

A List of the Birds Observed on the Barnegat
Region of the New Jersey Coast in
August, 1908

BY WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D.

The rather meagre list of birds herewith presented contains a few species which seem to the writer to be of special interest. The short time which we were able to give to the trip is largely responsible for its brevity, as it could doubtless have been indefinitely extended had time allowed. The species listed occurred on or between August 22 and 25, 1908, unless otherwise stated, during which time the writer was the guest of Mr. Benj. T. Van Nostrand at Forked River, New Jersey.

Supplementary notes from his and Mr. John N. Drake's observations are likewise included; these instances being accompanied by their proper dates or definite data under the head of each species thus included. That part of the great autumnal migratory movement noted was so small that had it not been for the additions furnished by my friend referred to, the list would scarcely be worth recording.

Larus argentatus, Herring Gull. About a dozen birds of this species were noted during the days stated, most of them adult birds, nearly always singly.

Sterna hirundo, Common Tern. The abundance of these birds was very noticeable throughout our stay. Terns seemed to be visible at almost all times. The great number observed was in pleasant contrast with their scarcity at the same place and about the same date two years previously.

Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis, Black Tern. Common. At this season the dark coloring serves to distinguish the species if the observer is fairly near at hand. The difference in size is not so appreciable when in flight as one might suppose. A wing-tipped bird of this species was picked up on the beach at Beach

Haven. It has retained some of the dark unmoulted feathers of the nuptial plumage on the head, especially above the base of the bill. About a hundred birds in straggling flocks were noted at this station within the hours between two and three on the afternoon of Aug. 23d, but not so abundantly at any other time. So far as we saw, none of the numerous Snipe shooters on the beach disturbed the Terns, and had not the wounded bird been found I should have believed them to have passed unmolested.

Puffinus borealis? Cory's Shearwater. Shearwaters, all supposed to be of this species, were observed off the beach over the ocean opposite Forked River in considerable numbers on Aug. 22d. They were migrating southward, mostly in small flocks, maintaining a rather low, steady flight by even, deliberate wing strokes. Their dark upper and white under parts, manner of flight, and a previous "scraping" acquaintance with the species, led me to a rather positive diagnosis, yet as we had no opportunity to take any, it is considered but proper to question the species. An easterly wind then blowing perhaps led them nearer than usual to the beach.

Florida caerulea, Little Blue Heron. Several White Herons were observed on Mr. Van Nostrand's salt meadows on various occasions during our stay, and all were believed to be of this species, though none were taken between the dates mentioned. Ten days before my arrival one from what he supposed the same flock had been secured by Mr. Van Nostrand at the same spot and sent to me. The individuals of this flock were extremely shy, and seemed to preserve their numbers successfully, though much hunted, as they were still reported as present well into the month of September. All the birds seen were in the white phase of immature plumage, no adult being observed.

Butorides virescens, Green Heron. Fairly common on the salt meadows.

Nycticorax nycticorax naevius, Black-crowned Night Heron. Not quite so common as the preceding.

Ardea herodias, Great Blue Heron. Ten to twenty seen in the four days. A bird of the year was secured by one of the party. These birds were reported as much more abundant here two weeks later.

Rallus elegans, King Rail. Several days subsequent to my departure Mr. Van Nostrand secured a fine example of the King Rail. It was on rather higher ground, nearer the upland, than a Clapper Rail taken on the same day, but nevertheless in the wet meadow. A number of little ditches, a foot or more deep, and bordered with the salt grass, seemed attractive to both species. The spot where the King Rail was taken was only a few yards from where the following was found.

Rallus crepitans, Clapper Rail, Common.

Macrorhamphus griseus, Dowitcher. These birds were not observed during my stay, but the following week, which was stormy, brought numbers of Snipe not noted before. Among them was this species :

Tringa maculata, Pectoral Sandpiper. The same remarks apply to this species.

Ereunetes pusillus, Semipalmated Sandpiper. Fairly common during the entire period of our stay.

Ereunetes occidentalis, Western Sandpiper. Four very typical examples of the Western Semipalmated Sandpiper were taken on Aug. 22d.

Calidris arenaria, Sanderling. The most abundant of the family observed. In the aggregate at least three hundred were seen feeding or in flight along the inner and outer beaches Aug. 22d to 25th.

Totanus melanoleucus, Greater Yellowlegs. Common one week after my departure. None seen during my stay.

Totanus flavipes, Yellowlegs. One flock of about twenty birds seen Aug. 22, one of which was secured.

Actitis macularia, Spotted Sandpiper. Common.

Numenius hudsonicus, Hudsonian Curlew. During stormy weather, Aug. 28, Mr. Drake secured one of two birds of this species which appeared in the salt meadows.

Squatarola squatarola, Black-bellied Plover. Not observed until Aug. 29, when five were seen.

Aegialitis semipalmata, Semipalmated Plover. A few seen each day.

Arenaria interpres, Turnstone. Three noted at beach opposite Forked River, Aug. 22; on Aug. 24 at Beach Haven thirty-two were seen.

The following list comprises such birds as were seen in the house-grounds and on the way to and from the dock and a few elsewhere:

- Colinus virginianus*, Bobwhite. Common.
Cathartes aura, Turkey Vulture. Four seen Aug. 21.
Circus hudsonius, Marsh Hawk. Two on Aug. 22.
Megascops asio, Screech Owl. Heard in evenings.
Coccyzus americanus, Yellow-billed Cuckoo. One seen Aug. 22.
Dryobates villosus, Hairy Woodpecker. Two or more Aug. 23.
Colaptes auratus luteus, Flicker. Common.
Antrostomus vociferus, Whip-poor-will. Heard at dusk.
Chordeiles virginianus, Nighthawk. Three seen before sunset, Aug. 23.
Chaturaela pelagica, Chimney Swift. Common.
Trochilus colubris, Hummingbird. Observed on two occasions.
Tyrannus tyrannus, Kingbird. Abundant.
Sayornis phæbe, Phæbe. Common.
Contopus virens, Wood Pewee. Several observed.
Corvus brachyrhynchos, American Crow. Common.
Corvus ossifragus, Fish Crow. Fairly common. Identified by call note.
Spizella socialis, Chipping Sparrow. This and the following observed repeatedly:
Melospiza c. melodia, Song Sparrow.
Pipilo erythrophthalmus, Chewink.
Progne subis, Purple Martin.
Hirundo erythrogastra, Barn Swallow.
Iridoprocne bicolor, Tree Swallow. Also on the beach.
Vireo olivaceus, Red-eyed Vireo.
Geothlypis trichas, Maryland Yellowthroat.
Thryothorus ludovicianus, Carolina Wren.
Toxostoma rufum., Brown Thrasher. Also seen on the beach.
Merula migratoria, Robin. Also on beach.
Sialia sialis, Bluebird.