

LEGACY SPECIMENS IN THE OHIO STATE COLLECTION

By James Hine with an introduction by Bill Whan

Editor's note: Bill Whan discovered this draft monograph during his ongoing research into Ohio's avian history. I have corrected obvious typographical errors without noting them, made the formatting uniform, and italicized scientific names (which of course Hine couldn't do on a typewriter). I have otherwise copied the original, punctuation (or lack thereof) and all. We don't know when Hine wrote it other than it had to have been in the late 1920s.

Introduction

The Ohio State University zoological collections began with specimens that accumulated in Columbus in the back rooms of the State House after the Civil War. Eventually many of these items went to what was to become the Ohio Historical Society, which curated them, along with innumerable donations from the public – old Bibles, battle flags, fragments of the “True Cross”, diaries, libraries, relics, and the like. James Hine was the first scientist to organize the animal specimens among them for the Society. They included the bird collection, which contained the 600 or more specimens accumulated by John Wheaton, a similar number from Theodore Jasper, and smaller collections from other early ornithologists. Nearly all of Oliver Davie’s collection of more than 500 specimens had unfortunately ended up in the hands of less professional curators some years previously. Hine was a professor of biology at OSU and his specialty was insects, but he had an intense interest in birds as well. The Historical Society’s zoological collections grew quickly, and included ornithological specimens gathered by important collectors in the last quarter of the 19th century following the formation of the American Ornithologists’ Union. The collections came to be shared by the Society and Ohio State University, with the larger part located at the latter’s first museum on High Street on the OSU campus.

Professor Hine was curator of these collections until his death in 1930. He made a number of efforts to introduce and explain the collections to the citizens of Ohio, including displays at the High Street location. For a more learned audience, he prepared the paper presented here, announcing for students of ornithology the availability of the new museum’s collection. Probably it was never published, but this draft, found among his papers after his death, is reproduced here. It gives some details on 29 unusual speci-

mens from the collection which he thought were worth mention. Interestingly, all but five of these species are shorebirds or others devoted to watery habitats, selected perhaps because they were more difficult to collect or identify in the field. Of the rest, one was extinct, one was extirpated from the state, and three were exceedingly rare.

The Hine Monograph

This paper is compiled in order to associate some published records and add others that have not been published formally. The Museum contains a number of species which are very rarely taken in Ohio and in some cases the single representative of a species is the only one known to have been taken in the state. A number of these specimens are now in the Museum because of the active work done many years ago by Dr. Theodore Jasper, Dr. J. M. Wheaton and Mr. Oliver Davie, all well known citizens of Columbus at a time when some species, at least, were more easily procured in this latitude and longitude than they are today. One or two of these species, at least, are supposed to be extirpated so far as Ohio is concerned and one the passenger pigeon is considered to be exterminated over all of its former range. Recently various members of the Wheaton Club have been much interested in an intensive study of the movements of birds in their migrations through Ohio and some splendid records of specimens taken while engaged in this study should not be held in abeyance. Among the members of the Club the work of Mr. Edward Sinclair Thomas holds a very prominent place in our minds for it has been largely to his efforts that men for this work have been trained, and besides he has furnished the major part of the inspiration which has been necessary to advance the work to its present state. Other names are prominently connected with the work and much credit is due them, for weeks of field observation has been required to get the data now in the hands of the Wheaton Club. In arranging the specimens now deposited with the Wheaton Club collection in the Museum Charles Walker and Milton M. Trautman have taken an active interest and these birds are now carefully labeled and arranged in such a way as to be available for study by students of Ohio or anyone interested.

It is my purpose in the remainder of this paper to give records of the unusual Ohio specimens now in the Museum. There are others not included, that are eligible to a place in such a list and are just as available for study as those mentioned.

***Colymbus holboelli* (Reinh.)**

Holboell's Grebe

Specimen collected at Danville, Knox County, February 15, 1899 by Dr. J. B. Parker. The species has been seen a few times at Licking Reservoir in more recent years by different observers. [It is now called Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps grisegena* (Boddaert)]

***Gavia lumme* (Gunn.)**

Red-throated Loon

Female specimen shot near Columbus for a duck by a boy who took it to Thomas M. Earl, December 12, 1923. [It is now *Gavia stellata* (Pontoppidan)]

***Uria lomvia* (Linn.)**

Brünnich's Murre

Specimen taken at Fair Haven, near Sandusky, December 20, 1896, by Robert T. Stewart and mounted by W. A. Scott. Several specimens were taken by different persons near Sandusky near the same date, and according to Dr. Lynds Jones other specimens were observed in the same locality in December 1908. [It is now called Thick-billed Murre]

***Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linn.)**

Parasitic Jaeger

Specimen taken on Bay Point, Sandusky, Ohio, September 19, 1925, by Harold F. Peters. Another taken at Port Clinton, Ohio by Milton B. Trautman November 14, 1925. One was caught in a net by a fisherman and given to John Albert of Sandusky in October 1924. Mr. Albert kept the specimen alive for several days when it died and he made a mount of it. The specimen was turned over to the Museum in February 1926. Mr. Trautman found forty-one minnows in the stomach of the specimen he collected.

***Rissa tridactyla* (Linn.)**

Kittiwake

Specimen killed on Buckeye Lake, Licking County, Ohio, November 7, 1925, by Milton B. Trautman. This is believed to be the only Ohio specimen in any collection. The species is mentioned as an Ohio bird, but definite data regarding it was not available previous to the capture of this specimen. [It is now called Black-legged Kittiwake]

***Larus marinus* (Linn.)**

Great Black-backed Gull

A specimen was shot by a hunter near the Lane Avenue bridge over the Olentangy River, November, 1915, and brought to the Museum before it was cold. I took the specimen to Thomas M. Earl and had it mounted. This species

seldom is reported for Ohio and records of its capture in the state are unusually rare.

***Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (Gmel.)**

American White Pelican

Specimen taken at Mercer County Reservoir, Ohio, April 28, 1892 by H. A. Landis. Mounted by S. J. Harbaugh, Crosstown, Miami County, Ohio.

***Florida caerulea* (Linn.)**

Little Blue Heron

A male from Thomas M. Earl, taken at Buckeye Lake, September 18, 1924. Several specimens reported seen in the same locality in recent years. [It is now *Egretta caerulea*]

***Ionornis martinica* (Linn.)**

Purple Gallinule

A fine male specimen in the Museum was donated by F. B. Shuler of Hamilton, Ohio. It was collected at Old River, near Hamilton, in the first part of April, 1897, and presented to Mr. W. B. Shuler, father of the donor, and was mounted by Mr. Geo. Sutler. For further statements regarding this specimen see Ohio Naturalist, VI, 553. [It is now *Porphyrio martinicus*]

***Lobipes lobatus* (Linn.)**

Northern Phalarope

A male taken along the Scioto River near Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 6, 1869. [It is now called Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*]

***Steganopus tricolor* (Vieill.)**

Wilson's Phalarope

Female killed on the old canal just south of Columbus, Ohio, June 9, 1874. [It is now *Phalaropus tricolor*]

***Recurvirostra americana* (Gmel.)**

American Avocet

A female specimen taken by Clemens Uller, November 10, 1882 at St. Mary's Reservoir, Ohio. To my knowledge the species has not been reported for the state in recent years.

***Macrorhamphus griseus* (Gmel.)**

Dowitcher

Male taken at Bay Point, near Sandusky, Ohio, Aug. 30, 1924 by Milton B. Trautman. [It is now called Short-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus griseus*]

***Micropalama himantopus* (Bonap.)**

Stilt Sandpiper

Male from Buckeye Lake, Ohio, September 6, 1924, taken by Milton B. Trautman. A second male from Cranberry Lake, Licking Reservoir, Ohio, September 26, 1925 by the same collector. [It is now *Calidris himantopus*]

Tringa canutus* (Linn.)*Knot**

Male from Bay Point, near Sandusky, Ohio, May 29, 1924. Specimen taken by Milton B. Trautman. [It is now called Red Knot, *Calidris canutus*]

Pisobia fuscicollis* (Vieill.)*White rumped Sandpiper**

Milton B. Trautman procured a male, May 17, 1924 at Luray, Ohio. Specimen was mounted by Thomas M. Earl. [It is now called White-rumped Sandpiper, *Calidris fuscicollis*]

Ereunetes maura* (Cab.)*Western Sandpiper**

A male from Cranberry Marsh, Buckeye Lake, Ohio, September 12, 1925, Milton B. Trautman, collector. [It is now *Calidris mauri*]

Limosa fedoa* (Linn.)*Marbled Godwit**

A male specimen in the collection was taken at Buckeye Lake, Licking Co., Ohio, October 8, 1881. Collector's name is not given.

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus* (Brewst.)*Western Willet**

A male from Bay Point, near Sandusky, Ohio, taken May 29, 1924; and another from Bay Bridge, Erie County, Ohio, Sept. 7, 1925. Both specimens taken by Milton B. Trautman. [It is now called (Western) Willet, *Tringa semipalmata inornata*]

Machetes pugnax* (Linn.)*Ruff**

A male in juvenile plumage taken at Buckeye Lake, Ohio, Nov. 10, 1872 by Theodore Jasper. A second male taken by Jasper April 28, 1878 along the Scioto River, just south of Columbus, Ohio, shows an approach to adult plumage. [It is now *Calidris pugnax*]

Tryngites subruficollis* (Vieill.)*Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

A male collected by Milton B. Trautman, at Bay Point, near Sandusky, Ohio, September 1, 1924. [It is now *Calidris subruficollis*]

Numenius hudsonius* (Lath.)*Hudsonian Curlew**

Two female specimens taken at Bay Point, near Sandusky by Milton B. Trautman, May 30, 1925. [It is now called Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus* (Linnaeus, 1758)]

Aegiatis meloda* (Ord)*Piping Plover**

This species is represented by a specimen taken by myself on Cedar Point, near Sandusky,

Ohio, July 2, 1903 and by a second taken by Milton B. Trautman at Bay Point, September 1, 1924. The species was observed nesting on Bay Point in 1925 by Edward S. Thomas, Charles Walker and others. [It is now *Charadrius melanotos*]

Arenaria interpres morinella* (Linn.)*Ruddy Turnstone**

A female taken by Milton B. Trautman, May 21, 1924 at Luray, Ohio.

Tympanuchus americanus* (Reich.)*Prairie Chicken**

As late as 1874 this species was to be found near Monroeville, Ohio, but now is extirpated. A male taken at Monroeville, Ohio, December 12, 1874 is in the collection. [It is now called Greater Prairie-Chicken, *Tympanuchus cupido* (Linnaeus, 1758), and the nearest current population is in southeastern Illinois.]

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

Wilson writing in 1808 or near that time gave the impression that this species had the most individual representatives of any species of bird in the world. One hundred years later it was considered to be extinct. The collection contains a male specimen, taken at Columbus, Ohio, March 1, 1875.

Buteo borealis calurus* (Cass.)*The Western Red-tail**

Female collected in Franklin County, Ohio, November 20, 1895, by Theodore Jasper. This appears to be the most easterly record for this hawk. [Red-tailed Hawk is now *Buteo jamaicensis* (Gmelin). Bill Whan noted that this specimen was later studied by Oberholser and found to be a melanistic local individual, *B. j. borealis*, rather than an example of the western subspecies, *B. j. calurus*.]

Falco rusticolus gyrfalco* (Linn.)*Gyrfalcon**

A specimen was trapped Jan. 30, 1907 two miles west of Washington Courthouse by Mr. Jacob Carr, on his farm, and given to Mr. Almer Hegler who sent it to the Museum. See Ohio Naturalist VII-113.

Dryobates borealis* (Vieill.)*Red-cockaded Woodpecker**

A male was taken at Columbus, March 15, 1872, by Dr. Theodore Jasper. [It is now *Picoides borealis*]