

SOME RARE INDIANA BIRDS.

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The birds of Indiana are not the same they were when we were young. They are continually changing. Of course there are certain species that remain somewhat stationary, but for the most part there are changes.

1. Those that are decreasing in numbers (water-fowl) or have entirely disappeared (Parakeet, Pigeon, Raven, Turkey).
2. Those that are increasing in numbers (Most meadow forms, sparrows, etc.).
3. Those that are extending their range (Bobolink, Bachman's Sparrow, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird).
4. Those of (a) accidental, (b) rare, or (c) unusual occurrence :
 - (a) Brunnich's Guillemot, Man-O-War Bird, Brown Pelican.
 - (b) Snowy Owl.
 - (c) Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak.

Added to these transpiring changes is the ever recurring one of inspiring interest, which we call migration. So to the student of birds there are countless changes and numberless surprises in his observations from year to year.

A few observations of special interest are noted here in order that they may be known and preserved.

The least known part of Indiana is that neighboring Lake Michigan. Only in recent years have experienced observers been giving attention to that area and from them we are receiving some of our most valuable records of bird distribution and behavior. With the changes that are occurring in that region many favorite bird sites are disappearing and with them are going the birds.

The proposed Dune Park, if realized, will be a factor in preserving for future generations many species of birds as well as other animals and also plants.

I am indebted to Mr. H. L. Stoddard for many interesting notes from the Dune region of Indiana. Of the Lake Michigan neighborhood in Lake and Porter counties, unless otherwise noted, the following records are from him :

HORNED GREBE. *Colymbus auritus* Linn. Fairly common November 2, 1919, between Millers and Dune Park, Indiana. November 9, 1919, literally hundreds of Horned (and other) Grebes fishing off shore with Loons (very numerous) between Mineral Springs and Dune Park, Indiana.

RING-BILLED GULL. *Larus delawarensis* Ord. Fairly common between Millers and Dune Park, Indiana, August 24, 1919. Very numerous at Dune Park, Indiana, August 31, 1919.

BONAPARTE'S GULL. *Larus philadelphia* (Ord). Seen by the hundred on the lake (Michigan) between Millers and Dune Park, Indiana, October 26, 1919. Noted also from same territory November 2, 1919. On November 9, 1919, between Mineral Springs and Dune Park, Indiana. More numerous than I ever saw them before. They sat on the lake in white windrows, hundreds to a row. Other hundreds fluttering over the water and still others circling high in the air like hawks.

CASPIAN TERN. *Sterna caspia* Pallas. One fine adult seen here this fall. Between Gary and Mineral Springs, Indiana, September 17, 1919.

FORSTER'S TERN. *Sterna forsteri* Nutt. A few seen at Millers, Indiana, August 16, 1919. Fairly common between Millers and Dune Park, Indiana, August 24, 1919. Between Gary and Mineral Springs, Indiana, September 10, 1919. Abundant for the season when all terns have been present in smaller numbers than usual.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Sw.) Dune Park, Indiana. Five seen May 6, 1919. Three seen in Lake Michigan between Mineral Springs and Dune Park, Indiana, September 24, 1919.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER. *Pisobia bairdi* (Coues). One seen Dune Park, Indiana, August 31, 1919. Two, male and female, taken between Gary and Mineral Springs, Indiana, September 10, 1919.

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER. *Polidna alpina sakhalina* (Vieill.). Dune Park, Indiana. May 6, 1919. One taken.

SANDERLING. *Calidris leuciplaena* (Pall.). Millers, Lake County, Indiana. About a dozen recorded August 16, 1919. Two taken. Proved to be adult males—all adults in summer plumage. August 24, 1919, twenty-five or thirty, all adults but one, were seen along the same beach. August 28, 1919, they were common between Gary and Dune Park, Indiana. About half observed were adults changing to winter plumage and half young of the year. Over 100 seen between Gary and Mineral Springs, Indiana, September 10, 1919. On same beach only a few in immature and winter plumage were seen September 17, 1919. On September 24, 1919, at the same place larger numbers than I have ever seen here before. At least 200 on two miles of beach.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. *Squatarola squatarola* (Linn.). One adult in summer plumage, between Millers and Dune Park, Indiana, August 24, 1919. One female plumage half changed between Gary and Dune Park, August 28, 1919. Between Gary and Mineral Springs, Indiana, on September 10, 1919, seven were seen and two collected. All adults in changing plumage. Adults precede the young of the year two or three weeks. On same beach two immature specimens were collected September 17, 1919.

TURNSTONE. *Arenaria interpres interpres* (Linn.). Four seen. One female taken. One adult. Three juveniles. Between Gary and Dune Park, Indiana, August 28, 1919.

PIPING PLOVER. *Ægialitis meloda* (Ord). Dune Park, Porter County, Indiana. Nest and two eggs found, May 6, 1919. Another nest and four eggs found in same locality May 12, 1919. These little Plover still nest in one or two places along the Indiana shore—as many as six pair being seen in one locality. The shore is being frequented more and more and the Plover will soon be gone, I am afraid. A few seen August 16, 1919, at Millers, Indiana.

ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. *Picoides arcticus* (Swains). An adult male was taken about one mile east of Dune Park, Porter County, Indiana, October 24, 1920, by H. L. Stoddard.

"This specimen did not act a bit like the other two (which were very tame) but flew nervously from tree to tree in a small scrub pine grove, uttering its loud, and to me, startling call note, a rather rapidly repeated teck, teck, teck. Finding the exact location of the note proved confusing to me. I thought there were two of the birds calling till the specimen was shot which stopped the noise. This is the third specimen from that vicinity."

The first one was taken March 11, 1917.

The second specimen was a male taken at Dune Park, Porter County, October 3, 1920. It acted much like the one taken March 11, 1917. It was found feeding on a dead scrub pine just back from the lake (Michigan) shore. It was very tame and paid no attention to me. The "tapping" is louder than that of the Sapsucker and slower than that of the Hairy or Dorney and unlike the others seems to work in one tree until the food supply is exhausted. The bird had nearly completed its moult and appeared in fine fresh plumage.

November 21, 1920, the fourth specimen, a male, was taken at Mineral Springs, Porter County, Indiana, by Mr. Stoddard and sent to me, with the accompanying note: "I have heard of two others being seen four miles east of Mineral Springs and have noticed a number of well stripped trees. Removing most of the bark from one tree before going out of a neighborhood seems to be characteristic of this species. I believe there is a great flight of these woodpeckers this year."

December 8, 1920. Reports two specimens being seen and one taken in northern Illinois, and adds, "Further strengthening my statement of a big flight."

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. *Nuttalornis borealis* (Swains.). Three identified at Millers, Indiana, August 16, 1919.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (Bonap.). Near Crawfordsville, Indiana, April 28, 1919, Mr. Frank C. Evans, Secretary Indiana Audubon Society, observed a single bird of this species. He was enabled to observe it for some time at close range and is certain of its identification. Colonies are still found breeding in lessening numbers in the swamp and lake region on both sides of the Illinois-Indiana line in Lake and the adjoining county.

EVENING GROSBEAK. *Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina* (W. Coop.). Dune Park, Indiana, March 30, 1919. About 50 seen. April 27, 1919, seventeen seen at same station. Last of season.

AMERICAN CROSSBILL. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. One, a male, seen October 28, 1919, at Upland, Grant County, Indiana, feeding upon sunflower seeds. It was very tame and permitted close approach and afforded definite identification.—Mrs. Gertrude Q. Campbell. November 1, 1919, a small flock was seen among some spruce trees near Helmsburg, Brown County, Indiana, by Philip Baker. November 20th, the same observer saw eight of these birds in the same spruces. Each time a single bird of the next species was observed. One of the last was taken and preserved for verification. Flock reported during latter part of winter and spring of 1920 by Frank Hasselman at State Game Experiment Station at Deere's Mills, in southwestern

part of Montgomery County. Reported also by Joel Hadley of Indianapolis in same place as late as May 8, 1920.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. *Loxia leucaptera*. November 1, 1919, a single bird taken near Helmsburg, Brown County, Indiana, by Philip Baker, and sent to me for identification. It, with a small flock of American Crossbills, was feeding in a group of spruce trees. All except one flew away when the observer approached. That was the specimen of this species which I have. November 20, 1920, Mr. Baker saw a single white-winged Crossbill with eight American Crossbills in the same spruce trees. They were eating spruce seeds and were very tame. These may have been the same birds seen November 1, which remained in the neighborhood. Fall records of this species are very scarce. Two White-Winged Crossbills collected by L. L. Walters, November 9, 1919, between Mineral Springs and Dune Park, Indiana.

REDPOLL. *Acanthis linaria linaria*. Thirty to forty observed between Mineral Springs and Dune Park, Indiana, December 7, 1919. Ten to twenty seen between Gary and Dune Park, Indiana, December 21, 1919.

PINE SISKIN. *Spinus pinus pinus* (Wils.). Mineral Springs, Indiana, October 9, 1919. Many thousand Pine Siskins feeding on the weed patches near the swamp and resting on the tamaracks in the sun, out of the wind. A few goldfinches among them. By far the greatest number of Siskins I ever saw in the Dunes. October 6, 1919, still present by hundreds though not nearly so abundant as October 9. October 26, 1919, Pine Siskins still present. November 2, 1919, a few. December 7, 1919, a few.

SNOW BUNTING. *Plectrophanes nivalis nivalis* (Linn.). Dune Park, Porter County, Indiana, March 2, 1919. About 50. Three flocks of 40 to 50 each, between Millers and Dune Park, Indiana, November 2, 1919. About 40 seen between Mineral Springs and Dune Park, Indiana, November 9, 1919.

HARRIS SPARROW. *Zonotrichia querula* (Nutt.). An immature male was taken at Millers, Lake County, Indiana, October 3, 1920, by H. L. Stoddard. One was seen April 24, 1920, near Fort Wayne, Indiana, by H. C. Miller. This bird was carefully studied and the observers are confident of its identification. Miss Margaret Hanna and Mr. Sihler also observed a bird of this species, possibly the same one, a few days later.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING. *Bombycilla garrula* (Linn.). Over a hundred observed between Gary and Dune Park, Indiana, December 21, 1919. About forty were seen and six collected April 15, 1920, between Dune Park and Millers, Indiana.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. *Protonotaria citrea* (Bodd.). Millers, Lake County, Indiana. Fairly common along the Calumet River, August 16, 1919. H. C. Miller reports seeing one near Fort Wayne, Indiana, May 1, 1920, and another May 9, 1920. Mrs. Donaldson Bodine reports seeing four on May 7, 1920, at Crawfordsville. Rare.

PRAIRIE WARBLER. *Dendroica discolor* (Vieill.). Philip Baker in the

spring of 1920 found four nests with eggs of the Prairie Warbler, in his orchard near Helmsburg, Indiana.

1. Found May 15, 1920. May 20th it contained four eggs. It was built ten feet up in an apple tree.
2. Found May 21st about 100 yards from No. 1. May 26th it contained four eggs. It was 8 feet from the ground.
3. June 9, 1920, located midway between Nos. 1 and 2, eleven feet from the ground. Contained four eggs.
4. July 11, 1920, 6 feet up in a Yellow Transparent Apple Tree. Contained 4 eggs.

The first three nests were in Grimes Golden Apple trees. Both these varieties of apples are upright growers, providing good crotches, well screened with foliage.

These four nests were found within a distance of 200 yards.

Additional interesting notes on birds of northwestern Indiana are to be found in the paper, "Notes on Birds of the Chicago Area and its immediate vicinity" by C. W. G. Eifrig, in *The Auk*, Volume XXXVI, 1919, pp. 513-524.

