

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE SUMMER BIRDS
OF MOUNT MANSFIELD, VERMONT.

BY ARTHUR H. HOWELL.

IN selecting a desirable point in northern New England to study the bird life, I chose Mt. Mansfield for the double reason that it is the highest mountain in the State of Vermont, and that its fauna is comparatively little known. Indeed, our knowledge of the avifauna of the entire northern portion of the State is very limited, for although two State lists of birds have been published, neither of them meets the requirements of a modern scientific list compiled from authentic records. The first, by Zadoch Thompson, published in 1842, is long since out of date¹; the second, by Dr. Hiram A. Cutting, is a nominal list of 191 species, many of which are evidently admitted on insufficient evidence. The annotations consist, in the main, of very general statements, and contain numerous glaring inaccuracies.²

Numerous scattered notes from the State have appeared in the ornithological magazines, but the only faunal list is that by Dr. F. H. Knowlton, treating of the birds of Brandon.³ Brandon lies in the west-central portion of the State, in the Champlain Valley, and the list is therefore valuable as indicating the fauna of the Alleghanian portions of the State. It furnishes very little information, however, concerning the birds that breed in the Canadian zone, and since it was published in a local newspaper, is quite inaccessible to all but a very few persons.

The list herewith presented is intended to be merely a preliminary one, and is offered chiefly as a contribution to our knowledge of the breeding ranges of Canadian species. I made two trips to Mt. Mansfield, the first in 1899, from June 14 to 24, the second in 1900, from June 23 to July 2. Observations covering

¹ See *History of Vermont, Natural, Civil and Statistical*, pp. 56-112. Burlington, 1842.

² See *Catalogue of the Birds of Vermont, Eighth Vermont Agric. Report*, pp. 211-229. Montpelier, 1884.

³ See 'The Brandon Union,' Dec. 13, 1878; revised list, Feb. 10, 1882.

such a limited period are necessarily incomplete, and I am fortunate in being able to supplement my notes by those of Mrs. Carrie E. Straw, who resides in Stowe, five miles from the mountain. I am indebted, also, to Mr. Bradford Torrey and to Mr. Clayton E. Stone, for notes on Mansfield birds.

Mr. Torrey has written a charming account of his visit to the mountain, in which he mentions more or less casually eleven species, giving considerable space to Bicknell's Thrush (under the name of the Gray-cheeked) and several other characteristic species. His article,¹ and a note of his on Bicknell's Thrush in 'The Auk,'² seem to be the only published records from this region.

The mountain rises abruptly from the Champlain Valley, some twenty miles to the eastward of Lake Champlain, and about thirty-five miles south of the Canadian boundary. It extends nearly north and south, and is made up of two principal peaks, united by a comparatively level ridge about two miles in length — "the ridge-pole of Vermont," Mr. Torrey styles it. The northern peak is the higher, its altitude, as determined by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, being 4364 feet. Viewed from the east, the profile of the mountain presents somewhat the appearance of a man's face turned to the sky. This fancy has given rise to the local names for the peaks, the southern one being 'The Nose,' the northern one, 'The Chin.'

On the northeast, separating Mansfield from Sterling Mountain, is Smugglers' Notch, a famous collecting ground for the botanists since Pringle made known the resources of its rugged cliffs. Though of less interest than the mountain proper, the Notch proved a fruitful locality for birds, as well as for mammals and plants. Several species of birds, notably the Mourning Warbler and the Solitary Vireo, were found almost exclusively in this region. The summit yielded a number of species not found at lower altitudes, among which Bicknell's Thrush was the commonest and most interesting.

On the southeast lies Stowe Valley, whence a wagon road

¹ See 'The Foot-Path Way,' pp. 90-110.

² Vol. VII, p. 194.

ascends the mountain, reaching the summit at the base of the cliff which forms 'The Nose.' I was located during both of my trips at the house of Mr. George Harlow, which stands on a small plateau or step of the mountain, several hundred feet above the valley proper, and only a short distance from the point where the road enters the forest.

The altitudes given in the present paper are only approximately correct, since I have the exact figures for only two points: Stowe Valley (548 ft.), and the summit of 'The Chin,' (4364 ft.). The woods at the east base of the mountain along the Smugglers' Notch road, are assumed to be at about 1000 feet altitude; the ridge at the point where the wagon road terminates (frequently referred to as 'the summit') is probably about 4000 feet.

The Mansfield region, in its faunal relationships, is almost pure Canadian, the few Alleghanian species found in the valley being extremely rare.

The following mammals, nearly all of them characteristic of the Canadian zone, were the most common species:

Sciurus hudsonicus gymnicus — Red Squirrel.

Tamias striatus lysteri — Northern Chipmunk.

Peromyscus canadensis — Canadian White-footed Mouse.

Evotomys gapperi — Red-backed Vole.

Zapus insignis — Woodland Jumping Mouse.

Zapus hudsonius — Meadow Jumping Mouse.

Erethizon dorsatus — Canada Porcupine.

Lepus americanus — Varying Hare.

Blarina brevicauda — Short-tailed Shrew.

Sorex fumeus — Smoky Shrew.

Sorex personatus — Masked Shrew.

The flora has been so thoroughly treated in several botanical papers¹ that I need do no more here than refer to the characteristic trees. The forest at the base of the mountain consists of a heavy mixed growth of deciduous trees, with a good sprinkling of evergreens. The commonest species are the sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), beech (*Fagus americana*), yellow birch (*Betula lutea*),

¹ See especially 'The Flora of Mt. Mansfield,' Bot. Gazette, XX, pp. 72-75 (1895).

paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), red spruce (*Picea rubra*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*).

The undergrowth, in places quite dense, is made up of the young trees of the above named species, with the addition of the mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*), striped maple (*Acer pennsylvanicum*), 'witch-hopple' (*Viburnum alnifolium*), etc. This mixed growth covers the lower slopes of the mountain, the maples, beeches and hemlocks becoming less numerous at the higher altitudes, until at about 3000 feet, they entirely disappear, and the forest is composed of spruces and firs with a few birches intermixed. A dense growth of stunted spruces and firs covers the more sheltered portions of the summit, and reaches well down toward the Notch. Alders (*Alnus alnobetula*) grow abundantly, both at the summit and on the less precipitous cliffs in the Notch.

In the list which follows, the species preceded by an asterisk are given on the authority of Mrs. Straw. Among the birds which I confidently expected to find, but did not, are the Olive-sided Flycatcher and the Winter Wren, both of them common species in the Franconia Mountains in New Hampshire.

1. * *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON. — Rare and local.
2. *Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER. — A few seen along the streams in the valley.
3. *Bonasa umbellus togata*. CANADIAN RUFFED GROUSE. — Quite numerous, both in the valley and on the mountain throughout the Canadian zone. Those observed were chiefly females with young, for whose safety they showed great solicitude. Although no specimens were secured, it is safe to refer the birds to the Canadian form.
4. *Falco sparverius*. SPARROW HAWK. — One observed in the maple woods near the base of the mountain.
5. * *Megascops asio*. SCREECH OWL. — Common resident.
6. * *Bubo virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL. — Resident.
7. * *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. — Common.
8. * *Ceryle alcyon*. KINGFISHER. — Common.
9. *Dryobates villosus*. HAIRY WOODPECKER. — A single specimen was noted on the mountain, near the upper edge of the tall timber.
10. * *Dryobates pubescens medianus*. DOWNY WOODPECKER. — Not uncommon.
11. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. — Two were seen in the valley (one in Stowe village), and a few in the maples on the lower slopes of the mountain.
12. *Ceophlæus pileatus abieticola*. NORTHERN PILEATED WOOD-

PECKER. — Mr. Clayton E. Stone of Lunenburg, Mass., writes me that he “saw two of these birds in the fall of '98, and heard several others, one in Johnson, and two in Craftsbury.” They doubtless occur in the environs of Mansfield.

13. * *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. — Mrs. Straw says of this bird: “rare; saw two in June, 1896.”

14. * *Colaptes auratus luteus*. NORTHERN FLICKER. — Common.

15. * *Antrostomus vociferus*. WHIP-POOR-WILL. — Rare and local.

16. * *Chordeiles virginianus*. NIGHTHAWK. — Not common.

17. *Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT. — Common; occurs on the mountain nearly to the summit.

18. *Trochilus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. — Numerous in the maple woods at the base of the mountain. I noticed several females stealing the cotton which I had placed on the bushes to mark my mammal traps.

19. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD. — Not uncommon in the valley.

20. *Myiarchus crinitus*. CRESTED FLYCATCHER. — I thought I heard the notes of this bird on two or three occasions, but was not near enough to make the record certain. Mrs. Straw has observed them a few times.

21. * *Sayornis phœbe*. PHEBE. — Common.

22. *Contopus virens*. WOOD PEWEE. — A few were heard in the valley at the base of the mountain, and others at about 2000 feet.

23. *Empidonax flaviventris*. YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER. — This species inhabits the deep woods well up the mountain side (approximately from 2500 to 3500 feet altitude). On these steep slopes, shaded by a dense growth of spruces, and strewn with immense moss-covered logs and huge boulders, the birds find a congenial home. Of inconspicuous appearance and without any very characteristic notes, they do not readily attract attention. I observed them but three or four times, and secured only one, shot from a tall dead tree standing by the side of the mountain road.

24. *Empidonax traillii alnorum*. ALDER FLYCATCHER. — Apparently rare, as I saw but two or three, these in a wet scrubby pasture at the foot of the mountain; one specimen was secured. Their notes are not loud, but are recognizably different from those of the other Flycatchers.

25. *Empidonax minimus*. LEAST FLYCATCHER. — Common; their sharp notes were frequently heard at various points in Stowe Valley.

26. * *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. — Mrs. Straw reports that these birds have appeared in some numbers in Stowe Valley within quite recent years, having been first noticed in 1898. The present season (1901) several pairs have nested and as many as 25 young have been seen. They disappeared early in July.¹

27. *Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY. — Observed sparingly from the base of the mountain to about 3000 feet altitude.

¹ Concerning the eastward extension of their breeding range, compare Faxon and Hoffman, ‘The Birds of Berkshire Co., Mass.,’ p. 32.

28. *Perisoreus canadensis*. CANADA JAY. — Mr. Bradford Torrey records one seen on the mountain.¹ I did not observe the species.
29. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW. Common.
30. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. BOBOLINK. — Numerous in the meadows of the valley.
31. *Molothrus ater*. COWBIRD. — Not common. Observed only once — at Moscow, seven miles from the mountain.
32. *Agelaius phœniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. — Said to be quite common. I observed them in small numbers at Moscow.
33. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE. — Rare and local; seen chiefly in the village streets.
34. *Carpodacus purpureus*. PURPLE FINCH. — Not very common, though I saw them several times at the foot of the mountain, and also part way up.
35. *Loxia (curvirostra minor?)* CROSSBILL. — I observed (in 1899) several flocks of a dozen or more Crossbills, probably of this species, flying about over the summit. They were very restless, and never alighted near enough for positive identification.
36. *Astragalinus tristis*. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. — Common in Stowe Valley.
37. *Spinus pinus*. PINE SISKIN. — Three or four observed in the small spruces near the summit of the mountain. They were quite unsuspecting, allowing me to approach within a few feet of them.
38. *Poœcetes gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW. — Abundant; the commonest singer in the valley.
39. *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNA SPARROW. — In 1899, several pairs were breeding in the pastures at the base of the mountain; in 1900, I noted the species but once or twice.
40. * *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. — Mrs. Straw says of this species: "First seen June 5, 1899 — remained all summer."
41. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. — The White-throat is one of the commonest and most characteristic birds of the region. Although heard occasionally at the base of the mountain, it is on the bleak and wind-swept stretches near the summit that his clear notes ring out most frequently, and with greatest effect.
42. *Spizella socialis*. CHIPPING SPARROW. — Common in the valley.
43. * *Spizella pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW. — Mrs. Straw reports it as a regular breeder, she having found the nest both in 1898 and 1899.
44. *Junco hyemalis*. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. — Like the White-throat, the Junco is common at various points from the base of the mountain to the summit, but is rather more abundant than the former at the lower levels. I frequently saw them flying about on the highest part of 'The Chin.'

¹The Foot-Path Way, p. 100.

45. *Melospiza melodia*. SONG SPARROW.—Common in the valley.
46. *Zamelodia ludoviciana*. ROSE-BREADED GROSBIRD.—Noted several times in the maple woods at the base of the mountain, and once (a breeding pair) at an altitude of about 2000 feet.
47. *Cyanospiza cyanea*. INDIGO BIRD.—Observed a few times in Stowe Valley; said to be not uncommon.
48. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER.—I heard the notes of the Tanager a number of times in the woods at the base of the mountain.
49. *Chelidon erythrogaster*. BARN SWALLOW.—Common in the valley.
50. * *Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—Common.
51. *Ampelis cedrorum*. CEDAR BIRD.—Said to be common. I observed them but once—four individuals on a dead tree near the summit of the mountain.
52. * *Lanius ludovicianus migrans*. MIGRANT SHRIKE.—Rare and local. Mrs. Straw saw young birds June 23, 1896; the species nested the two following seasons.
53. *Vireo olivaceus*. RED-EYED VIREO.—Common in the valley and on the lower slopes of the mountain to at least 2500 feet altitude.
54. *Vireo gilvus*. WARBLING VIREO.—A few heard in Stowe Valley.
55. *Vireo solitarius*. SOLITARY VIREO.—None were observed in 1899, but very possibly they were overlooked. In 1900, I heard them a number of times, and after some difficulty, secured one specimen—a breeding female.
- Although the males move about considerably while feeding and singing, they were apparently confined to three localities, a half mile or more apart, and I concluded that there were probably but three pairs breeding in the section of country that I explored. Their habitat is the heavy mixed growth, at the east base of the mountain; the specimen taken was on a dry ridge clothed with spruces, firs, and hemlocks. They are rather shy, and have a habit of moving restlessly from point to point, always keeping well out of sight, but singing at frequent intervals.
56. * *Mniotilta varia*. BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER.—Common.
57. *Helminthophila rubricapilla*. NASHVILLE WARBLER.—Several times I heard a song from the spruces near the top of the mountain (3500 feet) which I feel sure came from this species, though I was unable to get even a glimpse of the singer. Mr. Torrey writes me that he heard several during his visit.
58. *Compothlypis americana usneæ*. PARULA WARBLER.—Quite common, inhabiting the lower slopes of the mountain to about 2500 feet altitude.
59. *Dendroica æstiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Not uncommon in the valley.
60. *Dendroica cærulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—Very common on the lower slopes of the mountain from the base to

about 2000 feet. They inhabit the more open deciduous woods, the males singing most frequently about the openings where a few trees have been cut out, and sprouts and fallen logs cover the ground. I started a female from a little bush on the edge of a clearing, where she had commenced to build her nest, a foot above the ground.

61. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER. — Quite common in the stunted spruces at the summit, but not observed elsewhere.

62. *Dendroica maculosa*. MAGNOLIA WARBLER. — Heard sparingly at the base of the mountain. They inhabit, among other places, the small firs and spruces on the edges of the pastures.

63. *Dendroica pennsylvanica*. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. — Common in the open spots about the edges of the woods at the base of the mountain, and for a short distance up the slopes.

64. *Dendroica striata*. BLACK-POLL WARBLER. — Numerous in the region of stunted trees on the upper slopes, though none were seen on the extreme summit. They sang usually on the tops of the spruces, and from these breezy heights, the song sounded even weaker than when we hear it from passing migrants in the low country.

65. *Dendroica blackburniæ*. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. — Fairly common, ranging apparently with the hemlocks (for which they show a decided preference) from the base to about 2500 feet.

66. *Dendroica virens*. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. — Less common than the preceding species; it occupies much the same area, but ranges a little higher.

67. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. OVENBIRD. — Perhaps the commonest and most conspicuous bird in the open maple woods on the lower slopes; does not range much above 2000 feet. Several nests were found on the very edge of the mountain road.

68. *Geothlypis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER. — Quite common in the brushy clearings and thickets around the base of the mountain. I shot one in the thick woods a short distance up the slope, but nearly all that I noted were along the road leading through Smugglers' Notch.

They are extremely shy, and only two or three times was I able to obtain even a glimpse of them, although by approaching stealthily, I could get fairly close. The song is characteristic, though it bears a strong resemblance to that of the Kentucky Warbler.

69. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT. — Observed a few times in Stowe Valley; said to be not uncommon.

70. *Wilsonia canadensis*. CANADIAN WARBLER. — Common in the thickets in the deciduous woods, ranging nearly throughout the Canadian zone. Although they keep well concealed in the shrubbery and do not move about much, their odd song, uttered at frequent intervals, serves to indicate their presence.

71. *Setophaga ruticilla*. REDSTART. — Seen but twice — at the base of the mountain.

72. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD. — Occurs rather commonly along the streams in the valley.

73. **Troglodytes aëdon*. HOUSE WREN. — Rare ; Mrs. Straw reports that she has not seen them for a number of years.

74. *Anorthura hyemalis*. WINTER WREN. — Mr. Torrey writes me that he noted them several times during his visit in 1885, on the upper part of the mountain. I was disappointed not to find them, but I am certain they were not there in 1899 or 1900, for although the birds might be overlooked, the song is not likely to escape notice.

75. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER. — Only one observed, near the upper edge of the timber.

76. **Sitta carolinensis*. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. — Common.

77. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. — Observed but once — a little group of four in the spruces near the summit.

78. *Parus atricapillus*. CHICKADEE. — Fairly common on the lower slopes.

79. *Regulus satrapa*. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. — Their song was heard on several occasions in the heavy timber at the base and once at about 2500 feet altitude. It is a prolonged bubbling warble, rather lacking in musical quality.

80. *Hylocichla mustelina*. WOOD THRUSH. — In 1899, I heard the song and alarm note of this species several times, in the damp maple woods at the base. Once I saw the bird near enough to recognize it, but did not secure it. I think there were at least two pairs nesting there that year, but in 1900 I could find no trace of them, nor have they been observed in Stowe Valley by Mrs. Straw, so they are probably irregular in their occurrence there.¹

81. *Hylocichla fuscescens*. WILSON'S THRUSH. — Common in the valley ; I heard them most often in the alders along the streams, but they also occupy the maple woods at the base of the mountain, in company with the Olive-backs and the Wood Thrushes.

82. *Hylocichla aliciae bicknelli*. BICKNELL'S THRUSH. — This is the commonest and most characteristic species at the summit of the mountain. It is really abundant in the extensive tracts of stunted firs and spruces surrounding the northern peak ('The Nose') and its range extends down into the upper edge of the tall timber — to about 3000 feet altitude — where it overlaps the range of the Olive-back.

During the seven trips that I made to the summit, I was constantly on the alert for a sight of the birds, and although I frequently heard them all about me, so shy were they that I saw them probably less than a

¹ That their occurrence in northern Vermont is not unusual is evidenced by a record from Willoughby Lake, by F. H. Allen (St. Johnsbury, 'Caledonian,' Sept. 11, 1896; quoted by Faxon and Hoffman in 'Birds of Berkshire Co., Mass.,' p. 10).

dozen times. The glimpses I had of them were either at long range, or cut short by the sudden departure of the bird into the dense cover of the evergreens, so that close study of their habits was impossible.

This was in marked contrast to the experience of Mr. Bradford Torrey, who visited the mountain in 1885. He says they were "never out of hearing and seldom long out of sight, even from the door step."¹ His visit, however, was at the time the young were leaving the nest, while I was there during the period of incubation, which may account for the difference in their familiarity. His surmise, based on the testimony of a friend, that the birds had left the mountain the following year would seem to be disproved by my experience. It is very improbable that a species so well established would entirely desert a favorable locality for no apparent cause; it seems more likely that his friend for some reason had overlooked them.

They sing at any time of day, though most frequently toward evening. The song is quite unlike any of the other thrush songs, resembling the Veery's somewhat in form, though not in quality of tone, which is like that of a fine, high-pitched reed. It is not so loud, or so clear as either the Olive-back's or the Veery's, and unlike the former, does not change its pitch perceptibly. The syllables *weé-á-weé-á-weé-chí-chí-weé*, whistled through the closed teeth, will give a faint conception of its character. The opening notes, *wee-a*, repeated two or three times, are smooth and flowing, and are followed by two staccato notes; the closing note resembles the opening ones, and is without special emphasis. The last three notes taken together form the characteristic portion of the song, and are frequently given by themselves without the prelude.

I am aware that the above description of the song differs in some respects from that given by Mr. Brewster, but it is not at all remarkable that the birds of another colony should sing a somewhat different song. The call note, which is frequently uttered, sometimes from a lofty perch, though usually in the thicket, is a rather harsh *cheep*. I did not hear the Veery note, *phew*, spoken of by Mr. Brewster.

83. *Hylocichla ustulata swainsonii*. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH. — This is the commonest Thrush on the lower slopes of the mountain, ranging from the base to the upper limits of the heavy timber, above which it is replaced by *bicknelli*. Although quite shy, and therefore rarely seen, its beautiful rich song — in my opinion second only to that of the Hermit — was heard at frequent intervals during my trips up the mountain, sometimes as many as three of the singers being within hearing at once.

84. *Hylocichla aonalaschkæ pallasii*. HERMIT THRUSH. — During my first visit to the mountain in 1899, I listened in vain for the Hermits, and in 1900, I heard but one. They are certainly not numerous at the base of the mountain where I stayed, and I am quite sure there were none

¹ The Foot-Path Way, p. 95, 1896.

on the mountain or along the Notch road. Mr. Torrey writes me, however, that at the time of his visit in 1885, he heard the Hermit near the summit, "singing freely."

Mrs. Straw reports them as rather common at certain points lower down the valley.

85. *Merula migratoria*. AMERICAN ROBIN. — Abundant, especially in the valley. I was surprised to observe a good many in the heavy timber along the Notch road, far from clearings. I saw one also at the summit.

86. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD. — Rather uncommon; observed at the base of the mountain and at Moscow.

THE ALDER FLYCATCHER (*EMPIDONAX TRAILLII ALNORUM*) AS A SUMMER RESIDENT OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.

BY J. A. FARLEY.

CERTAIN facts in the life-history of the Alder Flycatcher contribute to create the general impression that the bird is an exceedingly rare summer resident of eastern Massachusetts. Its chosen haunts are not too often in the eye of the world; it is not a vociferous species; and its manner of securing an existence keeps it for the most part out of view of the casual observer. Furthermore, the species being well known to arrive toward the end of the spring migration, an Alder Flycatcher, appearing late in May in the capacity of a returned summer resident, has doubtless been often mistaken for a migrant still northward bound. *E. t. alnorum* therefore, while always breeding sparingly, is not so rare a summer bird in the eastern part of Massachusetts as it is commonly supposed to be.

The Alder Flycatcher occurs in summer at various localities in Essex and Middlesex counties. I have noted it in the breeding season at Crane Neck Pond in Groveland, in northern Essex County, and so near Boston as Fresh Pond, Cambridge; also in the towns of Wilmington, Lynnfield, and Wakefield. In one locality in Essex County the bird is plainly increasing in numbers.