

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON SUMMER BIRDS OF TURKEY
RUN STATE PARK.

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During the summer of 1928, nature guides were again stationed at Turkey Run Park by the State Department of Conservation. The following observations were made by the same group as last year, Sidney R. Esten, Otto Behrens, Jr., and the writer, and extended over the period from June 11 to August 24. Two new tracts of land had been added to the park in the past year, one of cultivated ground and the other wooded, so that the total park area is now 1,080 acres. However, not many new or unusual observations were made in the new parts. There was an unusually large amount of rain the earlier part of the summer, but the latter part was normal.

Eight new species were added to the list of 1927, raising the total number of species observed nesting in or near Turkey Run to 80. Although the actual nests and young were found of only half this number, the indications are that all the others in the list, with the possible exception of the bald eagle, nested at Turkey Run. This summer the nests or young of 12 species were found that were not observed in 1927. However, three species seen last year were not observed this summer.

Following is a list of summer resident species which were either not observed in 1927 or about which new observations were made.

228. *Philohela minor*. American woodcock. None were noted this summer although the place where the one was found last year was visited several times.

331. *Circus hudsonius*. Marsh hawk. No marsh hawks were seen near the park during the summer.

332. *Accipiter velox*. Sharp-shinned hawk. One was seen on Aug. 24, flying over a field just outside the park by Otto Behrens, Jr. and the writer.

333. *Accipiter cooperi*. Cooper hawk. None were seen near the park.

352. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. Bald eagle. The eagle was again noted several times, both by the park superintendent and by the guides.

365. *Aluco pratincola*. Barn owl. One was reported on August 1 by some visitors to the park, who said it was sitting in a tree along Trail 1, near a farm house. Mr. Esten, who questioned the men thoroughly, thought that the record should stand.

368. *Strix varia*. Barred owl. Although this species was evidently much less common than the great horned owl, it was heard several times during the summer.

423. *Chaetura pelagica*. Chimney swift. Again this summer there were several pairs around the hotel and some probably nested in a rather large chimney back of one of the cottages, as they were several times seen entering it. On one of the early morning bird hikes the writer saw a chimney swift dodge down a hollow beech stub about 15 feet high, which stood near the edge of the hotel grounds. On investigating not long afterward we found a nest containing three eggs about six feet from the top of the stub. The nest and eggs and the stub were photographed and at the end of the summer the nest was collected with the section of the stub to which it was attached.

467. *Empidonax minimus*. Least flycatcher. This species was much less common than the acadian, being identified only a very few times by Mr. Esten.

498. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. Red-winged blackbird. Seen in the county by S. R. Esten, and Charles Kirk, living just outside of Turkey Run, stated that he had often observed them flying past his house during the summer. Probably nested not far from the park.

540. *Poocetes gramineus*. Vesper sparrow. Seen frequently in the fields in and near the park.

546. *Ammodramus savannarum australis*. Grasshopper sparrow. Rather infrequent. A few were heard in the fields back of the garage and in the old Hockett tract.

604. *Spiza americana*. Dickcissel. Several were heard and seen in the fields within two or three miles of the park.

610. *Piranga rubra*. Summer tanager. A nest of this species was found about 25 feet above the ground on a limb of a large white oak which stood just back of the cottages. This was the only pair observed during the summer.

639. *Helmitheros vermivorus*. Worm-eating warbler. Heard and seen infrequently throughout the summer.

675. *Seiurus motacilla*. Louisiana water-thrush. Fairly common. A nest was found on the ground among the leaves at the base of a hill which contained three young cowbirds but no water-thrushes. Near Trail 7, a young cowbird and a young water-thrush being fed by the adult water-thrush were caught. The three cowbirds and the water-thrush were banded.

677. *Oporornis formosa*. Kentucky warbler. Although none were noted in 1927, they seemed to be almost frequent this summer, several pairs being seen in the bottom lands. One nest, made of leaves and containing five young, was found at the base of a small pawpaw tree near an old trail in the bottoms along the river. All the young were banded.

683. *Icteria virens*. Yellow-breasted chat. Rather rare. One could usually be found in one or two swampy places of the park.

718. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. Carolina wren. Common. Two nests, both made of leaves, were found. One was under the eaves in the pump house and was reached through an open window. In three or

four other places under the eaves there were small piles of leaves, evidently unfinished nests. The other was about six feet above the ground in a grape vine only about 20 feet from one of the trails.

751. *Poliophtila caerulea*. Blue-gray gnatcatcher. These birds were seen frequently this summer, usually in groups of two or three. Three nests were found. One containing young was near the top of a tall dead elm by the suspension bridge. Not observed in 1927.

BIRDS WHICH PROBABLY NESTED IN THE COUNTY BUT NOT NEAR THE PARK.

77. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. Black tern. Two were seen on July 19, by Louis A. and Frederick C. Test, flying over a pond near State Road 41 just inside the county and about ten miles from Turkey Run. The pond seemed to be only a rain pond and it was not determined whether or not they nested in the county.

494. *Oolichonyx oryzivorus*. Bobolink. Seen in the county on June 26 by S. R. Esten.

