

FURTHER NOTES ON INDIANA BIRDS.

BY AMOS W. BUTLER.

The following notes on the birds observed in Indiana and adjacent states are worthy of record.

Prairie Warbler. *Dendroica discolor* (Vieill.)

Mr. Philip Baker shot a specimen of this warbler near Helmsburg, Brown County, July 7, 1910, and another near the same place July 15, 1910. Both of these were sent to me for verification. He learned their song. July 22, 1910, he heard another in a different locality. In 1911 he heard one on May 7 and another June 14. In 1912 he saw two on May 27, and June 25 heard five near Nashville. All of the above were in Brown County. Mr. Baker says they frequent the sassafras thickets of abandoned hillsides. He adds, "I have no doubt the birds could be found nesting in this and similar localities in Brown County." Some of the above dates, it will be observed, come within the breeding season.

Mr. Percival Brooks Coffin reports a male of this bird from Millers, Lake County, Ind., May 16, 1909. One was noted by Miss Hazel Heath at New Paris, Ohio, April 11, 1909. Prof. Norman A. Wood, Ann Arbor, Mich., notes one at that place May 11, 1909; next seen May 12. Rare. Does not breed.

Miss Caroline M. Carpenter, of Richmond, Ind., in a list of birds identified at Lake Maxinkuckee between May 8 and 16, 1911, reports this bird.

Yellow-headed Blackbird. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (Bonap.).

Mr. Percival Brooks Coffin of Chicago reports a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Millers, Lake County, Indiana., May 16, 1909. Mr. Clarence Guy Littell reports seeing one at Winona Lake, Kosciusko County, the summer of 1902. Ind. Univ. Bull. Vol. 1, No. 4, 1903, p. 57.)

White Pelican. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Gmel.

Professor Glenn Culbertson, Hanover College, reports that a White Pelican was killed on the Ohio River near Hanover, Jefferson County, May 6, 1909. Miss Hazel Heath informs me of the occurrence of two of these birds at New Paris, Ohio, August 22 and 23, 1912.

Redpoll. *Acanthis linaria linaria* (Linn.).

One seen March 7 and again March 12, 1909, at Ft. Wayne, Ind., by Mr. Harry A. Dinins and Mr. Chas. A. Stockbridge. Two reported at Roanoke, Ind., by Mr. Harry A. Dinins December 10, 1911.

Mr. Norman A. Wood reported 500 seen at Ann Arbor, Mich., December 19, 1908; again noted December 28, and last seen March 3, 1909. They are noted as common some years; other years absent.

Prof. E. L. Moseley reports one at Sandusky, Ohio, April 26 and again May 13, 1911.

Eave Swallow: Cliff Swallow. *Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons* (Say).

About fifty of these swallows were seen by Mr. Harry A. Dinins and Mr. Charles A. Stockbridge at Ft. Wayne, Ind., April 30, 1909. They were again noted May 1. Reported as tolerably common at that station but not given as breeding. Bicknell, Ind., September 2, 1910. Breeds; getting rare, nesting at Bicknell, Knox County, in the summer of 1911, is a report of Mr. E. J. Chausler. Lyons, Greene County, seen September 5; next September 6; last seen September 17. Rare; does not breed. (Prof. W. B. Van Gorder.) The same writer also states, when a boy in Noble County, there was a barn one-half mile east of Avilla, which had over 100 nests of the Cliff Swallows. A half mile north of that town was another barn with some 40 or 50 nests. These birds all disappeared more than twenty-five years ago. Last August (1910) in Avilla, he found a little colony of Cliff Swallows and ten nests close in a row along the eave of a barn. Six of these birds were noted by Mr. Harry A. Dinins at Roanoke, Ind., August 23, 1911, where he reports them as common and breeding.

Wawaka, 1911. In this neighborhood there are three or four small colonies of Eave or Cliff Swallows. "About one mile from my home there is a small barn which has under its eaves fifty-three nests of this swallow." O. A. Renahan.

Prof. D. W. Dennis tells me of two localities in Wayne County where a few pairs still nest.

Where are the great numbers that formerly built their curious bottle-shaped nests of mud under the eaves of the farmers' barns?

White-winged Crossbill. *Loxia leucoptera* (Gmel.).

A number reported near Brookville, Ind., in the winter of 1909 and 1910, under date of February 14, 1910, by Mr. Joseph F. Honecker.

Wood Duck. *Aix sponsa* (Linn.)

Worthington, Ind. Female shot April 10, 1909. Reported by Prof. W. B. Van Gorder, who says it breeds in that vicinity. In a letter dated December 26, 1910, the same writer says a man while mowing clover near White River in June last, found a number of little ducks. He secured six. Three died. Some two months after he got them, one of these died. The remaining two were subsequently transferred to Mr. William Holton Dye, Noblesville, Ind. They proved to be young Wood Ducks.

Henslow's Sparrow. *Passerherbulus henslowi henslowi* (Aud.).

Mr. Norman A. Wood of Ann Arbor, Mich., reports finding a male Henslow's Sparrow dead at that place April 18, 1909. May 1, 1909, he reports two shot, one a female. Very rare. This is the first record for that locality.

Rough-legged Hawk. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis* (Gmel.).

Bicknell, Knox County, Indiana. First seen December 23, 1908; next seen December 24, and last seen December 29. Same locality November 12, 1910, one. Next seen November 15; last seen December 3. Noted as common that fall. E. J. Chausler.

Egret. *Herodias egretta* (Gmel.).

Mr. E. J. Chausler reports them from Bicknell, Ind., July 25, 1910, and last seen in that locality August 30, 1910, and says: "Common this fall on ponds and other good feeding places."

Greater Snow Goose. *Chen hyperboreus nivalis* (Forst.).

Mr. Chausler reports seeing two near Bicknell, October 23, 1910. He marks them as rare, and says: "These geese were observed in a flock of Canada Geese. Usually we find them either with Canada Geese or with Hutchins' Geese, but sometimes in a flock by themselves."

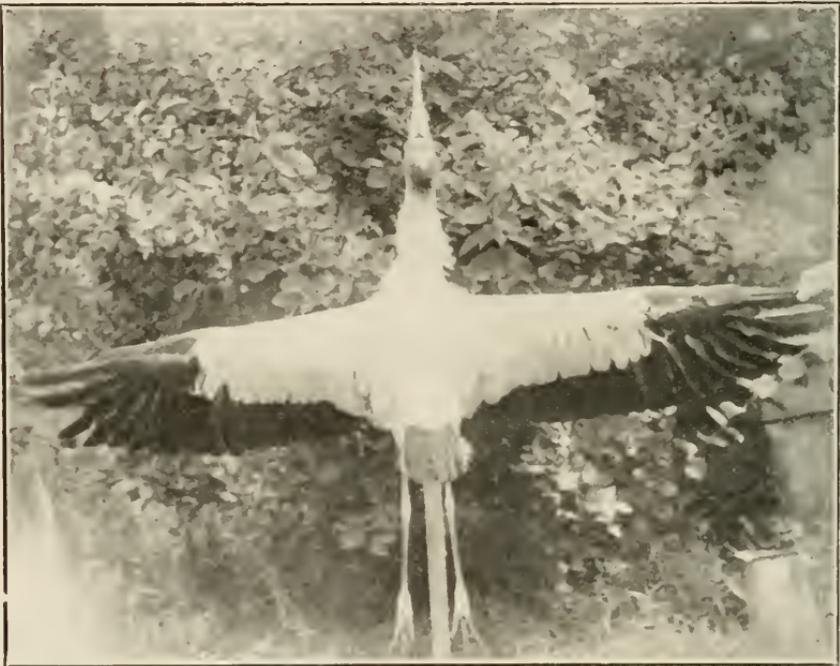
Wood Ibis. *Mycteria americana* (Linn.).

Prof. W. B. Van Gorder, Lyons, Greene County, Indiana, informs me that a Wood Ibis was killed on White River near that place June 27, 1910. It had been seen in that vicinity for a month prior to that time. The Indianapolis News, July 16, 1910, reported the killing of a Wood Ibis in Brown County. Upon my request, Mr. Philip Baker, an accurate and reliable observer, was asked to verify the record. He was able to secure for me the accompanying photograph of this bird from Mr. W. W. Frazer, Mt. Liberty, Ind.

Prof. W. B. Van Gorder says a number of Wood Ibises were seen in Greene County the summer of 1911. They arrived near Marco about the middle of June and left about September 10. "The person who shot

the one I reported last year told me there were several small droves of 15-20 and at one time he thought there must have been 40. Several were shot. They were about the trees and marshes along White River." *Evening Grosbeak*. *Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina* (W. Coop.).

Prof. E. L. Moseley, Sandusky, Ohio, reports an Evening Grosbeak was shot at Huron, Ohio, January 21, 1911. Mr. Robert S. Campbell reports six Evening Grosbeaks at South Bend, Ind., the morning of April 11, 1912, and adds: "They were feeding on the seeds of a box elder tree. They were very tame. I was within six feet of them."



Wood Ibis Killed in Brown County, Indiana.

Mr. Norman A. Wood, Ann Arbor, Mich., writing under date of March 15, 1911, says, "A few Evening Grosbeaks were here this winter." *Prairie Chicken*. *Tympanuchus americanus americanus* (Reich.).

Knox County; rare resident; still found on Shaker prairie, western part of this county on the Wabash River. (E. J. Chansler.)

Mr. George W. Miles, State Commissioner of Fisheries and Game, is reported in the Indianapolis papers, October 22, 1912, as saying, "A con-

servative estimate of the number of prairie chickens now in Indiana is 100,000. The counties about the Kankakee basin hold the majority of the game birds. There are approximately five hundred birds in Kosciusko County, one thousand in Fulton County and between twelve thousand and fifteen thousand in White County. Other counties mentioned as having these birds in them are Pulaski, Jasper and Starke.

Wild Turkey. *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris* (Vieill.).

Knox County. Seen by Mr. Crow on a hill near the government dam on the Wabash River in the southern part of this county in 1909. The bird is probably extinct or nearly so. Mr. Mathias Pickel, of the extreme southern part of this county, on the Wabash, and a very wild locality, claims that he has not seen any Wild Turkeys since 1904. (E. J. Chansler).

The Indianapolis News, October 18, 1912, in an answer to a correspondent contains these words: "There is a man now living in the city (Indianapolis) who has shot wild turkeys between Washington and North streets. The Rev. J. C. Fletcher, son of Calvin, said that one day in 1834, when walking with his father, he saw a flock of wild turkeys light in a tree in what is now Military Park. In early times it was not uncommon for a hunter to kill fifteen or twenty in a day, and as late as 1841 one was captured in the Circle."

Snowflake: Snow Bunting. *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis* (Linn.).

Indianapolis, Ind., December 23, 1901. Miss Florence Howe, who reported them says: "This is the only time I have seen the Snowflakes around here. There was a flock of about one hundred. The day was very snowy and the wind blowing. I stayed watching them for an hour or more and then they flew away."

Double-crested Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Swainson.).

A bird of this species was taken at Wawaka, Ind., October 24, 1912, according to Mr. O. A. Renahan, who has the skin in his possession.

Pileated Woodpecker. *Phlæotomus pileatus pileatus* (Linn.).

Mr. Philip Baker reports seeing one near Helmsburg, Brown County, Indiana, May 5, 1911.

Passenger Pigeon. *Ectopistes migratorius* (Linn.).

The Passenger Pigeon is probably now extinct. Many of us remember it as the Wild Pigeon of our childhood. Our parents told of the wonderful flights they had seen: of the enormous number which no one could count or approximately estimate; of roosts covering many square miles of woodland when the birds settled upon the trees in such numbers that great

limbs were broken by their weight. All these countless numbers of wild pigeons have disappeared, and notwithstanding hundreds of dollars have been offered for evidence of the occurrence or nesting of these birds in recent years, no authentic report has been received. Specifically, it may be said a reward of \$1,500 for knowledge of a nesting pair of Wild Pigeons was recently made by members of the National Association of Audubon Societies. The reward stood for two years closing December 1, 1911, and no one came forward to claim the prize.

In view of these facts it is appropriate to refer to the last reports of the occurrence of the Passenger Pigeon in Indiana, some of which have been previously printed.

Franklin County, near Oak Forest, July 13, 1898, nesting. October 23, 1898, seen. July 10, 1899, noted. May 18, 1906. July 13, 1906, several seen and reported nesting.

A bird of this species was taken in Shelby County, September 24, 1898, and was mounted and preserved. I have seen this specimen.

Other Indiana specimens of the Passenger Pigeon known to me are as follows:

One of two found dead in winter in the woods near Brookville, Ind., is still in the collection of the writer. The other was presented to a museum in Europe.

My information is there is a specimen now in Richmond, Ind., obtained by Albert Stauber in September, 1872; also another in the collection of Earlham College, obtained by John B. Dongan in the fall of 1873. Mr. Walter S. Ratliff says these were obtained at the great pigeon roost in Center Township, Wayne County, three miles west of Richmond.

The last verified record for this State is from Franklin County. Two birds were seen, and one was shot, near Laurel, April 3, 1902. The specimen taken was submitted to the writer for verification and was returned to Mr. C. K. Muchmore, the owner, at Laurel.

Hermit Thrush. *Turdus aomalasehcoe pallasii* (Cab.).

Mr. C. H. Smith reports one at New Castle, Ind., November 10, 1912.

Mr. Philip Baker took a bird of this species near Hehnsburg, Brown County, Ind., January 9, 1911. He sent me the wings and tail for verification.

Ardea herodias wardi. Ridgway.

In his paper "A Revision of the forms of the Great Blue Heron

(*Ardea herodias* Linnaeus)¹ Mr. Harry C. Oberholser classes the birds that have been found breeding in the lower Wabash Valley under this form. He gives measurements of six specimens taken by Mr. Robert Ridgway at "Cypress Swamp near mouth of White River, southwestern Knox County, Ind." The breeding range of the typical form, *Ardea herodias* Linn., he gives as from Central Indiana northward.

¹ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 43, pp. 531-559.

