

THE LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO, WINTER BIRD FAUNA, FOR 1897-8.

During the winter that has just passed, a special effort was made by Mr. W. L. Dawson and the writer to determine as nearly as possible the actual bird fauna of the middle and north-western parts of Lorain county. With this end in view excursions were made into the surrounding country whenever opportunity offered. These excursions were seldom more than hasty half-day dips into the woods and fields within a mile of Oberlin, rarely extending three miles away in any direction.

During December only five such excursions were made, on the 3rd, 18th, 28th, 30th and 31st. That of the 28th was devoted to making a Bird Census of Oberlin village, that of the 31st was a trip to Lake Erie and across country home. Accounts of both may be found in BULLETIN 18, pages 5 to 9. During the month 24 species were recorded.

Five excursions were made during January, on the 4th, 8th, 22nd, 25th and 29th. One of these was across country to Chance Creek, an account of which may be found on page 9 of BULLETIN 18. 23 species were recorded during the month.

In February only four excursions were made, on the 5th, 11th, 12th, and 28th, one of these, (12th) being a repetition of that of December 31st. 26 species were recorded for February, only one of them, the Crow, being a migrant from the south.

These records would make it appear that the same species were recorded each month, and that therefore the species in question are at least moderately plentiful the county over. But a glance at the records will disabuse our minds of that fallacy, for there were but 16 species common to the three months. One, Pigeon Hawk, was recorded in January and December, but not in February. 4, Am. Herring Gull, Cardinal, Meadowlark, and Horned Lark, were recorded in December and February but not in January. 2, Red-shouldered Hawk and Bald Eagle, in January and February but not in December. 3 in December alone, 4 in January alone and 6 in February alone, one of these was a migrant, as has been said. This variation in the species recorded each month is due to two causes principally. First, the weather: the cold of late December driving some species south, and the influences of spring felt during the warm periods of later winter, calling others forth from their hiding places. And second, the difference in direction of the more extensive

excursions—those in December and February being across country to Oberlin, in a region almost devoid of evergreen woods; the one in January being across country and back again, into a region well-supplied with evergreens. It should be added that the Lake Erie trips were made by the writer alone, while that to Chance Creek was in company with Mr. Dawson. The complete list includes four species which were recorded by Mr. Dawson but not by the writer.

At no time during December was the ground entirely covered with snow for more than a few days at a time. The only severe weather occurred during the third week, when the temperature reached zero on the 24th, but was speedily followed by a marked rise to thawing weather. January was almost free from snow, with barely freezing temperature during the day, and with a marked warm wave when the temperature reached 60° on the 12th. February opened with below zero temperatures and a little snow, but the reaction of the beginning of the second week culminated in high temperatures, reaching 61° on the 11th. This warm wave marked the beginning of the 1898 spring migrations. Crows appeared in considerable numbers, Bronzed Grackles and Song Sparrows increased in numbers and were singing lustily, Prairie Horned Larks were pairing and scattered to their nesting places, and a general breaking up of winter quarters occurred among all of the resident species. The colder weather beginning on the 15th and continuing during the remainder of the month, with the deepest snow of the winter, drove the Prairie Horned Larks into flocks again, but the other birds did not seem to be affected by it much. Regarding the winter as beginning on the first day of December and ending on the last day of February, there was no weather severe enough and the snow was never deep enough for a considerable period to drive the more hardy northern birds south. On the other hand, the weather was not mild enough to make a northern stay agreeable to the few species which sometimes winter with us, but usually go south in fall. Hence, the past winter may be regarded as an average one for this region.

The list of the species recorded during the winter follows:

American Herring Gull, 12.	American Rough-legged Hawk, 1.
Mallard, 3.	Golden Eagle, 1.
Bob-white, 33.	Bald Eagle, 1.
Ruffed Grouse, 4.	Pigeon Hawk, 3.
Mourning Dove, 27.	Sparrow Hawk, 6.
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1.	Screech Owl, 1.
Red-tailed Hawk, 1.	Hairy Woodpecker, 28.
Red-shouldered Hawk, 4.	Downy Woodpecker, 49.

Red-bellied Woodpecker, 12.	Lapland Longspur, 2.
Flicker, 12.	Tree Sparrow, 564.
Horned Lark, 125.	Junco, 34.
Prairie Horned Lark, 100.	Song Sparrow, 17.
Blue Jay, 60.	Cardinal, 5.
Meadowlark, 3.	Cedar Waxwing, 9.
Bronzed Grackle, 6.	White-breasted Nuthatch, 74.
Purple Finch, 2.	Tufted Titmouse, 16.
American Goldfinch, 43.	Chickadee, 45.
Snowflake, 20.	Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6.
Total number of species, 36.	Total number of records, 1330.

It will be seen that this list does not include several species which we claim as residents, notably all of the Owls except the Screech Owl. Nor does it include a number of the more northern birds which often spend the winter with us. Of these the American Crossbill, Northern Shrike, Winter Wren and Brown Creeper are conspicuous examples. Not infrequently the Crow and Robin have spent the winter in the county, but they were not present last winter. Hence it appears that this list does not comprise anywhere near all of the species that might be looked for during the winter months.

This winter study of the birds has been a source of great profit and pleasure in the midst of wearing duties. To him who is seeking a first acquaintance with the birds it must prove of the greatest value.

LYNDS JONES.

BIRD CENSUSES.

BERWYN, PA.

Agreeable to the request of our Chairman of the Committee on Geographical Distribution, I sallied out at daybreak on the 11th of February for the purpose of taking a winter census of the birds of my district—one square mile of territory as described in the December *Osprey*.

Before the day was spent I found that I would be unable to complete the last and most difficult quarter,—that section lying south of the Pennsylvania railroad and including the greater and most built-up portion of the village; therefore the population here given is for an area three-quarters of a mile in extent.

The day was fair and mild, with just a breath of air blowing from the south-east, temperature, 40°-63° F. The ground was bare, with the