

The Coot has many white feathers on the head and neck, also smaller white feathers on various parts of the body. The Wilson's Snipe has the upper part of both wings almost entirely white.

9. A Snowy Owl, shot in fall of 1881.

All of the Ohio Ducks were represented in this collection, among them the rare Gadwall in several specimens.

* *Ed. Note: Langdon's account "Summer Birds of a Northern Ohio Marsh" appeared in the Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History (1880, 3:220-232). Wheaton calls it "A list of 95 species, for the most part briefly annotated or not, of Birds observed 'on the grounds of the Wynous' Point Shooting Club, near Port Clinton, Ottawa County, Ohio, during the week ending July 4, 1880.' Especially valuable for full notes of the nesting of Ardetta exilis, Gallinula galeata, Hydrochelidon lariformis, Podiceps cornutus (?), and Podilymbus podiceps" (1882, Report on the Birds of Ohio). Wheaton questioned Langdon's report of nesting horned grebes in part because his tentative identification was based on examination only of eggs and downy young.* 🐦



This eastern bluebird was photographed carrying food on its way to a nest site in Wyandot County's Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area. Photo by Ron Sempier in July 2002.

Five Days Among the Islands of Lake Erie

Lynds Jones

The following notes appeared in The Wilson Bulletin of 1901, Vol 13:70-71, of which Jones was editor at the time. His The Birds of Ohio: A Revised Catalogue appeared in 1903, the same year in which Dawson's The Birds of Ohio was published, incorporating an introduction and analytical keys from Jones. -Ed.

Five days, from August 5th to the 9th, spent among the islands near the western end of Lake Erie yielded surprising results. We two insatiable bird cranks, Rev. W. L. Dawson and the writer, left Oberlin on the noon train and left Sandusky on the 3:30 boat and were landed on the wharf of Middle Bass Island at 6 o'clock. The work of recording the resident birds began at once. A large pond near the middle of the island was swarming with shore birds of eight species, not to mention a half dozen Great Blue Herons, nine King Rails, many Green Herons, a Bittern and a flock of fourteen Black Ducks. Swallows skimmed the water's surface and Common Terns winged across the island. A solitary Kingfisher sprung his rattle on us. This was a most propitious beginning. Yellow Warblers were apparently in full song.

I shall not take the time to go into detail now, but rather summarize the work done.

From Middle Bass we secured a row boat, and in it visited nine islands, involving about 30 miles of rowing, some of it in rough seas. Upon four of the islands Common Terns were still nesting in considerable numbers, while perhaps half of the birds flying about were in young plumage. On one island the Purple Martins formed a roost of nearly 2000 individuals. The best of evidence pointed to a considerable roost of blackbirds on one other island.

It is interesting to note that Carolina Wrens and Cardinals were seen and heard singing on East Sister Island, well into the Canadian boundary, while in Lorain county they are not at all numerous. Indeed, the Carolina Wren is a rare find at any time of year. On the other hand, Yellow Warblers were not recorded north of Middle Bass, where they were in full song. The physical conditions were apparently as favorable on East Sister as on Middle Bass, and certainly no less so on North Bass. Here, too, on these most northern islands the Red-winged Blackbirds were building in considerable numbers, although there was no suggestion of swampiness along the stony beach. True, the nests were placed low down in the brush.

The din of screaming Terns, calling Blackbirds and warbling Wrens was something to be remembered. Indeed, for hours after leaving the vicinity the same sounds mingled with the sighing wind and roaring surf. The Terns were nowhere [*sic*] so numerous that they obscured the sky, but their numbers were uncountable on four of the smaller islands. Black Terns mingled freely with the Common Terns, but were evidently not breeding anywhere in the vicinity. Likewise the American Herring Gulls, few in numbers, were merely roosting out of harms way.

In all 58 species were recorded. The largest number, 42, were found on Middle Bass. On one rock reef but four species were present.

One cannot resist the conclusion that this chain of islands is a natural highway for the birds on their annual migrations. 🐦