

JOURNAL 1931

JAMES W. BEE

1931 NOTES

2-10-31 (see page 11 for addenda entry this date)

2-14-31

Observed for the first time in the season the Western Evening Grosbeaks feeding in a boulder tree at 2nd North and 3rd West in Springville. Saw a number of Pintail ducks at mouth of Hubble Creek at Mud Lake.

2-15-31

Heard the first robin of the season at Provo at home. Examined a number of holes in ground on a garden ditch bank, covered with dead and green grass roots. The depth and shape of the holes were the same shape as the birds bill. There were no ants or other insects noticed on the surface of the ground. The depth of the holes extended below the grass roots. Watched bird drill holes from a range of 12'. Examined above statement more thoroughly and found ants in a weak condition beneath the surface where the flickers had drilled the holes.

2-16-31

Heard the first western House Finch during the winter period.

2-17-31

The first song that fitted the atmosphere of the spring day. The form of the song was to sit upon a telephone wire and sing its marvellous song. He then flew down to a sunflower and uttered a series of chirps, picked at the seeds and then flew back to his perch on the wire and continued his song. A very excited robin was perched on the utmost branch of a tall Sycamore near home first observed on spring arrival. Its chirping cries brought my attention at 7:30 A.M. as it left its perch it ascended upward to an altitude invisible thru the dull morning lights.

2-18-31

G. W. Jones scratching on surface of ground like a chicken only with a more rapid movement. Six Pintail ducks flew over First Ward pasture

2-21-31

A large flock of robins were observed flying against a strong north wind toward the eastern mountains at Nephi. There was a steady and continuous flight for a duration of 1 minute. First arrival of the bluebird at Nephi.

2-27-31

The ability of the soaring ~~bird~~ vulture was observed at Rock Canyon N.E. of Provo. A heavy wind was blowing at a high speed. Against this wind 2 vultures sailed directly into it and crossed the canyon without a perceptible movement of the wings. These birds must stay here all winter as they are seen at different occasions.

3-1-31

A friend estimated 20 pairs of Canadian Geese at Mud Lake (see 7-27-31 for notes on Sandhill) Preston Carter also observed 40 Pelicans on the reef in Mud Lake.

3-2-31

The Canadian Geese at mud Lake in many cases have paired off for the spring mating. The change from the regular flock groups was

affected about the 27th of February.

3-4-31

Preston Carter stated that the health condition of the mallard was exceptionally good this year regardless of the unusually extreme cold weather this winter. He caught a mallard in his muskrat trap. The leg was broken and was cut off and released. He stated that it was as fat as a duck could be - Provo.

3-4-31

A Bull was observed flying against a strong north wind along the lake shore at mouth of Provo river. It made 8 feet in 10 seconds. This wind had piled up considerable ice on the lake shore line - Utah Lake. First bluebirds observed in Provo. this year. A large flock of ducks 1 1/2 blocks n. & of Old Lake Resort. They winged their way in from all directions. Those arriving with the north wind came in with an astonishing speed while those from the south arrived very slowly and their flight labored. The ducks seemed to be in continual movement rather than resting or feeding. This pond is distinct from the lake proper.

3-5-31

Could hear the weird song of the robin during the early morning when the lights were just sufficient to see the mountains east of Provo.

3-6-31

Sharp-shin Hawk flying over home and causing disturbance among bird by its cries. The keen eye of the robin caught sight of the hawk which was to my eye a sailing speck in the sky. The cries of the robin first attracted my attention.

3-6-31

A male Cinnamon teal was caught in a trap, set of muskrats by Preston Carter living S.W. of Provo. Its leg was badly swollen from the broken leg. After examining it he released the bird which flew a couple of blocks and lit in a pond.

3-7-31

Spent the day along the south shore line of Mud Lake observing the waterfowl. Wind blowing hard and many forms were found on this section of the lake. Ducks like the fall hunters dream, haunted the flooded weed shore lines on this south side of the lake. The thousands of ducks consisted practically all of the Pintail species. The weeded edges of the long bay were blackened with ducks. The noise made by these ducks represented the continual hum of the bee with blending harsh sounds. Large flocks came down the west shore from the south while those coming with the north wind glided in with fast speed. As I made my appearance, a dark cloud of ducks rose filling the sky with a dark mass. Concealed myself and watched with binoculars the many ducks winging in from all directions. The long white necks of the feeding pintail among the short weeds, would, upon alarmed protrude above the weeds and presenting a new beach like a seashell scattered shore-line. The thousands of ducks completely changed the appearance of the lake edge. Found one sick pintail on the windward side of an island but found no signs of injury so placed it on the leeward side away from the driving winds. A number of Baldpate were associated with pintails.

The Green Wing teal occurred in small numbers as well as large flocks. They were generally scattered along the shoreline from the Channel to the N. E. section of the lake along south shoreline. The strong winds invariably send many duck to the south side of any lake or pond. The Mallards seemed more numerous on the south side of Mud Lake than on the west side. Large flocks flew up from the S. W. bay of Mud Lake. a flock of 45 Pelicans flew northward in single file about 2 feet above the water. Another flock of equal number were resting on the weeded shoreline in bay south of the two Goose islands which are at the S. E. section of the lake. Seven were resting upon Goose Island. A number of Pelicans showed their acrobatic ability by exhibiting in a forceful northern march wind. It seemed very easy for them to get a quick altitude and when lighting come straight (not literally) down. The way they handled themselves in the wind and the speed of the birds seemed extraordinary. Scattered flocks of geese were in the bay and near the Goose Islands. They numbered 38. a lone pair of Canadian Geese was feeding in the middle of the bay one block south of the Utah-Mud-Lake channel. They came to attention and watched me for some time. They left and flew the length of the bay to the west and then returned to large bay to the east where they lit and started to swim away. While writing these notes on Goose Island a pair of geese lit on a sand bar between the island and the shore and commenced to swim to the main shoreline where they commenced to feed. Watched two geese at a distance resting upon the shore line. They got up and flew over to a man and his dog and seemed very reconciled to their presence. After their curiosity had been satisfied they flew back to their resting place. I have found that some geese will fly directly to a person for inspection while the rest of the same flock will make it a matter of evading to the fullest extent. Could these be tame and artificially reared geese? Continuing east to mouth of Hubble Creek. 31 pheasants flew up in one group. 300 robin in one field. Earlier in the day observed a great many ducks at mouth of the Spanish Fork river.

3-16-31

Twenty five geese (Canadian) were observed at 7:00 A.M. flying across Provo City from the N. E. They honked continually as they slowly winged their way along. Found that the ♀ English Sparrow was more particular as to the material she collected for her nest than the ♂. The ♀ made more extensive search while the male picked up everything in site and was, as a rule, more coarsely a coarse material.

3-17-31

Watched a Calif Gull on the south shore of Mud Lake. With only a set wing was able to gain 8 feet altitude without a noticeable movement of its wing. Exhibition in a strong north wind.

3-21-31

Open lid of window nesting box. English Sparrow remained. The lid was shut down and the squeaky window lowered without it being disturbed.

3-22-31

2 ♂ Yellowhead Blackbirds in flock of Redwings & Brewers S. Provo.

Female Red Wing Blackbirds in small flock in pastures south of Provo.

3-25-31

First spring arrival of the L. B. Curlew at the First Ward Pastures south of Provo. 2 Canadian Geese left field near mill race. A large flock of Calif Gull soared high above where their bodies became mere white reflecting specks.

3-26-31

At 2 west and first south in Provo noticed a red shofled Flicker enter into a cavity. It would give a few raps and would receive an answer from another bird resting in another tree. A family of flickers were roared in same hole the preceding year. (see notes of 1930 on bird life in Provo).

3-28-31

Brester Carter observed the L. B. Curlew on north side of Mud Lake.

3-29-31

English Sparrows shut out of their nesting hole in rain pipe entrance to porch but after 2 minutes were examining new substitute nesting box placed at the same time on a tree near by.

4-4-31

Examined a mallard nest of 4 eggs. Female left on approach. Circled overhead a few times and then lit near by in the marsh. Mouth Sp. Cr.

4-6-31

A G. H. Owl was flushed from a nest located at mouth of Wallenburg Canyon. nest contained 3 eggs 1/2 congealed. Nest used by red tail in previous year.

4-7-31

Located nest and eggs of the W. H. Owl about 1 mile up wooded canyon at the right of Conrads ranch in the south fork Canyon. As we made our approach one of the owls dropped down from its perch near the nest and flew up trail in front of us alighting in a tree. The other owl was sitting on nest, projecting its head just far enough to get a view of us. It left the nest when I started to climb the tree and soon disappeared. It returned again, however, and fluttered around in the upper branches near the nest. The 2 eggs were about 1/2 incubated. Both nest stained. The nest cavity contained inner bark, feathers, and a few dry leaves. The nest of dry sticks was placed in the top of a cottonwood tree 50' from the ground. There were no *Citellus armatus* in adjoining pastures at this time of year. The robins were everywhere the entire length of canyon from Vivian Park on. The Bluebirds present also. Snow covered most of the ground.

4-9-31

Pied Billed Grebe in Provo River near Vivian Park in Provo Canyon noticed a water ouzel nest in cliffs 30' high at river edge. One bird in wickets Service Station where main road runs at base of cliffs. 2 blocks up canyon from the Wallenburg switch in canyon to the west check on G. H. Owl nest which had 3 pipped eggs. A crows nest was under construction in same general area as last year. near Johnson ranch in lower Charelston Valley. 5 other prospective sites were examined in this valley. Crows present.

Four avocets feeding on north shore of Mud Lake. Arrived at the south shore of mud lake at the N. E. section. The geese were few in number in the vicinity of Goose Island. There were from 80 to 90 Pelicans on the east side of both islands and a large flock of Gulls resting on the sand bar between the island and the mainland. After making careful observation with the telescope, located one Canadian Goose sitting on bar between the two islands and one resting on the east end among a group of ducks. As I approached the island the first mentioned goose rose, after circling the islands and making one long circle out over the lake returned and took its former position. The pelicans left, some swimming while others flying out a short distance into the lake alighting on the water. As I approached the west island a goose jumped off her nest not over 10' in front of me. It left with considerable concern and flew over to the south east portion of the bay and lit with its mate. The nest indicated very careful construction, made of dry rushes, each placed in position. The nest mass was placed among dry rushes. It measured 3' wide, and 9 inches high. The cup measured 13" wide and an egg and a half deep. It was lined with a few feathers but not as many as when incubation advanced. The outer top edge of the nest was slanted down to cup edge. There were six nest stained eggs and 1 white egg. The geese were still calling as I left this island and made my way across to the island to the east. I had penetrated 25' into this island when a goose flew up honking and glided slowly over the rushes, looking curiously at me and lit in the bay with its mate. The nest was constructed in a similar manner to the one just examined but being smaller and flat on top. The nest was completely lined with feathers. It contained 7 eggs, 6 nest stained and one practically white egg. The nest was placed directly on the sand among the rushes. The third nest was found at the east end of this same island constructed as the others. Six eggs made up the clutch. The owner of this nest flew around the nest several times and then lit in the bay to the south. The visit was made as short as possible, so wading to the mainland left the islands in quiet an upset condition. On the mainland found a pintail nest with 1 egg. Nest placed in a dry field without much vegetation, nest placed in a weed mat. The bird was flushed from its nest.

4-12-31

Located the nesting site of the Western Red-tailed Hawk. The nest of this hawk was situated in a narrow, deep canyon. The enormous blackish cottonwood trees and the noisy creek, snuggled in the canyon made a beautiful site, and the cool evening breeze and deep shadows added to the memories of this occasion. As we neared the grove one of the hawks was resting on the upper limb of a tree near the nest. Here we saw a large mass of sticks with a bird sitting upon it, so crossed the creek and examined it. It was over two and 1/2 feet in diameter of large scaly bark. The tree being so large made it very hard to climb but the first 20' was reached. After resting I managed to climb the remain-

310412-6 ^{way} ^{what?} a commanding site these hawks had from their nest with the winding creek crossed by logs. I could not climb up over the nest but by reaching over the top could feel the eggs. One of the hawks lit by the nest evidently not realizing I was in its parlor, but was off with a jump when it saw me. The nest was considerably larger than others examined, being 49 feet from the ground. I descended from the nest by means of a rope. The hawks did not make a fuss. Located one mile up a canyon at the left of Diamond Fork. The canyon leading off from diamond fork 1 1/2 miles up canyon from eagle rock cliffs

4-15-31
nest of the red-tail in cliffs on south side of canyon at Olmstead. The bird flew from the nest. It has used this site as an alternate one which is in the high cliffs on the north side of Olmstead.

4-16-31

A nest of the Short-Eared Owl met with a fire disaster. nest placed in a pasture south of Provo. nest of 5 young the largest 5 times the size of the original egg. The nest also had 4 unhatched eggs. The range of incubation ranged from 1/2 incubation to the size of largest bird mentioned.

4-19-31

A red-tail hawk was standing on nest when we made our approach. The nest was placed in a cottonwood tree 47 feet from the ground. The tree was at the base of a hill near an irrigation ditch. 4 eggs just begun incubated. Compared with eggs taken from this nest last year and found them nearly identical in markings. The birds did not make much of a fuss it being twilight at the time. 2 mile up Charleston valley from mouth of Wallburg train switch.

4-20-31

W. Elard Nelson of Provo who was shipwrecked on Rock Island at this date found a nest of Canadian Goose with 8 cold eggs.

4-23-31

Reexamined a short-eared Owl of 4-17-31 at fifth west & 9th south. The nest then contained 3 eggs. On the later date the owl flew up from the nest and lit in a near by field where the mate had flew up on my approach. It flew back and forth over the nest snapping its beak and uttering its cries or grunts. The eggs now contained 7 eggs. nest lined with small grasses with larger sticks on the peripheral edge. A few feathers were also in the nest. The nest was situated in the center of a ^{group of} few rushes. This was likely a second nest of bird examined on the 4-16-31

5-22-31

Mother, Grandfather, Mary & myself made trip to mid West including Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Montana. The purpose of this trip was to visit relative and especially to be in attendance at the Baccalaureate Service at Park College where Max was graduating with an A.B. degree. The trip proved a very interesting one due to the fact that I was my first visit to the east.



1-5-24-31

Mother
Home

1-6-4-31

Max

1-6-6-31

Included here, in ³¹⁰⁵²⁴⁻⁷ ~~the~~ main, a pictorial section of the trip as I failed, nor did I have time, to keep a close record of the trip. Picture no. 1-5-24-31 was taken at Estes park in the Rocky mt. National Park. Inspected the plant where Bob had worked some years previous. This area is an appealing one, particularly in the higher and more distant country. Lulu and Si took us around from our Denver stay. The abrupt Rocky mountains rise very abruptly from the Great Plains to the east. Picture no. 1-6-4-31 was taken at Lucas in Iowa where grandfather owned a company store. The house is the birthplace of mother on the 29th of June 1884. Grandfather & Grandmother lived here several years while he operated the company store of the Mohawk Coal Company. Picture no. 1-6-6-31 was taken at the time of graduation of Max from Park College in June. Paul Denice is also in picture and was a very close friend of Max during their school career. Max remained in Omaha where he afterwards attended a Theological Seminary in preparation for pastoralship. He received his Church shortly after and spent some time there. Max belonged to the Honorary Chemistry Society at the college. Mr. Denice continued his work in the theological field at Omaha.





1-6-14-31



2-6-14-31



3-6-14-31



1-6-17-31

While in Denver, visited the Colorado museum of natural History. In looking over the bird found that they had failed to change the Snawby Heron over to the Brewster Egret so brought it to the attention of the guide. He in turn introduced me to the Curator who very cordially showed me their collection. We made the correction of the Heron name. Looked at their egg collection which was nicely housed. He also showed me the newly mounted butterflies and moths which he had recently rearranged in their display cabinets. From the front of the building one receives a most beautiful view of the park. Took pictures (1-6-14-31), (2-6-14-31) and (3-6-14-31) of the mallards and mute swan in the park. He gave me the illustrated book on the Museum which clearly shows their many fine exhibits. Some of their life history group or nothing short of marvellous.

The next set of pictures were taken on the return trip in Colorado and indicates the general type of Country in the Southern Rockies. Picture no (1-6-17-31) shows one of the canyons leading up to Berthoud Pass. Colorado certainly has splendid road across these mountains. Picture no (2-6-17-31) was taken as we left the Pass and shows extent of snow and thickly covered hillside of conifers. These mountains have very extensive exposures of timber. Picture (3-6-17-31) is just a shot of the canyon floor this side of Berthoud Pass. Picture no (5-6-17-31) and (4-6-17-31) were taken further on as











2-6-17-31



3-6-17-31



5-6-17-31

4-6-17-31

we descended the mountains. The chaparral growth is most extensive in this area. The river plain area indicates the limited range of the vegetation and tree life but whenever associated with the river is very rank and crowded. This type of area would be a most interesting one to study.

6-27-31



1-6-27-31

Picture of old Jack, a collie dog I owned for several years. This post was about as characteristic of him as ^{any} one could. He met his Waterloo when infection set in some shotgun wounds which someone had inflicted in a most lawly manner.

7-27-31

Preston Carter tells me that a flock of 52 Sandhill Crane came in on the 1st of march and left on the 17 of march this year. They fed and rested in the fields on the north side of Mud Lake. He describes their calls like a bunch of yelling Indians.

8-8-31

my attention was centered in a pair of signaling flags resulting in a message. "Bunga rope." From our scout camp started up a side









310808-0

Canyon toward some beautiful red colored cliffs. Arriving out of breath I asked the necessity of the rope. One of the scouts said they had a mountain lion in the cave, but the hissing turned out to be the young of the Turkey Vulture. The young were in a cave near the top of the cliffs. Climbing through the opening of some irregular rocks we came up to a chamber about 7 feet in diameter and 3 high on the west side. The picture (1-8-8-31) shows the general set up with the entrance of cave in the front. The noise resembling the hissing of a steam engine and between the two young birds the noise was issued continually. In an effort to capture the birds one of them started out the passage and just about scared one of the boys to death when it flew by him at the entrance. It made an effort to fly but bounced from ledge to ledge the entire height of the cliffs while I was down recapturing the fallen bird the other fellows captured the other bird and brought him out of the cave. As soon as I returned the two birds were placed upon a

1-8-8-31

rock and pictures taken of them. Recorded two pictures of same taken by Guy Callahan. Picture no (2-8-8-31) shows the two

birds. Members of the party are from left to right, Ralph Demoisny, Jack Lawrence, James Bee, John Gessford, Bob. Jansen, Sterling Callahan, Chucky Demoisny. As soon as we were thru photographing these birds we place a very loosely tied on their legs and then

2-8-8-31

placed them back in the cave. The young birds had fairly well developed feathers and also considerable down on the upper portion of the body. The bird, when captured in the cave regurgitated the fowl contents of its stomach which produced an odor something terrific. The adult birds were occasionally seen on the opposite side of the canyon but did not come near the nesting area. No other sound offered except the hissing. The next day the adult birds could be seen going in and out of the entrance so all family

were once again established.
 Picture no. (3-8-8-31) shows
 more closely the young
 vulture with the downy
 feathers more in evidence.

One can readily see the
 well formed feathers of
 the body and wing feath-
 ers. These cliffs are found
 in the right hand fork of
 Hubble Creek. These cliffs
 are conspicuously colored
 and are horizontally in formed of red and yellow & white strata
 rock. The rocks of the main canyon below are nearly perpend-
 ular in structure. (This site later was developed into Balsam Camp.)

3-8-8-31

8-27-31

Picked up a lone Avocet at the mud lake - Utah Lake Channel. It
 was unable to leave the ground but it managed to walk to water
 when released. A flock of 60 Am. Coot feeding in shallows
 the largest flock of geese seen on Mud Lake. Estimated over
 200 of these Canadian geese at the Channel in one flock.

9-28-31

L. C. Jay feeding on Acorn in Provo Canyon. It held it in its
 feet on a limb while it probed it on all sides. Such a shock
 to the skull must be of some concern

10-18-31
11-15-31

(see insertion page 12.)

Banded 3 English Sparrows. One ♂ and 2 ♀ at home - Provo.

11-28-31

Observed 11 birds (Western Evening Grosbeaks) in a maple tree at
 the flats in Rock Canyon. Snowing & foggy weather.

11-28-31

Three Am. White Pelicans at mouth of Provo River. The three
 birds came in from the southerly direction sailing over the
 head of the open stretch of water and lit in the western edge of
 clearing. Lake completely frozen over otherwise. After swimming
 around and feeding they trended toward the mouth of the river.
 The wind was so strong that they were blown sideways ag-
 ainst the current of the river.

11-29-31

(below addenda entered this date.)

(Addenda 2-10-31) (see page 1)

Including here a response to the ducks banded last year
 (see notes of 9-6-30). The first letter came from Cement,
 Oklahoma, which is in the center of the state. The second
 letter came from Kingsville, Texas which is a short
 distance from Corpus Christi, along the gulf coast. The letter

311129-12

IF NOT DELIVERED
IN 10 DAYS RETURN
TO R. 2 BOX
KINGSVILLE



Mr. J. Bee

Arvo
Utah

was so interesting that I included it here in entirety. The number included in his letter has been misinterpreted but if the number is turned upside down one immediately can see that it represents no 143 - no 5. A return letter explained the

situation called for in the letter as well as including considerable dope on the duck sickness.

nos. 30, 1930 (insertion)

Two pen and ink drawings of Oct 18, 1931.





10-18-31

JWB



10-18-31

JWB

IF NOT DELIVERED
IN 10 DAYS RETURN
TO R. 2 BOX
KINGSVILLE



Mr. J. Bee

Arroyo
Utah

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Feb. 10 - 1931

Mr. J. Bee

just to let
you know
that I killed
a duck with
your band on
it. It was
killed on the
26 day of Jan.

1931 a large
white breasted duck
with black head.
They are called
Sprigge are
Canadian ducks
here. The band
was old and worn.

I couldn't hardly
make out what
was on it.

There was some
numbers on it
something like

This E H I
S

I would appreciate
very much if
you would write
me and tell me
how you banded
this duck and
when. also what
you call that
kind of duck
up there. over

also where. ^{two banded} and
if you banded
any more of them.
I would send
the band but
I misplaced it
are lost it some-
where.

Hoping to hear
from you
I am

Dilmos Sanders

R. 2 Box 93

Kingsville
Texas.

P.S. Kingsville is
located about 50
miles south of
Corpus Christi Texas.

~~excuse hand
writing
and
paper~~

ADDENDA

1931