

ceding species, in 1869, and remained through the winter. Noticed in Lake county preceding. (Aiken.)

*Ammodramus leconteii* (Aud)—Leconte's Sparrow. I am pleased to be able to note, upon the authority of Mr. Aiken, the occurrence of this bird in northwest Indiana. About April 15th, 1887, he observed two birds which he thought were this species at Water Valley. About the same time in 1889, near the same place, he saw three of what appeared to be the same birds. Two of them were shot and proved to be this species.

*Geothlypis formosa* (Wils)—Kentucky Warbler. Mr. Aiken is able to extend the range of this species as far as Gibson Station, Ind., where, he says, several specimens were taken in May, 1887.

In addition might be added that the extreme dryness of the fall for the past two years has had a noticeable effect in lessening the number of marsh birds and water fowl throughout the part of the state where shooting such game is extensively indulged in. Rail, snipe and duck shooting has been worthless the past two autumns. Birds were few, for their favorite haunts were unsuited to their wants. Marshes and sloughs were dry, as were the creeks. Much of the lakes had disappeared, leaving instead "mud flats." Many species, ordinarily common, were rare and others altogether wanting. The open winters two years past and so far this winter, have encouraged many species which ordinarily pass the winter further south to remain with us, and other species which stay in winter in limited numbers have remained in quantities.

SOME NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF INDIANA. By R. WES McBRIDE.

Loon, *Urinator imber*, Gunn. Mr. A. W. Butler, in his admirable and excellent catalogue of the birds of Indiana, says of the Loon, or Great Northern Diver: "I have no knowledge of their breeding within the state, although they will probably be found to do so." I can personally testify that it is a summer resident of Steuben county, and that it breeds in at least two of the many beautiful lakes of that county. Their eggs have been taken at Lake James and Crooked Lake. I have been familiar with those lakes for more than twenty years, and have never failed to find them there in summer. I have also seen them in the breeding season in Hamilton Lake and Golden Lake, also in Steuben county; in Turkey Lake, on the

line between Steuben and Lagrange counties, and in Bear Lake, Noble county.

Yellow-bellied Wood-pecker, *Sphyrapicus varius*, L. Is said, in the catalogue, to have bred rarely, if at all, in DeKalb county since 1888. Herbert W. McBride found a nest with three eggs near Waterloo, May 13, 1889.

Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* L. Ten years ago this bird was very rare in DeKalb and Steuben counties. Now it is a common summer resident and breeds in both counties. It is, however, still very rare in Elkhart county, only a short distance west, with the apparent conditions not materially different.

Brown Creeper, *Certhia familiaris americana*, Bp. Of this bird Mr. Butler says: "I have never known it to breed in the state, but Mr. H. W. McBride thinks it breeds in DeKalb county." I can say positively that I know it breeds in Steuben county. In my note-book I find the following under date of May 8th, 1882: "Brown Creeper; taken near Golden Lake, Steuben county, Indiana. Nest in crevice, where the bark had started from a dead tree, about four feet from the ground, in a swampy tract in "Crane town." Nest composed of sticks, bark and feathers. Six eggs, beauties. Incubation commenced. Embryos about half developed." I have a very distinct recollection of the matter. The "Crane town" referred to in the note is a heronry which we were exploring. The water was high and we were in a boat. I placed my hand against a tree to push the boat past it, when the bird flew off the nest, which was within a few inches of my hand. The bird remained near me until after I had secured the eggs and examined the nest. The appearance and characteristics of the Brown Creeper are so marked that it could hardly be mistaken for any other bird. I could not possibly be mistaken in its identification. In addition to this, the location and construction of the nest and the eggs themselves are all typical and characteristic.

Another nest and set of eggs were taken in May, 1883, at Fox Lake, near Angola, by my sons, Charles H. and Herbert W. The identification in this case was as satisfactory and unmistakable as in the other. Since that time, while I have frequently seen them during the breeding season, both in Steuben and DeKalb counties, I have found no other nests.

Tufted Titmouse, *Parus bicolor*, L. Is noted in the catalogue as an occasional straggler in northern Indiana. It breeds in Elkhart county. June 12th, 1891, Herbert W. McBride found a nest near Elkhart containing seven young birds.