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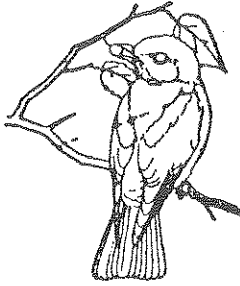
BLUEBIRD



THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

VOL. 31, No. 4

WINTER 1964



The Audubon Society of Missouri

Founded 1904

It is the purpose of the Audubon Society of Missouri to further conservation education in all its aspects with particular emphasis on wildlife. This purpose will be implemented by assisting in securing legislative controls, when necessary, the establishment of refuges and in the promotion of habitat improvement. The Audubon Society of Missouri is dedicated to the proposition that only through education can a total conservation consciousness be insured and will constantly try to further this education at all levels.

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Membership in the Audubon Society is open to all.
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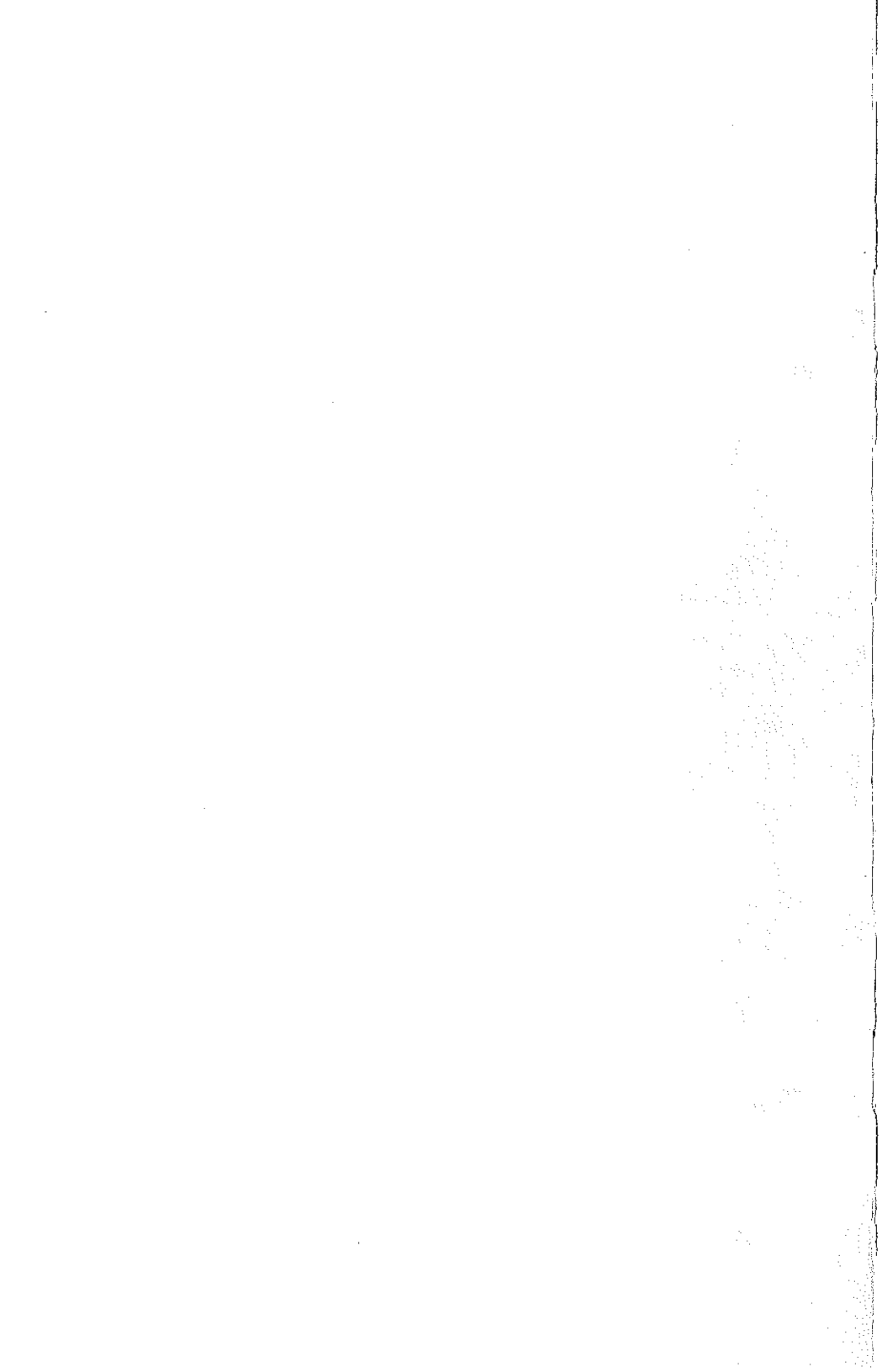
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THE BLUEBIRD

VOL. 31

No. 4

EDITORIAL

TOO LATE ONCE AGAIN

In "our town" a small wet weather creek runs parallel to one of the main thoroughfares for a distance of about one mile. This stream acquired the pleasant name of "Shady Creek" from the large trees, predominately sycamore, that bordered it. While driving along the stream you were, either consciously or sub-consciously, soothed by the pleasant atmosphere of the area.

Now Shady Creek had one bad trait. once every two or three years downpours of sufficient volume occurred which caused the stream to overflow its banks. Sometimes for a period of as long as one hour high water made the road in the valley impassable--and one hour every two or three years is a whale of a loss to efficient, impatient suburbanites. In addition yards of several houses in the valley became flooded on those occasions. Some of these were homes built by eager subdividers who were undoubtedly aware of the condition when they began construction.

However, be that as it may with little fanfare a crew of men armed with chain saws, axes and gasoline cans descended on the valley. Improvements were underway. Every tree, and I mean every tree within many yards of the creek bed was removed. Tremendous fires flamed to the sky. Bulldozers moved in and dug out the stumps. The residue was one of thorough demolition and is perhaps the "ugliest" work of man I have ever seen. Now the creek will be straightened and banks reinforced with poured concrete. Shady Creek will be no more. Perhaps a better name for what we will have will be "concrete gulch".

How does such a thing as this happen? Why are those who believe that a beautiful natural setting is worthy of preservation always caught short? I think it is our tremendous lack of foresight. When we learn an "improvement" project is being planned do we make sure the planners are aware that there are those who would emphasize the need for extreme care when natural areas are disturbed.

I would suggest that if there is an improvement planned for your community that would trespass on a green area that you appoint yourself as a watch-dog and keep atop of all developments. After contracts have been let and boys with their bulldozers, chainsaws and gasoline cans move in, it will be too late.

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AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI
Annual Report of the Treasurer
October 1, 1963 to September 30, 1964

Balances October 1, 1963

General Fund	\$ 319.27	
Sanctuary Fund	444.06	
Moore Scholarship Fund	<u>374.84</u>	\$1,138.17

Receipts

General Fund		
Dues	\$ 751.00	
State Meet 1963	<u>48.89</u>	799.89
Sanctuary Fund		
Dues	25.00	
Interest	<u>12.69</u>	37.69
Moore Scholarship Fund		
Contributions	28.30	
Interest	<u>14.70</u>	43.00
		<u>880.58</u>
		\$2,018.75

Disbursements

Printing BLUEBIRD	828.99	
Envelopes	36.66	
Postage	76.00	
Mimeographing	3.81	
Sanctuary (labor & see)	<u>19.40</u>	<u>964.86</u>

(Transfer from General to Moore Scholar. Fund) 31.93

Balances September 30, 1964

General Fund	141.77	
Sanctuary Fund	462.35	
Moore Scholarship Fund	<u>449.77</u>	\$1,053.89

Homer R. Bolen, Treasurer

A TEN YEAR STUDY OF CHANGING BIRD
POPULATION IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY

by
Richard Anderson

The following is a study of nesting birds during the first ten years of a new suburban subdivision. The study period covers March, 1953 through March, 1963. A second ten year study is also planned. The study area covers the long block of Grenshaw Drive between Bosworth Drive and Ashford Drive. The area included the front and back yards of the homes on both sides of Grenshaw and totals slightly over ten acres. The area was 100% farmland before the construction of the subdivision. The only species positively known to nest in the area was the horned lark. Other common species were noted in a nearby creek bottom and among farm building. However, since I had no plans for this project before moving into the subdivision, I did not make an accurate census.

The study area was 100% open fields and there were no trees in this new subdivision. Therefore, the only change in habitate during the ten year period was the gradual growth of trees and shrubs planted by the residents.

FIRST YEAR

The only species that successfully bred the first year was a pair of horned larks. The nest was in a depression in a front lawn ten feet from a driveway. Two young were observed in late March. I believe the nest was successfully only because it was early in the spring and there was a complete absence of outdoor activity. Robins were seen feeding on lawns during spring, but none stayed into summer. Other occasional visitors were bluebirds and barn swallows. By the first fall most residents had planted some sort of trees and/or shrubs. Varieties of trees included maple, elm, pin oak, poplar and sweet gum. During winter, a mockingbird was occasionally seen feeding among small flocks of juncos and house sparrows.

SECOND YEAR

One pair of horned larks was observed, but I found no proff of nesting. However, I did observe a successful nest in another subdivision that was three years old. Again robins appeared but did not

stay. A mockingbird was present all summer, but I saw no proof of a nest. A martin house put up the previous summer was host to two pair of purple martins. Chipping sparrows were noted in early April and two pair bred successfully in evergreen shrubs two and three feet high. At least two pair of house sparrows were successful. Because of the construction of the houses, house sparrows usually built a completely domed nest in the evergreen. These nest resembled the true weaver bird nests.

THIRD YEAR

A wren house put up in a small apple tree was successfully used by a pair of house wrens. One pair of mockingbirds nested behind my house in a small tree. Robins now found shrubs large enough for nests. Chipping sparrows increased and were numerous throughout the whole subdivision. A pair of song sparrows nested in a row of non-evergreen shrubs.

FOURTH AND FIFTH YEARS

No change in the number of species, but a slight increase in individuals.

SIXTH AND SEVENTH YEARS

A new species in the sixth year was a pair of yellow warblers that nested in a small willow tree. A pair nested in the same tree for four consecutive years. We had seen an occasional cardinal, but I did not see a pair nest until the seventh year. In the spring of the sixth year we planted multiflora rose bushes around the fence in our back yard. The plants were apparently too small to attract birds until the eighth year. As deciduous trees became large and the general appearance of the area changed, I noticed a drop in the chipping sparrow population

EIGHTH, NINTH AND TENTH YEARS

A brown thrasher appeared in the seventh year, but was driven away by the mockingbird. However, in the eighth year a pair of thrashers bred in the multiflora. Robins continued to increase as more nesting areas became available through the growth of trees and shrubs. In the ninth year a catbird appeared, but did not stay. Robins again increased, but with some birds having second nests a positive count was difficult. Apparently all chipping sparrows nest twice and I suspect a few a third

time. In the tenth year a pair of mourning doves nested in an elm tree. The catbird bred in the tenth year and we had the pleasure of all three mimics nesting in a total area of three yards. The yellow warbler did not nest, but this may not be permanent.

The enclosed chart will give a capsule picture of the study. Worth mentioning is the absence of woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees and bluejays. All of these species are breeding birds in a wood two blocks from the study area. Starlings are also common visitors, but the habitat is still not suitable for breeding. Since the song sparrow, cardinal and mockingbird occasionally sing during the winter and are easy to keep track of, I believe these birds to be true permanent residents.

It is hoped that the second ten year study will appear in 1974.

SPECIES	Yr. 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10
Mourning Dove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Horned Lark	1	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Martin	0	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
House Wren	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Mockingbird	0	?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Catbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Thrasher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Robin	0	?	2	3	3	4	5	5	6	6
Yellow Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
House Sparrow	0	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Cardinal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
Chip. Sparrow	0	2	4	4	5	4	3	3	2	2
Song Sparrow	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total species	1	3	7	7	7	8	9	10	10	11
Total Breed. Population	2	12	30	34	38	40	42	46	44	48

OZARK NATURE OBSERVATIONS

by
SPENCER JONES

If I had a "bird of the month" in some month of the year it would be cedar waxwings in September. Just outside my porch window I have several poke berry plants and some tall trees close by. In early September I either spot a wild activity in these poke plants or see the waxwings sitting quite and erect in the tree tops. Individual birds spiral down to feed on the berries where they go through all sorts of acrobatics, stretches and contortions to pick off this food. Then, still as individuals, they hurl themselves up to the tree tops again. In this climbing flight they sometimes go nearly straight up. They also perform the turning climb which is known in vintage aviation as "The Immelman". Their perch and their markings and their group flights are as precise as an old world cavalry troop. After the first hard frost in the fall the poke berries dry up and these handsome birds don't linger quite so faithfully. Finally they are gone until spring.

When one hikes in an area where domestic fowl does not range one knows that all feathers which might be discovered will be from native or migrant birds. One day I found a dark grey feather, about 4 inches long with an oval white tip. There was some white extending along one edge about one more inch from the tip. I couldn't guess what bird had lost the feather but did conclude that it was either a wing or tail feather. Several months later I came upon a dead yellow billed cuckoo. The tail had two of those 4 inch, white tipped, white edged, dark grey feathers and the mystery was solved.

In hiking I sometimes come upon some natural history concerning the sudden death of a rabbit. Often I can tell what happened in a general way. I've determined that foxes get the most rabbits, along the road at least, but in one instance a great horned owl had scored and feasted. He had left several clues among which were several very fluffy feathers.

Having no livestock to browse and trample the natural vegetation I have food surpluses for birds and wildlife. Therefore I do not feed my birds in times of heavy snow. One of the tall grasses is called purple top. It produces enormous crops of seed on a stem which reaches 4 feet up from the ground level on the average. These seed heads are exposed even in the deepest snows and are a favorite target of juncos when there is snow cover. They have a special technique in getting at these seeds; they fly onto the stem and ride it down. If the stem breaks that seems to be fine but often it does not break. This leaves the junco out of reach of the seed on a badly swaying perch. With wings and tail as his balancers he then side steps toward the seed head and eventually brings it down to the snow where he feeds with no trouble.

There is the old question about squirrels hiding nuts and then being put to the test of finding them again in winter. Add about a foot of snow to this problem and it takes on another dimension--the fact that the squirrel becomes vulnerable to his enemies while he is looking for the nut. I have been much entertained while watching a red squirrel "dunk" for walnuts in a deep snow. When things are right nothing but his tail is visible. I can't say whether the squirrel works from memory or from smell but he sure gets nervous after a few moments with his head out of sight. He pops back out of the hole and stands on his hind feet and gets a look all around. Then he dives back hunting the walnut. Sometimes he finds a walnut on the first try. About three popups without success is enough for him and he moves to try another spot. There isn't any doubt that he works on something besides guess as he scores too often for that and too far from any walnut tree.

Very rarely when wild animals and people are on a collision course the person sees the animal first. Once I was fortunate enough to spot a red fox coming toward me through a heavily forested area. I knelt down and kept an eye on the fox to see how close he would get before he discovered me. He scented me first at about 50 feet distance and began looking for me while standing very alertly. I think he spotted me within 30 seconds and then raced away

but not the way he approached; he chose a route which took him out of my sight in about two jumps. No other route would have given the fox such good escape and he seemed to choose it instantly.

One damp windy spring day I spotted three turkey vultures sitting in the top of a dead tree on a ridge. I saw a fourth vulture coming in to join the others and I thought maybe I was going to have a "buzzard tree"; I know of one a long way off. Not everyone thinks of a turkey vulture as being a graceful flyer but they do have a certain grace when they are landing. I put my field glasses on this landing bird and watched him fly up wind to the tree and "stall in" on a limb. The limb broke as he folded his wings and the poor old fellow beat his wings madly to save himself. This commotion startled the other three vultures and they took off in a hurry. So far as I know they haven't been in that tree since.

One day just after noon I was going up my open ridge to ditch a place in my road. I spotted a doe and her two fawns browsing and was able to get back and out of sight without them seeing me. I always think I have won sort of a victory if I can keep a quiet enough place that deer will browse in daylight hours so I gave these deer an hour or more to feed. Then I set out again to ditch the road; I looked carefully and thought the deer had gone. Instead they had crossed to the far right of the open area and I startled them. They made a quick run to the nearest woods on the right. A fence was at the edge of the open and the doe and one fawn sailed over it with the greatest of ease. The second fawn hit the fence and crumpled to the ground. I thought he was killed and I was blaming myself for not waiting longer before coming up and also that I hadn't removed the fence as it wasn't needed. The little deer jumped up quite unharmed and gave me a long look--head up, ears out and tail cocked high. He then turned and shot over the fence and raced after the others. I then continued on through the open into a wooded area. I'd gone a few hundred yards through these woods when a doe and two fawns broke out of the trees on my right and headed across the road. The doe and one fawn crossed and headed into heavy woods on my left. The other fawn turned back

and disappeared into the woods on the right. All this happened fast with the deer startled and on the run; I surmised that they were the same three I had seen only a few minutes before. I also guessed that the tail end fawn which had slammed into the fence was the same one which had failed to cross the road and was separated from his family. I concluded that if I could wait him out he would soon join them. It wasn't "soon" but finally I did see movement. The fawn crept along like slow motion choosing hoof placements so carefully that he didn't make a sound. He came out of the woods into plain sight but kept inching along silently. He crossed the road in slow motion not 30 yards from me following the scent or the path the others had taken and disappeared into the woods. I'm still trying to figure out if he was smart or dumb.

Twice I have seen what I believe to be the most comical sight in wildlife. This is a mother skunk with her brood out catching beetles and exploring their world in general. She leads at a dumpy gallop and the little ones gallop along behind in single file. When the mother skunk stops and begins to dig or nose about, the baby skunks do the same. When she moves on they follow instantly and there seems to be a "pecking order" for the young ones which is never violated. Being mostly black in color these family groups look exactly like a toy train as they snake around an open area. When I see them coming they can have the right of way!

Twice I have seen one of the most dramatic of wildlife "triangles". This is two bucks and one doe in the mating season. In both cases there was a big buck and a small buck. The first such affair, so far as I observed it, began when I spotted the big buck standing all humped up pawing the ground. His back and shoulder and neck hair was standing up on end. His nose was tucked in toward his chest and his mouth was open. I couldn't hear any sound of grunts or rumbles but I was indoors over a hundred yards away. At first I didn't see the doe or the other buck as the performance of the big buck was so fascinating that I wouldn't take my eyes off him. About the time I saw the doe the ruffled buck turned around slowly and on stiff legs started toward a tree line some 40 or 50 yards away. Then I saw the rival buck. He was no match physically for the big

buck but stood his ground just the same. However, after a very few whirls and lunges the smaller buck turned and ran away. The doe was watching all this quietly. She watched the big buck come back from the fight and approach her. Suddenly he broke into a run and she panicked and fled. The chase went round and across an open ridge and finally out of sight into a wooded area. My observation time must have been about ten minutes. In the second of these affairs the big buck seemed to be more protective of the doe as he interposed himself between her and the rival buck. She watched rather calmly while the small buck would come a step or two nearer until the big buck would leave her and hurl himself at the small buck which always ran away. When the bucks had gone about a hundred yards away from the doe the big buck stopped the chase and returned to the doe or to where he could see her browsing. From time to time he would prance up to any handy bush and slash it with his antlers; he smashed cedar, pine, elm and hawthorn with vicious thrusts--up, down and sideways. This game of love and hate went on and on. I first saw these three deer in late afternoon and watched them for about an hour and a half until it got too dark to see. I did not see them the following morning or ever again as a trio.

I wish to offer a few comments on a bird I have not observed. It has been stated frequently that the return of deer to the Ozarks means that things are just fine here for wildlife in general. I am a bit more critical. I maintain that a better species on which to judge conditions is the ruffed grouse. They could not survive the prolonged blight of open range and will not return until the dominating grip of this practice is ended on some large areas of our commercial forests. Fortunately we have a move by the US Forest Service to use their authority to forbid free ranging livestock on their holdings in Missouri. This is to become effective on November 1, 1965; it will give us some large blocks of forestland on which biologists can reintroduce ruffed grouse with a real expectation of success. I feel certain that nature and time will do the rest to reestablish these birds to the Ozarks, a place where they most certainly belong.

* * * * * Spencer Jones

CONSERVATION NEEDS ARE
HIGHLIGHTED IN BUDGET PROPOSALS

Conservation is getting much attention in the budget proposed by the President for fiscal 1966, beginning June 30 of this year, with change reflected in some of the major resource programs. Added emphasis is placed on water pollution control and protection of endangered species of wildlife, but the emergency waterfowl wetlands acquisition program would be cut by \$500,000 and significant reductions are proposed for some agricultural programs.

As an over-all proposal, the President's budget of \$99.7 billion reduces expenditures for national defense and space while increasing appropriations for health, labor, education and some other domestic programs.

In his message of 1/25/65 (House Document 15), the President said:

"Expanded programs and higher expenditures are proposed to: provide better and more education for our children, extend the war against poverty; promote advances in the nation's health; improve conditions in the urban areas where most of us live; help the Appalachian region lift itself out of its present depressed condition; strengthen our social security protection; increase economic opportunities in rural communities; encourage sound use of our natural resources; and conserve natural beauty in our land."

Later in the message, he had these comments about natural resources:

"During its last session, the Congress passed a number of far-reaching laws that will advance significantly the development, conservation, and use of our natural resources. They include the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the Wilderness Act, and the Water Resources Research Act. The 1966 budget will implement these measures."

"The budget also recommends the start of 37 new projects by the Corps of Engineers, 9 new projects by the Bureau of Reclamation, and 5 new projects by the Tennessee Valley Authority."

"About two-thirds of the total expenditures for natural resources will be used to continue construction and operation of projects to provide water, control floods, improve navigation, and generate power."

"Increased attention has been focused in recent years on the importance of the wise use and conservation of our water resources. Federal investment in water and related resources development has grown sharply--and it is expected to grow further in the period ahead."

"Urban, industrial, and recreational requirements for water have increased greatly in recent years and will continue to increase as our economy grows. The relative priorities of many historic water uses, including cropland, are changing. The implications of the changing needs for water resources programs and the most effective means of achieving our objectives are under intensified review to meet changing priorities."

"The budget provides for a major expansion in research to develop improved technology for desalting water, including the use of nuclear energy. This program holds important promise in a world where water is a key to economic development and well-being."

"I am also again recommending legislation to authorize river basin planning commissions and grants to states for planning the best use of water resources."

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is being allocated only \$7,500,000 in advance funds to accelerate waterfowl wetlands acquisition. This amount is \$500,000 less than allowed in fiscal 1965. This is the fourth appropriation made under provisions of the seven-year emergency acquisition program. If this amount is granted, only \$32,500,000 will have been allowed from the \$105,000,000 authorized. Then, unless the deadline is extended, in 1969 repayment of the advance must be made at the rate of 75 per cent of the annual revenues from duck stamp sales.

For the first time, it is proposed that the Federal Government use the full authorization of \$100,000,000 for grants to municipalities for construction of waste treatment plants to abate water pollution. In the current year, the appropriation was \$90,000,000, with authority granted to obligate up to \$100,000,000.

HERPETOLOGISTS

Most birders rarely disturb birds beyond flushing them to observe field marks. Botanists make it a rule not to collect plants not in abundance. We don't tear down birdnest to see what is in them, or fell hollow trees to see the coons or flying squirrels run in terror. Indeed, we preach cover restoration as a major means of increasing wildlife populations. (Remember Don Christianson's remark at the 1964 Missouri Audubon annual meeting that prairie chickens depend not so much on the kind of grasses available as on the permanence of grass?)

But when we engage in a bit of herpetology, overturning log after log, rock after rock, seeking snakes and lizards, it seems we rarely turn back these objects of cover. As in the case of the prairie chicken, cover permanence is important. Don't you think that, within a reptile's home range, escape depends on the presence of emergency cover just where the animal has come to expect it, and that its food procurement is hampered when it must develop new patterns of hunting?

So, when you've looked under a log or rock, whether you make a find or not, **REPLACE THE COVER**. There will be a better chance of finding something there next time.

Robert M. Doerr

* * * * *

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. R. O. Powelson, former director of the Society from St. Joseph. Mrs. Powelson will be remembered by a host of friends for her energetic support of the Society and as a friend of the unfortunates in her home town. We hope to publish a fitting memorial in the near future.

HAVE YOU MOVED? Please notify the Secretary if you change your address. The cost of forwarding the BLUEBIRD to those who fail to do so amounts to a considerable amount each year.



Fall Survey

Compiled by
Richard Anderson
1147 Grenshaw Dr.
St. Louis 37, Mo..

The most characteristic feature of Missouri's fall was the lack of moisture. At St. Louis rainfall was about normal at the end of August, but was over $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches below normal by mid-November. In one 50 day span only .73 inch of rain fell. Rain in late November made up over two inches and the drought was at least temporarily relieved. September was generally below normal in temperature. A record low on September 13 in St. Louis came on the heels of a large land bird movement. The first half of October was also cooler than normal. St. Joseph's 25 on October 9 was a record by 4 degrees. Television weather news on October 9 reported that radar at the St. Louis airport had picked up large masses of migrating birds. The next day, sparrows were very abundant, especially white-throated. Indian summer then set in for a solid month until the rains and cool weather of late November. Just ahead of the cold front of Nov. 28-29 a birder's dream for Dave Easterla occurred at the Lake of the Ozarks. Imagine, if you will, a heavy flight of winter ducks, 22 Bonaparte's gulls, 25 horned grebes, 3 common loons and to top it off 8 Arctic loons.

On the subject of rarities an American brant was shot at Gilbert Lake just north of St. Louis. In direct contrast to last year, there was no sign of a winter invasion of northern species. No goshawk, snowy owl, red crossbills, evening grosbeaks or snow buntings were reported as last year. Encouraging is a definite increase in two songbirds - the bluebird and Carolina wren.

To those interested in what happened to the two hunters caught slaughtering mourning doves in south-east Missouri, we offer the following:

Each hunter responsible was fined \$500.00, given a six month suspended jail sentence and placed on probation for five years. This means that if they

are caught hunting anywhere during the next five years, they will be immediately transported to a Federal prison for a six month stay. We applaud Federal Judge James H. Meredith. Magistrate Judge Ermerling of St. Charles County has reminded duck hunters that overshooting will cost \$50.00 per bird and late shooting \$5.00 per minute. To make his point the first hunter caught paid \$311.40 for five extra birds and 7 minutes late shooting.

* * * * *

Waterfowl--An AMERICAN BRANT was shot by a hunter near Gilbert Lake on Nov. 9. The specimen was identified by Illinois State Conservation agents and U.S. agent Dick Vasse. The bird was a first year bird and was turned over to Dr. John Wannamaker of Principia College. The Canada goose flight was both early and heavy. Hunting was exceptionally good at the Swan Lake Refuge with 10,000 birds being killed the first eight days. This is not slaughter, just good hunting.

Sixteen white-fronted geese were found at Raytown Oct. 18 (E. COLE). As with most waterfowl, white-fronted geese were early at Squaw Creek and had left by Oct. 24. Burgess's count of blue-snow geese had reached 120,000 at Squaw Creek by Oct. 24.

Ducks were generally earlier than last year, but in about the same numbers. Gadwall and green-winged teal seemed to be up while hooded mergansers were definitely down from last year. Most encouraging was Sally Vasse's report of mallards being considerably greater in number during Nov. than last year. Mallards numbered 50,000 by Nov. 15 at the Batchtown refuge on the Mississippi River. Goldeneyes and common mergansers had reached Swan Lake, Ill. by Nov. 20 (S.V.) and Lake of Ozarks by Nov. 27 (D.E.). Waterfowl population was rated very low in Mississippi County by Jim Haw. The only rare winter duck was a white-winged scoter at Wyco Lake on Nov. 7 seen by Father Terrance Rhoades (fide D.E.).

Vultures and Hawks--Dan Hatch reports Oct. 13 as the last date for local turkey vulture population in the Columbia area. On that date 75 were counted at a roost near Hunters Cave. Migrants were noted by

by Dan until Nov. 1. Jim Haw reports 36 turkey and black vultures at Duck Creek on Sept. 9.

A family group of three Mississippi kites was seen near Big Oak State Park on Aug. 29 (S.H.). Another group of four kites was seen north of Charleston on Aug. 27 (J.H.). A late kite was observed near Ozark, Mo. on Sept 29 (I.F.). Sharpshinned hawks were rated very numerous in western Missouri (D.E.). Sharpshinned were still more common than Cooper's at St. Louis (S.H.). The first bald eagles were later than normal, but were more numerous than last year by Dec. 1.

The only pigeon hawk was one at Squaw Creek Sept. 27 (F.L.). A duck hawk was at St. Louis Sept. 11 and Oct. 3 (S.H.).

Quail through Rails--Bob-whites were generally down a little from last year's high. Prairie chickens were reported near Appleton City by Howard Downer and near Montevallo and Arcola by Roland Shumate and Lewis Crowder (fide I.F.). Six prairie chickens were found by Dan Hatch on the Wise brothers farm near Tucker Prairie on Sept. 25 (J.R.). Two wild turkeys were located at Mingo Aug. 29 (S.H.) and one was seen in Barry County in southwest Missouri on Nov. 22 (D.E.). An adult king rail with four downy young were found at Squaw Creek Aug. 16 (F.L.). A king rail was also found at Fellows Lake Oct. 3 (I.F.) and a Virginia rail at St. Louis Oct. 4 (S.H.).

Shorebirds--The fall flight of shorebirds was generally good, but certainly not spectacular. Again suitable habitat was limited by the dry weather. Early cold weather pushed the bulk of birds on by mid-September, but many birds lingered through the Indian summer of late October and stayed well into November. Rarest birds at Squaw Creek were piping plover, willet and avocet all on Aug. 16 and a northern phalarope on Aug. 23 (F.L.).

Highlights of shorebirds at St. Louis were: common snipe very low (.S.H.), greater yellow-legs abundant mid-Sept. (S.H.), white-rumped sandpipers common mid-Aug., least sandpiper common through most of Nov., dunlin very uncommon, western sandpiper very uncommon. Five buff-breasted sandpipers were found at Grand Marais on Sept. 10 (Laffey-Willets) with one staying until Sept. 24. Wilson's

phalaropes were common and two northern phalaropes were found at Creve Coeur Sept. 19-20 (Laffey). Gulls through Swifts--Herring and ring-billed gulls were normal. Franklin's gull counts were as follows: 250 at Squaw Creek Sept. 27 (F.L.), two at Memorial Park Cemetary Oct. 28 and 22 at Fairfax Bridge Nov. 14 (D.E.) and an unusually high count of 35 at East St. Louis, Ill. on Oct. 23 (S.H.). Also on Oct. 23 at East St. Louis were 6 Bonaparte gulls, but most unusual was 22 Bonapartes at Lake of the Ozarks on Nov. 27 (D.E.). Terns were near normal, but a little early. Yellow-billed cuckoos were common through mid-Oct., but black-billed were rare. Owls were normal except for a snowy owl report from Springfield. However, no details were given. The only nighthawk flights mentioned were in eastern Missouri with 200 on Aug. 29 and 130 on Sept. 20 (S.H.). The swift flight ended in early Oct., about one full week earlier than usual. Woodpeckers through Nuthatch--Red-headed woodpeckers apparently are wintering in much greater numbers than last year. The only red-shafted flickers were all at Kansas City, one on Oct. 9 (M.L.Myers) and one on Oct. 31 and Nov. 25 (Dr. Throm). An unusual high count for sapsuckers was made at Gray Summit Nov. 29 with 9 individuals (S.H.). A late date for eastern kingbird in Missouri was recorded near St. Joseph on Oct. 24 (F.L.). The last date for western kingbird at St. Joseph was Aug. 19 (F.L.). The last scissor-tailed flycatcher recorded at Kansas City was Oct. 11 (E.Cole). A roost of 50 scissor-tailed flycatchers was observed at Springfield Aug. 28-31 by Leonard Confer and Clyde Johnson (fide I.F.). Other flycatchers were normal except for the phoebe which was reported as unusually low at St. Louis (S.H.). Swallows stayed late despite early cold fronts. Tree swallows were common until early Nov. (R.A.). A few fish crows were still present in the Charleston-Big Oak State Park area in mid-Sept. (S.H., J.H., R.A.). As expected, there was a very poor flight of red-breasted nuthatches. Only two were reported at St. Louis, one on Oct. 31 (Laffey) and one on Nov. 29 (S.H.). Wrens through Waxwing--Most encouraging was the surprising increase in Carolina wrens on a state-wide basis. Marsh wrens were about normal, while winter wrens were a little early and more common

than usual. Most thrushes were below normal, except for the bluebirds which were seen in the highest number in many years by almost all observers. American pipits were reported by all observers this fall. The peak occurred from late Oct. to the second week of Nov. Cedar waxwings were reported very early throughout the state and were common all fall, except at St. Joseph where they had left by the end of Nov.

Vireos through Tanager--As usual the warbler flight passed through Missouri mainly unnoticed. An exception was the Hanselmann-Willet count of Sept 12. Counts of 20 species of warblers included 10 black and white, 5 golden-winged, 8 Nashville, 6 magnolia, 20 black-throated green, 6 blackburnian, 30 chestnut-sided, 40 bay-breasted and 20 overnbirds. A television tower kill in the Kansas City area on Sept. 10 showed the following: 4 solitary vireos, 2 Philadelphia vireos, 1 bay-breasted warbler, 1 palm warbler, 3 northern waterthrushes, 2 Connecticut warbler, 5 mourning warblers and 1 Canada warbler. Unusual was the 5 mourning warblers, but far more unusual was the two Connecticut warblers, which are supposed to migrate down the east coast in fall. Very rare for Lawrence, Kansas was a male black-throated blue warbler on Sept 3 seen by E. Cole and Dave Smith. Pine warblers were seen on many occasions in the Kansas City, Kansas area from early Oct. to early Dec. (E.Cole, D.E. etal). Since this species was only on the hypothetical list for the state of Kansas, one was collected to verify the record. A singing male hooded warbler was still present at Big Oak State Park Sept. 12 (J.H.,R.A.), which had been joined by many norther migrants.

Five bobolinks were seen near Washington, Mo. on Oct. 23 (D.H.) and Floyd Lawhon rates them more than usual at St. Joseph this fall. Western meadowlarks had reached St. Louis by Oct. 24, and were rated above normal at St. Joseph. (F.L.) Of interest was 5 scarlet tanagers at St. Louis on Sept. 11 (S.H.).

Finches--A high count of 25 rose-breasted grosbeaks was made at St. Louis on Sept. 12 (S.H.). LeConte's sparrows were very scarce in eastern

Missouri, but unusually common in western Missouri (St. Joseph, Kansas City). White-throated sparrows were about two weeks ahead of the juncos, which is unusual and were abundant most of Oct. The first Harris' sparrow at Busch Wildlife was Oct. 18, but was very scarce which is normal in eastern Missouri. Joe Roller's study on Tucker Prairie revealed a peak of 12 singing Henslow's sparrows on Aug. 20. A female with food in her beak on the same date is the first evidence of nesting on Tucker Prairie. Roller also reports that the Henslow's was the most common bird at Taberville Prairie and the only persistent singer on Aug. 23.

Lapland longspurs had reached St. Louis by Oct. 31 and were below normal in numbers. At least 200 Lapland longspurs were found in Mississippi County on Nov. 27 (J.H.). They were common at Kansas City from Nov. 1 on with Nov. 14 rated the peak (D.E.). Ten Smith's longspurs were seen at the Fairfax Bridge at Kansas City on Nov. 14 and 20 were present No. 20 (D.E.).

R.A. - Richard Anderson
D.E. - David Easterla
I.F. - Irving Fay
S.H. - Steve Hanselmann
J.H. - Jim Haw
D.H. - Donald Hays
F.L. - Floyd Lawhon
J.R. - Joe Roller
S.V. - Sally Vasse

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The BLUEBIRD is the official publication of the Audubon Society of Missouri. It is published quarterly at St. Louis, Missouri. Articles, essays, stories on all phases of natural history and conservation are welcome and will be printed within limits of space available. Manuscripts should be double-spaced on one side of legal paper. Illustrations should be on single weight glossy paper or original drawings. Reprints will be furnished at cost.

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PARKS, MONUMENTS, AND RECREATION AREAS

S.98--PRESERVATION OF SHORLINE AREAS FOR PUBLIC USE AND BENEFIT. Senators Clinton P. Anderson (N. Mex.), Ernest Gruening (Alaska), Jennings Randolph (W.Va.), Eugene J. McCarthy (Minn.), Alan Bible (Nev.), and Philip A. Hart (Mich.). Promotes the preservation for public use and benefit, of certain portions of the shoreline areas of the U.S. The Secretary of the Interior would be authorized and directed to make a study and investigation to determine what should be done to save and preserve these shoreline areas among others; Cumberland Island, Ga.; Huron Mountains, Mich.; Channel Islands, Calif.; Cape Flattery, Wash.; Leadbetter Point, Wash.; Mosquito Lagoon, Fla.; Pigeon Point, Minn.; Popham-Saint John, Maine; Parramoure Island, Va.; Great Salt Lake, Utah; Lake Tahoe, Nevada-California; Smith Island, N.C.; and the shores of Hawaii. The Secretary of the Interior also would be authorized to pay up to one-half of the purchase price states might pay to acquire suitable areas, with a ceiling of \$25,000,000 placed on the authorization. The Forest Service would be authorized to use \$400,000 to study shoreline areas on national forests. Referred 1/6/65 to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

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The Society is in dire circumstances financially. This issue of the BLUEBIRD has had to be postponed until dues were available to insure it could be paid for!