

LIST OF THE BIRDS OF LOUISIANA.

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PART III.¹

1. HORNED GREBE (*Colymbus auritus*). A regular winter visitor, not at all uncommon from November until the end of March. It is usually found in flocks of from five to ten individuals, especially on the lagoons and wide bayous of the southern section of the State. It is not at all shy, but rather inquisitive, often swimming quite up to the hunter's duck blinds. It does not seem to associate with water birds of other species.

2. PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*). Resident; numbers greatly increase during winter, when one or two may be seen in almost every water hole in suitable localities. As a migrant, it arrives in the lower parts of the State about the end of October, while its numbers are greatly diminished about the middle of March.

3. LOON (*Gavia imber*). A common winter resident on the Gulf waters; fairly common also on the larger bodies of water far inland. The usual time of arrival is the latter part of October, though it has been observed on Bay St. Louis, Miss., August 11, 1900, and in the same locality during September, 1896. The last are seen about the middle of April. (One was seen at Biloxi, Miss., April 22, 1906.)

4. HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*). Very common from late fall to early spring, and present from about October 15 to April 15. It is found chiefly along the coast and on the lakes of the southern section. It is common on the Mississippi at New Orleans, as are the Ring-billed and Laughing Gulls. This species and the Ring-billed Gull are especially common about oyster canneries, as at Timbalier Bay.

5. RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*). Common in practically the same localities and at the same seasons as the preceding.

6. LAUGHING GULL (*Larus atricilla*). Though it appears to be restricted as a breeder to the islands along the coast, it ranges over a large part of the State at nearly all seasons, usually following the courses of the rivers. It is rarely if ever observed on the Mississippi at New Orleans during summer, though it may be seen at that season on Lake Pontchartrain, five miles away. There are no nesting colonies on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain, however.

7. FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Larus franklinii*). A fairly regular, but never common, winter visitor on the western Gulf coast, and about the passes near the mouth of the Mississippi River.

8. BONAPARTE'S GULL (*Larus philadelphia*). Like the preceding, a regular but not abundant winter visitor. It arrives in September and

¹ For Parts I and II, see Volume XXIII, pp. 1-15, 275-282.

leaves about the middle of April. It is usually found in company with the other gulls, on the coast or in the interior.

9. GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*). Resident on the western coast and its islands, frequenting shallow waters near the shore, and breeding in July and August. It is not abundant, occurring singly and in flocks of three or four, in company with other gulls and terns.

10. CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*). Resident; fairly common along the coast, breeding on low sandy islands; numbers increased in winter; it occurs singly or in flocks of two or three, and associates freely with other gulls and terns, often congregating about the oyster and shrimp canneries. It never occurs far from the coast.

11. ROYAL TERN (*Sterna maxima*). Resident; very common along the entire extent of the coast; breeds in June and July in about the same situations as the Caspian Tern. If one set of eggs is destroyed by a storm, a second set is laid. Like the preceding, it flies singly or in small flocks, though frequently hundreds may be in sight at one time. After the breeding season, it roams inland, and may be found in fall and winter on inland waters, especially in the northwestern part of the State. It probably never occurs on the Mississippi River except very near the mouth.

12. CABOT'S TERN (*Sterna sandvicensis acutiflvida*). Fairly common resident, numbers increasing, however, about the end of September. In distribution, it is chiefly a seabird, being especially common on the Chandeleur Islands and Breton Island.

13. FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*). Resident on the larger Gulf islands, but in very limited numbers; it grows commoner in fall, occurring both inland and coastwise.

14. LEAST TERN (*Sterna antillarum*). An abundant resident in all suitable localities along the coast. Has been observed also at Vicksburg in the middle of July, and a few miles westward, near Tallulah, in Madison Parish, Louisiana, where it appeared to be well established, though no evidence of its breeding there was secured. Those seen in Madison Parish were observed repeatedly flying along a slough. In fall and winter, it is regularly seen far inland in flocks of eight or ten.

15. SOOTY TERN (*Sterna fuliginosa*). This species has about the same breeding range on the coast as the preceding, and is frequently associated with it.

16. BLACK TERN (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*). A common transient in spring and fall; it arrives from the north early in August, and has been seen at Bay St. Louis, Miss., as early as July 26. It occurs chiefly coastwise, but was seen at New Orleans, August 15, 1901, during a Gulf hurricane.

17. NODDY TERN (*Anous stolidus*). Resident, but never common; breeds on some of the islands, especially Timbalier and Chandeleur.

18. BLACK SKIMMER (*Rhynchops nigra*). A common resident along the coast, breeding on most of the islands, and in some places along the shore of the mainland. Usually flies in flocks of ten or more. In habit,

somewhat crepuscular, in this particular being unlike the gulls and terns.

19. BOOBY (*Sula sula*). Though this species doubtless occurs in Louisiana at all seasons, it should be regarded as an uncommon and irregular visitor from further south, rather than as a resident. Specimens were taken in September, 1884, on the Mississippi about fifty miles below New Orleans, and three were observed at Red Pass, near the mouth of the Mississippi, on January 15, 1901.

20. GANNET (*Sula bassana*). This species is an occasional winter visitor; it has been observed several times at the Rigolets, in southeastern Louisiana. Like the preceding this species seems to occur unassociated with any other species except possibly the cormorants.

21. ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*). Resident along the Gulf coast, following the rivers and larger bayous inland, and preferring open swamps, especially those of cypress and tupelo, for its nesting places. In the breeding season it is associated with several of the herons, especially the Great Blue Heron, the American Egret, and the Little Blue Heron. The breeding season includes most of May, June, and July. There are usually three birds to a brood. This species has been found breeding in willows in an abandoned and flooded rice field on the edge of a swamp near the Mississippi in Plaquemines Parish. Nearly a dozen nests have been seen in a single clump of willows. The nests in this case were mere platforms, something over a foot in diameter, and having moderate depressions. The behavior of the young at the conclusion of the nesting period is often peculiar. A nestling almost fully fledged has been seen to fall precipitately from a branch of its nest-tree, on the approach of a person, striking the marsh below head first, and emitting a strange, harsh note in its descent. The adults resent the presence of intruders about a nesting colony by flying back and forth and uttering peculiar hissing notes. The attitude of both young and old when perched on the trees of a site selected for a nesting colony is often peculiar. The adults frequently sit with their wings extended for considerable intervals, while the young huddle together in attitudes that frequently suggest a hawk. Under such circumstances, on account of the coloring of the young at a certain period, the resemblance to the Red-shouldered Hawk is marked.

Although this species occurs commonly along the coast, it does not breed on or near salt water.

While the Anhinga is resident in Louisiana, it is always much more conspicuous in summer, at which season it is not unusual to see these birds soaring at considerable heights in the localities where they breed. The Anhinga resorts with much regularity to the same nesting sites every year.

22. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax dilophus*). This is a winter resident, not common, and found almost exclusively along the Gulf coast. Three or four are usually seen together. It has been seen on Lake Catherine as late as April 14 (1904).

23. FLORIDA CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax dilophus floridanus*). This species is much commoner than the preceding, though found in the same

localities. It breeds wherever it occurs. It is usually seen in flocks of from six to ten. The distribution and abundance of this species is practically unchanged throughout the year.

24. MEXICAN CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax mexicanus*). In the lower sections of the State, this species is a common resident, and in habits, distribution, etc., agrees closely with the preceding species. Like the others, it is occasionally found inland on the larger bodies of water.

25. BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus fuscus*). This species is abundant along the Gulf coast, especially about the islands. It usually occurs in flocks of less than twenty. Although essentially a coast bird, it straggles inland in winter, though very rarely leaving the southern part of the State. It breeds almost exclusively on the coastwise islands in company with gulls and terns.

26. WHITE PELICAN (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*). This is a winter visitor only, and never occurs in very large numbers. It occurs chiefly along the coast, but is occasionally found inland about the larger bodies of water. Numbers sometimes winter at various points along the Mississippi River, even in the northern part of the State. It is present from about October 1 to March 1.

27. MAN-O'-WAR BIRD (*Fregata aquila*). Resident and breeding along the Gulf coast, especially the eastern part. The breeding season includes most of June, July, and August. Little is seen of this species along the mainland during the breeding season, but about August 1 it becomes rather conspicuous at some points on the coast. In calm weather numbers may often be seen soaring at a considerable height. During heavy storms, this species is sometimes driven a considerable distance inland.

28. AMERICAN MERGANSER (*Merganser americanus*). Regular winter visitor, but of late years less common; in fact, its numbers seem to be slowly but steadily decreasing. It is found chiefly in small flocks along the coast, and seldom remains long on inland waters.

29. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Merganser serrator*). Like the preceding, a winter visitor, but much commoner. It is usually seen in small flocks, however. On inland waters, it is rather common. Being more of a maritime species than the following, however, it is called by the creoles "Bec-scie de mer."

30. HOODED MERGANSER (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). Essentially an abundant winter visitor; yet a few remain throughout the year, while reports of its nesting are rather numerous. It is known to breed in the interior as well as coastwise; very young birds have been observed the latter part of June. The localities in which this species occurs as a breeder frequently change from season to season. Local (Creole) name: Bec-scie (Saw-bill).

31. MALLARD (*Anas boschas*). One of the best known of the ducks in Louisiana, being a winter visitor throughout the State and usually occurring in flocks of from ten to one hundred individuals. The first arrive early in October, but most of these appear to be transients.

It is not until the early part of November that the species becomes common. The earlier arrivals are particularly associated with Green-winged Teals and to a considerable extent also with Pintails, Gadwalls, Baldpates, Ring-necks, and Shovellers. The bulk of winter visitors are present from the early part or middle of December until the latter part of January, the Mallard being among the very first ducks to start north at the close of winter. A good many of the individuals arriving at the beginning of the winter pass further south, returning when the last of the winter bulk are leaving the State, so that the greatest number are often present at the beginning and at the end of the season. It is doubtful whether any of the winter visitor individuals remain in southern Louisiana later than February 15. Most of the transients have disappeared by the middle of March at the latest. (Obs. In a general way, the movements here traced with reference to the Mallard, apply with more or less force to most of the other river ducks. Exceptions will be noticed under the accounts of the several species.)

Owing to constant persecution along the coast, the Mallard, like other ducks wintering in Louisiana, is very wary; the feeding grounds in the marshes are ordinarily deserted by daybreak, and open waters are generally frequented during the hours of daylight.

Several peculiar specimens of the Mallard have been taken in Louisiana. Three of these were partly albino; one was a male and the others females; all were marked exactly alike; they were shot at Vinton, in southwest Louisiana on January 4, 1892. An exceedingly strange specimen is a hybrid between the Mallard and Pintail; the bird was an apparently fertile drake. One side bears the exact markings of the Mallard and the other of the Pintail. (For a detailed account of this specimen, see Auk, XVII, April, 1900, p. 170.)

Local names: French Duck; Canard français.

32. BLACK DUCK (*Anas obscura*). Formerly a common winter visitor, but growing steadily rarer of late years. It prefers the open Gulf waters to the inland. It is usually found in flocks of eight or ten, while sometimes a few will be found with a flock of Mallards.

33. FLORIDA DUCK (*Anas fulvigula*). A regular resident on the coast, and especially on the islands, whence its local name, *canard des isles*. It is fairly common and breeds wherever it occurs in the regions just mentioned. Its numbers are greatly increased during winter, and at that season it may be found on open lakes, even in the northern part of the State.

34. GADWALL (*Chaulelasmus streperus*). This species is one of those forming the normal winter duck population in Louisiana, and in the matter of abundance, stands about on a par with Mallards, Baldpates, Pintails, Green-winged Teals, and Lesser Scaups, being rather more abundant than Red-heads and Ring-necks. As in the case of the Mallard, the first come by the early or middle part of October, and continue to increase decidedly until the middle of December, then remaining in statu quo or showing something of a decrease, according to the nature of the winter, until the

middle of January. A strong northward movement begins at that time, and while it consists largely of individuals that have wintered in Louisiana, it is doubtless augmented also by the first passage of transients. This later movement continues more or less freely until about March 15, after which date, duck migration is restricted almost entirely to a few species, among which the Gadwall is seldom if ever found.

Local names: Gray Duck; Canard gris.

35. BALDPATE (*Mareca americana*). Though rather less common than the preceding, this species exhibits about the same movements.

Local names: Zin-zin and Widgeon.

36. GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Nettion carolinensis*). At no time as common in Louisiana as the Blue-winged Teal becomes there in spring, the Green-winged Teal is present in large numbers for a greater period than the Blue-winged Teal. Numbers arrive in the fall not later than October 1, thus preceding most of the other species. They are particularly abundant in fall. Many remain in southern Louisiana throughout the winter, departing, with the bulk of the winter ducks, early in February. Individuals that winter extraliminally are rather late in returning, but the average time of their spring flight is much in advance of that of the Blue-winged Teal, so that the last have usually passed before April.

Local names: Cognotte; Sarcelle d'hiver (Winter Teal).

37. BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Querquedula discors*). Leaving aside the possible occurrence of this species as a breeder in Louisiana, it is nevertheless present there for a large part of the year. Returning transients appear in Louisiana between September 1 and September 15. Individuals of this class continue common throughout the fall and with those arrivals that will remain throughout the winter make the species abundant until cold weather in November. From then on, the numbers are decidedly decreased until the middle or latter part of March, when the bulk of transients begin to arrive, the transient movement continuing in force until the first half of May, while the writers have positively recorded the species in southeastern Louisiana as late as May 21. Some hunters claim that a few of this species breed regularly in southern Louisiana, and it is not at all unlikely that such is the case. No authenticated instances, however, have come under the observation of any of the writers.

Local names: Sarcelle automnienne; Sarcelle printanniere. (Spring or Fall Teal).

38. CINNAMON TEAL (*Querquedula cyanoptera*). This species is rare in Louisiana. All specimens recorded have been taken in fall and winter in the southern part of the State.

39. PINTAIL (*Dafila acuta*). In one important particular, the movements of the Pintail in Louisiana differ from those of the Mallard, Gadwall, and associated species. The spring transients are the latest of all ducks except the teals and the Shoveller, and this in spite of the fact that winter visitant individuals, as with similar individuals of the Mallard, move northward very early, probably never later than the middle of January.

But the principal flights of transients occur in spring, even in April, during the passage of Blue-winged Teals.

Local names: Paille-en-queue (Straw-tail); Sprigtail.

40. WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*). Though this species is found to a considerable extent in swampy country coastwise, the characteristic habitat of the Wood Duck in Louisiana is the heavy inland swamps about lakes or along rivers. It is extremely common, for instance, about shallow sloughs in heavy hardwood growths along the Mississippi in northeastern Louisiana. The dense forests along the lower course of the Atchafalaya, however, and some of the swamps about lakes and rivers in southwest Louisiana are likewise very attractive to this species. An undoubted factor in determining the abundance of the Wood Duck is the presence of the water-chinquapin (*Nelumbium luteum*). As a food of the Wood Duck the seeds of this plant are extremely important.

In the southern part of the State at least, the Wood Duck is seldom seen in winter. Nesting usually begins in the early part of April.

Local name: Brancheur (percher).

41. RED-HEAD (*Aythya americana*). This species is rather common coastwise and is found chiefly from the middle of November to the middle of February.

Local names: Violon (Violin).

42. CANVAS-BACK (*Aythya vallisneria*). The numbers of this species are probably on a steady decline. There are certain little-visited localities, however, especially near the mouth of the Mississippi, where it still occurs in considerable abundance during some seasons. Like the Red-head, it prefers the coast; its migratory movements, also, are similar to those of the Red-head.

Local names: Canard cheval.

43. AMERICAN SCAUP (*Aythya marila*). The occurrence of this species is confined chiefly to the colder parts of the winter. This species is seldom found away from the coast, and occurs more frequently on the open Gulf waters than any other species. In distinction from the next, it is called by the Creoles "Dos-gris de mer."

44. LESSER SCAUP (*Aythya affinis*). This duck is probably steadily commoner than any other species found in Louisiana. It is present from about October 15 to March 15. It is most abundant, of course, in the southern part of the State. At times, it occurs in large flocks; again, many single individuals may be seen on the inlets and salt lakes of the southeastern part of the State.

Local name: Dos-gris (Grayback).

45. RING-NECKED DUCK (*Aythya collaris*). This is a common winter visitor; its movements are about the same as those of the Lesser Scaup.

Local names: Black Duck; Canard noir.

46. AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE (*Clangula clangula americana*). This species is a rather uncommon winter visitor; it appears to loiter in spring, and on June 15, 1894, Mr. A. B. Blakemore shot a female on Cat Island, off the coast of Mississippi.

47. BUFFLEHEAD (*Charitonetta albeola*). Common as a winter visitor. Local names: Marionette; Butterball.

48. OLD-SQUAW (*Harelda hyemalis*). A male in full winter plumage was shot on Bayou Barataria February 13, 1899. At the time of the capture of this specimen a severe blizzard was sweeping the South. Zero temperatures were reported at points near the Louisiana coast. The specimen in question is in the museum of Tulane University.

49. BLACK SCOTER (*Oidemia americana*). This species has been taken near Lake Catherine. There is a Louisiana specimen in the Kohn collection at Tulane University.

50. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (*Oidemia deglandi*). This species is occasionally found on the Gulf Coast in winter. It rarely goes inland.

51. SURF SCOTER (*Oidemia perspicillata*). This species also is a rather rare winter visitor. A male killed on Bayou St. John, near New Orleans, on March 20, 1890, is now in the Kohn collection at Tulane University.

52. RUDDY DUCK (*Erismatura jamaicensis*). This species is a very common winter visitor. Local name: Marteau.

53. LESSER SNOW GOOSE (*Chen hyperborea*). Winters in considerable abundance along the coast.

54. GREATER SNOW GOOSE (*Chen hyperborea nivea*). Not so common as the preceding, but its movements are about the same.

55. BLUE GOOSE (*Chen caerulescens*). Rather common in winter on the coast.

56. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons gambeli*). Present, like most of the geese, from October to March, or the early part of April. Common.

57. CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*). The commonest of the geese in Louisiana. Its movements are about the same as those of the preceding species.

58. HUTCHINS'S GOOSE (*Branta canadensis hutchinsi*). This form is a rather common winter visitor, and is usually found on the coast.

59. BRANT (*Branta bernicla*). An occasional winter visitor.

60. FULVOUS TREE-DUCK (*Dendrocygna fulva*). Though a native of tropical and subtropical America, this species has been observed in Louisiana, not as might have been expected, in summer, but in fall and winter. Considerable flocks have been noted at various times. Its occurrence in Louisiana, however, is decidedly irregular.

61. WHISTLING SWAN (*Olor columbianus*). In recent years, the occurrence of this species in Louisiana has become very rare and irregular.

62. TRUMPETER SWAN (*Olor buccinator*). In the past, this species has proved commoner than the preceding, especially about the mouth of the Mississippi.

(To be continued.)