

NOTES ON THE WINTER BIRDS OF CENTRAL  
ARKANSAS.

BY CHRESWELL J. HUNT.

PULASKI County is the centralmost county of Arkansas. The topography of the county is quite diversified. While a goodly portion of the area is given up to the city of Little Rock there are still many wooded sections in the northern part of the county and more or less bald cypress is to be found in the river bottoms of the southeastern portion. The Arkansas River enters the county at the northwestern corner and snakes its crooked way across the county finally making its exit at the southeastern corner. In the western part of the county lies an area of pine-clad hills where Pine Warblers and Kinglets were found in numbers while the eastern part of the county is mainly given up to cultivated fields where such species as the Prairie Horned Lark were found. The Arkansas River supplies many water bird records.

In Prairie and Arkansas Counties, lying to the east of Pulaski County, is located the state's great rice growing territory and it is here that vast numbers of wild ducks congregate for the winter. Here is to be found one of the greatest duck hunting sections of the United States.

The writer spent the winter of 1924-1925 in Little Rock and spent considerable time exploring the surrounding country. My field trips covered most of Pulaski County but as I also have numerous records for the surrounding counties it seems advisable to include these as I believe my list to be truly representative of the winter bird life of central Arkansas.

Unless otherwise stated the localities given are in Pulaski County, and the dates, unless otherwise noted, refer to the winter of 1924-1925, that is the months of December, 1924 and January, February and March of 1925.

**Colymbus auritus.** HORNED GREBE.—One observed at Willow Beach on January 29.

**Podilymbus podiceps.** PIED-BILLED GREBE.—Single birds observed at different times in many localities.

**Anhinga anhinga.** WATER TURKEY.—One observed in the Arkansas River east of Little Rock on March 13.

**Mergus americanus.** AMERICAN MERGANSER.—A mounted male specimen was on display in the Bush-Caldwell Co. sporting goods store on Main Street, Little Rock. I was informed that this specimen was mounted by a Mr. Bale, a local taxidermist. I visited Mr. Bale and learned that the bird had been shot from a sand bar in the River near Little Rock early in January, 1925.

**Lophodytes cucullatus.** HOODED MERGANSER.—A mounted female specimen was on display in a Little Rock store window, that was said to have been taken "Some time in December."

**Anas platyrhynchos.** MALLARD.—Abundant in the rice fields of Prairie and Arkansas Counties all winter. Thousands are killed by gunners. A party of sportsmen would leave Little Rock about 2 o'clock A. M. and motor to the rice fields, arriving there about daybreak, spend a few hours duck hunting and return to Little Rock in the afternoon each with his bag limit of fifteen ducks and practically all of them Mallards.

**Anas rubripes rubripes.** RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK.—On January 19 two Black Ducks, in the flesh, were shown me by Mr. Bale who had just received them to mount. I believe these birds were of the red-legged variety. They had been shot in the rice fields to the east of Little Rock.

**Dafila acuta tzitzihoa.** PINTAIL.—A male of this species, taken near Dewitt, in Arkansas County, on January 17, was presented to my friend, Mr. Albert C. Galt, for dinner. This bird was in such excellent plumage that I preserved the skin which is now in my collection. Taxidermist Bale told me that this species is not common and that he had not mounted one in several years.

**Nyroca affinis.** LESSER SCAUP DUCK.—Four birds were observed at Willow Beach on January 29 and a flock of several hundred was seen on the River near Scott on February 10.

**Ardea herodias herodias.** GREAT BLUE HERON.—One observed at Willow Beach on January 29.

**Fulica americana.** COOT.—Several observed along the river on March 13.

**Gallinago delicata.** WILSON'S SNIBE.—Two birds observed east of Little Rock on March 14.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** KILLDEER.—Seen March 13, east of Little Rock.

**Colinus virginianus virginianus.** BOBWHITE.—Common in suitable localities. Three birds were taken by Mr. H. W. Mabbitt near Maumelle on January 31.

**Zenaidura macroura carolinensis.** MOURNING DOVE.—Common. Small flocks observed during January and February at various localities. While driving over the highways during March one would frequently flush Doves feeding in the road.

**Cathartes aura septentrionalis.** TURKEY VULTURE.—Fairly common.

**Catharista urubu.** BLACK VULTURE.—Occasionally seen. Not as common as the preceding species.

**Circus hudsonius.** MARSH HAWK.—One observed at North Little Rock on March 10.

**Accipiter velox.** SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—One observed at Pulaski Heights on January 25.

**Buteo borealis borealis.** RED-TAILED HAWK.—Occasionally seen. I have in my collection an adult male that was taken near Russellville, Pope County, in December, 1925.

**Buteo lineatus lineatus.** RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.—Observed twice near Little Rock and many times in the adjoining counties.

**Falco sparverius sparverius.** SPARROW HAWK.—Observed near Little Rock on January 25, February 26, March 4 and March 20.

**Tyto pratincola.** BARN OWL.—I have a specimen that was sent me in the flesh which had been killed near Russellville, in Pope County, in December, 1925.

**Strix varia varia.** BARRED OWL.—Fairly common in the denser wooded sections.

**Otus asio asio.** SCREECH OWL.—Fairly common. I have a specimen taken near Russellville, Pope County in December, 1925.

**Bubo virginianus virginianus.** GREAT HORNED OWL.—Not uncommon in the wilder sections. I have a male specimen that was taken near Dewitt, Arkansas County, November 4, 1925 and a female specimen taken near Russellville, Pope County, in December, 1925.

**Ceryle alcyon.** BELTED KINGFISHER.—Frequently observed along the Arkansas River during February and March. I have a specimen in my collection that struck a wire at Main St. and Capitol Ave., Little Rock, May 18, 1925.

**Dryobates villosus villosus.** HAIRY WOODPECKER.—Observed January 30 at Maumelle and east of Little Rock on March 13.

**Dryobates pubescens medianus.** DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Common. Specimens taken at Marche', January 17, Willow Beach, January 29, and at Maumelle, January 30.

**Sphyrapicus varius varius.** YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—A specimen taken at Marche' on January 17. Observed at Pulaski Heights on February 25.

**Phloeotomus pileatus pileatus.** PILEATED WOODPECKER.—Still to be found in the wilder sections. I have a specimen that was taken near Russellville, Pope County, April 1, 1926.

**Melanerpes erythrocephalus.** RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Common. Observed in all localities visited.

**Centurus carolinus.** RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—Common everywhere. Specimens taken at Marche' January 17.

**Colaptes auratus auratus.** FLICKER.—Fairly common.

**Chaetura pelagica.** CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Arrived at Little Rock March 26, 1925 in great numbers. This species is of course not a winter bird.

**Sayornis phoebe.** PHOEBE.—Several noted. Observed January 30 at Maumelle and March 4 at Pulaski Heights.

**Otocoris alpestris praticola.** PRAIRIE HORNED LARK.—Three specimens taken from a flock of sixty at Scott on February 10.

**Cyanocitta cristata cristata.** BLUE JAY.—Common. A number remained about the city of Little Rock all winter.

**Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos.** CROW.—Common.

**Corvus ossifragus.** FISH CROW.—Two of this species were observed along the Arkansas River west of Little Rock on March 7.

**Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus.** RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—Observed near Little Rock February 25, March 20 and March 7.

**Sturnella magna** subspecies (?). MEADOWLARK.—Common all winter in the fields east of Little Rock.

**Euphagus carolinus.** RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—Observed near Little Rock February 25 and March 13.

**Quiscalus quiscula aeneus.** BRONZED GRACKLE.—Common. Observed during February and March at numerous localities.

**Astragalinus tristis tristis.** GOLDFINCH.—Observed near Little Rock March 4, March 7 and March 13.

**Passerculus sandwichensis savanna.** SAVANNAH SPARROW.—One collected near Scott on February 10.

**Passerherbulus henslowi occidentalis.** WESTERN HENSLOW'S SPARROW.—One observed near Little Rock on March 7.

**Zonotrichia albicollis.** WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—Common. Specimens collected January 30 and March 7.

**Spizella pusilla pusilla.** FIELD SPARROW.—A few observed. Heard singing at Maumelle on February 25.

**Junco hyemalis hyemalis.** SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.—Common about Little Rock all winter.

**Melospiza melodia melodia.** SONG SPARROW.—Observed January 31 and March 7 west of Little Rock and February 10 and March 13 east of the City.

**Melospiza georgiana.** SWAMP SPARROW.—Specimen collected March 7 at Pulaski Heights.

**Passerella iliaca iliaca.** FOX SPARROW.—Occasionally seen. Several singing near Maumelle on March 7.

**Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus.** TOWHEE.—Fairly common. Specimen taken at Maumelle on February 25.

**Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis.** CARDINAL.—Very common. Specimen collected at Maumelle February 25.

**Progne subis subis.** PURPLE MARTIN.—Arrived at Little Rock March 20, 1925. This was a spring migrant and not a winter bird.

**Bombycilla cedrorum.** CEDAR WAXWING.—Small flocks occasionally seen. Two specimens taken near Maumelle, January 31.

**Lanius ludovicianus migrans.** MIGRANT SHRIKE.—Common. Two specimens collected at North Little Rock on January 29.

**Dendroica coronata.** MYRTLE WARBLER.—A small flock observed

at Maumelle, January 30 and specimens collected at Scotts, February 10 and at Pulaski Heights, March 7.

**Dendroica vigosii.** PINE WARBLER.—Specimens collected at Pulaski Heights on February 26, March 4 and March 7.

**Mimus polyglottos polyglottos.** MOCKINGBIRD.—Common about Little Rock. Specimen taken near Maumelle February 25.

**Toxostoma rufum.** BROWN THRASHER.—Observed January 29 at Willow Beach.

**Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus.** CAROLINA WREN.—Observed January 25 at Pulaski Heights, January 30 at Maumelle, February 10 at Scott and February 25 at Maumelle.

**Thryomanes bewicki bewicki.** BEWICK'S WREN.—Observed February 26 and March 4 at Pulaski Heights. One heard singing in a yard in Little Rock on March 13.

**Certhia familiaris americana.** BROWN CREEPER.—Observed near Little Rock January 29 and February 25. Specimen collected at Willow Beach on February 10.

**Sitta carolinensis carolinensis.** WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Fairly common. Specimens collected at Maumelle, January 31 and at Pulaski Heights March 7.

**Baeolophus bicolor.** TUFTED TITMOUSE.—Common. Specimens collected at Maumelle on January 31 and at Willow Beach on February 25.

**Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis.** CAROLINA CHICKADEE.—Abundant. Specimens collected at Pulaski Heights on February 26 and March 7.

**Regulus satrapa satrapa.** GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—Observed January 25, January 29 and March 4 and specimens collected on February 26 and March 7 at Pulaski Heights.

**Regulus calendula calendula.** RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.—Observed January 31 at Maumelle and February 10 near Scott. Specimen taken March 7 at Pulaski Heights.

**Hyllocichla guttata pallasii.** HERMIT THRUSH.—Several noted. Specimens taken January 31 near Maumelle.

**Planesticus migratorius migratorius.** ROBIN.—Common in flocks all winter about Little Rock. Specimen taken at Pulaski Heights March 4.

**Sialia sialis sialis.** BLUEBIRD.—Common around Little Rock all winter. Specimen collected near Maumelle on January 30.

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