

88. *Tringa nebularia* (Gunner). GREENSHANK.— In appearance this bird reminded me much of our Lesser Yellowlegs. It was seen but once, five birds being found on April 28 feeding in an inch or so of water in an open field at the edge of the lake.

89. *Larus fuscus fuscus* L. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.— On March 10 twenty birds were seen feeding along the ocean beach at low tide. This was my only record for the occurrence of this species.

90. *Larus argentatus* L. HERRING GULL.— This bird was seen but once, some twenty of them being found on December 26 feeding along the ocean beach.

NOTES ON BIRDS OF THE CHICAGO AREA AND ITS IMMEDIATE VICINITY.

BY C. W. G. EIFRIG.

WHILE using the Christmas vacation of 1918-19 to transcribe an accumulated mass of bird notes from my "day book" into my "ledger," *i. e.*, entering them under the names of the species, an intention of several years standing was strengthened into action, namely, to write up some interesting or striking experiences with and observations of birds and to record several rare occurrences. In the latter phase of the work, my friend and companion on many trips, Mr. H. L. Stoddard of the Harris Public School Extension of Field Museum, now in France, has lately rendered yeoman service by recording the seeing or taking of such rare species as the Long-tailed Jaeger, Black Rail, Roseate Tern, *Picoides arcticus*, Hoary Redpoll, Evening Grosbeak, Prairie Warbler and others (Auk, Vols. XXXIII and XXXIV). This present writing, then, is in part at least a continuation of his work, with the addition of such material as seems to me to be worthy of record. Many of my trips for years past have been to the Sand Dunes of northwestern Indiana, extending along the south shore of Lake Michigan from Gary on the west — the city made to order — to Michigan City on the east, a distance of twenty-five miles, by one to two miles wide. This is an immensely interesting region for various classes of nature

lovers and nature students, to which frequent trips, one may almost say pilgrimages, are made by such varied organizations as the Geographic Society of Chicago, the Ornithological Society, the Prairie Club, the Friends of Our Native Landscape, and numerous classes in geography, geology, botany, zoölogy and especially ecology from the local universities and other institutions of learning. A part of this unique region is now proposed to be made into a national park before it falls prey to the further encroachments of steel mills, etc., as at Gary, and all members of the A. O. U. having a chance to aid in advocating this plan should not fail to do so.

Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis. BLACK TERN.—The breeding grounds of this species, the large cattail swamps, are being sadly encroached upon by filling in and draining, and are replaced by large industrial plants or by fields. This is notably true of two of their once greatest breeding grounds in the country, the Calumet marshes, in the southern part of Chicago, around Lake Calumet and Wolf and Hyde Lakes, and the other, the famous Worth region, now drained by a large drainage canal. The fields now started there, and the chemical works going up in their place, with their pestilential effluvia and smoke, may be a necessity, but one hates to see this change. Still, we have seen hundreds of these Terns on Lake Calumet, September 4, 1915, and at Millers, Indiana, August 30, 1916, where they were diving into the schools of minnows near the water's edge of Lake Michigan, flying parallel with it, a few yards from shore. While most of the adults are then in their winter plumage, several were seen in the deep black nuptial dress.

Sterna caspia. CASPIAN TERN.—This large Tern may be seen on certain days during migration in large numbers over the lagoons in Jackson and Lincoln Parks, and in the places named under the preceding species. When there is a strong east wind, Lake Calumet, in the southern part of the city, is alive with them, as well as with the Common, Forster's, and Black Terns, and the Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls. This also holds good for the south end of Lake Michigan.

Sterna forsteri. FORSTER'S TERN.—In the large Tern flocks along the lake shore near Millers, this species often predominates in number. On the wing it can be told from *Sterna hirundo* by its larger size and whiter, more silvery appearance, especially on the lower parts. August 30, 1916, we saw about 200 near Millers, Lake County, Indiana.

Phalacrocorax auritus auritus. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—This species, still breeding along the Illinois River, in the central part of the state, is not common here. A female in my collection was shot here, on the lake, October 16, 1917.

Mareca penelope. EUROPEAN WIDGEON.—I have in my collection a male bird of this species which I obtained from Mr. K. W. Kahmann, a

Chicago taxidermist. Unfortunately he did not record nor remember the place and date of its capture, but was positive that it had been taken near Chicago.

Somateria spectabilis. KING EIDER.— On November 29, 1917, six or seven of this species were shot out of a flock of about thirty, off the Municipal Pier. They were all birds of the year, and one of them is now in my collection. Woodruff's 'Birds of the Chicago Area,' 1907, does not give it.

Chen caerulescens. BLUE GOOSE.— Stoddard saw a flock of about forty of them, together with six Snow Geese (probably *C. h. hyperboreus*), on the lake shore near Gary, October 21, 1916, from which he took a fine adult male Blue Goose. He thinks they are probably rather common on certain days during the fall migration at the south end of the lake.

Branta canadensis. CANADA GOOSE.— While the wedge-formed battalions and the martial honking of this migrant are by no means uncommon here, I would like to record the red-letter day for numbers, that has been unique in my experience here or in Canada or elsewhere. It was October 23, 1917. We had the first snow of the season, the prelude to that memorably severe winter; the atmosphere was thick, there was no sun. At 1 o'clock in the afternoon a flock of from 500-1000 appeared from the west; apparently right over my house in River Forest, a suburb of Chicago, they seemed to become bewildered as to the direction of their course, and after loud consultation they turned north, where they seemed to settle in a prairie about a mile from here. At 4.30 o'clock 30 flocks were seen, each wedge-shaped and touching here and there; at 7 o'clock the air was again full of cries of large numbers, as also at 10 o'clock P.M. Whether any, and if so how many passed while I was in the class room, I do not know.

Some winters a flock remains in the vicinity, spending the day out on the edge of the ice in the lake, and the night inland on some cornfield of the previous season. Thus, January 23, 1916, about 200 were flying south. March 18, 1916, Stoddard and I came upon what seemed a convention or debating club of about forty of them. They were on the edge of the ice in the lake near Millers, and were all talking at once at the top of their voices. As the ice is then piled up high by the winter's storms, on the south end of the lake, we could not get within a quarter of a mile to them, and they seemed to know it, and kept right on. On April 1, 1916, while in the same place, a flock of thirty came from the south; at first they were in the usual formation; suddenly, as if by command, they straightened out in company line, and then suddenly and simultaneously they dropped to the lake, head first, as if they wanted to dive to the bottom. It was a most remarkable sight; the quickness and precision of the movements were baffling.

Nycticorax nycticorax naevius. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.— This species must find it hard to hold its own against the army of boys and men with shooting irons pouring out from the great city into the sur-

rounding country on certain days. But they seem to be able to do so. In addition to the Addison heronry, which I reported several years ago, I found another large and flourishing one at Orland, about twenty miles southwest of the city. On May 19, 1917, there were from 150 to 200 nests in it, all 30-40 feet up in oak trees; some contained young recently hatched, others eggs on the point of hatching, or fresh. Two sets of five were seen. This in spite of the fact that this spring was the coldest one known in many years hereabouts there being frosts till the end of May, and slight ones up to June 16. May 30, 1914, I also saw a flock of eight at Elk Grove, in a swampy wooded tract, which probably had their nests near by.

Grus mexicana. SANDHILL CRANE.—A friend of mine at Crete, about thirty miles south of here, who is familiar with this species from a twenty years' residence in Texas, reported six flying over his village, September 11, 1915. Stoddard, who lived among them in Florida, saw three at Dune Park, April 7, 1917.

Steganopus tricolor. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—Mr. E. W. Nelson, in his 'Birds of Northeastern Illinois,' 1876, says of the status of this species for our area, "Very common summer resident in this vicinity. Found in abundance about damp prairies and on grassy marshes." This has changed for the worse. Its former haunts are now turned into fields and factories. Personally I have seen it twice only, once at Addison, May 12, 1910, and the other time at Hyde Lake, May 31, 1912. In the still extensive marshes about this latter place a small company of them still nests nearly every year. Nests with eggs have in the last years been found by Stoddard, Abbott, and Mr. W. D. Richardson.

Tringa canutus. KNOT.—Probably less rare than supposed in migration. Stoddard took a male in breeding plumage near Millers, Ind., June 2, 1917, others September 2, 1916. I collected one out of a flock of Sanderlings on the beach near Millers, September 25, 1916.

Pisobia bairdi. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.—A rare migrant. Stoddard took one at Dune Park, Porter County, Indiana, August 23, 1916, and two near Millers, September 2, 1916.

Tryngites subruficollis. BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER.—Another rare migrant. Stoddard took one at Millers, August 30, 1916.—Perhaps these rare Sandpipers would turn out to be less rare, if one could patrol the beach from Gary to Dune Park daily during migration.

Bartramia longicauda. UPLAND PLOVER.—Early in May, 1917, my son told me of a bird acting strangely near their baseball diamond, a few rods from the house. I took it to be a Killdeer, and paid no attention to it. On the 11th one of the students told me of having found a nest in the grass near my house, containing four large eggs. On the 14th I got him to show it to me, and imagine my surprise when I found it to be the nest of this species. I had seen none of the birds there all spring, but here were the eggs. Unfortunately a Crow had found them before we came, because

three of the eggs were out of the nest and picked open, only one remaining whole.

Ægialitis meloda. PIPING PLOVER.— While this nimble beach sprite is no longer so plentiful as when Mr. Nelson wrote, who counted thirty breeding pairs within two miles along the beach north of the city, it has not suffered itself to be brushed aside entirely. In a walk along the beach from Millers to Mineral Springs, Indiana, a distance of twelve miles, one may see two or three pair of these diminutive Plovers, as on April 22, 1917.

Bonasa umbellus umbellus. RUFFED GROUSE.— As is to be expected, this handsome forest bird has vanished from all its former haunts near the metropolis. Only in the Dunes it has been able to hold out. Even here its hold is rendered precarious by hunters and more so by the Great Horned Owl. March 11, 1916, I flushed three at Mineral Springs, where one may usually see one or two in the tamarack swamp, but we have also seen them near Millers. Dr. A. Lewy found the remains of one in a Great Horned Owl's nest.

Cathartes aura septentrionalis. TURKEY VULTURE.— This species is rare here. In nine years I have seen it once only, and that on April 21, 1917, when one passed low over Thatcher's woods, River Forest. Stoddard saw three at Tremont, Indiana, in the Dunes, July 4, 1917.

Circus hudsonius. MARSH HAWK.— This is the commonest Hawk here, with the possibility that in parts of our area the Red-shouldered may be more numerous. The large and small swales in the sand dunes are especially attractive to it, and here one may find five or six nests within a mile or two, as Stoddard has actually done at Mineral Springs. We found a bird here as early as January 6, 1917, and five to six on March 11, 1916. Nests are found the second half of May.

Astur a. atricapillus. GOSHAWK.— There were large flights of birds of this species in the fall of 1915, and again 1916. Mr. Kahmann, the taxidermist, got 30 or 40 to mount each season. One in my collection was taken at Orland, October 28, 1916.

Buteo swainsoni. SWAINSON'S HAWK.— Nelson says of this bird in his list of 1876, "As this species breeds in southern Illinois, it probably also breeds in the northern portion of the state." Woodruff quotes this, but adds no instances of it having been seen or secured. In nine years I have seen only one of what I took to be this Hawk, at Addison. Mr. Kahmann tells me that among the hundreds of Hawks he has mounted, he never received one Swainson's Hawk. Therefore he was much puzzled when, on October 27, 1917, he ran into a migrating flock of fifty or more which were circling about in bewildering fashion. Finally he secured one, which proved to be this species. The rest were all like it. It is now in my collection.

Haliæetus l. leucocephalus. BALD EAGLE.— As late as twenty years ago this species nested regularly in the Dunes, as Woodruff states, but does so no longer. Now and then, however, they seem to return as if to once

more survey their ancient realm. Stoddard saw one at Millers, October 15, 1916; ten days later, on the 25th, one passed over our campus here in River Forest, and June 17, 1917, Mr. W. D. Richardson saw three at Mineral Springs, Porter County, Indiana, in the dune country.

Falco sparverius sparverius. SPARROW HAWK.—This handsome little falcon is by no means common here, either as migrant or summer resident. In the territory that I visit I know of only three or four breeding pairs, one in some big elms on the banks of the Desplaines River, and two pair at Schaumburg, Cook County, where the parent pair nests year after year in a small wooden pinnacle or turret over a buttress in the Lutheran church, and the other in a chimney near by. March 25, 1911, I saw one dart around among the flocks of *Calcarius lapponicus*, then in the fields at Addison, causing a great panic among them, but as long as I watched he did not catch any.

Aluco pratincola. BARN OWL.—Very rare here. To the one recorded by Mr. Stoddard (Auk, Vol. XXXIII, p. 328), I can add another. It was a male bird, shot at Orland, September 29, 1917, and sent to me.

Asio wilsonianus. LONG-EARED OWL.—This seems to be almost as rare as the preceding species. In the fall of 1916 I had an interesting experience with a pair, or at least two of them. November 29, while out with several boys in "Northwood," a large tract of park-like real estate,, we found one in a Norway spruce. Judging from the number of pellets below, it or they, as it turned out, must have been there for some time. It was there again, on the same limb, on December 3. On the 17th there were two, also on the 20th, one always on the same limb. I asked every visitor to my house, whether ornithologically inclined or not, whether he or she would like to interview a pair of Owls, and, usually getting an affirmative answer, would take them to that spruce, it being near my home, and the birds were always there, allowing close inspection. Once I showed them to some boys, and next time I came there they were gone. I gathered what pellets remained after the snow was gone, sent them to the Bureau of Biological Survey at Washington, whence I learned that they contained the remains of thirty meadow mice, one white-footed mouse, and two shrews.

Strix varia varia. BARRED OWL.—This seems to be rarer than the preceding species. In nine years only one has come to my notice. This was shot in the village of River Forest, August 6, 1915, by a dairyman, who objected to it coming to his poultry yard for several days in succession, where it was critically eyeing his chickens.

Cryptoglaux a. acadica. SAW-WHET OWL.—Another rare species. Saw one only in nine years, and the manner of seeing it was somewhat unusual. While with some boys in what I call "Waller's Park," now called "Northwoods," near my home, an Italian workman came along who wanted to throw a bird, whose head he had wrung off, into a fire. I asked him for it, and it turned out to be this Owl. He said he had caught it with his hands in a juniper bush near his house, because it disturbed his

sleep at night by its calls. He said there were more around, but close search by us failed to reveal them. Stoddard has taken it twice in the Dunes.

Bubo virginianus virginianus. GREAT HORNED OWL.—In addition to the records given by Mr. Stoddard (Auk, XXXIII, p. 329), I would add these: February 25, 1917, he found a nest at Dune Park, about 30 feet up in a Banksian pine, in an old Crow's nest, containing two eggs; March 4 there were three, which are now in my collection. In 1918 another one was found by Dr. A. Lewy at about the same place and time, containing two eggs. This was then photographed in all its phases—eggs, young, the female on the nest and flying off—by Mr. W. D. Richardson. The female would fly off when the pine, which contained the old Crow's nest, was touched, but did not mind the closest kind of approach from the neighboring pines, from which the pictures were taken.

Nyctea nyctea. SNOWY OWL.—Every year I hear of two or three occurrences of this species. March 14, 1915, one was seen at Proviso in this township; November 10 of the same year one was taken at Huntley, which I saw after it had been mounted.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—A number of these occasionally winter in the Dunes, when the acorn crop is large. November 30 last I saw fifteen there, near Millers; December 21, however, only one or two, and on the 27th, two.

Colaptes auratus luteus. NORTHERN FLICKER.—For four years a pair has nested in an electric wire post at the rear of my garden. I think it is the same pair, because the first or second Flicker I see about our house in the spring usually flies directly to the hole in that pole. It is about four feet above ground. June 19, 1917, I witnessed an amusing incident of Flicker family life. While working in the garden within a few yards of the nest, the male flew to the entrance, rather noisily, as if in great glee, whereupon the female, who was inside, darted out at him; her eyes seemed to me to flash anger, and she seemed to scold him fearfully. He hastily withdrew, apparently much abashed and chagrined. December 22, 1917, I saw one still lingering at Riverside, four miles south of here, and February 17, 1917, we saw one at Mineral Springs, in the Dunes.

Antrostomus v. vociferus. WHIP-POOR-WILL.—This species must be called rare here. In nine years I have seen only ten. I believe it is decreasing in numbers over large parts of its range. During visits to western Maryland and other places, where it was formerly common, I have lately not seen or heard one. April 18, 1914, which, by the way, was an unusually early occurrence of it here, I had a unique experience with one in a woods at Whiting, Indiana, near the Illinois state line. There were two there, one of which repeatedly darted at my head.

Chordeiles v. virginianus. NIGHTHAWK.—I have so far not found a breeding pair here, although there are a few such on record. In spring they arrive about May 15 and pass through till the 31st, although in 1912 I saw one May 3, 5, and 9. They seem to me to be extending their

fall migration, however. Wherever I have been so far, in Indiana, Maryland, and Canada, they begin to return about August 12 to 15, winding up with a few stragglers during the first week in September. Of late years, however, I find them later and later, as witness these dates: September 14, 1915, 17, 1917, 22, 1916; October 4, 1914, 10, 1917; 5 and 9, 1918; I saw five each time. Two or three years ago Mr. Kahmann, who knows birds well, told me of having seen a flock of Nighthawks on, I think he said, October 29. I did not believe it then, but I believe it now.

Corvus b. brachyrhynchos. CROW.—It has often seemed to us that there is a crossing of migration routes on the south end of Lake Michigan. This can best be followed in the case of migrating Crows, because their flocks are so conspicuous. In fall, many coming along the west shore of the lake seem to be turning southeastward, and those coming along the east shore, southwestward. In the spring this is, of course, reversed.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.—This northwesterly species still breeds here, even if in steadily diminishing numbers. Colonies are found in the swamp and lake region on either side of the Indiana-Illinois state line, in the southeastern part of Chicago, where in June, 1917, ten to twenty pair were found. I found several pairs in a swamp near Elk Grove, May 30, 1914, which was their last nesting there, because the following summer the swamp was drained and all vestige of its former bird fauna, which included Pied-billed Grebes, Coots, Black Terns, Blue-winged Teal, King Rails, Marsh Wrens, etc., disappeared. There is also a colony in Butler's Lake, near Libertyville. Two or three years ago Stoddard told me about a few pairs in a small slough near 77th Street, Chicago, a site on which houses were built the next year.

Molothrus ater ater. COWBIRD.—

Sturnella magna argutula. MEADOWLARK.—I have repeatedly found nests of the Meadowlark near my house, which is on the edge of the prairie, with one or more eggs of the Cowbird, and one or more or all eggs of the rightful owner apparently rolled out. An example of this was one found June 24, 1917, with two Cowbird eggs inside and four Meadowlark eggs outside. The Cowbird is a decided nuisance in the Dunes, where hundreds may be seen prowling around in nesting time. The Meadowlark of this section seems to be the small southern variety *argutula*, not the large-sized *magna* of the East, as Mr. H. K. Coale has pointed out.

Icterus spurius. ORCHARD ORIOLE.—I have never seen this species here, but it occurs, with a curious, localized distribution. Mr. Edward R. Ford finds it in one or two places along the Drainage Canal, near Willow Springs, and where it flows out of Lake Michigan, at Evanston, but nowhere else.¹

Icterus galbula. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—In June, 1918, Mr. G. Friedrich, a member of the Chicago Ornithological Society, had under

¹The past summer I found the only pair in my ten years residence here. They were nesting at Cary on the Fox River.

observation the building of a nest of this species. But, however hard and long he watched, he could never see the female. After the nest was finished and the complement of eggs laid, the nest was destroyed by an accident, and then he took one of the two birds in male plumage. Upon skinning and sexing it he found to his surprise that it was a female. Mr. Kahmann also saw the skinned bird, and he corroborates this. He tells me that he once before found the same thing. Mr. Friedrich kindly gave the skin to me. While the bird is not as brilliantly plumaged as some old males, it is more so than some young males I have seen, and is, at any rate, not in the plumage of the female at all.

Hesperiphona v. vespertina. EVENING GROSBEEK.— We have found this species to be rather numerous, if only locally so, during the last three winters, in the Sand Dunes of northwestern Indiana. This has been reported by Stoddard (Auk, Vols. XXVIII and XXXIV). In the phenomenally cold spring of 1917 several were seen in Jackson Park, Chicago, as late as May 15, and Mr. H. K. Coale saw some as late as the 21st, if I remember correctly. They are keeping this up during the present winter. November 30, 1918, I saw about eighteen near Millers, the flock being made up of males and females. They were industriously gleaning the buds of oak trees, but the stomach contents of three, which I sent to the Biological Survey at Washington, were reported as being almost entirely made up of the seeds of some species of dogwood (*Cornus*).— December 21 last, Mr. C. J. Hunt and I saw about fifty to sixty, one flock again industriously budding, another flying over. They have a remarkably swift and direct flight, something like some of the *Limicolae*, while the flocks are very compact. On the 27th we were there again, but we saw only four, having missed the main flock. They feed on the berries or seeds of fragrant sumac (*Rhus odorata*), and poison sumac (*R. toxicodendron*) and probably others, besides the *Cornus* mentioned above.

Pinicola enucleator leucura. PINE GROSBEEK.— So far as I know this northern winter visitant has not been seen here for years past. It was therefore with some pleasure that I saw two near Millers, November 30, 1918, one of which was taken.

Carpodacus p. purpureus. PURPLE FINCH.— This species is strangely rare here, and as erratic in its coming and going as can be. I have seen it seven times only in nine years, as follows: January 6, 1917, one only in the tamarack swamp at Mineral Springs in the Dunes; February 7, 1912, one all alone in the large Addison woods; April 1, 1916, two near Millers; May 2 and 3, 1916, a flock of ten in "Waller's Park," near my home; October 6 and 9, 1916, flocks of six at La Grange and Crete.

Acanthis l. linaria. REDPOLL.— Besides the large numbers we have seen in the Dunes, reported by Mr. Stoddard, I have seen many here at River Forest in the fall and winter of 1916-17, from November 15 to March 9. December 27, 1918, I again saw about twenty-five near Millers.

Calcarius l. lapponicus. LAPLAND LONGSPUR.— After much searching for this species in various parts of our area, I find them rare in most

places in the proper season, but Addison, where I first made their acquaintance, continues to be the paradise for them that I called it in an article in 'The Auk,' Vol. XXX, p. 238. To the bare, wind-swept fields around the old windmill they still come by the hundred or thousand every season. April 8, 1916, we found them there in great numbers, and on a day evidently to their liking. It was 33°, dark, and a strong northerly gale was blowing so hard as to make walking and seeing difficult. Yet in spite of that, or probably because of it, they seemed to be enjoying themselves, chasing each other and singing in a general frolic. Many males were in nearly their full nuptial dress. In specimens taken at this time of the year Mr. Stoddard and I have repeatedly found numbers of pinfeathers on head and neck, which would indicate that this acquisition of the nuptial coloring is not entirely due to abrasion, but wholly or in part to moulting. It has, after much observation of them, always seemed strange to me that the high colors of their nuptial plumage should by abrasion appear so suddenly and so symmetrically. These pinfeathers show that it is not due to abrasion only, if at all.

Passerherbulus h. henslowi. HENSLOW'S SPARROW.— Given its weedy pastures, preferably with water near by, this queer Sparrow may be met with in all parts of this region. It is most common in the large swale at Mineral Springs, where the Marsh Hawk is found in numbers.

Passerherbulus lecontei. LECONTE'S SPARROW.— A rare migrant and still rarer breeder. Stoddard took one October 10, 1916, and Mr. E. R. Ford found a nest, as probably reported elsewhere.

Passerherbulus n. nelsoni. NELSON'S SPARROW.— Since the taking of two specimens at Addison, August 31, 1910, and September 16, 1911, previously reported, I have found no more.

Spizella p. passerina. CHIPPING SPARROW.— Another species strangely rare here. As a breeder it is almost absent. The last two or three years, however, a pair or two bred near my house; last year a nest was in an Austrian pine on my lawn, five feet up, where the incubating female almost allowed one to touch her.

Junco h. hyemalis. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.— In the exceptionally cold spring of 1917 members of this species were seen unusually late. I saw several May 11, and Dr. A. Lewy, a member of the Chicago Ornithological Society, as late as the 13th and 19th, in Jackson Park, whereas, ordinarily, the last are seen during the last week in April.

Peucæa æstivalis bachmani. BACHMAN'S SPARROW.— Since their appearance here in River Forest, May 9, 1915, when I saw them till July 1, I have seen no more. Dr. A. Lewy, however, saw one in Jackson Park, June, 1918.

Spiza americana. DICKCISSEL.— This species seems to be yearly getting rarer or more erratic or both. In 1916 and 1917 I saw only two pair in each year, and these near my home, in clover fields. In the former year they came June 9, in the latter, June 19. In 1918 I saw none.

Petrochelidon l. lunifrons. CLIFF SWALLOW.— This species seems

to me to be becoming one of the rarest of birds. I have seen none for several years in the Chicago Area and next to none in various other localities visited by me. I hope there is a corresponding increase in their numbers elsewhere, but I am skeptical about it. The large, flourishing colony at Addison, twenty miles west of Chicago, consisting of about fifty pairs, has disappeared.

Iridoprocne bicolor. TREE SWALLOW.

Stelgidopteryx serripennis. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.— June 10, 1915, I saw a pair of each of these species nesting in a dead cottonwood on the top of a dune at Millers. In each case the female looked out of the hole and the male perched as close by as he could. The Tree Swallow was formerly a common summer resident, but is now rare as such, only common in migration. The latter is uncommon here, but becomes abundant just a little south of us. Along the Kankakee River, I saw about thirty, April 28, 1917.

Bombycilla cedrorum. CEDAR WAXWING.— This species is decidedly on the increase in number in several parts of our region, notably in River Forest and the Dunes. The last two years many have been nesting in Waller's Park, now called "Northwoods," here.

Lanius ludovicianus migrans. MIGRANT SHRIKE.— The number of birds of this species is deplorably declining here. When I first moved to River Forest there was a pair nesting near my house yearly, but in the last years I have seen none anywhere. In other regions I find the same condition. There is a pair nesting yearly at Mineral Springs in the Dunes, also at Addison, where it occupies the same hawthorn bush year after year.

Protonotaria citrea. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.— This handsome species is extending its range northward along the Desplaines River. Several years ago it was found nesting at Riverside by Mr. M. O. Schantz, and since then it has been seen twice in River Forest, as on May 31, 1917. On the Kankakee, sixty miles south, it is abundant.

Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.— In the spring of 1917 I did not see a single one of this otherwise so common migrant. Other Warblers, such as the Blackburnian, were almost equally rare. It was that extraordinarily cold spring, when we had frosts till about the middle of June. I have no doubt whatever that there must have been a great mortality that spring among Warblers, Swallows and other purely insectivorous species, as in that memorable spring of 1907, when conditions were similar over a large part of North America.

Dendroica p. palmarum. PALM WARBLER.— In the same spring this species was seen hereabouts till May 31, when five were still in my garden. This Warbler seems to me to be increasing in numbers.

Dendroica discolor. PRAIRIE WARBLER.— A very rare species here. To the one recorded by Mr. Stoddard lately, I can add another, namely, one seen by Dr. A. Lewy at Tremont, in the Dunes, July 19, 1916.

Oporornis formosus. KENTUCKY WARBLER.— Another exceedingly

rare species here. We saw two May 27, 1917, in a tract of moist woods, near where the Desplaines River and Drainage Canal meet.

Mimus p. polyglottos. MOCKINGBIRD.—Since the one we saw near my house May 18, 1916, I have seen no more, nor have I heard of others having seen them.

Cistothorus stellaris. SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.—What may almost be called a nesting colony of them is located at Mineral Springs, in the Dunes, in the same large swale where the Marsh Hawk and Henslow's Sparrow are common. May 20, 1916, I saw about fifty there; their song resembles the syllables *psit tsit tsit*, ending in a sharp, rapid trill, which sounds like the knocking together of pebbles. The Prairie Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris iliacus*) is abundant in all larger sloughs and ponds.

Sitta carolinensis carolinensis. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—This species seems decidedly on the decrease in numbers. The last two or three years I have seen them two or three times only each year.

Bæolophus bicolor. TUFTED TITMOUSE.—This Carolinian species is common enough 40-50 miles south of Chicago, but nearer the city it is rare. It seems to make short, rambling flights north of its breeding range in winter. I have seen it in River Forest, Riverside, Cary on the Fox River, and Millers, Indiana.

Penthestes a. atricapillus. CHICKADEE.—At Mineral Springs, Indiana, I have repeatedly seen this species, as well as *Dryobates pubescens medianus*, attacking the cattail stalks of the previous season, which probably contained larvæ of some kind.

Regulus c. calendula. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.—In the cold spring of 1917 this species stayed here in numbers until May 17, and their fine song could be heard daily. The Golden-crowned stayed about as late too.

Sialia s. sialis. BLUEBIRD.—This most attractive member of our avifauna I have found nowhere so abundant as, I am happy to say, near my home in River Forest. And this both as breeder or migrant. A nesting box in my garden has been occupied every year since put up, and one or two broods raised. In migration there are sometimes as many as twenty-five of them in my garden alone, which is only 100 by 100 feet, but contains two bird baths. Only at Cumberland, Maryland, have I ever found them so abundant during migration as here.