

ground, and is distant from my window in the second story 10 feet. In this we put smashed walnuts, whenever empty, all winter, day by day. The Blue Jays get the most of them, but they fly away with the pieces, and in doing so attract the attention of other birds to this source of continual supply. Our boarders, besides Blue Jays, Juncos and English Sparrows, are European Tree Sparrow, Tufted Tit, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, and Hairy Woodpecker. These have been visitors every year for a longer or shorter period. Red-breasted Nuthatch was a boarder from November, '95 to about Jan. 20, '96. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is seldom seen to enter the box; he prefers the ham-bones, hung up in the same tree. Not entering, but attracted to the tree, are Golden-crested Kinglet (once the Ruby-crested in January) Brown Creeper, Bluebird, Robin, Flicker, Bewick's Wren. Also Cardinals (male and female) are among the boarders in cold weather, and White-throated Sparrows in late snows in March. Snow, of course, brings the greatest number, and on some days the tree looks enchanted; birds of all feathers, waiting their turn.

OTTO WIDMANN, *Old Orchard, Mo.*

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## NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF OKANOGAN COUNTY, WASH.

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Since the appearance of other notes under this title in the September and November BULLETINS, I prepared a brief, annotated list of the birds of this region, which appeared in the *Auk*, April, 1897, and was also issued as *Laboratory Bulletin*, No. 6, Oberlin College. Reference to this will make unnecessary in the present connection a review of the commoner species and leave me to speak at random concerning a few of the rarer sparrows and more noticeable warblers.

HEPBURN'S LEUCOSTICTE, *Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis*.—The breeding of this rare species was conjectural until I was so fortunate as to encounter it on Wright's Peak during the summer of '96. We had been encamped from August 5th to 8th on a shoulder of the mountain, at an altitude of 8,000 feet, and I had caught several unsatisfactory glimpses of this glacier-sprite, but it was not until early morning of the last day, when we succumbed to the continual cold weather and retreated from the mountains, that I saw the birds well. A pair were feeding full-grown young, and as the restless youngsters flitted from pile to pile of the projecting morainic knobs along the foot of the glacier, I could not but

note how perfectly at home these fledgling ice-birds seemed. The wind was blowing piercing cold and a mountain storm was brewing, but their rich brown coats and rosy trimmings told of anything but discomfort and fear. The parent birds appeared to forage at somewhat lower levels for food, inasmuch as they repeatedly plunged over the mountain rim, and were lost to sight in the depths below.

BAIRD'S SPARROW, *Ammodramus bairdii*.—On September 5th, 1895, I found several of these birds on a piece of weedy bottom land where they seemed to be feeding on a little wild bean. Like many of their kin they kept close to the ground and flushed suddenly on a near approach, only to plump down again at no great distance. I noted them as abundant in this same situation on the 9th of September, and they may have lingered until the little beans were all gleaned from the ground.

Their spring passage the following year was more rapid. On the 29th of April, about a dozen were seen in an upland pasture mixing freely with *Zonotrichia leucophrys intermedia*. Only one individual was noted in the old haunt by the lake shore.

BREWER'S SPARROW, *Spizella breweri*.—As I stepped forth from my little enclosure on the edge of the Chelan townsite and before I had set my ears to test the quality of sounds, I became aware of a "chirring" from the sagebrush to westward, of different proportions from the customary trills of the Chipping Sparrows, so common there. Returning for my glass, after careful skulking I crept close up on the little vocalist. His strain was first a short *chir-r-r* of notes so rapid that it was impossible for the ear to individualize them, and then a trill which, if heard separately, would not attract attention in a chorus of Chipping Sparrows. When carefully discriminated, however, one noticed the lighter, less emphatic character. The bird kept low in the sage bushes and was with difficulty secured. Nature could hardly have designed a plainer and more inconspicuous nondescript if she had lain awake all night.

AUDUBON'S WARBLER, *Dendroica auduboni*.—The commonest of the Warblers in Okanogan county, although not found in the sage brush sections or wider valleys. This bird is a good mountaineer, and although I saw it in June on the lake shore, where it was probably breeding at an altitude of less than 1,000 feet, it was noted in August at all levels up to the glacier realm of 8,000 feet. It is undoubtedly the hardiest bird of its genus.

MCGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER, *Geothlypis macgillivrayi*.—A not uncommon resident in the underbrush of hillside springs and draws. One song heard reminded me strongly of that of a Dickcissel, though of course

lighter and much less penetrating, *sheep, sheep, sheep, shear, shear sheep*; or *sheep, sheep, sheep, shear, sheep*. Another song heard in Yakima county was much more varied and bright. A nest found in the latter place was barely lifted clear of the ground by the overhanging branches of a rose bush.

PILEOLATED WARBLER, *Sylvania pusilla pilcolata*.—Although a number of birds were seen it was almost impossible to route them out of their favorite tangles long enough for inspection. I introduce them in this connection solely to describe the song which I heard repeatedly, but especially at Snoqualmie Falls on the west side of the mountains. It consisted of a single syllable repeated in a lively crescendo "chip, *chip*, CHIP, CHIP, *CHIP*." I could not but contrast it with the song of *S. pusilla* heard this spring. The latter was a more varied strain of lighter and less emphatic character, *chee, chipitititity, chee, chee*. This is of course quite unpronounceable at first, but conveys the idea to the eye.

WILLIAM L. DAWSON, Oberlin, Ohio.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

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NESTING OF THE ROBIN, *Merula migratoria*.—On April 24, I found a nest in a wild cherry, about eight feet up and directly over about six feet of water. The robin flew off at my approach, and on climbing to the nest I found it contained one egg. The next day, April 25, being Sunday, I did not visit the nest, but on April 26, the nest contained three eggs. I supposed that the set would be completed on the next day, but the fourth egg was not laid until noon of the 28th, leaving a day and a half between the laying of the third and fourth egg. Incubation was apparently begun with the laying of the third egg, as I passed the nest several times each day and the female was always on the nest. I had intended to take notes on the incubation, but on April 30 no trace of the nest could be found, probably having been taken by some boys.

About April 28, a pair of Robins began a nest in a large pine back of our place, but they were driven away by a pair of Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) before the first egg was laid. This is the first time I have ever seen the Mourning Doves interfere with any other birds, although they are very common here now.

RUSSELL GRAY, Philadelphia, Pa.

NOTES ON SOME WINTER BIRDS OF MERIDIAN, DUNN CO., WIS.—