

Summer Birds of Milford, Pike County, Pa.

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THE following list is made up from my notes of a number of excursions—mostly short ones—taken between the dates of July 8 and September 9, 1905, inclusive, while I was at the summer camp of the Yale Forest School, near Milford, Pike county, Pennsylvania. The list is not as complete as it might have been had I had more time at my disposal, for there were several localities in the near neighborhood where a more exhaustive search than I was able to make would probably have yielded up more species of birds.

Milford lies on the west bank of the Delaware river, eight miles southwest of the point at which meet the boundaries of the three states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and has an altitude of about 500 feet above sea level. The valley of the Delaware on the Pennsylvania side of the river is a sand and gravel flood-plain averaging about a half-mile in width. To the west of this the land rises suddenly, in some places precipitously, reaching an altitude of from 1,000 to 1,200 feet, and is deeply dissected by numerous valleys containing beautiful little streams, often rushing and tumbling in a series of cascades and falls through deep and narrow ravines till they reach the valley of the Delaware below. The largest of these is the Sawkill.

In spite of these numerous valleys, the general impression one gets from a view from any high point is that it is a comparatively level country, for the tops of all the hills are at about the same height, none breaking the level line of the horizon.

The soil is nothing but more or less (mostly less) disintegrated shale, so dry and infertile in spite of numerous springs as to be almost worthless for agricultural purposes, the only product that can be raised with any fair profit being buckwheat. The result is that the country is still thickly wooded with very

few clearings outside of the Delaware Valley, while many of the roads are hardly more than back trails.

The forests are made up of mixed pitch-pine, white-pine, oak and other hard-woods—the pitch-pine being especially common—with a dense undergrowth of huckleberry and scrub oaks (*Quercus nana* and *Q. prinoides*) wherever the woods have in past years been opened up by the axe or by forest fires. In some sections of considerable extent the scrub oaks grow so densely as to make any progress through them not only extremely difficult, but often practically impossible. Hemlock is not very common, but is found along the sides of many of the ravines, often accompanied by a dense growth of wild rhododendron.

Five and seven miles to the west of Milford are two ponds known respectively as Sawkill Pond, the source of the stream of that name, and Big Brink, which are especially interesting because of the presence, in their immediate vicinity, of two sphagnum swamps containing a more or less dense growth of larch and black spruce. Another but much smaller spruce swamp, known as Gregory Swamp, lies about four and one-half miles to the northwest of Milford.

The most interesting fact with respect to the birds found as summer residents, was the intermingling of such northern species as the Blue-headed Vireo and the Magnolia, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Mourning and Canadian Warblers, with representatives of a more southern fauna, such as the Orchard Oriole and the Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers.

The following list is made up of only those birds which I saw or secured myself, and of whose identification there can be no question. I did not get to Milford till the breeding season was nearly over, and several of the species noted were not met with till after the middle or end of July; but with the exception of the Myrtle, Bay-breasted, Black-poll and Wilson's Warblers and Olive-sided Fly-catcher, and possibly the Purple Finch and Bobolink, they are all undoubtedly birds that passed the breeding season in that region.

Perhaps the most noteworthy record in the list is the early date (August 20th) for the arrival of the Myrtle Warbler. To

the best of my knowledge this is the earliest fall record for this bird in Pennsylvania.

1. *Butorides virescens*, Green Heron. Two or three seen along the Sawkill and Delaware river.
2. *Actitis macularia*, Spotted Sandpiper. Sawkill and Delaware river and Sawkill Pond. Not common.
3. *Bonasa umbellus*, Ruffed Grouse. Fairly common.
4. *Zenaidura macroura*, Mourning Dove. Common. Always to be found in the neighborhood of buckwheat fields.
5. *Cathartes aura*, Turkey Vulture. A bird unquestionably a vulture, and probably this species flew over the camp July 8 and July 22.
6. *Accipiter velox*, Sharp-shinned Hawk. One seen near Sawkill Pond July 15.
7. *Accipiter cooperi*, Cooper's Hawk. Only one seen, July 22.
8. *Buteo lineatus*, Red-shouldered Hawk. Not common.
9. *Buteo borealis*, Red-tailed Hawk. Not common. One pair near camp.
10. *Buteo platypterus*, Broad-winged Hawk. Not common. A brood was raised close to the camp.
11. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Bald Eagle. One seen over the Delaware August 23.
12. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, Black-billed Cuckoo. Not common.
13. *Ceryle alcyon*, Belted Kingfisher. Two or three pair along the Sawkill.
14. *Dryobates villosus*, Hairy Woodpecker. Fairly common.
15. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*, Northern Downy Woodpecker. About the same as preceding species; perhaps a little more common.
16. *Colaptes auratus luteus*, Northern Flicker. Not common.
17. *Antrostomus vociferus*, Whip-poor-will. Common.
18. *Chordeiles virginianus*, Nighthawk. Common. A marvelous flight of these birds passed over the camp between the hours of 3:30 and 6:30 on the afternoon of August 30 coming up from the Delaware Valley flying due west.
19. *Chaetura pelagica*, Chimney Swift. Common.
20. *Trochilus colubris*, Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Common.

21. *Tyrannus tyrannus*, Kingbird. Not common.
22. *Myiarchus crinitus*, Crested Flycatcher. Very common.
The most abundant of all the Flycatchers.
23. *Sayornis phoebe*, Phoebe. Not common.
24. *Nuttallornis borealis*, Olive-sided Flycatcher. Rare migrant. One seen September 5.
25. *Contopus virens*, Wood Pewee. Common.
26. *Empidonax traillii alnorum*, Alder Flycatcher. Rare. Two or three seen July 16 in alders along the shore of Sawkill Pond.
27. *Empidonax minimus*, Least Flycatcher. Not common. Occasionally seen about orchards.
28. *Cyanocitta cristata*, Blue Jay. Fairly common.
29. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, American Crow. Fairly common.
30. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Bobolink. A small flock seen August 23 in the Delaware Valley. Only ones seen throughout the season.
31. *Agelaius phoeniceus*, Red-winged Blackbird. Not common. Seen only at Sawkill Pond and along the Delaware.
32. *Icterus spurius*, Orchard Oriole. Rare. One seen July 16th.
33. *Icterus galbula*, Baltimore Oriole. Uncommon.
34. *Quiscalus quiscula*, Purple Grackle. Not common. One flock of twelve birds seen July 21 in Milford.
35. *Carpodacus purpureus*, Purple Finch. Uncommon migrant. Several seen on Sawkill pike August 13 and September 9.
36. *Astragalinus tristis*, American Goldfinch. Fairly common.
37. *Poecetes gramineus*, Vesper Sparrow. Fairly common.
38. *Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*, Grasshopper Sparrow. Common in the Delaware Valley. Occasional in large clearings elsewhere.
39. *Ammodramus henslowii*, Henslow's Sparrow. Rare. One heard and seen in Delaware Valley July 22.
40. *Spizella socialis*, Chipping Sparrow. Common, especially in burnt-over pitch pine forests containing a thick undergrowth of huckleberry bushes.
41. *Spizella pusilla*, Field Sparrow. The most abundant of all the birds.

42. *Melospiza cinerea melodia*, Song Sparrow. Common in Delaware Valley and about the village of Milford, but rarely seen elsewhere.
43. *Melospiza georgiana*, Swamp Sparrow. Rare. A small colony about Sawkill Pond.
44. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, Towhee. Most abundant, especially in scrub oak lands.
45. *Cyanospiza cyanea*, Indigo Bunting. Common.
46. *Piranga erythromelas*, Scarlet Tanager. Common.
47. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*, Cliff Swallow. Common. The commonest of all the Swallows.
48. *Hirundo erythrogastra*, Barn Swallow. Common.
49. *Iridoprocne bicolor*, Tree Swallow. Common about Sawkill Pond.
50. *Riparia riparia*, Bank Swallow. Not common. A few about Sawkill Pond.
51. *Ampelis cedrorum*, Cedar Waxwing. Common.
52. *Vireo olivaceus*, Red-eyed Vireo. Very common.
53. *Vireo flavifrons*, Yellow-throated Vireo. Rare. One seen August 20 in the spruce swamp at Sawkill Pond.
54. *Vireo solitarius*, Blue-headed Vireo. Quite common.
55. *Mniotilta varia*, Black-and-White Warbler. The most abundant of all the Warblers.
56. *Helmitherus vermivorus*, Worm-eating Warbler. Rare. Only four specimens seen. One July 28, two July 29 and one August 13.
57. *Helminthophila chrysoptera*, Golden-winged Warbler. Fairly common, especially in scrub-oak lands. None seen after August 13th.
58. *Helminthophila rubricapilla*, Nashville Warbler. Rare. July 21, 23, August 13, 20 and September 3.
59. *Compothlypis americana usneæ*, Parula Warbler. Rare. July 9, 16, 30 and August 20.
60. *Dendroica caerulescens*, Black-throated Blue Warbler. Not common.
61. *Dendroica coronata*, Myrtle Warbler. Migrant. Two seen August 20, one of which, an adult male I secured and another September 5. None others seen.

62. *Dendroica maculosa*, Magnolia Warbler. Summer resident, but not common. Very common as a migrant after September 1.
63. *Dendroica pennsylvanica*, Chestnut-sided Warbler. Common.
64. *Dendroica castanea*, Bay-breasted Warbler. Migrant. One August 21 and three September 3.
65. *Dendroica striata*, Black-poll Warbler. Migrant. Several seen September 3.
66. *Dendroica blackburniæ*, Blackburnian Warbler. Fairly common in pitch-pine woods.
67. *Dendroica virens*, Black-throated Green Warbler. A scarce summer resident, but abundant as a migrant after August 26.
68. *Dendroica vigorsii*, Pine Warbler. Common in burnt-over pitch-pine forests.
69. *Seiurus aurocapillus*, Ovenbird. Most abundant.
70. *Seiurus motacilla*, Louisiana Water Thrush. Not common, but every little stream had its pair.
71. *Geothlypis philadelphia*, Mourning Warbler. Very rare. One seen July 8 and another July 14, both females. The latter spent at least five minutes within ten or fifteen feet of me—too close to shoot, but so close that there could be no question as to its identity.
72. *Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*, Northern Yellow-throat. Common.
73. *Wilsonia mitrata*, Hooded Warbler. Very rare. An adult male August 3 and a female August 13 in a spruce swamp near Big Brink Pond.
74. *Wilsonia pusilla*, Wilson's Warbler. Migrant. One adult male September 5; only one seen.
75. *Wilsonia canadensis*, Canadian Warbler. Not common, but always to be found in suitable localities.
76. *Setophaga ruticilla*, American Redstart. Common.
77. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*, Catbird. Common.
78. *Toxostoma rufum*, Brown Thrasher. Common.
79. *Troglodytes ædon*, House Wren. Common about every orchard and farm.
80. *Sitta carolinensis*, White-breasted Nuthatch, well distributed but not common.

81. *Parus atricapillus*, Chickadee. Common.
82. *Hylocichla mustelina*, Wood Thrush. Not common, though often heard singing near the camp early in July.
83. *Hylocichla fuscescens*, Wilson's Thrush. Rare. Very few suitable places for them. Found only in Gregory Swamp and about Sawkill Pond.
84. *Merula migratoria*, American Robin. Fairly common, but not nearly so common as in less wooded localities.
85. *Sialia sialis*, Bluebird. Common.