

Rather uncommon. The few that were observed seemed similar to the ordinary Carolina Wren in every way. A nest with five eggs was found on May 8.

144. **Thryomanes bewicki cryptus.** TEXAS WREN.—Common. This is typically a bird of the prickly pear. It was never seen very far from this plant but one nest was found in a mesquite bush. This nest was unusual in several respects. In the first place it was obviously not built by the Wrens as it was entirely different from the regular type of structure this bird makes. Secondly when found by Dr. Cordier on May 6, it contained three eggs of the Red-eyed Cowbird and none of the Wren's although the female Wren was sitting close. The next day all three eggs hatched and two days later the nest and young were destroyed by a skunk. The damaged nest was then collected. This forms the first record of this bird being parasitized by the Red-eyed Cowbird.

145. **Baeolophus atricristatus sennetti.** SENNETT'S TITMOUSE.—Fairly common, nesting largely in holes in fence posts and stumps. Like the Cactus Wren, this bird is an early breeder and full grown young were seen on the wing by the middle of May.

146. **Auriparus flaviceps flaviceps.** VERDIN.—Fairly common. This little bird looks and acts more like a Kinglet than a Titmouse although it is classed with the latter. The only notes heard were little *tsip* sounds. Five nests were found, three of them empty, one with four eggs, and one with four eggs of the Verdin and one of the Dwarf Cowbird. The entrance to the last nest had been considerably enlarged, probably by the Cowbird when laying in the nest. The Verdin has never before been recorded as a victim of the Dwarf Cowbird (or of any Cowbird).

147. **Polioptila caerulea caerulea.** BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—Uncommon. Observed on only one occasion.

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## SOME NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE BRANCHPORT, N. Y. REGION, 1923.

BY VERDI BURTCHE.

Plate XXX.

**Gavia stellata.** RED-THROATED LOON.—I saw one of these birds in the winter plumage on the east branch of Lake Keuka, April 22, and another one in company with several Common Loons on the west branch near Branchport May 13. I have but one previous record of this Loon for this locality.

**Sterna caspia imperator.** COUES' CASPIAN TERN.—Two Caspian Terns were here on the lake the morning of May 13, but left soon and were

not seen again. No more were seen until June 29, when there were three out on the sand bar nearly all day. One of these was an immature bird with white through the center of its crown.

**Sterna hirundo.** COMMON TERN.—The Common Tern seems to increase in numbers with us each year. This year the first came April 26, ten of them. No more were seen until May 13, when three arrived and then every day their numbers increased. May 16 the flock must have numbered at least fifty and was the largest flock that I ever saw here and many were still here the 19th. None were seen afterwards. September 16, a single Common Tern was seen perched on a water-logged post out in the lake. It was there for an hour or more and is my first fall record of the Common Tern at Branchport.

**Phalacrocorax dilophus.** DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—May 13, I was watching a Loon that was flying over the lake, when two large, nearly black birds came flying along behind it. They were about the same size as the Loon and their manner of flight was much the same but their wings were broader and their necks shorter. I felt sure that they were Double-crested Cormorants. An hour later I met Dr. Eaton who confirmed my opinion and told me that he had seen two of these Cormorants, a few days before in Seneca Lake at Geneva, N. Y.

October 18, a Double-crested Cormorant came up the lake from the south and lit in "the basin" and dived. Soon afterwards it flew past me and lit out in the lake. I saw it once more when it flew north.

**Marila valisineria.** CANVASBACK.—Canvasbacks have been rather rare at the Branchport end of Lake Keuka for the past several years so I was rather surprised when eleven of them dropped in here December 20. The next day another small flock came in and a gunner got eleven of them, but more kept coming, the gunners taking heavy toll as long as the season was open and for a few days after. January 21, there were more than 1000 Canvasbacks here.

The night of February 4, the end of the lake froze over, driving the Ducks down the lake about two miles to open water. A week later the lake was completely frozen over, except the channel through the bar. This channel was cut through the sand bar that separates the harbor from the lake proper many years ago and it never freezes over. The morning of February 13, about 250 Canvasbacks had gathered in this channel and I feared a repetition of the disaster of February, 1912, when many Canvasbacks died from starvation in this same opening (Bird-Lore, Vol. XX, p. 410), so I interested some farmers and sportsmen who brought me barley and buckwheat, and I procured a lot of the "tailings" consisting of broken grains, weed seeds etc., from the local grain elevator and the grist mill. Every morning I took about a bushel of this down and scattered it in the water. Before many days the Ducks were watching for me and when they saw me coming they would swim towards me, then away a little while I scattered the feed. In a few days I was able to get within 25 or 30 feet of them when they were crowding and diving for the feed and I got many excellent photographs of them. [Pl. XXX.]

February 10, I heard that a young lad had shot a Canvasback and that it had a band on its leg. I procured the band, sent it to the U. S. Biological Survey and learned that it had been placed on a Canvasback only five days before by Dr. A. A. Allen at Ithaca, N. Y. March 4, the weather turned warm, the ice became unsafe so I was forced to discontinue the feeding, but there were soon large areas of open water and the birds were able to take care of themselves. Canvasbacks were here in numbers continually up to April 8 and had all left April 10. May 4, I was wading in the marsh and flushed a pair of Canvasbacks, male and female, and thought they might remain to nest but they were not seen again.

**Lobipes lobatus.** NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—I saw a Northern Phalarope September 15. It was here several hours in the shallow water four to six feet from the shore and was very busy swimming, twisting and turning about and seemed to be picking a good meal from the surface of the water.

**Gallinago delicata.** WILSON'S SNIPE.—The lake was very low in September and October with the shore line some ten rods from the cat-tails leaving a large area of muddy shore. Two Wilson's Snipe were first noted August 19, and were seen daily at the edge of the cat-tails working in the soft mud. As the water receded they went out on the mud, in the open, with the Kildeers and Least Sandpipers. September 16, I caught one in one of my traps and banded it.

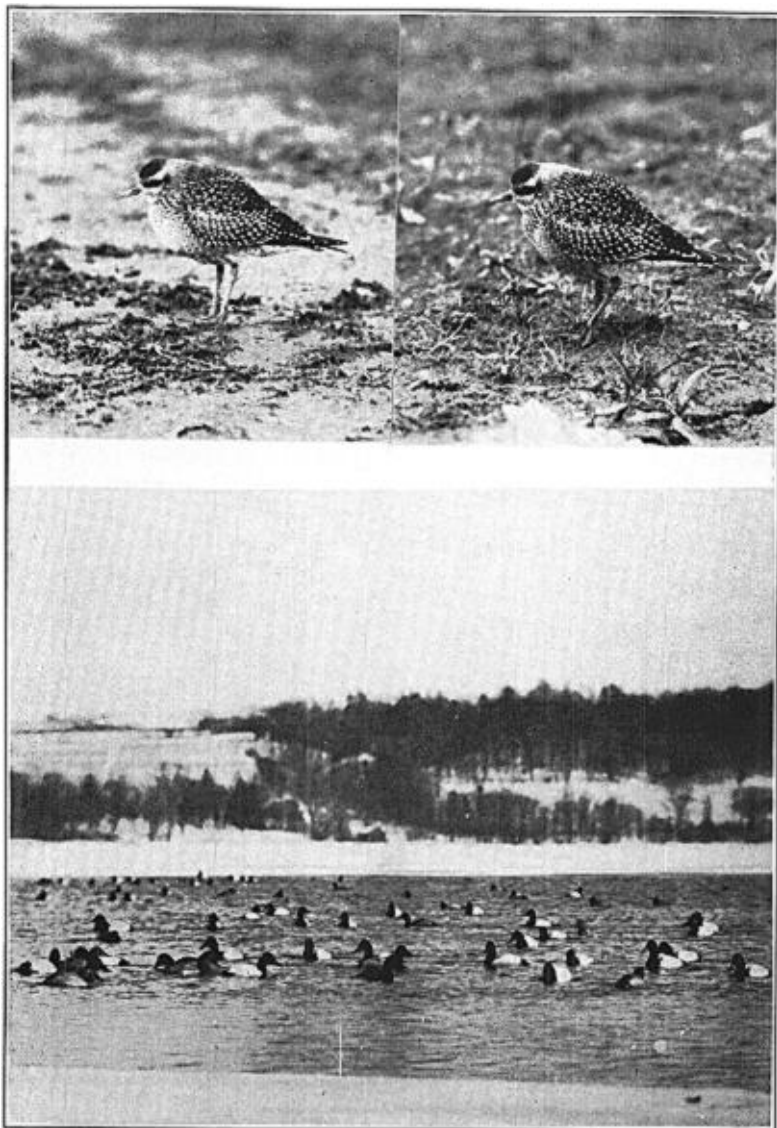
Many times in October and up to November 15, I saw two Snipe way out at the water's edge, at least ten rods from the cat-tails. This seemed unusual to me as I had never before seen a Snipe so far from cover. They were feeding in company with the Kildeers, Pectoral, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers and when I appeared at the edge of the mud would squat and freeze, then as I passed by would fly quickly to cover.

**Micropalama himantopus.** STILT SANDPIPER.—A Stilt Sandpiper came here August 9, and was here until the 12th. I saw it catch and with much effort swallow a small frog, after which it lost all interest in fishing. It walked off a few steps and stood on one foot, all humped up and with eyes closed; quite a contrast to the usual alert Sandpiper pose.

September 8, another one came in with a flock of eight Greater Yellowlegs during a shower and was here all the afternoon.

**Crocethia alba.** SANDERLING.—August 28, a small bunch of Sandpipers came in and lit near me. Among them were two that were new to me; they were small and much whiter than any Sandpiper that I had ever seen. On looking them up I found them to be Sanderlings. They were very active and were around all that day. The next day only one of them was seen and it was more quiet than those of the day before, standing around much of the time and it did not feed. It was still here September 1, and this same one or another one was seen September 8.

**Pluvialis dominica dominica.** GOLDEN PLOVER.—September 12, in the morning I was on the shore to look at my bird traps when I saw a Golden Plover run and hide behind a stump. I walked up to within a



1. TWO VIEWS OF A GOLDEN PLOVER.  
2. CANVAS BACKS ON LAKE KEUKA, N. Y.

few feet of it when it ran along a little way. Following it I found that I could get real close to it each time before it would fly a little. So I went home and brought by camera and got several good pictures of it. It must have just arrived from a long journey for it acted tired. At first I thought that it might have been injured, however it could fly well and when pressed made one flight of about twelve rods. It was still here at 5.30 P. M., when it was more active. It was not seen next morning.

**Loxia leucoptera.** WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—February 4, I came on a flock of about forty White-winged Crossbills in a bunch of hemlocks and maples on a gully bank. They were quite active, several at a time flying up and returning to the same tree, then suddenly all were up and away off down the gully.

After they had gone I walked on a few rods and found six American Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*), three males and three females working industriously on the cones of a nearby hemlock.

**Dendroica castanea.** BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.—Usually the Bay-breasted Warbler has been rather rare here during the spring migration but this year on May 20 there were hundreds of them in Potter Swamp. The trees were full of warblers of many species, mainly Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-poll and Blackburnians. In all I recorded twenty-two species of Warblers as follows: Golden-winged, Nashville, Tennessee, Parula, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Magnolia, Caerulean, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Black-poll, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, Ovenbird, Water-thrush, Louisiana Water-thrush, Northern Yellowthroat, Wilson's and Redstart.

**Dendroica palmarum.** PALM WARBLER.—May 6, I saw a Palm Warbler on the ground under some thick pussy willows at the edge of Potter Swamp and later in the day I found another one in some bushes along the creek where the water was nearly knee deep. This is the second time that I have recorded the Palm Warbler in this locality.

**Geothlypis philadelphia.** MOURNING WARBLER.—May 21, I caught two male Mourning Warblers in one of the Biological Survey type sparrow traps. Both birds were in the trap at the same time and there were three English Sparrows in the trap with them. The trap was set in the corner of a field about eight feet from the bushy bank of a brook and was baited with weed seeds and a few bread crumbs.

*Branchport, N. Y.*