

SUMMER BIRDS OF THE ONEOTA VALLEY.

(JUNE, JULY, 1895.)

BY PAUL BARTSCH.

Paper read before the Third Congress of I. O. A.

NATURE as if to show mankind what the conditions in that great fertile region traversed by the glaciers in the ice age, scarred, planed and covered by a morainic deposit, would have been; left untouched a strip of land extending over south-eastern Minnesota, western Wisconsin and north-eastern Iowa—a region wild, romantic and beautiful, the dream of our landscape artist, the paradise of our naturalist.

This region within our bounds is traversed in the northern portion by the Oneota river and its tributaries—it is the avifauna of this tract that I wish to consider in the present paper.

As topographic environment is one of the prime factors in the distribution of many of our birds, it will not be amiss to briefly consider this feature of our chosen field.

The Oneota, though not as active as during glacial and preglacial time, is nevertheless working slowly and diligently to lower its channel throughout most of its course. The lessened amount of water causes the stream to meander through a wide flood plane bounded everywhere by high ridges and bold bluffs. One may get somewhat of an idea of the amount of work accomplished by the stream in course of time, if he considers that it has cut a gorge through the various formations from the Trenton down to about 300 feet below the summit of the St. Croix sandstone.

The little tributaries have been equally busy and even now seem to try hard to cut down through the opposing rocks to keep on the same level with the river. Not always able to accomplish this in a uniform manner, owing to differences of rock texture, many beautiful water falls and cataracts have been formed in their course. Not unfrequently the gorge cut by some small rivulet has intersected an underlying water vein* and the additional force has helped to grind and cut deeper the lower course of the stream and now a beautiful water fall tumbles noisily from the cliff.

Throughout the course steep hills bound the valley on both sides. Frequently perpendicular cliffs rise almost from the water's edge to a height of several hundred feet and where the Oneota lime stone comes to the surface, bold, bared, massive battlements crown the summit of the adjacent hills.

The valley is wide,—the floodplane constitutes the farming land of the region. The current varies with the formation; at places it is slack, then again

* I particularly have in mind Seevers spring, some two miles south-east of Decorah.

it races along rapidly over a series of shallows, almost cataracts, and it is such places that make the river rather difficult to navigate in anything but a portable canoe.

* If one ascends one of the eminences he will notice a succession of ridges scattered irregularly, and generally separated by some tributary of the Oneota river. All these elevations are of about the same height, most of them with rounded top and abruptly sloping sides—typical features of a country long subjected to the agents of water and mechanical erosion. Frequently, however, tall buttes with rounded tops and steep boulder† covered sides can be seen, sentinels in the centre of the valleys.

The north-eastern slopes of all these ridges and buttes are covered by a mixed forest composed chiefly of burr oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*, Michx.) hickories (*Hicoria ovata*, Mill.) Britt. and glabra (Mill. Britt.) and not unfrequently we find white pine (*Pinus strobus* L.) balsam (*Abies balsamea* Mill.) and Juniper (*Juniperu virginiana* L.) striving vainly for supremacy with the deciduous forest.

On the slopes bounding the river in Winnesheik Co., and for a little way in Allamakee, the white trunks of the Paper Birds (*Betula papyrifera* Marsh.) vie with the glistening boulders for conspicuousness and it is indeed beautiful to see the contrast of the white in the dark deep green of its surrounding.

The valley still retains some of the old giant patriarchs of the forest as man's axe has spared many, not on account of sentiment or love for the beautiful, for that indeed stands little show when the almighty dollar is the other consideration, but rather of their distance from a convenient port or place where they might be turned into lumber, the younger timber being more desirable for fire wood.

Giant elms, bass-wood, maples, hickories and oaks form the bulk of the timber and occasionally a sycamore stretches its ghostly branches above the other vegetation.

It is in these sylvan dells, where underbrush is scanty, that the Cerulean Warbler informs us of his presence, and the soft gradually fading veery-veery-veery of the Wilson's Thrush is offset by the bell-like tones of our woodland minstrel the Wood-thrush. The plaintiff note of the Wood-pewee, the chip-churrr of the Tanager and the daintily lisped song of the Redstart mingled with strophes from the Red-eyed and Warbling Vireo and harsher notes of the Flicker and Redhead greet you on all sides. The querulous rise and fall of the Blue-winged Yellow Warbler's song and an occasional chant of the Oven Bird not to be forgotten.

The reedy marshes with their lily covered lakes are choice places for the Red-winged Blackbird, Woodcock, Swamp Sparrow, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Killdeer and Plover, as well as the ever present Song Sparrow, the saucy

* View from bluff opposite "The Elephant," Sect. 32, Twp. 100, N. R. V. W., Allamakee county, Iowa.

† Boulders of disintegration not transportation.

Western Maryland Yellow-throat, together with a host of swiftly gliding Swallows, all bent upon the destruction of the luckless insect which may have stretched its wings for the first time in its first flight; emerging from the larval form and its watery home to an untimely death.

The notes given with the species in the following list were taken between June 11 and July 10, 1895, a time when most birds are stationary, i. e. the swaying back and forth of a few weeks previous to this date is practically at rest and most birds are intent upon domestic duties. It is therefore highly probable that most if not all of them breed within the area under discussion, though absolute proof is lacking in the majority of cases. I have noted in each case whether the bird was found in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties or in only one of them:

(1)—*Larus philadelphia*. BONAPARTS GULL.

A small flock of these birds were seen skimming about the marshes near the mouth of the river. Allamakee Co.

(2)—*Lophodytes cucullatus*. HOODED MERGANSER.

Several of these birds were noted in the marshes near the Mississippi river. Allamakee Co.

(3)—*Aix sponsa*. WOOD-DUCK.

Several Wood-ducks were noted in our course down the stream and several more were seen in the locality cited for the Hooded Merganser. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(4)—*Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN.

A large number of these birds were observed in the marshes at the junction of the Chicago and Milwaukee R.R. and the Oneota river. Several were shot, among them a specimen which had lost one leg immediately above the tarsus. The birds undoubtedly breed here. Allamakee Co.

(5)—*Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON.

Seen in the marshes near New Albin. Allamakee Co.

(6)—*Ardea virescens*. GREEN HERON.

Not a very common bird, but several were observed along the river—more plentiful as we approached the Mississippi. Winnesheik and Allamakee Co's.

(7)—*Philohela minor*. WOODCOCK.

This bird breeds at Decorah where I obtained several young. They were also met with in many other places farther down the stream and seemed to be fairly abundant,—perhaps there is little persecution from the sportsman which would account for their comparative abundance. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(8)—*Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER.

Very abundant throughout the range—young as well as old birds were seen

everywhere. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(9)—*Agialitis vocifera*. KILLDEER.

This bird was noted in the marshes at Decorah and near New Albin and also in several places between these points. On one occasion at quite a distance from the water. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(10)—*Colinus virginianus*. BOB WHITE.

The Pleasing call of this species greeted us from many a meadow and field in our journey down the steam. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(11)—*Bonasa umbellus*. RUFFED GROUSE.

Very numerous throughout the valley. Many broods were flushed and young in various stages, from a few days old to half grown, were obtained. They seemed to prefer the brushy slopes but were also quite abundant in the timber of the valley. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(12)—*Meleagris gallopavo*. WILD TURKEY.

A few stray feathers from wing and tail of this species were found in the more remote portions of the valley which would indicate their presence, though no birds were actually seen. Allamakee county.

(13)—*Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE.

Noted on the sand flats along the river where they seem to come for sand baths. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(14)—*Cathartes aura*. TURKEY VULTURE.

Quite common along the valley, especially where the Oneota lime stone forms the cap, in the crevices of which I suppose they find suitable breeding places. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(15)—*Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWL.

Common; breeds in the crevices in the cliffs. The young are very noisy and usually betray the nesting site by their notes. I examined one of these abodes several hundred feet above the river in the cliff adjacent to the Chicago and Milwaukee R. R. near its junction with the Oneota, a little south-west of New Albin (Iowa Bluff), and found numerous wings of the smaller birds, such as Warblers, Black Birds, Meadow Larks, Song Sparrows, Flickers, Robins, etc., etc., as well as some bones belonging to small rodents, *Spermophiles* perhaps, scattered about the crevice. The young were large enough to vacate the residence when I made my appearance (July 5, 1895) and I had to be contented to gaze upon the amount of mischief wrought by a family of these falcons. The Sharp-shinn surely has few redeeming features, when we consider the amount of havoc he causes among our small birds.

These birds were noticed to extend about forty miles up the valley and appeared to inhabit many of the exposures along the Mississippi valley as far south as Eagle Point Dubuque, where the last family was noted. Single birds were seen near Decorah, but no nesting site in cliffs was observed until we had

passed the boundary between the two counties. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(16)—*Accipiter cooperi*. COOPER'S HAWK.

Apparently not so abundant as the foregoing, and confined more to the timber area. Three young and an addled egg were taken from a nest at Decorah. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(17)—*Butes borealis*. RED-TAILED HAWK.

Quite common throughout the valley. Not a day passed but what a number of these birds were noticed. Several young and adults were shot from the boat. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(18)—*Buteo lineatus*. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.

By no means as common as the last. Allamakee county.

(19)—*Buteo latissimus*. BROAD-WINGED HAWK.

Several of these birds were seen but none secured. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(20)—*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. BALD EAGLE.

A bird, which I took to be of this species, was seen flying about a cliff on June 28th, in Allamakee county.

(21)—*Falco peregrinus anatum*. DUCH HAWK.

A pair of birds which I am inclined to refer to this species were noticed sporting about one of the steep escarpments. The graceful swift movements and size cause me to believe that it must have been this master, as he is the only one able to perform such feats of wing. Allamakee county.

(22)—*Falco sparverius*. SPARROW HAWK.

Not common in the valley proper; only a few observed and these frequented the more exposed situations. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(23)—*Bubo virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL.

Quite common; a young bird whose head was still covered with down was shot. The birds keep close to the water and on several occasions I flushed them in early morning from fallen trees which extended into the water. The fact that this happened repeatedly led me to believe that *Bubo* might at times vary his diet by catching a fish. Is it not possible that the fish might be attracted by his glowing eyes? Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(24)—*Syrnium mebulosum*. BARRED OWL.

Seems to be more restricted to the hills and hill-sides. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(25)—*Megascops asio*. SCREECH OWL.

The querulous wailing note of this bird was heard many an evening in our

course down stream. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(26)—*Coccyzus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.

Quite common but shy. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(27)—*Ceryle alcyon*. KINGFISHER.

Not very common but generally distributed throughout the valley. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(28)—*Dryobates villosus*. HAIRY WOODPECKER.

Quite common throughout the valley; young and adults were obtained in Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(29)—*Dryobates pubescens medianus*. DOWNY WOODPECKER.

Very common everywhere. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(30)—*Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER.

Several families, old and young, of this bird were met with in the timber bordering the river. They seem to be partial to such locations as not a single bird was observed in any other place. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(31)—*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.

A common bird in Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(32)—*Melanerpes carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.

Not common and apparently restricted to the heavy timber. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(33)—*Colaptes auratus*. FLICKER.

Common everywhere. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(34)—*Antrostomus vociferus*. WHIP-POOR-WILL.

Judging from their notes, I should say that they were not very abundant. But this I believe is their silent season so the mere fact that they were heard will have to suffice for this record. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(35)—*Chordeiles virginianus*. NIGHT HAWK.

Quite common in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(36)—*Chaetura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT.

Common everywhere and I believe careful search would reveal some primitive nesting sights in trees. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(37)—*Trochilus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMING BIRD.

Very common in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(38)—*Tyrannus tyrannus*. KING BIRD.

Common in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties. Nests were found at Decorah.

(39)—*Myiarchus crinitus*. CRESTED FLYCATCHER.

This bird frequents the wooded valleys where its noisy call betrays its presence oftener than the sight of the bird itself. Winnesheik and Allamakee Co's.

(40)—*Sayornis phæbe*. PHCEBE.

Very abundant; nests were found under bridges and one in an old stump. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(41)—*Cantopus virens*. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.

Quite abundant along the water courses. Winnesheik and Allamakee Co's.

(42)—*Empidonax virescens*. WOOD PEWEE.

One of the most abundant summer residents. Its pretty nests were found in many places in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(43)—*Empidonax minimus*. LEAST FLYCATCHER.

These birds breed abundantly about Decorah where a number of nests were examined, some containing fresh eggs, some young. The nest is a beautiful structure built in the fork of some branch, usually only a few (6 to 15) feet from the ground. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(44)—*Otoris alpestris praticola*. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK.

A few of these birds were observed in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties. Usually their note, when on wing, notified us of their presence.

(45)—*Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY,

This noisy marauder was always present. Winnesheik and Allamakee Co's.

(46)—*Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW.

Very common in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(47)—*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. BOBOLINK.

Common in the rank meadows where the male pours forth his bubbling song, from reed or whilst he flutters in the air. Nests were found at Decorah. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(48)—*Molothrus ater*. COW-BIRD.

Common in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(49)—*Agelaius phoeniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACK-BIRD.

Very abundant about the marshes, where a number of nests were found. None were placed more than four feet from the ground. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(50)—*Sturnella magna*. MEADOW LARK.

Quite common in the fields of the valley. Winnesheik and Allamakee Co's.

(51)—*Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE.

Abundant; nests throughout the valley. Winnesheik and Allamakee Co's.

(52)—*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE.

Common in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(53)—*Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

By far not as common as the last. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(54)—*Spinus tristis*. GOLD FINCH.

Very abundant and feeding, apparently, upon seeds of the thistle (*Cnicus lanceolatus*), only at this time. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(55)—*Pooecetes gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW.

Next to the Song Sparrow, the most abundant summer resident. Breeds abundantly almost everywhere throughout the valley. The birds were in full song and would mount some stake or alight in a tree to deliver their pleasing notes. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(56)—*Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.

The whirring note of this bird soon announced his presence and caused the death of several of them. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(57)—*Chondestes grammacus*. LARK SPARROW.

Several of these birds were noticed on a bare hillside near a small stream. Allamakee county.

(58)—*Spizella socialis*. CHIPPING SPARROW.

Common, especially so about dwellings. Winnesheik and Allamakee Co's.

(59)—*Spizella pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW.

Common everywhere in Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(60)—*Melospiza fasciata*. SONG SPARROW.

By far the most abundant species throughout the valley. The song, though somewhat sleepy and not so varied as at an earlier period, was nevertheless very pleasant and it seems to me that not ten rods of ground were passed without hearing one or more of these birds.

(61)—*Melospiza georgiana*. SWAMP SPARROW.

Not very abundant; a number were seen in the marshes. They were shy and secretive. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(62)—*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. TOWHEE.

Very common on all brush covered hill sides. Nests were found in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(63)—*Zamelodia ludoviciana*. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK.

Breeds commonly in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(64)—*Passerina cyanea*. INDIGO.

Quite common in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(65)—*Spiza americana*. DICKCISSEL.

Common in Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(66)—*Piranga erythromelas*.

Breeds abundantly in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties. All the nests were placed in oak trees way out on the branches at varying heights.

(67)—*Progne subis*. PURPLE MARTIN.

Noticed about Decorah and New Albin and also about several of the farms between these two localities. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(68)—*Petrochelidon lunifrons*. EAVE SWALLOW.

Common; several colonies were seen established on cliffs in Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(69)—*Chelidon erythrogaster*. BARN SWALLOW.

This graceful bird was met with everywhere. On one occasion a nest was found attached to one of the beams on the under side of a bridge. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(70)—*Tachycineta bicolor*. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW.

Quite abundant along the river, more so in the marshy tracts. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(71)—*Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.

Nests commonly throughout the range. Winnesheik and Allamakee Co's.

(72)—*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.

The rarest of the Swallows. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(73)—*Ampelis cedrorum*. WAXWING.

Quite common along the valley. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(74)—*Lanius ludovicianus excubitoroides*. WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKE.

Not very common; frequents the more exposed situations.

(75)—*Vireo olivaceus*. RED-EYED VIREO.

This bird is very common in the Oneota valley and quite a number of nests were found. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(76)—*Vireo gilvus*. WARBLING VIREO.

Not as common as the last. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(77)—*Vireo flavifrons*. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.

This species is rarer than the preceeding two. Nests at Decorah. Winne-

sheik and Allamakee counties.

(78)—*Mniotilta varia*. BLACK AND WHITE CREEPING WARBLER.

Common in the wooded portions. Young and adults were obtained. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(79)—*Helminthophila pinus*. BLUE-WINGED WARBLER.

Not common; frequents the moist wooded portions. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(80)—*Helminthophila chrysoptera*. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.

Rare. Only a single specimen observed in a ravine about a mile or so south of Fairport. This was a male in full song. I waited and watched him carefully for some time hoping to be able to detect a nest, but in this I was disappointed. Winnesheik county.

(81)—*Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.

Breeds commonly in the willows along the the river. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(82)—*Dendroica rara*. CERULEAN WARBLER.

Abundant in the heavy timber along the water courses. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(83)—*Seiurus auricapillus*. GOLDEN CROWNED THRUSH.

Common; breed abundantly on the wooded hill sides. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(84)—*Seiurus moticilla*. LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH.

Common; young and old were obtained. It is a pretty sight to see the parents lead the young at the water edge, encouraging them to enter and wade and calling them in when the current has proved too strong and has carried the fluttering chap down a little ways. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(85)—*Geothlypis trichas accidentalis*. WERTERN MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.

The most abundant of the Warblers. His lively which-e-ta, which-e-ta, which-e-ta, wit, was heard everywhere from the reedy marsh, as well as the bushy hill, and even the timber seems to furnish him a home in this region. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(86)—*Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.

This master singer is quite rare in the Oneota valley, only a few were noted. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(87)—*Setophaga ruticilla*. RED START.

Breeds abundantly in both counties. Nests were found some 30 feet from the ground. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(88)—*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CAT BIRD.

Breeds very abundantly throughout the valley. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(89)—*Harporhynchus rufus*. BROWN THRASHER.

A common breeder in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(90)—*Troglodytes aedon*. HOUSE WREN.

Quite abundant at Decorah, also noted many times on our trip down stream.

(91)—*Cistothorus palustris*. LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN.

Quite common in the marshes about New Albin, also noted in several places along the river. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(92)—*Sitta carolinensis*. NUTHATCH.

This busy bird of the forest was found quite abundant in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(93)—*Parus atricapillus*. CHICADEE.

Very abundant throughout the range. Winnesheik and Allamakee Co's.

(94)—*Turdus mustelinus*. WOOD THRUSH.

Common in both Winnesheik and Allamakee counties. Young and adults were obtained in both places.

(95)—*Turdus fuscescens*. WILSON'S THRUSH.

Breeds along Canoe river near the junction with the Oneota, where young and adults were obtained. Also noted at other places. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(96)—*Merula migratoria*. ROBIN.

Common throughout the valley but partial to the cultivated portions. Winnesheik and Allamakee counties.

(97)—*Sialia sialia*. BLUE BIRD.

Blue Birds were exceedingly scarce owing to the cold winters of 1894-'95 which threatened to exterminate the race. Only one pair was noted about two and one-half miles south of Decorah, where they had established themselves in a tree and were left unmolested with our best wishes for a successful year at house keeping. Winnesheik county.

(98)—*Passer domesticus*. ENGLISH SPARROW.

Though the last in our list he was by no means the least abundant. He seems to have spread pretty well over the entire area of the Oneota valley, as most farms were provided with a band of these birds. Only the smaller out of the way houses seemed to have been neglected, but judging from the small flocks which were occasionally noted—evidently exploring expeditions—it will not take long until even these will have received their quota of these birds.

DISCUSSIONS.

MR. BROWN thinks it is not always safe to judge the abundance of the Wild Turkey by the tail feathers found in the woods. Nor does it unmistakably indicate the presence of this species to find Turkey feathers, even in remote regions, as many such feathers never had more than a tame Turkey attached to them.

Mr. Law inquires if the other members have found the Louisiana Water-Thrush to be the prevailing form in their localities. In Dallas county, he thought the Water-thrush (*Seiurus moticilla*) to be the most abundant, the other species only a rare visitor. There seems to be some diversity of opinion as to which is the most plentiful in the state, both species having been noted as nesting. These were included in the list of birds of which the Association should make special study the ensuing year.

The fact of the Sharp-shinned Hawk nesting in such abundance in the two counties—Winnesheik and Allamakee—is surprising and brings forth a number of remarks. Mr. Brown suggests that if more thorough search were made it would probably be found nesting in other portions of the state. Mr. Savage can only see one explanation of their scarcity in Henry county, and that is the abundance of the Cooper's Hawk. Mr. Bartsch has the abundance of the Sharp-shinned succeeded by a scarcity of Cooper's, and "'tis a poor rule that won't work both ways."

DEATH OF MRS. WALTERS.

THE Angel of Death has entered our midst and taken one of our number. It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mrs. Gus Walters, an active member of the Iowa Ornithological Association. She died at her home at Cedar Falls, Iowa, on July 31st, 1897. Mrs. Walters was an ardent lover of birds and her skillful fingers often helped her husband while at his taxidermical work.

We believe she looked "Though Nature up to Nature's God." She regarded this beautiful world as one of the numberless chambers in a Heavenly Father's mansion, from which death was but a door opening into larger and brighter rooms beyond. She has but gone on before.

RESOLUTIONS.

In view of the loss we have sustained by the decease of our friend and associate, Mrs. Gus Walters, and the still heavier loss sustained by those who

were nearest and dearest to her.

THEREFORE—be it resolved that it is but a just tribute to the memory of the departed to say that in regretting her removal from our midst, we but speak the sentiments of her friends and the Iowa Ornithological Association.

RESOLVED—that we sincerely condole with the family of the deceased and commend them for consolation to Him who orders all things for the best.

RESOLVED—that this testimonial of our sympathy be forwarded to the friends of the departed through the columns of the IOWA ORNITHOLOGIST.

J. EUGENE LAW,
MRS. M. A. TRIEM,
MRS. M. L. RAUN.

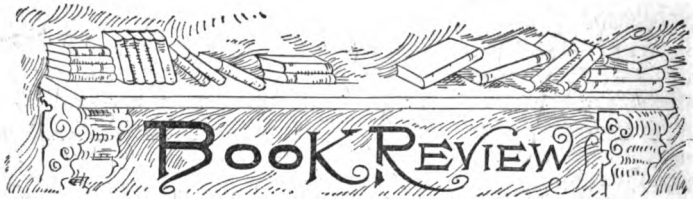
NOTES AND NEWS.

Mr. Hiram Heaton of Glendale, Ia., made a pleasant call at the editorial den recently. The editor is always glad to entertain any of the ornithological brethren.

On September 3rd, 1897, Mr. J. H. Brown, J. Eugene Law, Chas. R. Keyes and David L. Savage took supper at the hospitable home of George H. Burge, of Mt. Vernon, Iowa. There is no need to say the hour was one of pleasure and profit. Mr. Burge has quite an extensive collection of bird's eggs and mounted birds.

We are sorry to learn that the Nidologist, of Alameda, Cal., has been discontinued. The May issue is the last published. The main features, however, will be regularly continued by the same writers as a department of the Popular Science News.

Mr. Ernest Irons of Council Bluffs writes that the Least Bittern is a common breeder in Pottawattamie county, building its platform of sticks and straws in the cat-tails and rushes along the margin of swampy lakes. The nests are generally placed a few inches above the water, although I have found some nests with eggs on dry ground near the margin of a lake. The eggs vary in number from three to seven. The usual number is four or five. When first hatched, the young are golden yellow and are covered with soft fluffy down, being, to my mind, prettier during the first three or four days of their existence than they ever are afterward, with the exception possibly of the rich coloring of the adult male.



New books and other publications will be reviewed in this department. Authors wishing publications reviewed should send them to the Editor, who will examine them personally and give them due consideration.

"Citizen Bird"—Scenes from bird life in plain english for beginners, by Mable Osgood Wright and Elliott Cones, with one hundred and fifteen illustration by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. New York, The Macuillian company, 1897. Cloth, \$1.50. "Citizen Bird" will do more toward protecting our feathered friends than any work that has yet appeared. It has no equal. Every home should contain a copy.

Grinnell's "Report on the Birds of the Islands of Santa Barbara, San Nicolas and San Clements." A twenty-six page phamphlet, which is a report of the birds recorded during about a month's exploration among the islands last spring (1897). The sixty species treated, are arranged in four separte lists—the land birds observed in each of the islands and the water birds recorded during the entire trip. It is replete with interesting field notes.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Birds, Vol. 2, No. 3, September, 1897.

Fern Bulletin, Vol. 5, No. 3, July, 1897.

Le Naturaliste Canadien, Vol. 24, Nos. 8-10, Aug.-Oct., 1897.

Museum, Vol. 3, No. 10-12, Aug.-Oct., 1897.

Oologist, Vol. 14, Nos. 7-10, July-Oct., 1897.

Osprey, Vol. 1, No. 12, Vol. 2, No. 1, Aug.-Sept., 1897.

Popular Science News, Vol. 31, Nos. 8-10, Aug.-Oct., 1897.

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A beautiful photograph of an Osprey's nest on an island in the Pacific Ocean. Frank M. Chapman, the well known naturalist of New York city, writes the Heron Plume fashion. (He writes on Cuba, with photos taken on the island, in an early number.

Large picture of Snowy Heron, also another pertaining to Mr. Chapman's article. A photograph of a California Ornithologist climbing a giant pine, besides numerous notes from all parts of the country, news items, etc.

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