

**Geothlypis philadelphia.** MOURNING WARBLER.— One individual of this bird was observed at close range at Edge Hill on May 12, 1907, and another at Oak Lane on May 31, 1907. These are my only records of this species and the bird will have to be regarded as a very rare migrant. Both identifications were made with great care.

**Sitta canadensis.** RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.— This erratic bit of bird life was unusually abundant in the fall of 1906, and from September until late November was seen on practically every field trip. These periodical invasions of Red-breasted Nuthatches seem worthy of note. The last one of any size occurred in 1903. For several years the bird will be rare and then, again, take a place among our common transients.

**Hylocichla fuscescens.** WILSON'S Thrush.— The Veery formerly nested in the vicinity of Glenside, Montgomery County, which is the most southern locality of its breeding in Pennsylvania. Several times in the past two years the writer has heard in June and July notes which he was practically sure belonged to this bird but was unable to secure any specimens.

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## BIRDS OF DELAWARE — ADDITIONAL NOTES.<sup>1</sup>

BY C. J. PENNOCK.

THE 'Preliminary List of the Birds of Delaware,'<sup>2</sup> was intended to embrace such species only as had come under the observation of the authors or for which they could find positive record of an occurrence within the State. On account of the limited amount of time that had been devoted to the work previous to the appearance of that list it was evident that many species of birds remained to be noted and some species recorded therein as rare might become apparently more abundant after further observations.

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<sup>1</sup> Read at the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Philadelphia Pa., Dec. 12, 1907.

<sup>2</sup> See 'The Auk,' Vol. XXII, No. 2, April, 1904, pp. 194-205.

The present paper is intended to present a list of such birds as have not previously been recorded from Delaware and to offer notes on some other species that seem to be of especial interest. Referring first to species not previously recorded:

1. The RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) and (2) MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Dendroica maculosa*) were omitted from the 'List' inadvertently. Both are of course common birds in Delaware. The Woodpecker is usually resident throughout the entire State and at times is locally abundant. Over at least the lower half it is generally to be seen in suitable localities; the large undrained timbered areas offering attractive feeding grounds for this bird as well as for other members of the family. The countrymen generally are familiar with this bird, and its vernacular name of "Shirt-tailer" is in recognition of the noticeable white patch so prominent in a rear-flight view.

The Magnolia Warbler is a common spring and fall migrant.

3. LAUGHING GULL (*Larus atricilla*).—Undoubtedly this bird was an abundant summer resident, at least from Lewes down along the coast to Fenwick Light, at the Maryland line, up to the time of the extermination of our shore-nesting birds, twenty or more years ago. Many of the younger generation of native gunners do not know this bird at all. As they are now found nesting locally in some places on the Atlantic coast considerably to the north, they probably pass up along the sea coast of Delaware, and closer observation should discover them more frequently than has yet been done. I saw two Laughing Gulls May 20, 1907, flying northward at Indian River Inlet. My two companions, native fishermen, were not familiar with them as birds usually to be seen in that locality.

4. FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*).—On May 14, 1905, I shot a female Forster's Tern as it sat on a sand-bar in Indian River Bay near the Inlet. Another bird of apparently the same species and numbers of Least Sandpipers were feeding together at the time.

5. AMERICAN MERGANSER (*Merganser americanus*).—Presumably a rather abundant winter resident. I have noted several seen May 8, 1906, flying up the coast at Rehoboth, and two birds near Ocean View May 21, 1907.

6. RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK (*Anas obscura rubripes*).—I have

a specimen shot near Odessa about November, 1898. Another was shot May 13, 1905, on Indian River Bay, but it was a cripple, probably gun-shot in the early spring. The gunners of Indian River country recognize the distinction in the two Black Ducks. They state that the "Nigger" Black Duck, as they style it, is the smaller and frequently nests with them, while the larger bird which they call "Red-Paddle" never breeds thereabouts.

7. TRUMPETER SWAN (*Olor buccinator*).— In Bulletin No. 26, of the Biological Survey, page 86, Mr. Cooke states: "During its migrations it occasionally strays to the Atlantic slope," and brackets a record (November 9, 1886, Lincoln, Del.).

8. PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Actodromas maculata*).— There is a specimen in the Bush collection at Wilmington taken in the State several years ago, about 1878. Probably occurs at the present time as a spring and fall migrant.

9. HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa hamastica*).— On May 8, 1906, I saw a pair of these birds on a marsh a mile north of Rehoboth. I have heard gunners occasionally speak of seeing "Marlin" but have found no specimen in any collection.

10. AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER (*Hamatopus palliatus*).— Seemingly rare at the present time. I recently saw a handsome mounted specimen in a small collection of birds near Wilmington. This bird had been shot in early summer of 1862 at or near Port Penn, on the Delaware River, about 20 miles south of Wilmington. I have no recent record.

11. AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*).— Mr. Oberholser has called my attention to a Delaware record for this bird in the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum', Vol. I, p. 198, 1874. No date is given for the capture. A black hawk was caught in a steel trap near Stanton, in the northern end of the State, on February 7, 1902, and another was taken in a similar manner near the same place "at an earlier date." Both these birds are preserved.

12. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Helminthophila chrysoptera*).— Mr. Lyman, near Wilmington, has a male taken May 13, 1900. Presumably they are regular spring and fall migrants.

13. CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Geothlypis agilis*).— Probably not uncommon as a fall migrant. I usually see them more or less.

abundant near my home, three miles north of the Delaware State line, during September and early October. I saw two near Delaware City September 3, 1906.

14. WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*).— This bird of course long ago disappeared as the country became settled. It was undoubtedly abundant during at least the first half of the seventeen hundreds along the fresh water streams of the upper portion of the State. Hesselius, the Swedish preacher, relates the sport to be had shooting the entire flock from trees, by moonlight, during his pastorate at Wilmington, from 1712 to 1724.

15. PASSENGER PIGEON (*Ectopistes migratorius*).— Like the Wild Turkey, but at a later date, the Wild Pigeon has gone from Delaware. Pastor Hesselius records their abundance previous to 1724, and down to 1870 or a little later, I am advised, by the older inhabitants, they were not uncommon in the fall and early spring. There have been quite recent reports of the appearance of this bird in the State, but none sufficiently reliable to record.

Since preparing the original 'List' additional notes have been made on the following:

WHISTLING SWAN (*Olor columbianus*).— "Swans" are reported as not rare, but seldom shot, about Indian River Inlet. One was taken late in the winter (February ?), 1906, probably this species.

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*).— I have found two small colonies of these birds; one, said to be of long standing, was visited in 1906. At least ten or twelve pairs of birds were nesting, but as wood-choppers were then nearly completing the destruction of all large timber, future nesting there was improbable. A second colony was visited in 1906 and 1907, about ten miles south of Wilmington. On both occasions I estimated there were at least 25 occupied nests, by actual count 52 nests,— as many as 16 nests on one large spreading oak. Several nests of this colony were in the tops of trees, and as they were occupied before the leaves had formed, they were plainly visible at a distance of nearly one mile. I visited this colony April 29, 1906; several nests contained eggs; a set of 4 were perfectly fresh, but there was evidence that many of these nests had been robbed at an earlier date. April 20, 1907, old birds were on nests. April 28, 1907, they were observed to be

feeding young. A severe rain-storm in early May destroyed a large number of the young after they were able to crawl around the tree-tops.

AMERICAN EGRET (*Herodias egretta*).—There are several recent records. In place of "straggler," as previously recorded, they appear to be rather common in midsummer and may breed occasionally. Mr. Hensel, late of near Stanton, and a close observer, believed a few formerly bred in New Castle County, and I have been so informed by others but have no positive record.

RUFFED GROUSE (*Bonasa umbellus*).—Hesselius refers to this bird as abundant in his day. The old residents of northern New Castle County tell me that up to about 1865 or 1870 they were "rather common" in suitable localities,—Ashland, Mt. Cuba, and on the rough, rocky, wooded hill slopes of the Brandywine and Red Clay Creeks.

AMERICAN BARN OWL (*Strix pratincola*).—In suitable localities, near large marshes, this owl seems to be rather abundant.

ACADIAN OWL (*Nyctala acadica*).—Mr. Geo. Hensel had three specimens taken near Stanton; one during the winter of 1906–07, the others earlier.

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Guiraca cærulea*).—Mr. Hensel had a mounted male bird, shot several years ago near Delaware City, from a bunch of three or four. I saw a male by the roadside near Lewes on May 7, 1906, and I believe they are not rare in the lower end of the State.

SUMMER Tanager (*Piranga rubra*).—I found a mounted specimen in the Hensel collection shot several years ago near Stanton. Mr. Hensel believes they nested in that locality, which is well up to the northern end of New Castle County.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans* ?).—"May breed occasionally" was formerly stated: Mr. Hensel told me that two pairs nested in a hedge by the roadside near Delaware City in 1862. My own records are all for September, October and November of various years.

To complete the record I include four introduced species:

1. "ENGLISH" PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus* ?).—Several pairs were purchased and distributed over the State, a few years ago, by the Delaware Game Protective Association, but it is believed they have not survived.

2. EUROPEAN SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*).—In the U. S. Agricultural Report for 1853 is an account of an importation of these birds liberated near Wilmington, by a Mr. John Gorgas, who believed that in the following summer they were becoming settled. There is no recent reference to this bird.

3. STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—A male bird was shot near Odessa, about 1901, from a flock that was seen several times.

4. HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).—A pestiferous nuisance everywhere.

In the 'List' as issued it was stated that no hemlocks had been observed in Delaware. Later I found a few growing five to six miles west of Wilmington on Red Clay Creek and I have recently been informed that Dr. Chas. S. Sargent, in 'The Sylvia of North America,' Vol. XII, p. 64, states that "Southward it ranges through the Northern States to New Castle County in Delaware."

From the foregoing notes and additional evidence, I am led to believe there was good grounds for the statement made in the 'Preliminary List,' to the effect, that the broad waters of the Delaware Bay, acting as a barrier, may explain the appearance of certain birds, much further to the north in Delaware than they are found in New Jersey and on up the Atlantic coast. The Mockingbird was noted as a case in point, and as now appears we can add the Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler and Brown-headed Nuthatch.

These birds are all regular summer residents in southern Delaware, and, with the exception of the Yellow-throated Warbler and Brown-headed Nuthatch, are found well up into the central part of the State or beyond, considerably above the latitude of Cape May, N. J.; while in New Jersey I believe every one is extremely rare and, in later years at least, are not found in New Jersey and northward except as stragglers.

The following notes have been made since the above record was read at the Annual meeting of the American Ornithologists Union, Dec. 12, 1907:

16. HOODED MERGANSER (*Lophodytes cucullatus*).—I saw four of these birds on the Bay near Lewes, Dec. 29, 1907.

IPSWICH SPARROW (*Passerculus princeps*).—Two were observed back of the sand dunes near Lewes Dec. 29, 1907, and on the following day Dr. Spencer Trotter of Philadelphia, Penn., saw twelve or more in the same locality, four of which were shot.

## SUMMARY.

Previously recorded . . . . .	211 species
Now recorded . . . . .	16 "
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Total native species recorded . . . . .	227 "
Introduced species recorded . . . . .	4 "

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 THE CASE OF *STRIX* VS. *ALUCO*.

BY J. A. ALLEN.

THE proper type of the Linnæan genus *Strix* has repeatedly been under discussion, the last time, so far as I am aware, by the late Dr. Coues in 'The Auk' for January, 1900 (XVII, pp. 65, 66), where he says: "This is a case on which the last word does not appear to have been said. . . . It involves not only two generic, but also two family names."

It had previously been discussed in 'The Ibis' by Salvin,<sup>1</sup> Sharpe,<sup>2</sup> and Newton,<sup>3</sup> and also by Newton<sup>4</sup> in his edition of Yarrell, and in his 'Dictionary of Birds' (1894, p. 673), and by Coues in the fourth (1884) edition of his 'Key' (p. 500, 508). Newton and Coues reached the same conclusions, which were in opposition to the view almost universally accepted by other ornithologists.

The commonly recognized type of *Strix* is *Strix flammea* Linn. 1766. The genus *Strix*, however, was founded by Linnæus in 1758, but at that date did not include *Strix flammea*, which was

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<sup>1</sup> Ibis, 1875, pp. 66, 67, footnote.

<sup>2</sup> Contributions to a History of the *Accipitres*. The Genus *Strix* of Linnæus, and its Type. Ibis, 1875, pp. 324-328.

<sup>3</sup> Ibis, 1876, pp. 94-104.

<sup>4</sup> Yarrell's British Birds, ed. 4, I, 1872, pp. 146, 150, 194, 198.