

frequent the foxtail, especially in the fall.

In the fall, Lapland Longspurs, and in the spring, Smith's Longspurs, occasionally appear in the prairie. The smaller stream on the south side of the prairie has an abandoned bridge, which provides a good vantage from which to observe birds in the dense brush along the stream. Recent sightings include Prairie Falcon, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Sandhill Crane, Northern Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, and Redpoll.

## University of Illinois Forestry Plantation and Experimental Farms

More than 240 species have been seen across the street from Meadowbrook Park, on the University of Illinois Forestry Plantation and Experimental Farms, and nearby fields and farm ponds. The forestry provides excellent cover for orioles and tanagers, as well as warblers, vireos, thrushes, and flycatchers. I have found it to be the best place in central Illinois to find Connecticut and Black-throated Blue Warblers in either spring or fall, and the best local area for Red-breasted Nuthatch.

The stream provides the best birding. As it travels west, the stream enters a cultivated field, then comes to a secondary forestry unit about a quarter mile from the first. The western or "poplar" unit is mostly deciduous forest, while the larger eastern unit contains a number of coniferous plantations. These coniferous areas can seem "dead" to bird life, but they often serve as roosts for hawks and owls. Goshawks have shown up on several occasions, and other accipi-

ters migrate through here regularly.

Recent sightings include Swainson's Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, and Pine

Siskin, which has bred here. The open field should be checked for sparrows, pipits, and longspurs. In the spring, Golden Plovers, and an occasional Smith's Longspur are found in farm fields.

Ponds on the northwest side of the experimental farms offer habitat for a small number of ducks and shore birds. Hudsonian Godwits have been found here in the spring, while all three species of phalarope have been found around these ponds in the fall.

## Crystal Lake Park and Busey Woods

The entrance to Crystal Lake Park is at the north end of Race Street. The park is fairly good for warblers, especially on two small wooded islands in Crystal Lake and along a small stream that winds through the park. But Busey Woods, a 63-acre woodlot adjoining Crystal Lake Park on its northwest corner, has the greatest variety of birds, with a list of 210 species.

To reach it, go north along Broadway Avenue from downtown Urbana until you pass most of Crystal Lake Park. Enter at the entrance to the swimming pool, on the west side of Broadway, and park in the parking lot. The woods is reached via a bridge over a small creek.

