

THE SUMMER BIRDS OF THE HIGHER PARTS OF  
SULLIVAN AND WYOMING COUNTIES, PA.

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*From Personal Observations and those of Messrs. Otto and Herman Behr.*

THE boreal element in the avifauna of Pennsylvania has been steadily decreasing for a number of years past as the primitive hemlock and spruce forest disappears before the advance of the lumberman. Several lists of birds of those parts of the State which possess a more or less typical Canadian fauna have appeared, but the present area seems to have had the most strongly marked Canadian fauna of any part of eastern Pennsylvania that I have visited, and a list of the birds will therefore prove of interest. This is especially the case since I have at my disposal the observations of Messrs. Otto and Herman Behr, of Lopez, Pa., two excellent ornithologists, who have spent their lives in the region under consideration. To their hospitality I owe the privilege of making a personal acquaintance with the birds of this vicinity in June, 1898 and 1899, and to Dr. Wm. E. Hughes and Mr. Henry W. Fowler, who accompanied me on these trips, I am indebted for many notes.

Eastern Sullivan county—Colley township—and western Wyoming county—Forkston and North Branch townships—comprise part of the main ridge of the Alleghanies, with an elevation of 2,200 feet. Except where the timber has been cut the country is covered with a forest of hemlock and birch, with here and there extensive patches of spruce, especially in the vicinity of Crane Swamp, in North Branch township, Wyoming county. Two streams drain this section, the Mahoopeny flowing east and the Loyalsock west, the watershed being nearly on the county line.

Porcupines, Red-backed Mice and Varying Hares are plentiful throughout the region, and doubtless other boreal mammals formerly occurred. The numerous Warblers, Thrushes, Junco, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Red-bellied Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Creeper and Kinglet are characteristic birds. Among the abundant butterflies were noted *Limenitis arthemis*, *Vanessa milberti*, *Argynnis atlantis*, *Melitæa harrisii*, and *M. phæton*, while boreal plants abound.

The cutting of the timber and the fires which so frequently follow totally change the aspect of the country and completely exterminate many of the boreal plants, while the altered conditions admit of the introduction of a more southern fauna, as evidenced by the presence of late years of the Cottontail Rabbit, Quail, Towhee, Indigo Bird, Yellow Warbler, Thrasher, Chat, etc. The absence of the Grackle and Orchard Oriole is interesting. The list of summer birds follows:

- Colinus virginianus*, BOB WHITE. Not common, more so since the timber has been cut.
- Bonasa umbellus*, PHEASANT. Abundant.
- Ectopistes migratorius*, WILD PIGEON. Formerly very abundant; not found now.
- Zenaidura macroura*, DOVE. Common.
- Circus hudsonius*, MARSH HAWK.
- Accipiter velox*, SHARP SHINNED HAWK.
- Accipiter cooperi*, COOPER'S HAWK.
- Accipiter atricapillus*, GOSHAWK. Breeds regularly. (See Stone, *Auk* 1897, p. 317).
- Buteo borealis*, RED-TAILED HAWK.
- Buteo lineatus*, RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.
- Buteo latissimus*, BROAD-WINGED HAWK.
- Falco sparverius*, SPARROW HAWK.
- Asio accipitrinus*, SHORT-EARED OWL.
- Syrnium nebulosum*, BARRED OWL. Common.
- Nyctala acadica*, SAW WHET OWL. Common; obtained young in juvenal plumage, June, 1898.
- Megascops asio*, SCREECH OWL.
- Bubo virginianus*, GREAT HORNED OWL.
- Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. Common.
- Ceryle alcyon*, KINGFISHER. Common along streams.
- Dryobates villosus*, HAIRY WOODPECKER. Common.
- Dryobates pubescens medianus*, DOWNY WOODPECKER. Less common than the preceding.
- Sphyrapicus varius*, YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. Very common, and many trees, both birch and hemlock, attest its drilling abilities.
- Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola*, PILEATED WOODPECKER. Formerly common, rapidly disappearing during the last few years.
- Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. Very rare, noted in the cleared ground east of Lopez in June, 1899.
- Colaptes auratus luteus*, FLICKER.
- Antrostomus vociferus*, WHIPPOORWILL. Common now; not found at all before the lumbering began.
- Chordeiles virginianus*, NIGHT HAWK. Not common.
- Chaetura pelagica*, CHIMNEY SWIFT. Abundant.
- Trochilus colubris*, HUMMINGBIRD. Common.
- Tyrannus tyrannus*, KINGBIRD. Common.
- Sayornis phoebe*, PHOEBE. Common.
- Contopus borealis*, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Rather common; scattered at intervals over the mountains, its penetrating call heard continually. Nest found June, 1898.

- Contopus virens*, WOOD PEWEE. Abundant.
- Empidonax flaviventris*, YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER. Mr. O. Behr describes a flycatcher observed some years ago, which was pretty certainly this species.
- Empidonax minimus*, LEAST FLYCATCHER. Common.
- Otocoris alpestris praticola*, PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. Occasional in the cleared open fields, but not regular.
- Cyanocitta cristata*, BLUE JAY. Abundant.
- Corvus corax principalis*, RAVEN. Rare.
- Corvus americanus*, CROW. Abundant.
- Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, BOBOLINK. In open, cleared ground east of Lopez; not common.
- Agelaius phoeniceus*, RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. In open, swampy ground, and consequently not widely distributed.
- Sturnella magna*, MEADOW LARK. Common in cleared ground.
- Icterus galbula*, BALTIMORE ORIOLE. Not common.
- Carpodacus purpureus*, PURPLE FINCH. Regular, but not very common.
- Loxia curvirostra minor*, CROSSBILL. Reported to have bred once; occurs in summer.
- Astragalinus tristis*, GOLDFINCH. Common.
- Spinus pinus*, PINE FINCH. Has bred, but not regularly.
- Poœcetes gramineus*, VESPER SPARROW. Abundant.
- Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*, SAVANNA SPARROW. Abundant.
- Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*, GRASSHOPPER SPARROW? A bird shot some years ago in summer by Dr. B. H. Warren was thought to be the Henslow's Sparrow, but the locality seems quite out of the range of that species, and it was perhaps the Grasshopper Sparrow. Whichever it was, it is certainly of rare occurrence. [W. S.]
- Zonotrichia albicollis*, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. A male of this species was found in full song on the edge of a high open pasture among a scattered growth of pines on June 19, 1898. It evidently had a nest near by, but a careful search failed to discover it. The Messrs. Behr assure me that they never saw the bird in summer previously, and a visit to the same locality the following year failed to discover any more. This species was probably of more regular occurrence in the summer in former years.
- Spizella socialis*, CHIPPING SPARROW. Common.
- Spizella pusilla*, FIELD SPARROW. Common.
- Junco hyemalis*, SNOW BIRD. Very common.
- Melospiza fasciata*, SONG SPARROW. Common.
- Melospiza georgiana*, SWAMP SPARROW. Fairly common.
- Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, CHEWINK. Formerly very rare, but increasing where the timber is cut, though not yet very common.
- Zamelodia ludoviciana*, ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK. Common.
- Cyanospiza cyanea*, INDIGO-BIRD. Not common.
- Piranga erythromelas*, SCARLET TANAGER. Abundant.
- Petrochelidon lunifrons*, CLIFF SWALLOW. Common.
- Hirundo erythrogaster*, BARN SWALLOW. Common.
- Tachycineta bicolor*, TREE SWALLOW. Rather common.
- Clivicola riparia*, BANK SWALLOW. Not common.

- Ampelis cedrorum*, CEDAR BIRD. Common.  
*Vireo olivaceus*, RED-EYED VIREO. Common.  
*Vireo solitarius*, BLUE-HEADED VIREO. Very common.  
*Mniotilta varia*, BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. Abundant.  
*Helminthophila rubricapilla*, NASHVILLE WARBLER. Not common; one obtained June, 1899.  
*Compsothlypis americana usneae*, PARULA WARBLER. Abundant.  
*Dendroica aestiva*, YELLOW WARBLER. Not common; only seen of late years.  
*Dendroica coerulescens*, BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. Abundant.  
*Dendroica maculosa*, MAGNOLIA WARBLER. Abundant.  
*Dendroica pennsylvanica*, CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Abundant.  
*Dendroica blackburniae*, BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. Abundant.  
*Dendroica virens*, BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. Common.  
*Seiurus aurocapillus*, OVEN BIRD. Abundant.  
*Seiurus noveboracensis*, WATER THRUSH. Common.  
*Geothlypis philadelphia*, MOURNING WARBLER. Common.  
*Geothlypis trichas*, MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT. Common.  
*Icteria virens*, CHAT. One seen in clearing near Lopez, June 18, 1898. Very rare, never seen formerly.  
*Wilsonia canadensis*, CANADIAN WARBLER. Abundant.  
*Setophaga ruticilla*, REDSTART. Very rare; not seen for a number of years.  
*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*, CATBIRD. Abundant.  
*Harporynchus rufus*, BROWN THRASHER. Not common.  
*Troglodytes aedon*, HOUSE WREN. Common.  
*Anorthura hiemalis*, WINTER WREN. Very common.  
*Certhia familiaris americana*, BROWN CREEPER. Abundant.  
*Sitta carolinensis*, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Common.  
*Sitta canadensis*, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Not rare.  
*Parus atricapillus*, CHICKADEE. Very common.  
*Regulus satrapa*, GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. Rather common.  
*Hylocichla mustelina*, WOOD THRUSH. Rather common.  
*Hylocichla fuscescens*, VEERY. Abundant.  
*Hylocichla ustulata swainsonii*, OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH. Common.  
*Hylocichla aonalaschkae pallasii*, HERMIT THRUSH. Abundant.  
*Merula migratoria*, ROBIN. Common.  
*Sialia sialis*, BLUEBIRD. Common.