

## Summer Birds of Adams and Franklin Counties, Pennsylvania

BY J. FLETCHER STREET

THE need of more information on the bird life of south central Pennsylvania just north of Mason and Dixon's line led to an interesting trip through Adams, Franklin and Cumberland Counties during the middle of June 1920.

Thanks to the hospitality of W. L. Baily the trip was made by automobile starting from his home in Ardmore, early on the morning of June 16, S. N. Rhoads, Witmer Stone and J. Fletcher Street being the other members of the party. The car was loaded with all the necessities incident to such an expedition, and with luncheon enough to carry us through the first day, thanks to the attention of Mrs. Baily.

Having no desire to make observations in the more eastern counties, which have been more thoroughly studied by ornithologists, we sped rapidly along over the Lincoln Highway through Montgomery and Chester Counties, over the rolling hills which form the water-shed between the Delaware and Schuylkill drainage and down into the broad Chester Valley. A changing panorama of country scenery was ever flashing by; low woodlands whence came the songs of Wood Thrush and Ovenbird, open meadows with their nesting Redwings, and the familiar chants of Yellow-throats and Song Sparrows; high ridges with gaunt trunks of dead chestnut trees victims of the blight, and upland fields where Meadowlarks took wing as we sped by. Next we crossed the hills separating the Chester and Pequea Valleys and passed through at the Gap, between the Welsh Mountain and the Mine Ridge, entering Lancaster County, the richest agricultural county in the State. Here intensive farming has minimized the woodland and bird life is almost entirely confined to open-ground species. There

are flocks of Grackles feeding in the fields and nesting in the evergreens which surround nearly every farmhouse, and Meadowlarks are more numerous, while from the fence posts Grasshopper Sparrows buzz while Vespers sing from the telegraph wires. The Red-headed Woodpecker also became a conspicuous feature of the avifauna.

We soon passed the cities of Lancaster and Columbia and crossed the long bridge spanning the Susquehanna River into York County which is quickly traversed and at 1.30 P. M. crossed the Conewago Creek into Adams County where we stopped for lunch near Abbottstown and made our first bird list. We made a second stop at Rock Creek east of Gettysburg but were soon driven to take refuge in the town by a severe thunder storm and later in the afternoon proceeded to Fairfield where we spent the night, securing a second bird-list before being driven in by another storm.

After an early start on the morning of the 17th we reached Jack's Mountain a considerable eminence which we had sighted to the westward the evening before. Here we spent several hours making a pretty careful study of the bird-life up to the summit which is about 1000 feet above sea level.

There was an interesting combination of species, such typically Carolinian birds as the Chat, Cardinal and Kentucky Warbler occurring along with the Chestnut-sided Warbler a distinctly Alleghanian form, and the Black and White Warbler and Redstart both more characteristic of this latter fauna. Indigo Buntings were most conspicuous and numerous while Hooded Warblers and Red-eyed Vireos came next.

Returning to the car we ascended the highway by a very steep grade to the road summit of Jack's Mountain about three miles west of Fairfield, where an exceedingly beautiful panorama of mountains and valleys lay before us. We descended into another valley and stopped for lunch at Charmian just over the Franklin County line and made another survey of the avifauna finding nearly the same species as at Jack's Mountain.

We then climbed up the road to Blue Ridge Summit and descended again to Waynesboro and then on to Greencastle where we put up for the night. Here we noted a most inter-

esting and unusual ornithological occurrence, in the Martin colony which is established in the very center of the town, large numbers of birds occupying boxes which have been placed on trees and buildings on the busiest street corners where traffic is heaviest. They are from seven to fifteen feet from the ground and the birds dart in and out over the heads of pedestrians or hotel visitors resting in chairs along the side walk.

Here too we met Mr. G. Fred Ziegler, Jr. a local ornithologist who the next morning conducted us to favorite spots about the town in search of birds; but woodland being scarce in this broad cultivated valley, we did not secure a large list. From Greencastle we went to Mercersburg, stopping en route along the Conococheague Creek where Baily found a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Street saw a pair of Blue Grosbeaks.

We then proceeded to Foltz which is located among well wooded hills and by far the most attractive bird country we have encountered since leaving Jack's Mountain. Down on the banks of Buck Run is a rough stone monument marking the birthplace of James Buchanan, President of the United States. Close by is a dense grove of hemlocks and above that a deciduous forest. Here we could hear at one time the songs of the Black-throated Green Warbler, the Hooded, Kentucky, Chat and Louisiana Water-Thrush, a curious intermingling of northern and southern forms. The elevation was from 900 to 1000 feet.

We then turned our course northeast and skirted the foot of the mountains all the way to Fort Loudon where we arrived late in the afternoon. After supper, we walked back to Rocky Hollow Ravine behind the village and here in the gathering dusk we heard our first Whip-poor-will of the trip, which was joined by others until a whole chorus of them was singing all about us, while a Grouse boomed from the opposite mountain side and far up above came the cry of a Great Horned Owl, which was answered by a farm laborer who soon after came up to us and informed us that he and the owl frequently communicated in this way in the evening.

Immediately opposite the village rose Jordan's Knob a steep

mountain some 1200 feet above the valley, which is itself 600 feet above sea level. This we ascended the following morning, finding nothing unusual except the unexpected presence of the Worm-eating Warbler, but, losing our way, we crossed completely over the knob and descended through a deciduous wood sprinkled with hemlocks to a blind valley, known as Horse Valley down which flows the Conodoguenet Creek. In the woods we were surprised to find Blackburnian Warblers while out in the open along the bushy fence rows were Bewick's Wrens, dodging along ahead of us with much tail action. This is the characteristic species of this region where it was first discovered by Spencer F. Baird on his collecting trips from Carlisle seventy-five years before.

A long tramp northward along the valley and a steep climb over the mountain at Freestone, the first pass, brought us out at Metal whence we worked our way back to Ft. Loudon.

Having now connected our exploration with the well worked country of Baird, we felt that our task was completed and we started that evening for Carlisle and the next day returned home via Harrisburg and Lancaster.

*Species Observed*

1. Black Duck, June 18. One noted along west branch of Conococheague Creek below Mercersburg.
2. Great Blue Heron, June 18. One noted along west branch of Conococheague Creek below Mercersburg.
3. Black-crowned Night Heron, June 18. One noted along west branch of Conococheague Creek below Mercersburg.
4. Little Green Heron, June 18. One noted along west branch of Conococheague Creek below Mercersburg.
5. Spotted Sandpiper. Fairly common along streams and meadows in Adams Co. Noted at Greencastle on June 17. Not observed on June 18 on trip from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon. Two observed on June 19 at Fort Loudon.
6. Killdeer. Fairly common from Abbottsford to Fairfield on June 16. Not noted from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. Two or three noted from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. A few observed at Ft. Loudon along west branch of Conococheague Creek on 19th.

7. Bartramian Sandpiper. Five observed west of Gettysburg on 16th. One seen at Greencastle on 18th.

8. Ruffed Grouse. One observed in woods at Little Cove Creek on 18th. Heard booming at evening of same day in Rocky Hollow Ravine near Ft. Loudon.

9. Bobwhite. One heard at Metal on 19th.

10. Dove. Fairly common from Abbottsford to Fairfield on 16th. A few observed from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. From three to four noted from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. From two to three noted about Ft. Loudon on 19th.

11. Turkey Vulture. A few noted from Abbottsford to Fairfield on 16th. Fairly common from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. Common at Greencastle. Three or four from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. Two or three about Ft. Loudon.

12. Broad-winged Hawk. Heard one calling at Charmian on 17th.

13. Sparrow Hawk. One observed from Abbottsford to Fairfield on 16th. Two noted from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th.

14. Great Horned Owl. Heard calling from Rocky Hollow Ravine near Ft. Loudon on evening of 18th at 8.00 P. M.

15. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. One observed from Abbottsford to Fairfield on 16th. Fairly common from Fairfield to Greencastle on 19th. Common at Greencastle on 18th and from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon. Common about Ft. Loudon and on Jordan's Knob and upper Horse Valley on 19th.

16. Black-billed Cuckoo. Two heard on Jordan's Knob on 19th.

17. Kingfisher. One observed at dam at Little Cove Creek above Foltz on 18th.

18. Hairy Woodpecker. Two observed from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. Fairly common at Greencastle and from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. One observed near Ft. Loudon on 19th.

19. Downy Woodpecker. Two observed from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. One at Greencastle on 17th. Three or four from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. Two at Ft. Loudon on 19th.

20. Red-headed Woodpecker. None observed from Abbottsford to Fairfield on 16th. Observed as most common Woodpecker between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. Very common between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. One noted at Ft. Loudon on 19th. The commonest Woodpecker in both counties.

21. Flicker. A few between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. A few between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. One or two between New Castle and Ft. Loudon on 19th. One at Ft. Loudon on 19th.

22. Whip-poor-will. Not advantageously located to hear species on evenings of 16th and 17th. On evening of 18th heard in great number near Rocky Hollow Ravine in vicinity of Ft. Loudon, the birds commencing to call about 8.00 P. M.

23. Nighthawk. Saw one at west branch of Conococheague Creek on the 18th and two more in the evening at Ft. Loudon. On the evening of 19th heard one over city of Carlisle.

24. Swift. Abundant from Abbottsford to Fairfield on 16th. Common from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. Common from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. Very common at Ft. Loudon on 19th. The relative abundance of species determined by the number of buildings in all districts.

25. Hummingbird. One observed at Conococheague Creek near Greencastle on 17th. Observed at same point on 18th. Not observed elsewhere.

26. Kingbird. Common between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. A few between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. One noted near Mercersburg on 18th. One seen at Metal on 19th.

27. Crested Flycatcher. Common from Abbottsford to Fairfield on 16th. A few noted between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. A few between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. One heard at Ft. Loudon on 19th.

28. Phoebe. One or two between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. Nesting under bridge over west branch of Conococheague Creek near Mercersburg on 18th.

29. Wood Pewee. A few heard between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. Two or three from Fairfield to Greencastle

on 17th. Common at Greencastle and from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. A few noted at Ft. Loudon on 19th.

30. Blue Jay. One observed between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. A few between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. One or two noted between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. One observed at Ft. Loudon on 19th.

31. Crow. A few observed from Abbottsford to Fairfield on 16th. Fairly common from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. A few between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. Common about Ft. Loudon.

32. Fish Crow.? Rhoads and Street heard call-notes over Conococheague Creek at Greencastle which were assumed as belonging to this species.

33. Starling. Common between Abbottsford to Fairfield on 16th. Not observed between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. A few seen at Greencastle on 18th. Ziegler states that the species was first observed in the town last year.

34. Cowbird. Heard two at Greencastle and one between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. Saw Song Sparrow feeding Cowbird below Harrisburg, on 20th.

35. Red-winged Blackbird. Fairly common from Abbottsford to Fairfield on 16th. Not observed between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. Two or three noted from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. Two observed along west branch of Conococheague Creek at Ft. Loudon on 19th. Not observed as a common species in Franklin County.

36. Meadowlark. Common from Abbottsford to Fairfield on 16th. Common from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. Common from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. A few noted about Ft. Loudon on 19th. Relatively common in both counties in suitable environments.

37. Orchard Oriole. A few seen between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. Two or three noted from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. A few noted between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th.

38. Baltimore Oriole. One noted at Abbottsford on 16th. Two or three observed between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. One or two noted between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. One noted at Ft. Loudon on 19th.

39. Purple Grackle. An abundant species between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. Abundant between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. Abundant between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. Abundant about Ft. Loudon on 19th. The most widely distributed and established species and most abundant species in both counties.

40. Goldfinch. A few noted between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. Abundant between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. Common between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. A few about Ft. Loudon on 19th.

41. Vesper Sparrow. Abundant between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. Abundant between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. Abundant between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. A few about Ft. Loudon on 19th. The most abundant sparrow in both counties.

42. Grasshopper Sparrow. A few noted between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. Common between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. Abundant between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. A few about Ft. Loudon on 19th. The second commonest sparrow in both counties.

43. Chipping Sparrow. A few noted between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. Fairly common from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. A few between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. A few on the lower slopes of Jordan's Knob near Ft. Loudon on 19th.

44. Field Sparrow. A few noted between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. Fairly common from Fairfield to Greencastle, locating one nest with four young at Charmian on 17th. A few observed between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. A few on the lower slopes of Jordan's Knob and in Horse Valley on the 19th.

45. Song Sparrow. A few observed between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. A few noted between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. A few noted between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th, Rhoads finding a nest in the valley of the west branch of the Conococheague Creek near Mercersburg. A few observed in the vicinity of Ft. Loudon on 19th.

46. Chewink. A few noted between Abbottsford and Fair-

field on 16th. Fairly common from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. A few between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. A few on Jordan's Knob on the 19th.

47. Cardinal. Common on Jack's Mountain below Fairfield and at Charmian on 17th. A few noted between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. A few observed about Ft. Loudon on 19th.

48. Blue Grosbeak. Street observed on the morning of the 18th a male and female of this species flying across the west branch of the Conococheague Creek above the Mercersburg Road. Upon wading the stream he again observed the female through his glasses.

49. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Bailey observed on the morning of the 18th a female of this species in about the same locality where the Blue Grosbeak was observed.

50. Indigo Bunting. One seen between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. Abundant from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th, Street finding nest with two eggs along Conococheague Creek at Greencastle. Common on 18th between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon. A few observed about Ft. Loudon on Jordan's Knob and in Horse Valley on 19th.

51. Scarlet Tanager. A common bird in woodland between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. Common between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. Common on Jordan's Knob on the 19th.

52. Purple Martin. Commonly observed about villages en route, finding well established colonies at Fairfield, Greencastle and Ft. Loudon.

53. Barn Swallow. Common between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. Fairly common from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. Abundant at Ft. Loudon on 18th. Common at Ft. Loudon and Metal on 19th.

54. Rough-winged Swallow. Observed about bridge over Conococheague Creek below Greencastle on 17th. Observed in same locality on the morning of the 18th.

55. Cedar Waxwing. Observed five on Jack's Mountain on 17th and two more en route from Jack's Mountain to Greencastle. A few noted between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on the 18th. A few noted about Ft. Loudon on the 19th.

56. Red-eyed Vireo. Common from Fairfield to Greencastle on the 17th, a nest with three eggs being found on Jack's Mountain. Common about Greencastle on the 18th, Bailey finding nest. Common between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon. Common on Jordan's Knob and in Horse Valley on the 19th.

57. Yellow-throated Vireo. One observed at Charmian on 17th. Two heard at Ft. Loudon on 18th.

58. Warbling Vireo. One heard at Fairfield and one at Greencastle on 17th. Two heard between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th.

59. Black and White Warbler. Two or three heard on Jack's Mountain on 17th. Heard on Little Cove Creek on 18th above Foltz. Heard four or five on Jordan's Knob on 19th.

60. Worm-eating Warbler. Three observed on the slopes of Jack's Mountain on the 17th and common on Jordan's Knob on the 19th.

61. Yellow Warbler. Heard commonly between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. One heard in town of Fairfield on 17th. One heard at Greencastle and one at Ft. Loudon on the 18th. A few in village of Ft. Loudon on 19th.

62. Chestnut-sided Warbler. Two observed on Jack's Mountain on 17th and one near Ridge Summit. A few noted on Jordan's Knob on 19th.

63. Blackburnian Warbler. Three singing males heard at head of Horse Valley and one on crest of mountain between Freestone and Metal on the 19th.

64. Black-throated Green Warbler. On the 18th heard from six to ten among dense groves of hemlocks bordering Little Cove Creek above Foltz. Two heard on Jordan's Knob on the 19th.

65. Pine Warbler. Several birds thought to be this species heard among a grove of *Pinus pungens* on the upper slopes of Jordan's Knob. All singing birds were apparently in pine trees but the presence of Worm-eating Warblers and Chipping Sparrows on the mountain as well, tends to leave the identification in some doubt without the absolute observance of the bird.

66. Ovenbird. Fairly common on Jack's Mountain on

17th. Along west branch of Conococheague Creek near Mercersburg and at Little Cove Creek above Foltz on 18th. On Jordan's Knob on 19th. Stone heard one on Little Cove Creek near Foltz on 18th.

67. Louisiana Water-Thrush. Found five on the northern slope of Jordan's Knob and along Creek in upper Horse Valley on 19th.

68. Kentucky Warbler. A few noted on Jack's Mountain on 17th. One observed along Little Cove Creek above Foltz on the 18th. One observed along lower slope of Jordan's Knob on 19th.

69. Maryland Yellow-throat. Observed one on Jack's Mountain the 17th. One pair noted along west branch of Conococheague Creek below Mercersburg on the 18th. Observed three along west branch of Conococheague Creek at Ft. Loudon on the 19th.

70. Chat. An abundant species from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. Common from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. Common on lower slopes of Jordan's Knob and in upper Horse Valley on 19th.

71. Hooded Warbler. Common on Jack's Mountain, Charman and two or three near Blue Ridge Summit on the 17th. Common along Little Cove Creek above Foltz on the 18th. Common on Jordan's Knob and upper Horse Valley on 19th.

72. Redstart. One noted on Jack's Mountain on 17th.

73. Catbird. Observed as common from Fairfield to Greencastle on 17th. Fairly common from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. A few about Ft. Loudon on 19th.

74. Brown Thrasher. One observed at Abbottsford on 16th. One observed at Greencastle on 18th and one on McConnellsburg Road above Little Cove Creek. One observed at Ft. Loudon on 19th. Apparently an uncommon species in both counties.

75. House Wren. A few noted between Abbottsford and Fairfield on 16th. Fairly common between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. Fairly common between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. Common in Horse Valley on 19th.

76. Bewick's Wren. Noted along fence lines nine birds in all on the 19th in Horse Valley at four different stations, the birds being in twos and threes.

77. Tufted Titmouse. One observed near Gettysburg on 16th. Fairly common between Fairfield and Greencastle on 17th. Common from Greencastle to Ft. Loudon on 18th. Common on Jordan's Knob and in Horse Valley on 19th.

78. Black-capped Chickadee. Noted two or three in song on Jack's Mountain on the 17th. Noted one at Greencastle on the 18th. Observed two or three on Jordan's Knob on 19th.

79. Wood Thrush. One or two pairs observed on Jack's Mountain on the 17th and one near Greencastle. Two or three observed between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on 18th. Five or six observed on Jordan's Knob and in Horse Valley. Not a very common species.

80. Robin. Abundant from Abbottsford to Fairfield on the 16th. Common from Fairfield to Greencastle on the 17th. Common between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on the 18th. Very common in the valleys about Ft. Loudon on the 19th.

81. Bluebird. Fairly common between Abbottsford and Fairfield on the 16th. Common between Fairfield and Greencastle on the 17th. A few between Greencastle and Ft. Loudon on the 19th.