

WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species:	<input type="text"/>	Number: (leave blank)	<input type="text"/>		
Location:	<input type="text"/>	Date:	<input type="text"/>	Time:	<input type="text"/>
Bird Seen:	<input type="text"/>	To:	<input type="text"/>	Age/Sex:	<input type="text"/>

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:

Description of behavior:

Habitat: (General and Specific)

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

Previous experience with this species:

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report.

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and especially how did these influence this description:

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Name:

Address:

Date:

Signature:

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee
Attn: Wil Hershberger
170 Stallion Ct.
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Or E-mail to:
wilhershberger@mac.com

Please use the space below to add any appropriate details you feel were missing from the above form or to expand on any answers whose allotted space was insufficient for a complete response:

THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

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ALBION, N. Y., APRIL 1, 1920.

WHOLE NO. 896



ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRDS OF BROOKE COUNTY, W. VA.

Brooke County is the southernmost county of West Virginia's panhandle. Along its entire western side runs the Ohio river, from whose immediate banks the hills of the lesser Blue Ridge ranges rise. The whole county is hilly; part of it rather gently rolling, but a great deal of it broken up by deep ravines and narrow gorges. A person's feelings after jaunting through these hills for a day quite faithfully attest to their height and ruggedness. Bald, outstanding cliffs are unusual, and at only one place, three miles east of Wellsburg, do they attain any considerable height. Near the border line of Ohio county on the south there are also very rugged hillsides and a large area covered with interesting upstanding boulders, which suggest a glacial origin, though I understand they are merely the products of erosion. A great deal of the tillable land is in use, especially in the valleys and on the more gentle hill slopes, but possibly quite an equal amount has not been cultivated, so that much of the forest is primeval, and naturally conducive to an abundance of bird life. Marshy land is almost entirely absent, and naturally so with the land so thoroughly drained. However, there are small suggestions of swamps along Juerdon Run, to the northwest of Bethany, and there are small sedge rimmed ponds of an ephemeral type near West Liberty. These small places have been watched with great care in hopes that members of the Rallidae would be discovered, but the searches have been for the most part fruitless. It should be borne in mind, however, that there are swampy lands directly bordering the medium sized streams. Buffalo Creek, for instance, which runs through the county and joins the Ohio at Wells-

burg, is quite swampy at certain seasons of the year and at favorable places. A lack of the swamp loving birds in the following list may be partly accounted for by this evident lack of their favorite habitat. The creeks are usually swift flowing, narrow, and of short length, originating in springs on the hillsides and tumbling down through shaded rocky glens. There are numerous beautiful falls; none especially high, but many of interesting structure.

The trees of the region are almost entirely deciduous. Hemlocks seem to have found quite a footing on some of the higher hills, however, and are quite common in restricted areas. The beech is notably a common species in the more open woodland, and there are handsome growths of oak, particularly near Bethany. Basswood trees are not unusual and elm fringe the creeks along with sycamores and willows. Small bushy elms often make a very thick tangle along a low bank. Buckeye trees with their clusters of spring blossoms are at once noticeable and attractive, and species of ash and maple abound in some areas. Old apple orchards are common on the gentle hillsides and on top of the lower hills, the summer berries are common and general in distribution, and are very inviting to many of the summer residents. The stock of winter berries is not so plentiful. The absence of chestnut trees is noteworthy, tho walnuts and hickories are quite plentiful. The birds with a taste for nuts all depend upon the beech woods for their supply, seemingly. Some of the most beautifully animated scenes I have witnessed have been among the beech woods, where the squirrels and birds were a-nutting.

The climate of the county is for the most part very pleasant. The winters are rarely very long and snows of

over two feet in depth have of late been considered very rare. During most of the winters the creeks are open and merry most of the season, and occasionally the winters are scarcely cold. Fickle sallies of the weather are common, however, such as a violent snow flurry on the first of May or the middle of April.

Weather conditions do not play such an important part with the bird life here as do their enemies among the animal kingdom, however. Just how much the snakes of the county affect the bird life is impossible to say, but it is certain that snakes are wondrously abundant. A warm summer will bring dozens of them out to bask on the trunks and roots along the shores of the creeks; and it is not unusual to see as many as fifteen drop into the water from the branches upon some disturbance of their basking tree. Black snakes, which occur more commonly among the wooded hillsides certainly do some damage, though possibly a negligible quantity. Several times I have discovered them near or at nests and twice I have taken them away just before their intended meal. I remember especially one snake which was entwined about the low built nest of a wood thrush, in which were four young birds. The parent birds were making a furious commotion, dashing carelessly back and forth over the snake and snapping their bills vehemently. Their attacks evidently kept the snake from his meal until I got there, and of course, I suspended his further operations. It was gratifying how quickly the anxiety of the birds subsided when the snake was put out of commission, even though I had my hands on the youngsters.

Of course the towns and farms are not free from the roving house cats which do considerable damage, no doubt, though I have not kept a sys-

tematic record of their inroads. The accipitrine hawks are not common enough to be a serious menace, nor are the great horned owls. Judging from the nests I have kept under observation the birds do not suffer greatly from the ravages of the predatory wild animals, either, though they certainly cause some trouble, since weasels, skunks and raccoons are not rare. The red squirrel, which may be such a menace to its bird neighbors, apparently does not occur. Notable, however, is the bronzed grackle as an enemy of the smaller birds during the nesting period. For successive seasons I have watched them and their nest robbing proclivities are surely as pronounced as those of the blue jay, which is strikingly rare in the county. Often, when I have heard the birds scolding some robber, I have expected to find a cat or screech owl, but have been surprised and a bit ashamed to find the offender a grackle. I kept a record of their mischief one spring, and no less than fourteen nests of small birds were attacked and in some cases ruined, by the grackles. Twice I have seen a grackle flying across the college campus at Bethany, with a robin or wood thrush egg in his bill. The robins are quick and relentless in attacking any grackle within blocks, though I am inclined to think that the habit is individualistic with the grackles, rather than characteristic of the species.

With this rather abbreviated discussion of the environment it may be seen that conditions are favorable to an interesting bird life even though the monotony of the country lessens the number of marsh, lake and conifer loving species.

The following list contains the species recorded during a period of residence at Bethany, from July, 1914, to June, 1919.

1. Horned Grebe

One specimen was shot in January, 1916, on Buffalo Creek. The hunter stated that he had shot the same species before several times, but he may easily have confused his birds with the pied billed species. There are two mounted specimens at Follansbee, however, in the nuptial plumage, which from all I can gather, were secured on the Ohio river some years ago. A rather close observer of birds was fortunate enough to watch an individual of this species swim, dive and sport about in the water at the remarkable distance of about six feet. The bird was identified by its scarlet eyes.

2. Pied Billed Grebe

Seemingly of rather regular occurrence even in the smaller creeks. One specimen in my collection was shot on Oct. 23, 1916, practically in the town of Bethany. I have noted the bird several times in the deeper pools along the creek. As is common with the family the specimens I have collected have had their stomachs full of their own feathers.

3. Loon 4

A rather remarkable capture of this species took place in one of the quieter stretches of Castleman's Run. The bird, having settled on the water at night was swimming about calmly when an early farmer passed. The loon finding diving impossible in the shallow water tried to rise, but could not since there was not a long enough stretch of deep water. The bird was killed and brought in shortly afterward. Loons have been captured on the Ohio also. I understand that the whole of the Ohio river is considered as part of West Virginia, so that Ohio river records are records for this state.

4. Am. Herring Gull

A hard storm in the winter of 1911 brought a lone gull to a farm house near Bethany. By close comparison of saved primary feathers, I judged this bird to have been of this species. Gulls sometimes appear irregularly along the Ohio, but I have not ascertained the species. I have no positive record for any species of Tern.

5. Red Breasted Merganser

A wounded female was secured in the winter of 1916. This species must surely occur on the Ohio at times, but I have no such records,—partly, perhaps because so much of my available time was spent in the interior of the county.

6. Hooded Merganser

As a surprise to me this species is one of the most regular and common water birds on Buffalo Creek. Small active flocks appeared every winter. One beautiful specimen was secured on April 5,—a male in perfect condition. In the fall of the same year a female, which was by herself was secured, and a wounded female was discovered the following spring in a small artificial pond. A flock of six individuals remained near town for an extended visit shortly after the capture of this specimen.

7. Mallard

Ducks are anything but common along the smaller creeks and are never abundant even on the Ohio, but the Mallards appear in migrations, and may be found in occasional bunches of three or four. One pair of Mallards remained very late in the spring of 1916, and I feel confident that they would have nested had not the male been shot.

8. Gadwall

An interesting specimen of this rather rare species was brought to me on April 4, 1916. It was shot from a

flock of about ten birds, at a wide place in Buffalo Creek. The bird has the general appearance of a hybrid though she has all the characteristics of the female Gadwall. It is doubtful that the birds of the flock were of the same species as the specimen captured.

9. Baldpate

Occurs occasionally. The wing feathers served to identify a specimen shot on a small creek near Independence in 1914.

10. Blue Winged Teal

This species nested along the banks of Juerton Run in the spring of 1912, and I was fortunate enough to see the remains of one of the young birds which was raised in captivity. Doubtless the species will nest if the conditions are favorable. The green winged variety has not appeared in the county as far as I know. A flock of about twenty blue wings remained near Bethany for some time in August of 1915. The size of the flock which indicated a brood of the year suggests that a pair may have nested close at hand. An immature bird, presumably of the year was secured from this flock, and but one adult male was seen in the group.

11. Pintail

Feathers of specimens shot near Wellsburg make the recording of this species possible.

12. Bufflehead

A pair of these were shot near Bethany in the spring of 1917. The heads of both birds were brought to me for identification.

13. Canada Goose

A huge gander was brought to me for mounting in the winter of 1915. It was said that he was a straggler from a flock that dropped down to a pond on a farm near Independence. Flocks pass over as migrants regularly.

14. Whistling Swan

I have this record on a specimen in the collection of Bethany College. The bird there was killed twenty-five years ago, on Wallace Run, about three miles from West Liberty. It was incorrectly labelled 'Trumpeter Swan.'

15. Am. Bittern

A specimen was shot at Bethany in 1912. It is preserved. I recorded one in 1914. It is evidently very rare.

16. Great Blue Heron

Regular summer resident. A lone pair nested far up in the wooded recesses of Castleman's Run, and it is likely that they still nest there. The parent birds came regularly each evening during the summer to Buffalo Creek. Two specimens were killed in the fall of 1918.

17. Green Heron

Very common summer resident. I located two colonies of these birds; one in a willow growth directly bordering Buffalo Creek, and another about a quarter of a mile from water in an old apple orchard. This latter one had about thirty nests and I made interesting studies of the old and young during my frequent visits. The awkward young were found clinging in all sorts of attitudes in the branches or propped on weak legs in their scant nests. They looked like feathered skeletons as they tried to maintain their equilibrium on the swaying branches, all in marked contrast to the grace of the adults which came with food.

18. Black Crowned Night Heron

A large flock of these flew over Bethany one evening. They were identified primarily by their unique note. The species has not been shot here, however, so far as I can ascertain.

19. Virginia Rail

There is a specimen in the Bethany

College collection, secured in 1899. It is the only certain record I have.

20. Sora

Quite common and regular in migration. One specimen in my collection met a common fate of rails when he collided with a telephone wire. What fun I have had chasing the evasive little fellows through the matted vegetation of the creek side! I remember one in particular that I just chanced to detect as it glided among the water plants. I dashed after him full tilt, whereupon he also dashed, and, being hard pressed to an open water front, took wing and dropped into an impenetrable mass of weeds about fifteen feet away. Gone, you bet!

21. King Rail

A large handsome rail, quite surely of this species was flushed from the weeds by the combined efforts of six of us fellows who literally beat him out of his cover. The specimen was not secured.

22. Coot

Common irregularly. A bird was picked up exhausted near a cement walk in Bethany in the spring of 1915. I had him in captivity for a day or two, after which time he got loose and flew easily and directly over the housetops and away. Another individual was run into a musk-rat burrow, and there captured.

23. Am. Woodcock

Reported to have nested formerly, but I have found no nests. However, I recorded the species in the summer of 1917, in a most likely nesting place, and there was another there in the summer of 1918. Three specimens were sent in by hunters during my residence in the county.

24. Yellowlegs

Recorded once on April 30, 1916. It was unusually tame, and permitted a close approach. When we came too

near it waded out into the swift ripples up to its belly, and then took reluctant wing. With a volley of clear whistles it wheeled about and alighted nearer than before, after which it left for good.

25. Solitary Sandpiper

This species has presented a baffling problem to me. Strangely enough my notes show that I have seen it repeatedly in the spring and all during the summer months,—never but once, a pair together, and almost invariably near a certain low pasture field. It seems a bit outlandish to consider it a nester and yet I shall not be much surprised if it proves to be such. The bird is peculiarly clean cut and graceful in its flight, and is one of the most elegant and refined little fellows of his tribe, dainty in every pose.

26. Bartramian Sandpiper

Recorded three times; once in mid-summer. For one who knows the call of the 'plover' on the Texas prairies, this bird in a northern clime has a strange enchantment.

27. Kildeer

Common summer resident, and irregular through fall and winter. A flock of about forty chose to remain an entire winter season on a high ridge above Bethany. During chill snow flurries they ran back and forth on the damp grass huddled up and calling to each other uneasily. Two pairs occupied the same pasture land in the following spring and raised two broods.

28. Bob-White

Seemingly of irregular occurrence. I have record of but two nests though the birds surely nest wherever found. Coveys of large number were seen twice, but I could not keep them under observation, to see how they fared. The stomach of an adult female red-tailed hawk contained the feathers and feet of this species.

29. Ruffed Grouse

Much rarer than formerly. A pair nested in an oak wood near Bethany in the spring of 1918. I had unusual glimpses of the male bird once or twice with the help of a stray hound which chanced to flush the bird in my direction.

30. Mourning Dove

Common summer resident. During the season of 1918 the nest of a dove was the first to be found. The female was incubating her two fresh eggs while the robins were just building. They are most commonly found nesting in the trees leaning over the creek bank.

31. Turkey Vulture

Not seen until 1916, at which time an isolated individual was seen flying laboriously before a heavy storm, like an ill omen. Later a group of six were seen assembled about a dead horse near the northern county line. In 1919 a pair were seen flying near and up into the cliffs along the Buffalo near Wellsburg. I had no opportunity for examining these cliffs but feel that they may have nested there.

32. Sharp Shinned Hawk

Commonest of the small hawks, and surely nests. Two young birds of the year were shot at the same time in the summer of 1914 and brought to me. They were undoubtedly from the same brood. I found the freshly killed body of a junco which a sharp-shin had just rendered headless; the little villain made away rapidly just as I got to the body of the bird, which was moving its last. It was about as quick a piece of work as I ever saw.

33. Cooper Hawk

Recorded three times. One was killed with a rock in a corn field while it was attempting to catch a bird in a corn shock.

34. Am. Goshawk

I saw one specimen at very close range in a low willow. I came upon

the bird very suddenly, and it was so strikingly large that I thought it was a cat at first. An erring shot failed to secure the bird. It was immature.

35. Red Tailed Hawk

The commonest nesting hawk of the region. During my residence I discovered about ten nests and secured four sets of eggs. The birds are usually careful in selecting a secluded section of the woods for the nest. I found one female incubating two infertile eggs. One wonders how long she would have sat on them. My earliest set was secured on Mar. 31, 1915. I secured several specimens of the birds, and had one fine young male in captivity for about two weeks. The accompanying sketch of his head and talon were made from life. I had to wrap him up in a towel to keep him quiet, and even then he got loose and caused considerable trouble in the room.

36. Am. Sparrow Hawk

Apparently does not nest in the county though the conditions are certainly favorable. I secured two specimens and three were brought to me.

37. Am. Osprey

Recorded once on May 1, 1919, though the bird was not secured. It disappeared to the north whence it came. It circled gracefully over the Buffalo for about five minutes. There is a report that Fish Hawks nest up in some of the wilder hills, but I have not found any.

38. Am. Barn Owl

A rare permanent resident. One brood was raised near Bethany in the season of 1918. The young made an incessant racket in the evening, and possibly all night, though I never stayed up all night to ascertain this. I mounted two specimens during my residence in Bethany.

39. Barred Owl

A pair nested at Logan's hollow in

1917. They hooted audibly nearly all night, while I was sleeping outside. One specimen was shot on Nov. 24, 1915. It was in excellent condition.

40. Screech Owl

Common permanent resident. Their silence during certain periods of the year is quite as noteworthy as their noise during other seasons. It seems that after the nesting season is well under way they hush and do not resume their song until the fall when the young are nearly grown. I shall be interested if a specimen of Texas Screech Owl is secured anywhere near the discussed region, since I brought and liberated a specimen of this variety in Bethany, in the summer of 1914. It was seen and recognized on the college campus as late as October 1914.

41. Great Horned Owl

Fairly common permanent resident. Sam Dickey has had such interesting experiences with these owls and their nests that it would pay us to learn all we can from him. However, I have been fortunate enough to have found three nests, secured three specimens and also had three birds for pets. Well, one was a pet, and two were more nearly 'pets.' One of these latter nearly got one of my fingers. There is a charm about this owl's lonely haunts that calls me early every spring.

42. Road Runner

This bird has no deserved right to a place on this list save that it is interesting to know that one liberated bird braved two West Virginia winters in the open, with the one outstanding result that all his feathers became dull sooty black instead of lustrous as they were in Texas. I think even this speaks pretty well for a Road Runner, nevertheless.

43. Yellow Billed Cuckoo

Undoubtedly nests in restricted num-

bers though I have never discovered a nest of this or the following species.

44. Black Billed Cuckoo

Much commoner than the former apparently. The bird frequently breaks forth into irregular song on the moonlit nights.

45. Belted Kingfisher

Common summer resident. It is noteworthy that two individuals braved the winter of 1916. It seems that the cold weather does not phase the birds much so long as the creeks remain open.

46. Hairy Woodpecker

Tolerably common permanent resident. The species prefers to nest in the higher oaks and sycamores.

47. Downy Woodpecker

Common permanent resident. Specimens collected near the town of Bethany have been, with one exception, very dingy and dirty, the lower parts so dirty as to be sooty gray.

48. Yellow Bellied Sapsucker

A regular and common migrant. Their strange mewling noise is of frequent occurrence on the college campus at Bethany. It is barely possible that the species nests in the higher wilder hills. The bird while visiting its sap wells has the peculiar habit of alighting above the previously drilled holes and then dropping down to their level with three or four backward hitches.

To be Continued.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

October 5th, after chores in the morning I took a stroll in the woods nearby and almost the first thing I encountered was a bird I had not seen in these parts for some twenty years. At first I did not see the bird but heard a crash, chow, chow, in a loud guinea hen voice. At first I thought it was a squirrel scolding me, but at once I recognized it as the Red-bellied

THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS—NESTS—EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

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WHOLE No. 898



ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRDS
OF BROOKE COUNTY, W. VA.

PART II

NOTE—The opening sentence of the first installment of this article appearing in the May number should have read, "With the exception of Hancock County, Brooks county is the Northernmost county of West Virginia panhandle. An unfortunate error made it read that Brooks County was the southernmost county of this panhandle.—Editor.

49. Red Headed Woodpecker

This species is notably rare, but it nests where found. I had the luck to find three nests. The species occurs much more commonly further west in Ohio and to the north in Hancock county.

50. Red Bellied Woodpecker

This is one of the common characteristic birds of the region. It selects the highest oak trees for its nest, and contrary to my previous experience, seems to be able to hide the nest opening pretty well. The nests of this bird which I discovered in Texas were often as low as fifteen feet from the ground, and were usually not hard to find. But here the bird has assumed a more shy nature.

51. Flicker

Common. Frequents the old apple orchards. One bird had the strange habit of pecking at the inside of its nest even when the young were half grown. Whether this is to actually widen the cavity or merely to lead the passer-by to think the nest is just being constructed, I cannot say.

52. Whip-poor-will

These frequent the wilder wooded sections, and are quite common in suitable environs.

53. Nighthawk

Though this species must nest hereabouts I have not discovered the eggs or even a pair which seemed to be breeding. I have two specimens secured in mid-summer (July) which may have nested near Juerdon Run. They are common as early fall migrants, however.

54. Chimney Swift

An abundant summer resident. I watched this species very carefully in its spring appearance in 1919. A huge flock suddenly appeared on April 1st in the midst of a very dreary spell of weather. The birds were unusually noticeable and noisy and seemed a bit sluggish. They appropriated a large open chimney in the church as a roosting place. I watched the birds for several days before deciding to climb to the chimney. They would brighten up considerably and fly much higher when the sun came out, and the greater part of the flock went back into the chimney when it became dark again. Several died of starvation, since there was a scarcity of food. All these starved specimens I saved. On May 1st I climbed to the chimney about twilight. The fearless birds circled near me, and even when I was sitting on the edge of the chimney dashed by me into the refuge below. The drive was performed with much ease and speed. The wings were set above the back entirely outspread, and the birds really dropped into the entrance. Frequently the bird twirled from side to side while accomplishing the feat. It was very difficult for them to enter the chimney in a high wind, and more than once I saw the birds attempt to enter during a snow gale, only to be dashed against the rim of the chimney, to catch themselves for another trial. This early flock was composed largely of males I believe, since I captured only two females out of fifteen birds

caught. During one snow storm the entire flock left the chimney in a great rush, and wandered gloomily to the southward until they were out of sight.

55. Ruby Throated Hummingbird

Common summer resident. I discovered only two nests, however.

56. Kingbird

Another species which is notably scarce as compared with its abundance further east and west. The birds seems more abundant locally, at Collier in the northern part of the county.

57. Crested Flycatcher

Common summer resident of the high open groves. These in company with the red bellied woodpeckers seek the almost inaccessible snags in the highest forest trees for their nesting sites. Their loud defiant call is one of the most characteristic notes of the forest land.

58. Phoebe

Abundant summer resident. The bird returns early from the south, and nesting activities commence soon. The usual set of eggs is five, according to my averages, though three and four have been noted; however, cowbird eggs with these sets may account for the absence of one or two of the owner.

59. Wood Pewee

Common summer resident. I have had several enjoyable experiences with a certain pewee, chasing up moths from the grass for him to catch. He would watch on a nearby twig until I had kicked up some insect and then he would dart down and snatch it up, even though I were only six feet away.

60. Yellow Bellied Flycatcher

Taken twice during fall migration.

61. Acadian Flycatcher

Rather rare summer resident. The species builds a rather frail nest near the ends of horizontal branches. A specimen in my collection shows the strong buffy tinge of the immature on its wing Coverts,

62. Least Flycatcher

Recorded twice, but apparently does not breed at all, though I have made a diligent search.

63. Prairie Horned Lark

Fairly common permanent resident. This species is characteristic of the high open hill tops, and its actions and song are peculiarly suited to such an environment. They are very early nesters here, and I have not succeeded in finding a nest with eggs, as yet. The birds are locally more abundant toward Ohio County to the south.

64. Blue Jay

Along with other common birds of the mid-west this species shares the distinction of being rare. Strange to say I have but five records. One was seen flying high over the flat land in the Cross Creek district in the fall of 1916. Two were observed in an old apple orchard in the spring of 1917, and two were heard later that year. Specimens in the Bethany College collections suggest that the species may have been more common formerly.

65. Am. Crow

Abundant permanent resident. I have not ascertained whether there was a crow roost in the county during the winter of '15-'16, but the numbers of crows that went over each evening about six o'clock indicate that a roost was somewhere close at hand. There were literally thousands of crows in these flocks. Over 8,000 were counted in one evening, and then all were not counted. During the severe winter of 1918 the crows feasted on a certain dead hog in a field near Bethany. This one hog evidently fed all the crows in the neighborhood during most of the season.

66. Bobolink

This species probably does not nest though the conditions are favorable. Small flocks remain about the fields

for a short period in the spring, and then disappear.

67. Cowbird

Far too common. The inroads of this species on the domestic rights of the smaller species of birds is responsible for a considerable amount of damage, I believe. I feel sure that the cowbird pushes eggs of the owner out in order to make room for her own.

69. Yellow Headed Blackbird

One bird seen flying over Point Breeze on July 16, 1914.

69. Red Winged Blackbird

Common summer resident. In the absence of cattails this species nests commonly in the lower alfalfa fields bordering the creeks.

70. Meadowlark

Common. One individual was noted all through the winter of 1916. It is probable that a few remain through each winter.

71. Orchard Oriole

Rather rare summer resident. I did not find the species breeding until the season of 1918.

72. Baltimore Oriole

Abundant summer resident. An old oriole nest was brought to me with the much blackened and decayed skull of an adult attached securely below with a hair. This is the first time I have noted an oriole hanged at its own nest.

73. Rusty Blackbird

Unusually common in the fall migration of 1917. Six specimens were secured from a huge flock.

74. Bronzed Grackle

Abundant summer resident. The nest robbing of this species had been discussed at the first of this paper. It will be interesting to ascertain whether this habit is indulged in by both male and female birds.

75. Purple Finch

Recorded twice. I identified imme-

diately an adult male, merely by hearing his loud vigorous song, on May 16, 1917, at Point Breeze. This was the first purple finch song I had ever heard, and the first male I had ever seen. The later views I had of the bird singing, were well worth the time spent. The other record was a female seen late in the summer of 1918.

76. White Winged Crossbill

This species may be recorded by virtue of a specimen in the collection of Bethany College. The bird was secured in 1897, near the town of Bethany. It is not known whether it was taken from a visiting flock, or simply as an individual staggler.

77. Am. Goldfinch

Abundant summer resident, and an occasional winter visitant.

78. Vesper Sparrow

Common summer resident. A rather early nester.

79. Grasshopper Sparrow

Fairly common summer resident of the more open country. I discovered one nest with fresh eggs in the season of 1918. Other searches for the nest were unrewarded.

80. White Crowned Sparrow

Noted in migration several times; but one specimen secured.

81. White Throated Sparrow

Exceedingly abundant migrant. The chirp of the species is quite distinctive.

82. Tree Sparrow

Abundant winter visitant. Never until the early spring of 1918 was I privileged to hear the real song of this species. The gentle musical chorus of a flock on a sunned winter slope is beautiful and cheerful, but there is a remarkable sweetness and refined character in the song of the spring male when I heard him by myself. The song as a whole reminded me at first of some extraordinary warbler.

83. Chipping Sparrow

Abundant summer resident

84. Field Sparrow

Nests quite as often on the ground as in bushes.

85. Slate Colored Junco

Abundant winter visitant. It is barely possible that the Carolina Junco may nest in some of the wilder, higher hills, but I have never seen the species at the proper season.

86. Song Sparrow

Abundant permanent resident. I secured one remarkable set of this species, which I believe was the second set of the season. The nest was placed in a clump of weeds directly at the side of a much used road. Only one of the four eggs had really noticeable spotting; the others being plain bluish white. This set is freer from marking than any set of the species I have ever seen.

87. Swamp Sparrow

Common as migrant. Five specimens secured. Seems to be much quieter in disposition than the song sparrow.

88. Towhee

Abundant summer resident. Occasionally remains through the winter. A flock of seven remained through the cold season of 1917, and were seen regularly on the creek banks, among the brush.

89. Cardinal

Another characteristic permanent resident of the county. The nests are not difficult to discover. A pair built in the corner of a neighbor's chicken house in the season of 1919.

90. Rose Breasted Grosbeak

Apparently does not nest locally though I have recorded it several times in the spring migration, and taken it once in July, 1916 and once in August, 1917.

91. Indigo Bunting

Common summer resident. The males of this species certainly have

'singing trees' as has been suggested by Mr. Mousley in 'The Auk.'

92. Dickcissel

This species nested on the alfalfa covered hills back of the College barn at Bethany during the season of 1916. I have no other records for the species.

93. Scarlet Tanager

Abundant summer resident. I discovered six nests in the season of 1919, all of which were placed in open situations. One incompleated nest in which a cowbird had laid its egg, was completed later. The specimen, which is in my collection presents an interesting example of architectural triumph over the cowbird. One nest of this species which had three eggs of the owner and one of the cowbird was discovered later to have three of the cowbird and only two of the owner. Who is to blame?

94. Purple Martin

Notably rare, on account of the lack of houses presumably. I discovered two pairs nesting in a hollow tree near Bethany in 1915. It occurs locally through the county at farm houses.

95. Barn Swallow

Abundant summer resident.

96. Tree Swallow

A pair was noted in the spring of 1917. No other records.

97. Rough Winged Swallow

Apparently the similar bank swallow does not occur. The rough wing amply takes the place of the other species, however, and builds in the holes in the banks and in crevices in abutments of bridges. One high clay bank near Bethany held three rough wing burrows and one kingfisher's in the same season. The rough wings are common in the high banks of the Cross Creek district.

98. Cedar Waxwing

Irregular permanent resident. Large droves will appear in mid-winter and remain for weeks, only to disappear.

Occasionally pairs nest in the county. I discovered one nest in 1918 as late as July 11. The female was incubating a set of five eggs.

99. Red Eyed Vireo

Abundant summer resident. Builds occasionally in the open apple orchards but more commonly in the deeper woods.

100. Philadelphia Vireo

Possibly nests. I secured one specimen in July of 1916.

101. Warbling Vireo

Common summer resident.

102. Yellow Throated Vireo

Fairly common summer resident of the deep woods.

103. Blue Headed Vireo

I secured a pair of these birds on May 1, 1916.

104. Black and White Warbler

Common summer resident. Nests in the rather open woods and also in the more deeply wooded areas.

105. Worm Eating Warbler

Nests in restricted numbers. I have not discovered a nest but have found the parents feeding young.

(To be continued)

Vulture Times.

March and April brought back the Vulture days to us. As it had been a long time since Mr. G. E. Maxon and myself had made a Vulture egg hunt to our old tramping grounds. The War and other things had separated us for several years, and this spring found us in business and working together. So a Vulture egg hunt was suggested to be had at Jefferson Crossings forty miles up the River that runs into Lake worth, and later forms the Trinity River. The country is hilly and rocky, with rocky cliffs and ledges at the tops. Mr. Maxon drove up to my camps with his Tin Lizzie. We had a man to watch our Boat and Minnow business, and away

we went. Along the road the pastures were alive with bird life. Discovered some Killdeers on our way out. Arrived at the hunting grounds. While Mr. Maxon was trudging over the rocks a Turkey Vulture flushed out and there he found a nice set of eggs. As he hunted one rocky hill I hunted another. I never flushed many vultures, but found one set of Black and one set of Turkey Vultures. While I was doing all this tumbling and sliding up and down the hills, Mr. Maxon was trudging patiently along now and then finding a set. He succeeded in collecting two showy sets of Turkey Vultures and a set of Blacks. We never had a set time to get back to the car. Oh! Excuse me I never meant car. I meant to say Ford. Well Mr. Maxon makes this tin Lizzie of his do nearly everything but hunt and climb hawks' nests. We both got back to the Lizzie at about the same time. Homeward bound well satisfied, as we got what we went after. We hope all collectors good luck this season. I collected a set of Belted Kingfishers near my camps, and a full set of seven. Incubated? Yes, that's my luck, so bad that I could not blow them.

Ramon Graham.

Texas Bird Notes, 1920.

On Sunday, February 22d, a flock of about 30 ducks were seen flying down the River past this village by Henry Weber. He says they were flying low, about 200 feet up, and were good sized ducks, although he could not tell to what species they belonged.

This is something unusual as we very seldom see ducks before the middle of March.

C. W. Pelton.

Nekoosa, Wis.

THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS—NESTS—EGGS
TAXIDERMY

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ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRDS
OF BROOKE COUNTY, W. VA.

By George Sutton

PART III

106. Golden Winged Warbler

Fairly common summer resident. This species has a very distinctive song.

107. Brewster's Warbler

I secured one good specimen on April 30, 1917. The specimen sang the song of the golden winged species and was the counterpart of that species in nearly every characteristic.

108. Tennessee Warbler

Abundant in migration. All day on Sept. 7, 1917, this species was excessively abundant, wherever I went.

109. Cape May Warbler

Rather abundant in the spring migration of 1916, and the fall migration of 1917. An unusually late individual was brought to me on Dec. 7, which I had in captivity for some days. The song of this species has puzzled me considerably. I feel sure that a certain bright pretty song I heard in May, 1918, was from an adult male of this species, though the song is commonly spoken of as a monotonous lisp.

110. Yellow Warbler

Abundant summer resident.

111. Black Throated Blue Warbler

Common migrant. May nest, though I have no records.

112. Myrtle Warbler

Common spring migrant. Apparently not so common in the fall.

113. Magnolia Warbler

Abundant migrant.

114. Cerulean Warbler

This is one of the characteristic breeding birds of the region. The nest is placed near the end of a long limb. The birds are very careful not to disclose the location of the nest, and together with the fact that the female

is a very quiet bird the nest is very difficult to find. The song of the male may be represented by the syllables "cheery-cheery-cheery-chee," hardly as plain as that and yet strongly suggestive of those syllables. He sings usually among the high branches, and while singing remains at his post for some minutes. Then without warning he will leave this post and after an interval begin his song in some distant tree. Several males that I have observed seemed to have about four chosen trees in which they sang. One male I watched closely for a day in May remained absolutely quiet during one of his singing spells, save that he faced about once. Only twice in the woods have I seen the full back of the Cerulean Warbler. Once was when a male snapped up a low flying insect—only to dart back up to the top of a locust, and again I saw clearly two males chasing each other, while I was collecting a set of tanager's in a high maple. An adult female which I shot on June 1st, 1915, was incubating, for her belly was bare of feathers.

115. Chestnut Sided Warbler

Taken twice in spring migration; both adult males. I also secured an immature bird, with plain white underparts and yellow green upper parts on Sept. 6, 1915.

116. Bay Breasted Warbler

The immatures of this species are surely the most common warblers of the fall migration. They are deliberate and graceful in movement, and for the most part very tame. They are rarer in spring migration.

117. Black Poll Warbler

Common spring migrant; abundant in fall. The immatures of this species and the former are about equally abundant and very hard to distinguish.

118. Blackburnian Warbler

Abundant migrant. I should call the song rather wheezy though ap-

parently great effort is put forth by the singer.

119. Black Throated Green Warbler

During the spring migrations the birds keep well up in the trees, but in the fall the immature birds are much easier to approach.

120. Oven Bird

Rather rare summer resident.

121. Louisiana Water Thrush

Another characteristic bird of the region. The wild rocky glens of the little hill creeks are peculiarly adapted to the wishes of this bird, and nearly every 'run' has its pair of lively, cautious water thrushes. The spring song of the adults is a wonderfully loud and striking volley, and is apparently rendered by both sexes. They are very dainty creatures as they run along the slippery rocks with tails gracefully wagging up and down. I captured a nestling in 1916, but have not found the eggs.

122. Kentucky Warbler

Abundant summer resident of the deep woods. The song may easily be confused with that of the oven bird.

123. Mourning Warbler

I secured one immature female on Sept. 21, 1914.

124. Maryland Yellowthroat

Common summer resident.

125. Yellow Breasted Chat

An abundant characteristic bird of the region. The nest is usually placed in a low bush on an open hillside, and is quite the easiest to discover of any of the warblers, save possibly the yellow warbler. I once discovered a chat nest unexpectedly, and almost touched the female bird; otherwise I have found them very seclusive and difficult of approach. The loud song of the male usually suggests where the nest may be found.

126. Wilson Warbler

Recorded in the fall of 1918.

127. Canadian Warbler

Recorded twice in the spring of 1916.

128. Am. Redstart

Common in migration and probably nests. I saw one female redstart all during the summer of 1914 and feel that probably she was nesting. The species is notably rarer than it is further east however.

129. Catbird

All sets secured in 1915 and 1916 were sets of five. I found but one set of four and two of three.

130. Brown Thrasher

Remarkably rare. During my residence in the county I located only two pairs, one north of West Liberty near the Ohio County line and one near Bethany.

131. Carolina Wren

The status of this species has curiously changed during four years of observation. During 1914 they were very abundant, in fact one of the commonest winter residents. In the fall of 1915 I discovered a nest with two fresh eggs in a neighbor's shed. These birds were prevented from going on with their nesting by the boarding up of the entrance to the nest. During 1915 I kept four nests under close observation, and collected one set of five eggs. In the winter of 1915 they seem quite as common as before and the cheerful little fellows were among the most common guests at my feeding table. But there was a decided absence of them in the winter of 1917, for some thus far undiscovered cause. I noted the birds occasionally but was forced to record them as rare. During the following winter the species was actually missing and in the spring of 1919 during several walks about Bethany I did not even see an individual. Where the birds have gone is a mystery to me. Perhaps they will be discovered in another part of the coun-

ty, however. The strange disappearance suggests that they may be local in distribution and of a wandering nature,—though this does not agree with my conception of a wren. While I was sleeping outside in the winter of 1916 a pair of these birds used to come to the bed and perched on the places where my toes made little mountains out of the bed coverings, would scold and chatter and look suspicious when I would open my eyes or wiggle my toes.

132. House Wren

The status of this species is quite the reverse of the preceding. The absence of the house wren in 1914 and 1915 was very apparent, but with the decline of the numbers of the Carolina has come an increase of the House, until in 1919 every old orchard has its gay little wrens.

133. Winter Wren

Regular and rather common winter resident. They are peculiar little fellows, running about like wee mice among the brush heaps.

134. Brown Creeper

Rather abundant winter resident.

135. White Breasted Nuthatch

Very common permanent resident.

136. Brown Headed Nuthatch

The discovery of a pair of these birds in May of 1919 caused no little wonder to me. The birds were evidently mated, from all indications, but I can scarcely think of their nesting in the county.

137. Tufted Tit

Abundant. I had the delightful experience of taming one of these birds so that he would eat nuts out of my hand. I did not succeed at all with the chickadees. The only Tit nest I found with eggs was in a high stub of a locust tree. The nest contained six eggs of the owner and one of the cowbird, and was placed about a foot

and half down from the entrance. It has been a matter of wonder with me whether the cowbird regularly enters the nests of such type. This is the first occurrence of such in my experience.

138. Chickadee

From all I can determine the Carolina form does not occur here, though it seems probable to me that it will be found.

139. Golden Crowned Kinglet

Abundant in fall migration and through the winter irregularly.

140. Ruby Crowned Kinglet

More common in spring migration than the preceding and rarer in the winter.

141. Blue Gray Gnatcatcher

This is one of the most characteristic birds of the region inhabiting the open woodland. The nests are very easy to find, since the birds are not at all secretive when near their nests. During the spring of 1919 I had no less than nine nests under observation,—all of which were placed on rather low horizontal limbs. One male which I was watching was leisurely dancing about in the leaves singing his wheezy little song, when suddenly he made a direct flight to a horizontal limb where quick as a wink he settled on a nest,—having relieved the female of her duties. By the casual observer the nest would have been unnoticed since the female left in exactly the same direction that the male was headed, and the whole performance would have given the impression of the flight of but one bird. I noted such an episode but once.

142. Wood Thrush

Common summer resident.

143. Wilson Thrush

The species may nest in the county, though I have not ascertained this.



Bird of Brooks Co., W. Va. Yellow Breasted Chat, Male.
Drawn from Life Sketches for The Oologist. By Geo. W. Sutton

144. Gray Cheeked Thrush

Rather common in spring migration.

145. Olive Backed Thrush

Abundant in migration. A few pairs remain in the county until the first week in May. It is highly doubtful that they breed here, however.

146. Hermit Thrush

Rather common migrant. Apparently more common in the fall.

147. Am. Robin

Abundant summer resident.

148. Bluebird

Abundant. The first individuals to appear in 1917 came on Jan. 26, with a large flock of robins.

With a Camera in Birdland

By Arthur H. Farrow

It must be a source of considerable gratification to all true bird lovers to notice how the trend of events is bringing the ornithologist and the photographer together. To our mind, this is a natural order of things, as both sciences are closely related in many ways. The photographer is finding a new field of interest and unlimited possibilities for pictorial expression in birdland, while the ornithologist is using the camera to secure permanent records of his investigations. No branch of nature study is so interesting as that devoted to ornithology, but when combined with photography it becomes really fascinating.

Nobody realizes more fully than readers of this magazine that our native birds are one of the nation's most valuable assets, and that it is our duty, and should be our pleasure, to do everything in our power to protect and conserve them. Bird students are observing with no little concern that many species are becoming rarer each season. It is, therefore, imperative that the greatest discretion be used in taking eggs and killing specimens for their skins. Many ornithologists

realize this state of affairs and are turning to photography to aid them in their studies and investigations. Some have abandoned the collecting of eggs and skins and are using the camera to record their observations.

The ornithologist is peculiarly fitted for taking up this branch of photographic work, because one cannot become a successful bird-photographer unless a fairly general knowledge of the birds and their habits is possessed.

It seems inevitable that a bond should exist between the bird-student and the camera devotee. The bird-photographer is better equipped in every way for the study of birds and their homes because photography is the ideal recording process and can render facts, forms and texture in a manner of which no other graphic art is capable. The ornithologist who uses photography to aid him in his studies will never regret having done so, or will ever lose interest in the work.

The sporting side of making bird pictures is one of the things that will especially appeal to the outdoor man. To "shoot" a bird with a camera calls for considerably more skill than is required to kill a bird with a shotgun. The camera man has to pit his wits against the sharpest and most timid of the denizens of the woods and countryside. A series of really good pictures of birds and their nests and eggs is something that one can well be proud of, and in obtaining them one has the added satisfaction of knowing that no living thing has been ruthlessly destroyed.

Bird photography is by no means one of the easiest applications of photoplay. On the contrary, it requires considerable skill, technical knowledge, perseverance and patience. One of the secrets of success lies in being prepared. Plans should be made