

Observations of the Ferruginous Rough-leg in Iowa.—The recorded occurrences of the Ferruginous Rough-leg (*Buteo regalis*) in Iowa seem to be sufficiently scarce to warrant publication of these observations made by the writer during the spring of 1934.

On March 29, two birds were seen two miles southwest of Perry, Dallas County. One was noticeably larger than the other, apparently indicating a mated pair. Both had light gray tails, which were dark terminally. The backs were rusty, and the underparts were light. The rusty tarsal feathering was noted on one of the birds as it perched near by. The black spot on the under side of the wing, diagnostic of a Rough-leg, was evident in both individuals. Another pair was seen at Long Pond, Dallas County, a few minutes later. This is five or six miles west of where the first pair was noted, and certainly was a different pair. On April 9, a single bird was seen two miles northeast of Milford, Dickinson County. The spot on the under-surface of the wing, the rusty back, gray tail with dark terminal band, all were noted. A single bird was seen on April 11, two miles southwest of Round Lake, Clay County. This bird was seen to advantage as it perched on a telephone post near by. It probably was a male. On April 17, another, probably a female, was observed at Four Mile Lake, Emmet County. The underparts of this bird were darker, except on the throat, and the other field characters were indicative of this species.—PHILIP A. DuMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

Observations on the Chimney Swift.—For several seasons I have been especially interested in the nesting of the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). On two occasions I have lowered myself down a chimney in order to obtain closer observation of the nest and young birds. On the first occasion I found the nest about twenty feet below the top of the chimney. The nest was composed of small, dry twigs, a seven-inch length of string, a piece of straw, and three inches of bee wire. At the beginning of the nesting season I had placed three dry twigs on the top of a ledge in the chimney, allowing them to protrude about an inch beyond the edge. To one of the twigs I attached the three-inch bit of wire, and I painted the ends of the two remaining twigs black. I was somewhat surprised, however, to find later that the birds had used the wire and one of the twigs in the construction of the nest. The string used in nest building had also been placed by me in the chimney well. The straw is not accounted for. All the pieces in the nest were glued together with a substance secreted by the builders. Three nestlings occupied the nest this season, and all were successfully reared. Later in the season the broken nest was found at the bottom of the chimney well.

In July, 1934, I located another nest thirty-five feet below the top of the chimney. This family consisted of six birds, all of which were captured; four were banded and released. Two of the older nestlings died upon being taken to the top of the chimney. I believe this was caused by the heat. At the top of the chimney the air was excessively warm. The air at the level of the nest was cool. I expect to continue my observations of the Chimney Swift next season, and would be glad to correspond with others who are interested in this species.—LAWRENCE E. HUNTER, *Dallas City, Ill.*

Changes in the Habits of the Prairie Chicken.—In a former note the writer mentioned the habit of prairie-nesting birds of resting in the shade of fence posts during extremely hot weather. This last June (1934), while in western North Dakota, Prairie Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse were found on numerous

occasions resting behind telephone poles along the country roads. The average pole casts a shadow just about as wide as the width of the sitting bird and here they were found during the worst heat of the day. Several times as many as eight and ten birds would be found in the shade of consecutive poles, and although they were located only a short distance from a slowly moving car, they would not budge from their places.

Below Sioux City, Iowa, is a flat area known as the "Hornick Bottoms", and here great quantities of winter wheat is planted. This region is the favorite feeding ground of migrating Golden Plover, and it was while observing these birds on several occasions, that another interesting habit of the Prairie Chicken was discovered. The wheat fields are usually of several hundreds of acres in extent, and in plowing the farmers will often miss a stretch of weed grown stubble a foot or two wide and several rods long. It is here that the wary Prairie Chicken will rest during the day, in almost assured safety, as hunters and dogs do not get out on the low green growth of new wheat in their search for game. I have flushed out birds from these narrow bands of stubble, and from the amount of droppings knew that the birds had been coming back day after day. Cottontail rabbits also use this same site for day-time resting places, showing that both birds and animals take advantage of this man-made haven.—WM. YOUNG WORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

A Snowy Heron Record for Franklin County, Indiana.—The smaller of two brothers, hoeing corn in front of my home, came rushing in as I sat writing at my desk on the morning of July 28, 1933, and told me that there was a great flock of strange, white birds approaching from the west. However, they had reached the cornfield almost by the time the boy got to me, and by the time I had snatched a pair of field glasses and got outside they had disappeared beyond the woods that skirted the eastern edge of the field. The older brother informed me that he judged that there were between fifty and seventy-five of them. They were not pigeons, they were sure, nor ducks, nor geese. The smaller brother said that they were some kind of really strange birds. "What did they most resemble?" I asked. "Looked like a flock of 'White Shite Pokes'", the younger brother said. "White Shite Pokes"! Could it be, I wondered, that the boys had seen a flock of Snowy Herons? I had never seen any, nor had I ever heard of any being seen in my immediate neighborhood.

Along towards evening on August 1, 1933, I went up on Right Hand Fork, a meandering, rocky stream that lies northeast of my home, to observe some Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*) that I had seen there while on a hurried trip some days before. I reached the stream some distance above where I had seen the sandpipers, and not yet having encountered them, I was watching for a moment through my field glasses two adult Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*). Both took wing at once, and as I lowered my glasses I chanced to glimpse a white object near the top of a small, black hickory that stood on the right bank of the stream. My first thought, unusual as it may seem, was that the object was an old white turkey belonging to a farmstead a short way behind. I saw my mistake at once. I trained the glasses on the bird and noted immediately the yellow feet, black legs, and dark bill, also the plumes on the back of the head. It was a Snowy Heron (*Egretta thula thula*). It was not shy, for to begin with I was not more than forty feet away, and it allowed me another ten-foot approach before it flew, circled not higher than thirty feet over my head a half dozen times, flew across the creek and alighted in the top of a taller hickory situated on a bluff.