

has also been encouraging when encouragement was most needed. John Elliott and Fritz Scheider each represents to me the finest combination to be found in amateur or professional ornithology: splendid field observers, they are also willing and able to do the necessary research and to organize their material in interesting form for publication. To these people should go credit for the stature of this journal.

Much was undertaken during the last two years: the studies in New York State ornithological history by Allen Benton and John Belknap, the systematic descriptions of areas in the state which provide excellent birding by Fritz Scheider, the short notes on bird behavior by Sally Hoyt, all have been made a part of the magazine. But much is still to be done. Several projects which I hoped to take up were deferred and are now still not done: among these are systematic indexing of the journal and a reworking of the introductory material about the journal and the Federation. Failure to accomplish these goals is solely the responsibility of the editor because at least in the case of the indexing Mrs. William English volunteered to do the work.

Where do we go from here? There is no question in my mind but that this magazine is as always in critical condition. This can only be improved by the cooperation of many members of the Federation. Much more material must be delivered to the editor by many more people. It was with this idea in mind that the "Notes" section was introduced. This section was designed not only to give observers a chance to record their experiences, but also to give writers a place to break in with none of the anguish of the longer paper. Virtually every birder in the state could search his experience for an interesting record which would make a good note. Writing such a note is not tedious and the author would receive every assistance in preparation from friends, local regional editors or the editor himself. If each person who reads this article would write a note and send it to me or to Dr. Scotland, it would make her job much more satisfying.

One final comment seems appropriate at this time. To my family and especially to my wife, Muriel, must go much credit, for without their cooperation and their willingness to overlook the many jobs around the house I have left undone, there would have been no journal for these two years.

GRR

NOTES

Purple Martin colonies in central New York State. — Believing that it may be of interest at some date in the future to know the numbers and approximate location of colonies of Purple Martins in past years for comparative studies, I have attempted to collect such information for the central New York area for the years 1956 and 1957. When possible I have also indicated the length of time the colony has existed at the particular location. It is emphasized that this is only a partial list, but it is hoped that its publication will elicit additional data and that other areas of the state will compile similar material.

The area included is roughly bounded on the west by a north-south line through Canandaigua, on the east by a similar line through Oneida, on the north by Lake Ontario and Pulaski, on the south by the state line.

It would take too much space to list all of those who have cooperated by sending me information on colonies. I hereby express to them my sincere appreciation.

BINGHAMTON: Willow Point, small colony; across from Vestal, small colony; three or four miles north of city, 6-10 pairs. BRANCHPORT: Earl Benjamin residence; Miss Ila Cook's residence, five miles south of Branchport. CANANDAIGUA: Roseland Park several houses full. CAYUGA LAKE: At cottage near Wire's Point, north of Sheldrake, several pairs; on route 89, a few miles south of Canoga. CENTRAL SQUARE: East Street, 50 adults in two houses; Main Street. CORTLAND: Little York Lake, north of city near route 281, two houses. DRESDEN: two established colonies. ELMIRA: Riverside Avenue, about 20 pairs for the last ten years; Magnolia Street, eight pairs; Janowski residence, Estey Street, 12 pairs, new in 1957; Koski residence near Big Flats, five birds observed on house. ITHACA: Stewart Park, two houses for more than 20 years. NEWARK: two colonies. ONEIDA LAKE: Eagle Park. OSWEGO: Smith residence, Ontario Street, three houses full; "a block away," two houses full. OWASCO LAKE: Osborne residence, Buck Point, three houses full, one since 1928. PENN YAN: Scherer residence, Town Line Road; Orcutt residence, R. D. 5, 15-20 pairs; Newcomb residence R. D. 4, up to 75 birds, 1956 was first year; "neighbor 3/4 mile from Newcomb's." PULASKI: Selkirk Pond, 24 apartments full, active 15 years; across street, one house. RED CREEK: West residence, 16 pairs; Taber residence; Crowell residence. SENECA FALLS: Barben residence, Cayuga Street, 12 pairs; Weart residence, Clinton Street, eight pairs; Wayne residence, Bayard Street, 20 pairs; Paine residence, Cayuga Lake Road, 52 pairs; Gibbs residence, Cayuga Lake Road, 8 pairs; Anderson residence, Cayuga Lake Road, 25 pairs. Withers residence, Cayuga Lake Road, 5 pairs; Wayne residence, Cayuga Lake Road, 72 pairs. SENECA LAKE: Sampson, 25 pairs; Riggs residence, south of Sampson, ten pairs. SKANEATELES: Park on lake front, colony for many years, missing in 1956. SYRACUSE: Erie Boulevard, 15 pairs since before 1890. TULLY: Dorothy residence, about 15 pairs, six or seven years. TULLY VALLEY: Smith residence, 12 birds, first time in 1956. — Sally F. Hoyt, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

The Western Meadowlark in Monroe County. — A Western Meadowlark was collected near Braddock Bay in 1948. After this an occasional single singing individual would appear in the spring, remain for a short time and then disappear. In the spring of 1956, however, a singing male appeared late in April and remained for over a month, at which time it was lost sight of. This bird was seen and heard by the members of the ill-fated and almost drowned Wilson Ornithological Club field trip that was taken to this area in the vain hope of witnessing a hawk flight.

This spring (1957) the local observers were on the lookout for this bird and on April 19 the flute-like notes were heard again. The rest of this note is a summary of observations during this year.

Just to the west of Braddock Bay and just south of the new parkway, the bird first observed in April established his territory. Another bird was seen frequently in his company which gave only the typical calls of the western species. No nest of this pair was found because of the desire not to disturb the birds, but on August 25 a Meadowlark, giving only the calls of the Western, was observed in this same territory feeding young out of the nest.

Also west of Braddock and just north of the parkway another Meadowlark appeared and established his territory. While this second bird usually sang a somewhat short and imperfect Western song, he was occasionally heard to give both song and call notes which were those of the eastern species. A nest was found in this bird's territory containing small young, but it was disturbed by some prowler, possibly an opossum, and it is doubtful if any young were reared at this time by this pair. Whether the male of this second pair was a hybrid or a young bird which had picked up some of the call and song notes of the alternate species is unknown.

At no time was any song or call note heard from the first pair of birds which we could regard as anything but typical of the Western Meadowlark. No attempt was made to collect any of the birds because of the desire not to disturb apparently nesting birds, one pair at least being typical of the Western Meadowlark.

We are eagerly awaiting next year's developments. — Howard S. Miller, 61 Richland Street, Rochester.