

89. *Mimus polyglottus*. Mocking bird. One specimen taken March 10, '93, by Victor Barnett, near Bean Blossom Creek.
90. *Catroscopus carolinensis*. Cat bird. Common summer resident. April '23, '94.
91. *Harpochynchus rufus*. Brown thrasher. Common summer resident. Breeds. March 23, '94.
92. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. Carolina wren. Resident. Not very common.
93. *Troglodytes aëdon*. House wren. Common summer resident. March 16, '94.
94. *Troglodytes hiemalis*. Winter wren. Winter resident. Not common.
95. *Certhia familiaris americana*. Brown creeper. Common migrant. March 31, '94.
96. *Sitta carolinensis*. White bellied nuthatch. Common resident.
97. *Sitta canadensis*. Red bellied nuthatch. Common migrant.
98. *Parus bicolor*. Tufted titmouse. Common resident.
99. *Parus carolinensis*. Black capped chickadee. Common resident.
100. *Regulus satrapa*. Golden crowned kinglet. Common migrant. March '22, '94.
101. *Regulus calendula*. Ruby crowned kinglet. Migrant. April 18, '94.
102. *Poliophtila cyerulea*. Blue gray gnat catcher. Common summer resident. Breeds. April 17, '94.
103. *Turdus aliciv*. Gray checked thrush. Summer resident. April 14, '94
104. *Turdus aonalaschkae pallasi*. Hermit thrush. Common migrant. April 15, '94.
105. *Merula migratoria*. American robin. Abundant summer resident.
106. *Sialia sialis*. Blue bird. Abundant summer resident.

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF 1894. BY A. W. BUTLER.

In the study of the birds of our state, one steps over the boundary in many instances. On the south, the bird fauna is influenced by the Ohio River. On the east, the Big Miami and St. Joseph and St. Mary's rivers have some relation to bird life; on the north, Lake Michigan, with its tributaries, plays an important part in bird distribution; and on the west the Wabash and its western tributaries, besides the lower Kankakee, affect the distribution of birds both in Illinois and Indiana. The reports of occurrence of the migrations and of the breeding of birds without our state may thus be of value in the study of our own birds. This

is particularly true in the State of Michigan. From the fact that it lies immediately north of us, many of its migratory birds may pass through this State. So, this year, I am enabled to present several notes on birds from without the State that have an important bearing upon the study of the birds of this State.

1. *Ammodramus henslowii* (Aud.). Henslow's sparrow.

Last year I reported the common occurrence and breeding of this species at English Lake, Indiana. At that time it had not been taken in Michigan. The first record from that State is given this year. May 12, 1894, Mr. L. Whitney Watkins reported six from Manchester, Mich. May 30, a nest containing five eggs was found in Jackson County, Michigan. The bird could not be identified. June 8, the female was shot as she was leaving the nest and proved to be this species. The locality was an open marsh bordering a lake. The nest was neatly though loosely constructed of coarse grasses and sedges lined with finer ones. It was situated in a tuft of grass about four inches above the wet ground. The eggs average .72 x .59 in., and were white with small reddish specks so numerous as to form an imperfect wreath about the larger end. Nest was hardly different from one of Maryland yellow-throat found in the same locality on the same day. Incubation nearly complete. An account of the breeding of the species as above noted has appeared in a number of the *Nidologist*.

Mr. J. O. Dunn, of Chicago, found Henslow's sparrow very common at Bass (formerly Cedar) Lake, Starke County, Ind., late in July, 1894. They were apparently breeding, though no nests were found. One beautiful, clear evening, about 10:30 o'clock, Mr. Dunn says he heard one of these birds singing near camp. Thus we have another added to the voices of the night.

2. *Thryothorus bewickii* (Aud.). Bewick's wren.

In 1880 this species had not been reported north of Vigo, Putnam and Marion counties, in this State. May 1, 1894, Mr. G. G. Williamson reported one from Muncie, and he again noted it May 9. Messrs. L. A. and C. D. Test, of Lafayette, report it at that place April 12, 1894. They say it is tolerably common and breeds. Mr. W. O. Wallace informs us that he saw them at Wabash, Ind., April 23-25, April 25, April 27 and June 1, 1894. He notes them as abundant there. Mr. Jerome Trombley, Petersburg, Mich., reports one May 15, and again May 16, at that place. He says they are rare and breed. Mr. E. J. Chausler, Bicknell, Knox County, Ind., says it is a common summer resident. Perhaps some winter. Appear to be getting more numerous. Breeds. Thus will be noted further evidence of the rapid extension of the summer range of this species, and of its increase in numbers in localities where it has previously appeared.

3. *Charadrius squatarola* (Linn.). Black-bellied plover.

A rare migrant. Mr. J. E. Beesley reports two from Lebanon, Ind., the past spring; one May 3d, the other May 5th. Mr. Fletcher M. Noe reports one killed near Indianapolis, May 30, 1894, by Mr. C. W. Lambert.

4. *Protonotaria citrea* (Bodd.). Prothonotary warbler.

Lebanon, Ind., May 23, one. May 29, 1894, rare. (Beesley.)

5. *Calcarius pictus* (Sw.). Smith's longspur.

Mr. J. O. Dunn informs me that he found a specimen in a game store in Chicago from North Illinois. Mr. Jesse Earle, Greencastle, Ind., informs me, on March 29, 1894, in a certain pasture three miles west of Greencastle, he saw probably 60 Painted Longspurs. He collected two. These are the first recorded since Mr. E. W. Nelson found them common in Lake County, Ind., and Cook County, Ill., in 1875.

6. *Icteria virens* (L.). Yellow-crested chat.

Taken at Ann Arbor, Mich., spring of 1894, by A. B. Covert (Watkins, L. W.), Petersburg, Mich., two, May 3; two, May 17, 1894. Rare. Two nests found. Has not been noted here before since 1877. (Jerome Trombley.) Dunreith, Henry County, Ind., June 7 and 12, 1894, rare. (E. Pleas.)

7. *Branta canadensis hutchinsii* (Sw. and Rich.). Hutchins' goose.

Mr. E. J. Cransler says they are rare and seldom seen. They were quite common the winter of 1893. Could be seen in large flocks in company with Canada goose. He saw a large flock of Hutchins' geese in Gibson County in 1891. According to Dr. Brayton they were formerly common and bred in the State. (Trans. Ind. Hort. Soc. 1879, p. 178.) Not recently reported.

8. *Guara alba* (Linn.). White ibis.

Knox County, rare. An uncle of mine killed a bird of this species more than fifty years ago. Dr. Smith, of Bicknell, says he killed one in 1864.

9. *Catharista atrata* (Bartr.). Black vulture, carrion crow.

Knox County. Resident. Have become common since 1889. Previous to that date were seldom seen. They must breed, as they are present all the time. Quite common this fall, as there were many dead hogs for them to feed upon. (Chansler.)

10. *Elanoides forficatus* (Linn.). Swallow-tailed kite.

Knox County. Rare summer resident. I saw one in August, 1890, its mate was killed the day before and is now preserved by Mr. J. Freeman, Bicknell, Ind. April 11, 1894, one was seen by Mr. Harbin. (Chansler.)

11. *Comurus carolinensis* (Linn.). Carolina paroquet.

Knox County (?), Daviess County. Formerly a resident. My grandmother told me they were yet to be found about Grassy and Swan Ponds in Daviess

County in 1859. A neighbor of mine makes a similar statement. Another person says they were still found in Knox County and Daviess County in 1857-58. They say they flew in flocks arranged along two sides of a triangle after the manner of wild geese. They built their nests and roosted in woodpecker's holes or hollow trees. When roosting, it is claimed they hung suspended by their bills. They laid but two eggs. They remained about rivers, swamps and ponds. They lived almost entirely on cuckle-cockle burrs. One man said they would pile the burrs upon stumps, and after hulling out the kernel leave the empty burrs in a pile. They visited the orchards and did not injure the fruit trees as badly as generally claimed. (Chansler.) Mr. E. R. Quick informs me that Mrs. Laforge, an old lady who recently died, told him that she knew the paraquets quite well in Franklin County. She referred to the habit which she said was common, of splitting open apples with their bills in order to get the seeds for food, discarding the remainder of the fruit.

12. *Gistothorus stellaris* (Licht.). Short-tailed marsh wren.

July 24, 1894, Mr. Alexander Black obtained two of these birds from the reedy shore of the mill pond near Greencastle, which has become noted for the rare forms along its banks. He suspected a nest was hidden among the reeds. Next morning he continued his search and found the nest. This is the third breeding record for our state.

13. *Porzana jamaicensis* (Gmel.). Black rail.

July 27, 1894, Jesse Earle and Alexander Beach identified the black rail among the saw-grass about the "mill pond," Putnam County, Ind. It ran, but could not be induced to take wing, and finally hid. July 28, the bird was again seen, but could not be flushed. Although searched for, it could not be found until July 31. Then by the aid of a pointer dog it was flushed, but not shot. August 1, the dog caught a bird which proved to be a young black rail, too small to fly. Continuing the search an adult of the same species was flushed and secured. It was a male. This is the second account of its occurrence in the state, and the first account of its breeding. The same day a Virginia rail was caught, the first for that county.

14. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (Bp.). Yellow-headed blackbird.

Elkhart County, reported by Chancey Juday, from Millersburg.

15. *Spizella pallida* (Sw.). Clay-colored sparrow.

Several specimens taken by L. Whitney Watkins, September 3, 1894, at Manchester, Mich. There were about forty seen. But two former occurrences in that state are recorded. In Indiana it has been taken but once, September 27, 1890, at Terre Haute, Ind., by Professor W. S. Blatchley and reported by him at the meeting of this Academy in 1890.

16. *Ardea herodias* (Linn.). Little blue heron.

Knox County summer resident; breeds. Saw one May 4, 1894. Mr. Harbin saw one on White River, June 5, 1894. Very shy (Chansler).

17. *Ardea candidissima* (Gmel). Snow heron.

Knox County summer resident; breeds. I have seen hundreds of these birds about the Swan and Grassy Ponds of Daviess County. They are often in company with the great blue heron.

18. *Ardea tricolor ruficollis* (Gosse). Louisiana heron.

Reported by Mr. E. J. Chansler, from Knox County. Second record from the state.

19. *Campephilus principalis* (Linn.). Ivory-billed woodpecker.

Mr. Harbin claims to have killed one in 1880. Reported by Mr. Warren from Southern Gibson County in 1893. (Chansler).

20. *Nyctea nyctea* (Linn.). Snowy owl.

Mr. Fletcher M. Noe reports receiving a fine snowy owl which was killed at Southport, Ind., six miles south of Indianapolis, November 18, 1894.

21. *Ardetta neorena* (Cory.)

The capture of this rare species in Michigan the past summer, and the possibility of its occurrence in Indiana, make it worthy of special reference here. There were but nine specimens known.

1. The species was described from the Okeechobee Region, Fla. No date given. *The Auk*, Vol. III., Apr., 1886, p. 262.

2. July 9, 1889. Thirty miles south of Lake Okeechobee. By Capt. J. F. Menge. He reported seeing three specimens, of which he was only able to get one. *The Auk*, Vol. VI., Oct. 1889, pp. 317-318. In the same magazine is given Mr. Menge's account of the nest of the species found in the same locality, June 8, 1890.

3. May 18, 1890, in marsh near Toronto, Ont. Specimen now in collection, Canadian Institute. *McIlwraith Birds of Ontario*, 18, pp. 109-110.

4. May 19, 1890. Kissimmee River, Fla. By Mr. R. C. Stewart. The collector claims to have seen another, which he was unable to secure. *The Auk*, Vol. VIII, July 1891, p. 309.

5. June 28, 1891. Three miles south of Lake Okeechobee River, Fla. Male. By Capt. J. F. Menge.

6. July 15, 1891. Lake Flirt, Fla. By Capt. J. F. Menge.

7. August 15, 1891. Lake Flirt, Fla. By Capt. J. F. Menge. The last three are in the collection of Prof. W. E. D. Scott. *The Auk*, Vol. IX, Apr. 1892, pp. 141-142.

8. May 20, 1893. Female. Toronto, Ont. By J. Ramoden. *The Auk*, Vol. X, Oct. 1893, pp. 363-364.

9. Aug. 8, 1894. Manchester, Mich. A specimen of this rare species was brought to Mr. L. Whitney Watkins by a neighbor's boy. Mr. Watkins at once wrote me of the peculiar dark Least Bittern that he had received. I suspected its identity and requested that he send it to me for examination. It had, however, been forwarded to Mr. W. B. Barrows, Agl. Coll., Mich. He determined it to be Cory's Bittern. It will be noted that six of those known have been taken in Florida and the other three north of the latitude of the northern boundary of Indiana. The peculiar extent of the range of Kirtland's Warbler, as noted last year before this Academy, finds a somewhat parallel peculiarity in this species.

The bird may be reasonably expected to occur in Indiana. Its dark color gives it the name of "Black Bittern" in Florida, to distinguish it from the "Least Bittern," which is called "Brown Bittern." They are about the same size.

Smith's Longspur, the Short-tailed Marsh Wren and nest, the Black Rail, have been very kindly deposited in my collection to verify the notes.

22. *Saxicola cyanus*. Wheatear.

A specimen of this species was shot from among a flock of titlarks at Ann Arbor, Mich., October 4, 1894, by Adolphe B. Covert. The specimen is now in the U. S. Nat. Mus., Washington, D. C., No. 135,068, male, immature. (The Nidologist, Vol. II., No. 3, Nov., 1894, pp. 42-43.)

23. *Anas penelope* (Linn.). Widgeon: European Widgeon.

The European Widgeon has not before been reported from Indiana. The first account of its occurrence is published by Mr. Ruthven Deane, in "The Auk," Vol. XII, April, 1895, p. 179: "The specimen in question was taken on the Kankakee River, at English Lake, Ind., April 13, 1893, by Mr. Landon Hoyt, of Chicago, Ill., and is now in his possession. When shot it was in company with a flock of Baldpates (*Anas americana*)."

The species has occasionally been taken in America, but I think its records in this vicinity are two in Illinois and one in Wisconsin.

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

In 1888 Mr. Wm. Brewster visited the parts of Michigan well known as the breeding grounds of these birds. The flight was small, compared with what was reported in former years. They passed north of the lower peninsula to breed. At that time Mr. Brewster was of opinion that there were enough pigeons left to restock the nest, provided they could be protected by adequate laws. Whether or not that can be done is doubtful. If we may judge by the past legislation and its enforcement on behalf of our native game, it seems to me hardly probable that it will be done. The last passage of pigeons that could be dignified with the

name of "flight" occurred in 1877. That fall there were a great many observed about Hanover, Ind. Some notes which have recently come to hand may be of interest. The greater part of them relate to this year:

Manchester, Mich., June 13, 1894. None have been seen before in ten years. Breeds?

September 9 and 12, 1894. L. Whitney Watkins, Spearsville, Ind. One March 7, 1894.

April 5, 1894. Rare.—Victor H. Barnet.

Laporte, Ind., April 10, 1894. Saw flock of fifty or more. First large flock seen in several years.—Charles Barber.

Bicknell, Knox County, Ind. Migrant rare if not extinct. I have not seen one for ten years. They formerly were abundant. I can remember, during their migrations, the heavens would be covered for hours, yes, for days, in all directions with them. They formerly bred near here, and would cover the forests for miles, until the limbs would break down with their weight.—E. J. Chansler, spring, 1894.

Recently I received a letter from the same gentleman, containing the following notes:

"I saw a considerable flock of these birds 1st of September, 1894. Mr. Harbin saw a flock October 5, 1894. These were the first pigeons I have seen for years."

Grand Haven, Mich. One May 3, 1894. Very rare; used to be plentiful. Breeds.—E. Davidson.

Kentland, Ind. Mr. W. W. Pfrimmer says they were formerly very plentiful. Nested in the timber along the Kankakee River. Now scarce. Have seen none for two years. In 1892 I shot two.

Dunreith, Henry County, Ind. Mr. E. Pleas says twenty years ago wild pigeons came in vast numbers almost every spring.

Out of some four reports on the spring migration and ten on those of the fall but five reported the presence of the wild pigeon. A bird so conspicuous that if present could scarcely escape unseen. And even this report is better than for some years past. One pigeon in a year! Think of the change! Within the memory of men who are not yet old these migratory pigeons would obscure the sun and hide the sky for hours, sometimes for days in succession. The strange appearance was made more wonderful by the continuous rumble of the thunders of the oncoming clouds—the noise of the strokes of millions upon millions of wings. Some of the roosts covered many miles of forest. There, as they settled at evening, the gunners from miles around began the slaughter. After a number

of shots over a considerable area, several acres, sometimes the whole roost would rise with a deafening thundering, which no one has attempted to describe, and soar out of sight in the dusk of the early evening, while from the rising cloud came a noise as of a mighty tornado. As the darkness settled the birds descended and alighted many deep upon the limbs of the trees, the weight being so great as to break many off. Then the scene changed. The slaughter began in earnest. The rapid firing of guns, the squawking of the pigeons, the breaking of the limbs of giant trees beneath their living weight, the continuous rumble arising from the whirl of countless wings, all illumined by the lurid lights from many fires, produced an effect which no words can convey to one who has not experienced a night at a "pigeon roost." Each year such scenes were re-enacted. Each year the slaughter went on. Less and less the numbers grew. Trapping and netting, supplemented by repeating guns, added to the power of destruction, and the pigeons, whose numbers were once so great that no one could conceive the thought of their extinction, have dwindled until they are rarely found, until they are only a memory.

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SOME NOTES ON THE BLIND ANIMALS OF MAMMOTH CAVE, WITH EXHIBITION OF SPECIMENS. BY R. ELLSWORTH CALL.

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THE BATRACHIANS AND REPTILES OF WABASH COUNTY. BY W. O. WALLACE.

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ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE WHISTLING SWAN IN WABASH COUNTY. BY A. B. ULREY.

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BIRDS OF WABASH COUNTY. BY A. B. ULREY AND W. O. WALLACE.

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BIRDS OBSERVED IN THE SAWTOOTH MOUNTAINS. BY B. W. EVERMANN AND J. T. SCOVELL.

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ANIMAL PARASITES COLLECTED IN THE STATE DURING THE YEAR. BY A. W. BITTING.