

## ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF MONTGOMERY CO., VIRGINIA.

BY ELLISON A. SMYTH, JR.

THE following are addenda to my list of the birds of Montgomery Co., Virginia, published in Vol. XXIX, No. 4, of 'The Auk,' October 1912. Since that date, and up to April 14, 1925, thirteen new forms have been recorded, increasing the avifauna of this locality to 208 species. Also the further occurrence of several species hitherto recorded but once or twice seems noteworthy.

***Colymbus holboelli*.** HOLBOELL'S GREBE.—One specimen secured from the College ice-pond, January 26, 1914. A new record.

***Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*.** BLACK TERN.—An immature specimen seen on September 14, 1912. Second record.

***Larus philadelphia*.** BONAPARTE'S GULL.—An adult spent a day on the College ice-pond, January 1, 1924. All of my other records are for early spring.

***Chaulelasmus streperus*.** GADWALL.—A male and female visited the ice-pond on February 26, 1922 and spent two days there. Not wild, and allowed a close approach. New record.

***Mareca americana*.** BALDPATE.—Additional records, one male February 5, 1923, and a female March 15, 1916.

***Nettion carolinense*.** GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—An additional record of a male on February 26, 1922, in company with the pair of Gadwalls above noted.

***Marila valisineria*.** CANVAS-BACK.—A second record, a fine male secured from the ice-pond December 27, 1922.

***Glaucionetta clangula americana*.** GOLDEN-EYE.—Three females on ice-pond on January 11, 1924. Very wild, and remained only a few minutes. New record.

***Clangula hyemalis*.** OLD-SQUAW. A female on ice-pond March 4, 1917. Quite tame and remained two days in company with a pair of Ring-necks. New record.

***Erismatura jamaicensis*.** RUDDY DUCK.—Additional records of a female killed December 4, 1920, and a pair, male and female, the former in full adult plumage, March 15, 1920.

***Ixobrychus exilis*.** LEAST BITTERN.—One specimen, a male, secured at quarry pond, June 12, 1922. New record.

***Rallus virginianus*.** VIRGINIA RAIL.—My earlier records indicate a scarcity; since then, I have found it regularly in suitable localities, especially in the fall.

**Coturnicops noveboracensis.** YELLOW RAIL.—Three specimens secured in October 1915 and others seen. Doubtless occurs regularly, but is hard to find without a dog, owing to its skulking habits. New record.

**Phalaropus fulicarius.** RED PHALAROPE.—One specimen secured September 21, 1912, in company with Pectoral Sandpipers. New record.

(A specimen of *Lobipes lobatus*, Northern Phalarops, was killed and sent to me, from Hampden-Sidney College, Prince Edward Co., Va., September 25, 1920.)

**Pelidna alpina sakhalina.** RED-BACKED SANDPIPER.—I saw a beautiful full plumaged specimen, with light red back and black belly, in company with Lesser Yellow-legs, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, feeding along the mud banks of a stream near the College, on May 18, 1924. It was very tame and allowed a close approach. We watched it feeding for some time, but as identification was absolute, did not secure it. New record.

**Ereunetes pusillus.** SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.—One specimen secured from among a number of Pectorals, September 24, 1912. New record.

**Coragyps urubu.** BLACK VULTURE.—Since former records, I have found this Vulture occurring at irregular but frequent intervals, and often a number together.

**Buteo borealis.** RED-TAILED HAWK.—Not before quoted as breeding. A nest with full fledged young found in May, 1914.

**Falco peregrinus anatum.** DUCK HAWK.—A fine full-plumaged specimen in adult phase flew in chase of a Pigeon within short range as I stood in my yard, on March 18, 1916. So close did it come that the details of marking were unmistakable. Not secured. A second record.

**Falco columbarius columbarius.** PIGEON HAWK.—On October 3, 1920 a single bird flew over my yard, close enough to distinguish easily from a Sparrow Hawk. Second record for this locality.

**Asio wilsonianus.** LONG-EARED OWL.—A pair was seen in evergreens on Brush Mountain, near the College, on November 26, 1915 and one secured. New record.

**Ceryle a. alcyon.** BELTED KINGFISHER.—My former records give August 7 as the latest date Kingfishers were seen here. I have a later record, for October 13.

**Sturnus vulgaris.** EUROPEAN STARLING.—This pest was first seen here on December 9, 1917, when a pair alighted on the roof of my house. Becoming more and more frequent, they were first found breeding in 1921. Now a resident, and in large flocks, driving Blue-birds and Flickers from their nesting holes, which the Starling appropriate, if undisturbed, destroying such eggs as they find there.

**Euphagus carolinus.** RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—Heretofore noted as leaving by March 19. This year, 1925, still here on April 10.

**Loxia leucoptera.** WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—A flock of about fifteen, sexes nearly equally mixed, appeared on the College campus on January 25, 1920. They were very tame, feeding on the ground under the

campus trees, and allowed a close approach so easily that two, a male and female, were caught under a hat. I had no difficulty in quietly approaching to within a yard of them, while feeding on the ground. A cat profited by their tameness and caught a number. They were here several days. This was doubtless part of the southern flight recorded about this same date by Mr. Earle A. Brooks, in 'The Auk,' Vol. XXXVII, No. 3, for July, 1920. New record.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys.** WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—In my former list, this bird was noted as occurring here only in early May, and again in mid-October. This winter, 1925, on January 24, several individuals with brown heads were seen. They appeared frequently at the feeding stations in my yard and as many as a dozen were seen at one time in suitable localities around the campus. They have been here continuously, and for the past three days (April 11 to 14). White-headed individuals are in evidence.

**Piranga erythromelas.** SCARLET TANAGER.—In my former list is the following statement: "Red males pass South July 4 to 17." As some doubt has been cast upon this statement, that the males were still red at these dates, I wish to assert positively. Both from my recollections, and from the very definite notes in my journal that on July 4, and again on the 17th, I saw a red male Scarlet Tanager. Neither was killed, so that I cannot say that they had no green feathers among the red, but to the eye, they were red.

**Stelgidopteryx serripennis.** ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—One secured in Spring of 1913. Doubtless occurs regularly. New record.

**Lanius ludovicianus.** LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.—An interesting exhibit of a Shrike's butcher habits was noted on February 22, 1918. Some corn shocks were being moved from the field, and a number of short-tailed meadow mice were disturbed and ran out on the snow. A Shrike flew after these and killed a number leaving them on the snow with crushed skulls.

**Wilsonia canadensis.** CANADA WARBLER.—My former list notes only one occurrence, an immature bird in August. Since 1912 I have found them frequent in the spring migration, and during a sudden cold snap in April, I found a dead male, in full plumage.

This brings my records up to April 14, 1925, from July 1891, though only the first twenty years or so are close records. During this period of thirty-four years I have recorded 208 species of birds in Montgomery Co., Virginia within a radius of ten miles from the town of Blacksburg, where the Virginia Polytechnic Institute is located.

Dr. Rives, in his 'Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias,' 1890, notes only 305 species for the whole of state Virginia.

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