

Cedar Waxwing. Pp. 79-102 in Life histories of North American wagtails, shrikes, vireos and their allies (A. C. Bent, Ed.). U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 197.  
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termination of age and sex of selected species. University Park, Pennsylvania State Univ.  
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# 100 Years Ago in The Auk



From "General Notes" (1888, Auk 5: 119):

**"What Birds indicate Proximity to Water, and at what Distance?"**—Mr. William Lloyd, in his explorations in the arid region of Western Texas, has made some highly important observations, the results of which cannot fail to be of the utmost value to travellers on our southwestern plains, where water is scarce and difficult to find. Mr. Lloyd writes: 'During the past summer, I have been investigating an important question which occurred to me about four years ago, namely, What birds indicate the presence of water in their neighborhood? Of course any statement on the subject should be proved by a number of facts, based on experiments in different localities. Three times this summer I have camped from simply seeing certain birds, and on hunting for water have found it in each case. As certainties I can give the following species, with the greatest distance at which each occurs from water.

Cardinal	1 mile.
Warblers (including Chat)	1 mile.
Vireos	2 miles.
Mockingbirds	2½ to 3½ miles.
Blue Grosbeak	2½ to 3½ miles.
Orchard Oriole	3 miles.
Bullock's Oriole	3 miles.
Nonpareil	3 miles.
Carolina Dove	3 to 5 miles.
Black-capped Titmouse	4 miles.
Texas Cardinal	6 miles.

"This only applies to summer, and will not hold in winter or during migrations. I have been constructing this list since the summer of 1883; and also have particularly noted what birds drank, and how often, in Dec.-Jan., 1884-1885; Nov.-Dec., 1885; and Jan., 1886.'—C. HART MERRIAM, *Washington, D. C.*