows that border Iowa river and other streams. These different locations are mentioned in order to show the adaptability of this species in this region where normal nesting sites are not plentiful. The earliest date on which eggs were found was May 24 and the latest July 14.

This species was the worst sufferer from the sudden flooding of the lowlands on June 8, 1914. Sixteen eggs of this species were picked out of one small mass of drift after the water went down and many nests lower down stream were known to have been flooded.

105. *Sturnella magna magna*. Meadowlark. Both the eastern and western meadowlarks were common about Marshalltown and the writer was never able to decide which was the more abundant. Both species were often singing at the same time and the contrast was striking. In behavior the two species are much the same. The Meadowlark was found commonly from March 14 to October 25. One was collected March 28, 1914.

Although all the meadowlark nests found happened to belong to the other species, there is no doubt that *magna* breeds. It was present and in song until well into July, and adults were frequently seen carrying a beakful of insects.

106. *Sturnella neglecta*. Western Meadowlark. A common summer resident from March 15 to November 1 and a rare winter resident. Two birds spent the winter of 1914-1915 about a straw stack on the farm of Mr. Henry Friese. These birds fed around the stack and in the barnyard and spent the night in holes in the stack. Two were seen on February 10 and 11 north of town by W. Robinson. A nest containing two eggs was found May 14, 1914. No more were laid and these two hatched May 21. On May 24, 1914, Harry Mann guided me to a nest containing seven eggs and I took some photographs of it. These eggs hatched sometime after May 24 and before June 8 as after the water receded from its high level after the freshet the seven young and an adult were found drowned in the nest. The water had come high enough to cover the nest with about four inches of water.

107. *Icterus spurius*. Orchard Oriole. A rare and local summer resident. Previous to 1915 a single bird noted on August 27, 1913, was the only record for the county. On June 15, 1915, a singing male was found in a small orchard. Two pairs of birds later nested in this orchard and built four nests, two of which never contained eggs. One containing two eggs was located June 21, 1915. On July 4 this nest contained three young which left the nest on July 7 although not yet able to fly. The second nest, containing five eggs, was found on July 10. All nests were swung between upright limbs of apple trees.

It is probable that other nesting pairs occur in similar places throughout the county, but they are very local and one misses them entirely unless he happens to visit the particular grove in which they nest.

108. *Icterus galbula*. Baltimore Oriole. The Baltimore oriole was an abundant summer resident from April 29 to September 7. The great elms found so commonly along the streets in Marshalltown were favorite nesting sites for these birds and scarcely a block of the trees could be found which did not contain one or more nesting pairs of this species. One partly completed nest was found May 10, 1913. It contained one egg on May 24 but was abandoned. On June 8, 1914, a nest containing several young was found low down in the cemetery and June 24, 1914, another containing four young was found within ten feet of the ground.

These were exceptional, however, as the nests were usually swung far out on the branches of the tallest trees.

109. *Euphagus carolinus*. Rusty Blackbird. The Rusty blackbirds were a common migrant from March 14 to May 11 and August 27 (?) to November 14. They usually associated with the immense flocks of red wings and grackles which roamed the country in fall and consequently their fall movements were difficult to detect.

110. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. Bronzed Grackle. An abundant summer resident from March 26 to November 8. In spring and fall migrations the grackles appeared in immense flocks often mingled with other species of blackbirds. They showed a marked preference for the groves about farm buildings and the writer never found them nesting in any other situation except for a few pairs found in the cemetery and on the lawns about town where conifers could be found. A nest containing four eggs was found on June 6, 1913. Twenty nests which were or had recently been occupied were found in one grove on May 31, 1915, and five occupied nests were seen in another grove on July 5, 1915. No detailed record was kept of others, but the birds were found nesting in practically every coniferous grove visited in this region.

As soon as the young are able to fly they commence to gather in flocks which roam the timber for a time and then begin to appear on the meadow lands. The first flocks of this kind were noted on July 5, 1914, and on June 22, in 1915.

111. *Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*. Evening Grosbeak. This species is included on the statement of Leonard Kellogg who reported seeing one in the Marshalltown cemetery on December 23, 1916. His description of the appearance and behavior of the bird are clear and accurate and I have no hesitation in adding it to the list.

112. *Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*. Purple Finch. The purple finch was a tolerably common spring and fall migrant from April 13 to May 19 and October 17 to November 23. It also appears as an uncommon winter resident. An adult male was found lying dead on the ice of Linn creek on January 13, 1914, and brought to me. A flock of four were feeding in a clump of ironwood trees (*Ostrya virginicana*) and one was collected. Its crop contained twenty-six seeds of ironwood.

113. *Acanthis linaria linaria*. Redpoll. Although the writer searched every winter for the redpoll he failed to find it. In the fall of 1916 Leonard Kellogg wrote that he had found them at

Marshalltown. On February 20, 1917, two specimens were received in the flesh from Vern Evans. These birds were collected on February 11, 1917. On March 3, L. Kellogg again wrote concerning their numbers and enclosed a copy of his notes. These show that the birds were present in varying numbers from November 25, 1916, to March 3, 1917.

114. *Astragalinus tristis tristis*. Goldfinch. The goldfinch was a common permanent resident, being most abundant from March 30 to November 1. There were several small springs along the river which usually remained open through the winter and flocks of goldfinches regularly remained there through the cold months. The only nest found was in a small cottonwood tree planted between the sidewalk and street. The nest was about ten feet from the ground and was not examined. The female was incubating when it was discovered July 29, 1914. On September 18 and 19, 1913, four goldfinch fledglings barely out of the nest were seen. These birds still had the nestling down about the head and could not fly over a few yards.

115. *Spinus pinus*. Pine Siskin. The only record for this species was from May 8 to 23, 1914. From the 13th to the 18th they were present in thousands all along the river. This flight was reported in the Wilson Bulletin (Vol. XXVII, p. 288, March, 1915).

116. *Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*. Lapland Longspur. The Lapland longspurs were recorded only twice, November 22, 1913, and December 5, 1914. They probably were regularly present in the open farming country but the writer was unable to make regular trips to favorable regions to look for them. On November 22 one was taken out of a huge flock. On December 5 only two were seen one of which was collected. This later bird was too badly damaged to make a skin.

117. *Pooectes gramineus gramineus*. Vesper Sparrow. A tolerably common resident from March 30 to October 16. I never found the nest of this species but include it among the breeding birds from observation of several broods of fledglings in July, 1915. The first of these was of a brood of four just from the nest on July 8. Several other broods of young were seen on the 13th and 15th.

118. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. Savannah Sparrow. A tolerably common migrant from April 3 to May 22 and October 6 to 25. It was never found in any numbers except on October 6 and 17, 1913, when it was common.

119. *Ammodramus savannarum australis*. Grasshopper Sparrow. A common summer resident from April 24 to September 24. The weak insect-like trill of this species was one of the most common bird songs heard along the country roads. The only nest seen was one from which the parent was flushed on June 4, 1914. This nest was in a field of timothy and contained six eggs.

120. *Passerherbulus lecontei*. Leconte Sparrow. A single bird, taken on October 8, 1913, is the only record I have for the county. Of three sparrows flushed from a tiny clump of willows in a depression in an oat field, one was collected and proved to be of this species.

121. *Chondestes grammacus grammacus*. Lark Sparrow. A common summer resident from April 8 to October 8. The lark



FIG. 3.—Nest and eggs of the Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes g. grammacus*). Nest contains also two Cowbird eggs.

sparrow was more in evidence in late April and early May than at any other season. Eugene McKibben found a nest and guided me to it on May 29, 1913. The nest contained four lark sparrow

and two cowbird eggs. Another nest was pointed out to me on June 8, 1914. This nest had been discovered a few days previous to this and had been washed from its position by heavy rains.

122. *Zonotrichia querula*. Harris Sparrow. A common migrant from May 3 to May 17 and from October 3 to 27. One peculiarity in the migration of this species impressed me. At Sioux City on Missouri river it regularly appeared about the middle of March, while at Marshalltown I searched carefully for them each year and failed to find them until May when they appeared in numbers.

123. *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*. White-crowned Sparrow. A rare spring migrant from May 4 to May 15. Four seen on May 14, 1913, is the greatest number noted on any one day. Two were taken on May 10, 1913. I failed to find it in the fall. It was recorded May 10, 12, and 14 in 1913, and May 4, 13, 14, 15, 1914. Single birds were seen on all dates except those mentioned above. The records of May 13, 14 and 15 were probably of the same bird as a single individual was noted about a little spring for three successive mornings during a cold stormy period. It was not seen in 1915.

124. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. White-throated Sparrow. An abundant migrant from April 9 to May 23 and from September 21 to November 12. During both spring and fall migration the white throated sparrow was one of the most abundant species found among the migrating hosts of sparrows. Between April 20 and May 14 they were usually at their maximum numbers. October 1 to 20 was the corresponding period of abundance for the fall period.

125. *Spizella monticola monticola*. Tree Sparrow. An abundant winter visitor from September 27 to April 14. The months of October, November, March and April were the periods of greatest abundance as many migrated farther south to spend the winter.

126. *Spizella passerina passerina*. Chipping Sparrow. An abundant summer resident from April 7 to October 12. In April the chipping sparrow was one of the most abundant migrating birds, appearing in enormous numbers with some of the migration waves. June 6, 1913, a nest containing four eggs was found and also one containing two nearly fledged young. The first was built in a spirea bush on a lawn in Marshalltown and the second in one of the lower branches of a large white pine. June 17, 1915, a nest

BIRDS OF MARSHALL COUNTY

61

containing two eggs was found in a small spruce in the Marshall-town cemetery.

127. *Spizella pallida*. Clay-colored Sparrow. The clay-colored sparrow was a tolerably common migrant from May 1 to 16. In the fall it was noted only once, September 22, 1913. It probably occurred regularly in the fall but was overlooked in the great flocks of migrating sparrows.

128. *Spizella pusilla pusilla*. Field Sparrow. An abundant summer resident from April 5 to October 18. The field sparrow nested commonly about bushy pastures and along the roadsides. Two nests found May 31, 1913, contained four eggs each; two

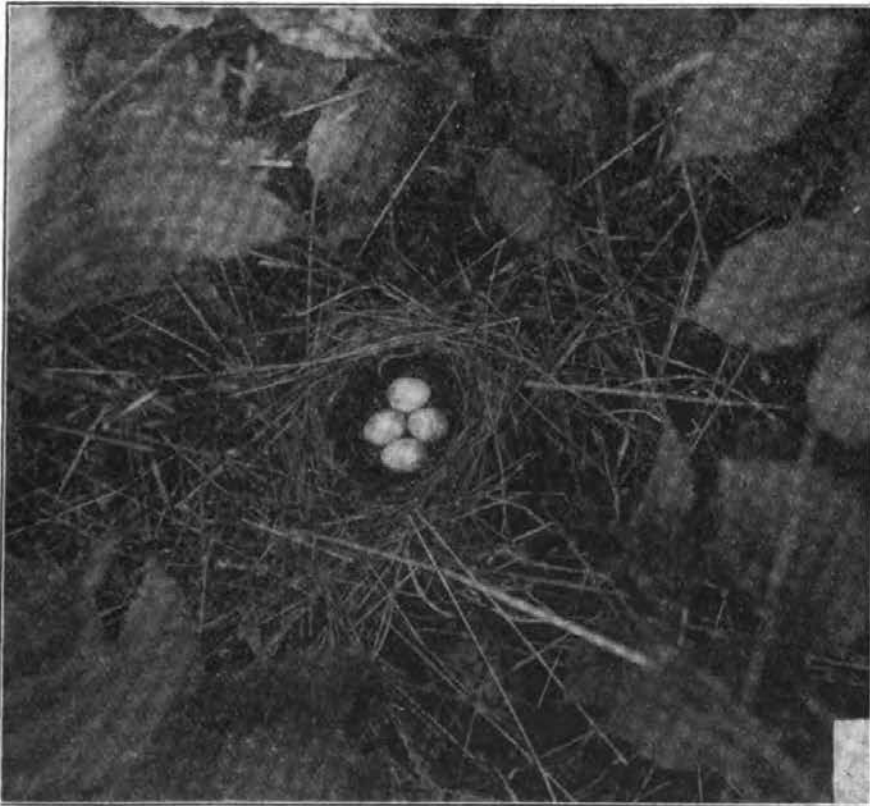


FIG. 4.—Field Sparrow (*Spizella p. pusilla*) nest in a hazelbush.

found in newly mown hay along the roadside June 25, 1914, each contained four eggs; a nest discovered May 7, 1915, contained two field sparrow eggs and two of the cowbird. One located June 28, 1915, had four eggs. All of these except the two cut down in the hay were built low down in hazel bushes. These two in the hay and the one built in weeds.

129. *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*. Junco. A common winter resident from September 22 to May 7. The periods of greatest abundance were October and early November during the fall migration and March and April in the spring. The great majority passed farther south to spend the winter but large flocks remained about the weed patches along the river. Next to the tree sparrow it was probably the most abundant winter bird.

130. *Melospiza melodia melodia*. Song Sparrow. An abundant summer resident from March 15 to November 12. No nests of this species were found in the county, and I neglected to record dates on which young birds were seen.

131. *Melospiza lincolni lincolni*. Lincoln's Sparrow. A tolerably common spring migrant from April 7 to 25 and a more abundant fall migrant, September 12 to October 18. This species was probably common at times but owing to the difficulty of picking it out among the great flocks of sparrows it often passed undetected.

132. *Melospiza georgiana*. Swamp Sparrow. A common migrant from April 4 to May 22 and September 12 to October 25. Sometimes appeared in large flocks, but usually it was inferior in numbers to song, field, fox, chipping and white-throated sparrows in the great migration flocks.

133. *Passerella iliaca iliaca*. Fox Sparrow. A common migrant from March 14 to April 15 and September 23 to October 30. In the spring the fox sparrow was usually abundant for only a few days. In 1913 and 1915 it did not arrive until April 1 and 2 respectively, and the last one seen was on April 13 in both seasons. In 1914 a few came on March 14 and small numbers were seen on every trip up to April 7, when they became common. The last one was noted on April 15.

134. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*. Chewink. A common summer resident from April 4 to October 14. The chewink was never found in great numbers, but a pair or two were seen on nearly every trip. No nests were found but on the camping trip at Mormons Lake, adults were frequently seen followed by young birds.

135. *Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis*. Cardinal. The cardinal was an increasingly common permanent resident. One nest was found May 24, 1913. This nest was built in a hawthorne tree in a dense thicket and contained one cardinal egg and two of the cowbird. Several pairs remained along the river and it was no uncommon thing to see from three to five birds in a day's tramp.

A brood of fledglings begging for food was found August 22, 1914.

BIRDS OF MARSHALL COUNTY

63

136. *Zamelodia ludoviciana*. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. An abundant summer resident from April 26 to September 27. From May 12 to 14, 1914, three grosbeaks were picked up dead on the streets of Marshalltown and brought to me and I found a fourth one. Examination indicated that they had been killed by striking something. This was the mating season and the males were furiously chasing each other through the tree tops. The telephone wires are placed along the streets beside the trees, often running between the branches, and it is probable that these wires were responsible for the destruction of these birds.

A completed nest was found May 14, 1915. The earliest date that I have for a nest with eggs was May 22, 1914 (one egg) and the latest was June 25, 1914, of a nest containing newly hatched young.

137. *Passerina cyanea*. Indigo Bunting. A common summer resident from May 3 to September 26. This species and the red-eyed vireo were the two conspicuous summer songsters of the region. Both sang persistently through the long hot summer days. A nest with two eggs was found by flushing the female from it on June 30, 1915, at Mormons Ridge. This nest was built in a tangle of vines and bushes along a fence.

138. *Spiza americana*. Dickcissel. A common summer resident from May 3 to August 21. A partly completed nest was found June 25, 1914, in a big thistle. On July 4 this nest contained four eggs and July 18 the young birds left the nest when I approached to examine it. A nest containing four young and a cowbird egg was found July 13, 1914, and one with three young on August 6, 1914. These nests were built in hazel bushes in open pasture.

139. *Piranga erythromelas*. Scarlet Tanager. An uncommon summer resident from May 3 to July 29. At times the scarlet tanager was quite common during May but was never found in numbers at any other time. A nest containing two eggs and one cowbird egg was found on June 26, 1915, at Mormons Ridge. It was a loosely woven structure of grass and roots and was about twelve feet from the ground in a small elm tree.

140. *Progne subis subis*. Purple Martin. An abundant summer resident from April 3 to September 7. They usually did not appear until about the middle of April and the bulk were gone by August 20. A large colony nested in the Court House tower and several smaller colonies were scattered about town in bird houses. No nests were actually opened and so no dates for egg laying can be

141. *Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*. Cliff Swallow. A rare spring migrant but common in the fall. I have only two records in spring, May 11, 1914, and May 22, 1915, but from August 3 to September 20 they are quite numerous in the great swallow flocks found over the meadowland. A farmer living north of Marshalltown informed me that a colony nested on his barn in 1914 and came back in 1915, but their nests were destroyed "because they made such a mess." The remains of one nest were still on the barn at the time of my visit on July 20, 1915.

142. *Hirundo erythrogastra*. Barn Swallow. The barn swallow is a common summer resident from April 23 to September 28. Almost every farm had one or more pairs of this swallow nesting about the buildings. Usually the nests were plastered on beams or rafters high up in the big hay barns and were consequently inaccessible. One containing four young was inspected June 29, 1915, at Mormons Ridge. The barn swallow was one of the most numerous species in the great fall flocks.

143. *Iridoprocne bicolor*. Tree Swallow. A tolerably common migrant from April 3 to May 29 and July 5 to September 28. One of the less common species, being greatly exceeded in numbers by the barn and bank swallows, and slightly outnumbered by the rough-winged swallow.

144. *Riparia riparia*. Bank Swallow. A common summer resident from April 15 to September 28. Many banks along the river were honeycombed with the nesting holes of this species. No attempt was made to dig any of them out and so definite nesting data are not available. In the spring migration this was the most abundant species and in the fall it equalled the barn swallow in numbers.

145. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Rough-winged Swallow. A common summer resident from April 23 to September 7. Ranked third in abundance among the swallows. Bred in the same situations as the bank swallow. A pair were noted feeding fledglings on July 10, 1915.

146. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. Cedar Waxwing. An irregular migrant sometimes appearing in great numbers. In 1913 they did not appear until May 10 and were then present in large flocks until June 7. In 1914 they appeared with the early robins, the first being noted on March 12. They were noted in small numbers until March 29. The only other spring record for 1914 was a flock of five seen on May 17. In 1915 a flock was noted on April 1 and the species was not again found until May 13, when a few appeared

and remained until May 23. The only summer records that I have are of a single bird August 10, 1914, and a pair July 27, 1915. Only scattered records were made during the fall as follows: September 18 and 19, 1913; September 17, 1914; October 8, 1913, and November 27, 1914.

147. *Lanius borealis*. Northern Shrike. The northern shrike was seen only twice, once March 29, 1913, and the second time March 30, 1914. Curiously enough both records were made in the same clump of dead trees. On the first occasion my attention was called to the bird by a rather pleasing but unfamiliar song. It is probably a more common visitor than my records show since I did not get out much in the winter into the open country.

148. *Lanius ludivicianus migrans*. Migrant Shrike. A tolerably common summer resident from April 5 to November 13. While never found in great numbers, the nest of this species was the most easily located of any breeding species. A solitary hawthorne found along a country road was almost certain to hold a nest. A nest containing five nearly fledged young was found May 29, 1913; a fully fledged family of four young was seen July 16, 1914; five nestlings were seen on May 23, 1915; a nest with three eggs found June 4, 1915, contained six eggs on June 8. One found June 21, 1915, contained five eggs and held five young on July 5 when visited. These nestlings were about five days old at this time.

149. *Vireosylva olivacea*. Red-eyed Vireo. Common summer resident from May 10 to September 22. The red-eyed vireo shared with the indigo bunting the honor of being the most persistent songster through the long hot summer days. Plenty of vireos' nests could be found after the leaves had fallen but the only occupied one ever discovered was one on Mormons Ridge June 29, 1915. When found the vireo was incubating three cowbird eggs. She subsequently left the nest and a close examination revealed the fact that it was a double nest which contained one cowbird egg in the bottom chamber. Thus four cowbird eggs had been laid in this vireo nest.

150. *Vireosylva philadelphica*. Philadelphia Vireo. A vireo shot for a warbling vireo on September 7, 1914, proved, when examined carefully, to be a Philadelphia vireo. This and another bird, September 18, 1914, are the only records I have for the county. Its close resemblance to the warbling vireo makes it difficult to determine its exact status in the region. It must, however, be credited as a rare migrant on the basis of the present data. This specimen secured on September 7, 1914, was identified by H. C. Oberholser.

151. *Vireosylva gilva gilva*. Warbling Vireo. A common summer resident from May 3 to September 18. It was found commonly about the town as well as in the timber. A complete nest was found June 28, 1915, at Mormons Ridge, but no eggs were found in it. All through June and July of 1914 two pair frequented a little patch of hazel and scrub oak, but the nests were never found, although the writer searched many times. In July one pair was seen feeding young in this patch so it is certain that they bred there.

152. *Laniivireo flavifrons*. Yellow-throated Vireo. An uncommon migrant from May 3 to May 22 and August 28 to September 22. It probably appeared more frequently than my notes show, especially in the fall.

153. *Laniivireo solitarius solitarius*. Blue-headed Vireo. A tolerably common migrant from April 29 to May 22 and August 20 to September 24. The blue-headed vireo was never abundant but was found regularly every season. Ten noted on September 18, 1914, was the greatest number ever found in one day.

154. *Vireo belli belli*. Bell's Vireo. The only definite record I have for this species is a single bird noted one morning on a busy street in Marshalltown. It was feeding in a small tree near the sidewalk and allowed me to approach within a few feet and watch it as long as I chose. Others were seen and heard which were supposed to be this species, but identification was not positive. This bird is most certainly more abundant than my records show.

155. *Mniotilta varia*. Black and White Warbler. The black and white warbler is a common migrant from April 29 to May 22 and from August 21 to September 18. It was most commonly noted in the spring migrations, probably because of the greater ease with which small birds can be detected at that season.

156. *Vermivora chrysoptera*. Golden-winged Warbler. The golden-winged warbler was a rare migrant both spring and fall. One was taken May 24, 1913, in a large patch of hawthorns. A second bird was seen on three successive days (May 11, 12 and 13, 1914) about a small spring in the Marshalltown cemetery (Wilson Bul., Vol. XXVI, p. 152, Sept., 1914). The third was a bird taken September 7, 1914.

157. *Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla*. Nashville Warbler. A common spring migrant from May 3 to May 17. In the fall it appeared only in 1913. Beginning September 20, a greater or less number could be found regularly in a little willow thicket back of the Marshalltown cemetery. They remained here until October 14.

BIRDS OF MARSHALL COUNTY

67

158. *Vermivora celata celata*. Orange-crowned Warbler. A common spring migrant from May 1 to May 22 and uncommon in the fall, September 20, 1913, and September 26, 1914, being the only records I have. In the spring they were occasionally present in great numbers.

159. *Vermivora peregrina*. Tennessee Warbler. An abundant spring migrant from May 1 to May 24 but noted in the fall only on September 22, 1913, when it appeared to be common. In the spring the Tennessee warbler usually outnumbered all others except the myrtle. It appeared in great numbers with every migration wave in early May.

160. *Compsothlypis americana usneæ*. Parula Warbler. A rare migrant of which I have only three records in the county. One, taken May 4, 1914, out of a tall boxelder, was the first bird noted. A second was seen May 9, 1914, and a third September 18, 1914. The last two were noted in the same place, a dense growth of willow and other shrubs in a swampy little pasture.

161. *Dendroica tigrina*. Cape May Warbler. A rare migrant. The only record I have is of male and female seen feeding about a grape vine in the Marshalltown cemetery on June 2, 1915. They were very tame and were watched through the glasses for a long time at close range.

162. *Dendroica æstiva æstiva*. Yellow Warbler. The yellow warbler was an abundant summer resident from May 3 to September 26. It nested commonly in the bushes along the roadside and about homes in town and country. On June 7, 1913, a nest containing three eggs was found and one containing three eggs and a cowbird egg was seen on July 4, 1915. Between these dates many others were found containing eggs, or young.

163. *Dendroica coronata*. Myrtle Warbler. An abundant migrant from April 12 to May 15 and September 9 to October 24. The myrtle warbler was by far the most abundant migrant in both spring and fall. In the spring they keep to the timber with the other warblers but in the fall they are found most abundantly in the cornfields or along the country roads in the hedges and bushes.

164. *Dendroica magnolia*. Magnolia Warbler. A common spring migrant from May 4 to May 29. In the fall it was found only twice, September 10, 1913, and September 12, 1914.

165. *Dendroica cerulea*. Cerulean Warbler. A very rare migrant. The only specimens seen were a pair found just back of the Marshalltown cemetery May 13, 1914. They were feeding high up in a boxelder tree. One was collected.

166. *Dendroica pennsylvanica*. Chestnut-sided Warbler. A tolerably common spring migrant from May 9 to May 24. It was not noted in the fall. The Marshalltown cemetery was a favorite resort for this species and I saw more there than in all other places combined.

167. *Dendroica castanea*. Bay-breasted Warbler. A rare spring migrant. It was noted on May 14 and 19, 1913, and May 18 and 21, 1914. A total of seven birds was noted on these four days. It was not recorded in the fall.

168. *Dendroica striata*. Black-poll'd Warbler. A common spring migrant from May 3 to May 25, most abundant from the 17th to the 25th. In the fall it was noted only twice, a single bird on August 23, 1913, and two on September 7, 1914.

169. *Dendroica fusca*. Blackburnian Warbler. The Blackburnian warbler was a tolerably common spring migrant from May 3 to May 22. It was not usually found in any numbers, three being the greatest number noted on any one date. A single bird taken on August 10, 1914, and another the following day are the only fall records.

170. *Dendroica virens*. Black-throated Green Warbler. A tolerably common spring migrant from May 4 to May 22. Only individual birds were noted on most dates, but on May 10, 1913, over fifty singing males were counted. In the fall it was recorded on September 19, 1913, and September 7, 1914.

171. *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*. Palm Warbler. A common spring migrant from April 28 to May 17. On May 3, 1914, and May 4, 1915, great numbers of this species were present along the river. It was not noted in the fall.

172. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. Oven-bird. An abundant migrant and common summer resident which first appeared May 3 and was last seen September 21. On May 28, 1914, Hartly Vogt found a nest containing two eggs and two cowbird eggs. Singing males were common during June and July, 1915, on Mormons Ridge.

173. *Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*. Grinnell's Water-Thrush. A common migrant from May 2 to May 24 and August 22 to September 19. It occasionally appeared in large numbers along the river and smaller streams.

174. *Seiurus motacilla*. Louisiana Water-Thrush. A tolerably common spring migrant from May 3 to May 22. It was not noted in the fall. Its favorite haunts were the willow thickets back of the Marshalltown cemetery where a few could usually be found if any-



FIG. 5.—Nest of Oven-bird (*Sciurus aurocapillus*) containing Cowbird eggs.

175. *Oporornis philadelphia*. Mourning Warbler. A tolerably common spring migrant from May 11 to May 24. Occasionally it was common but more often one or two individuals were all that could be found on a single trip.

176. *Geothlypis trichas trichas*. Maryland Yellow-throat. An abundant summer resident whose earliest arrival date was May 3 and which was last seen October 14. Although it was very abundant in the breeding season the writer succeeded in finding only one nest. This one containing four eggs was discovered July 14, 1915, at Mormons Ridge. It was built in a densely matted field of red clover and was about twelve inches from the ground.

177. *Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*. Wilson's Warbler. A common migrant from May 4 to May 22 and August 22 to September 26. This species was present in abundance from May 17 to 21, 1913, and was common again on May 22, 1915. In the fall it was usually less in evidence.

178. *Wilsonia canadensis*. Canada Warbler. The Canada warbler was an uncommon spring migrant, being seen at that season on only four dates, May 21 and 23, 1913, and May 22 and 23, 1914.

In the fall it was a tolerably common migrant from August 21 to September 19. On August 22, 1914, a large number were seen feeding in a willow thicket.

179. *Setophaga ruticilla*. Redstart. An abundant migrant and locally common summer resident. Its earliest spring appearance was May 3, and the latest record was September 19. Usually this species ranked with the myrtle, yellow and Tennessee warblers in abundance during migration. A nest discovered June 26, 1915, at Mormons Ridge contained one egg. An egg was laid on June 27, and a third on June 28, after which the female commenced to incubate. A female was found incubating two cowbird eggs in another nest a short distance away. Both of these nests were built in hazel bushes about three feet from the ground.

180. *Dumetella carolinensis*. Catbird. An abundant summer resident from May 3 to September 26. It was no trouble to discover a catbird's nest as practically every gooseberry bush and plum thicket along the river contained one. They also built commonly in bushes and vines about the houses in Marshalltown. The earliest nesting date that I have is of a nest containing one egg May 22, 1914, and the latest a nest containing four eggs, July 14, 1915. A nest containing three nearly fledged young was noted August 3, 1914.

181. *Toxostoma rufum*. Brown Thrasher. An abundant summer resident from April 20 to September 29. Like the catbird this species nested so abundantly that it was not difficult to find their nests. Two nests found on May 22, 1913, were built on the ground. One was placed beneath a pile of drift material left by the river and the other was beside a small bush. Many small, exceedingly dense hawthorne trees or bushes, which were dwarfed by browsing animals, were scattered over the pasture lands along the river. Many of these, only a foot or two in height and consisting of masses of twigs and broken branches, were favorite nesting sites for the thrashers. A nest containing one egg, discovered on May 14, 1914, and one containing two eggs found on June 28, 1915, were the earliest and latest nesting dates.

182. *Troglodytes ædon parkmani*. Western House Wren. The house wren was an abundant summer resident from April 24 to October 8. It nested commonly about Marshalltown in boxes provided for it. At least two broods a year were raised. Three curious nest locations were noticed. One in the pocket of a hunting coat has already been described (Wilson Bul., p. 152, Vol. XXVI, Sept., 1914). On June 5, 1914, a nest was found built inside one of the



FIG. 6.—Nest of Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Built on the ground beneath a pile of brush.

seat cushions of an old buggy. The birds had entered through a small opening in one corner of the cushion. Another nest found the same day was built in an old overshoe hanging on a porch in Marshalltown.

183. *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*. Winter Wren. A tolerably common migrant from March 31 to April 21 and September 22 to October 23. Five birds noted April 17, 1914, was the greatest number seen on any date, one or two being the usual number.

184. *Cistothorus stellaris*. Short-billed Marsh Wren. A pair of short-billed marsh wrens were noted at close range May 22, 1915, and one was collected. These two birds are the only record for the county but it probably occurs regularly in small numbers as it breeds in several localities north of Marshall county.

185. *Telmatodytes palustris iliacus*. Prairie Marsh Wren. A tolerably common migrant from May 3 to May 23 and August 5 to October 18. It would probably nest if any suitable nesting sites were available. Possibly there are a few such places scattered through the western part of the county and the species may breed there. However, my records show it only as a migrant.

186. *Certhia familiaris americana*. Brown Creeper. A common winter resident from October 5 to April 30. It is most abundant in October and April.

187. *Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*. White-breasted Nuthatch. A common permanent resident. The writer never saw the nest but during his stay on Mormons Ridge, from June 28 to July 2, found young birds still showing nestling down to be very common. They had evidently been hatched nearby.

188. *Sitta canadensis*. Red-breasted Nuthatch. An uncommon migrant. I have the following records: March 31, 1913, one in the Soldiers' Home grounds; April 6, two birds seen on the Country Club grounds; May 1, 1913, a single bird at the Country Club; a single bird November 18, 1913, in the Marshalltown cemetery; and on April 12, 1914, two in the City park.

189. *Baeolophus bicolor*. Tufted Titmouse. This species seemed to be a rare permanent resident, at least the records are well scattered throughout the year. I have no evidence of its breeding. The records are as follows: April 5 and 12, 1913, a pair seen at the Country Club; January 25, 1914, two taken from a little clump of willows along the river (Wilson Bul., Vol. XXVI, p. 104); September 18, 1914, a single bird seen near the Goose ponds, and February 28, 1915, a pair in the Soldiers' Home grounds.

190. *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*. Chickadee. An abundant permanent resident. A pair was noted feeding young on May 30, 1914, and a brood of six young were found May 22, 1915.

191. *Regulus satrapa satrapa*. Golden-crowned Kinglet. The golden-crowned kinglet was an abundant spring migrant from April 6 to April 17. Each year they were abundant on one day and scarcely seen at any other time. April 6, 1913, the trees were full of them, but they were not seen on any other date; the same was true in 1915, the date of their appearance being April 8. In 1914 a single bird was seen on April 9, one on April 11, and two on April 12. The great flight came on April 17 after which they were not seen again. In the fall they appeared from September 22 to November 24 in 1913, but were not noted at all in 1914.

192. *Regulus calendula calendula*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. An abundant migrant from April 3 to May 17 and September 9 to October 27. It was much more common than *R. satrapa* in both spring and fall migrations.

193. *Hylocichla mustelina*. Wood Thrush. A common summer resident from May 2 to October 2. One pair were watched building a nest on May 19, 1914. The female was incubating on this nest on May

BIRDS OF MARSHALL COUNTY

73

26. A nest with four eggs was found June 2, 1915, and one with two eggs and three cowbird eggs was seen June 8, 1915. A pair of wood thrushes were seen feeding a fledgling cowbird on June 27, 1914. A brood of three young were following a pair about in the cemetery June 30, 1914.

194. *Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*. Wilson Thrush. A common spring migrant from May 2 to May 17. In the fall it was less commonly noted, September 9 and 10, 1913, and September 5 and 7, 1914, being the only dates on which it was seen.

195. *Hylocichla aliciae aliciae*. Grey-cheeked Thrush. Migrant from May 3 to May 22. It is impossible to say how common it was as it appeared at the same time as the olive-backed thrush and it was impossible to distinguish the great majority of individuals seen. It was not noted in the fall.

196. *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*. Olive backed Thrush. Migrant from May 3 to May 24 and from September 5 to September 29. The remarks under the gray-cheeked thrush apply to this species also.

197. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. Hermit Thrush. A common migrant from April 9 to April 29. In the fall it was noted only twice, October 14, 1913, and October 24, 1914. A bird brought to me by Hartley Vogt on April 15, 1913, was picked up dead.

198. *Planesticus migratorius migratorius*. Robin. An abundant summer resident from March 9 to November 12. It is also reported as a rare winter resident. A flock of thirteen was reported on December 4, 1913. On February 15, 1915, two birds were reported and I saw one on February 16. These birds apparently came north with the bluebirds and pintails which appeared immediately on the breaking up of the ice. A pair were noted carrying nesting material on April 18, 1913. The writer failed to record many data on the nesting period of this species as most of the nests were built high up in the trees along the streets and in the parks. On one occasion five occupied nests were counted in one block in Marshalltown. Nests with eggs were found on May 30 and June 5, 1915, and one nest containing young was examined June 9, 1915.

199. *Sialia sialis sialis*. Bluebird. A common summer resident from February 14 to November 1. The bluebirds came on February 14, 1915, following a thaw and freshet which took the ice out of the river. Cold weather again set in but these birds remained about feeding on sumac (*Rhus glabra*) berries. No more arrived, however, until March 19. The first birds appeared on March 8, 1913, and March 4, 1914. Bluebirds had partly completed nests

April 27, 1913. Two nests with eggs were found on May 8, 1913. A nest containing four newly-hatched young was seen on May 12, 1913, also a nest with four eggs on June 24, 1914, and a nest with two young and two eggs on June 28, 1915. Birds were seen carrying nesting material as early as March 29, 1913.

INTRODUCED SPECIES

200. *Phasianus torquatus*. Ring-necked Pheasant. A number have been released at various times at Mormons Ridge on the State game preserve located there. A few were seen in June and July, 1915, while the writer was camping on the ridge.

201. *Passer domesticus*. English Sparrow. An abundant permanent resident. There were one or two albinos living about the streets in Marshalltown. At least one of them mated with a normal bird and reared a family all the members of which seemed to be normal.

On the morning of September 5, 1914, after a terrific hailstorm 155 dead English sparrows were reported to have been picked up under a tree where a large flock roosted. Their nests were built indiscriminately in the trees and vines or in crevices and crannies about buildings and bridges.

HYPOTHETICAL LIST

1. *Colymbus auritus*. Horned Grebe. On August 22, 1913, at Goose ponds, the writer shot what was probably an immature bird of this species. Circumstances prevented either the saving or the identifying of the bird before it spoiled.

2. *Larus franklini*. Franklin's Gull. A farmer told the writer of seeing a flock of small black-headed gulls over the Goose ponds in the spring of 1914. They were probably of this species.

3. *Mergus serrator*. Red-breasted Merganser. One of the high school boys described a "duck" which he saw on the open water below the Marshalltown mill on February 8, 1915. The writer accompanied him to the place but the bird was gone. From his description it was undoubtedly a merganser and probably of this species.

4. *Archibuteo lagophus sancti-johannis*. Rough-legged Hawk. On February 7, 1914, the writer saw a large hawk which he took to be this species, but did not get close enough to make the identity sure. It undoubtedly occurs in severe winters.

5. *Poliophtila carulea carulea*. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. On May 3, 1914, a bird which almost certainly was of this species was

BIRDS OF MARSHALL COUNTY

75

seen at the cemetery. However, it kept to the top of the highest trees and it is thought best to place the species in the Hypothetical List for the present.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.