

year has been only too evident. This is due as much to the restriction of suitable nesting places as to the "man with a gun."

GREAT HORNED OWL, *Bubo virginianus*.—Eight years ago it was not infrequently seen in the deeper woods. I have not seen one for four years, and have heard of very few.

NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles virginianus*.—From common it has become decidedly uncommon; from what cause I am not able to state. It is seldom seen at all except in fall.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN, *Cistothorus palustris*.—The restriction of suitable nesting sites has nearly driven this wren from the county.

BLUEBIRD, *Sialia sialis*.—The recovery of this species from almost extermination in the winter of 1894-95 has been remarkable. It is not yet abundant, as it was previously, but is becoming so.

INCREASING SPECIES.

In these days of a gradual decrease in wild animal life as a whole it is a genuine pleasure to record the marked increase of a few species. A careful study of our records enables me to add a number of species to those given by Mr. W. L. Dawson on page 49 of the present volume. Mr. Dawson's list includes Baltimore Oriole, Cardinal, Orchard Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Bob-white. There are several species whose increase has been very apparent but no cause can be assigned. They are:

TURKEY VULTURE, *Cathartes aura*.—Always in evidence during the warmer months.

LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio wilsonianus*.—Usually either seen or heard in every moderately heavy woods, responding to an imitation of its notes.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, *Melanerpes carolinus*.—In nearly every piece of woods, and even strays into town occasionally.

GREEN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax vireescens*.—The increase in numbers during the past four years has been remarkable. Now every considerable woods boast its scores of pairs, where formerly it was scarce or absent.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*.—The first record of Mr. L. M. McCormick was May 30th, 1892. Since 1893 it has been one of the common birds of the fields.

LARK SPARROW, *Chondestes grammacus*.—Like the preceding, Mr. McCormick's first record is May 30, 1892. Since 1895 it has gradually increased, but has not yet become common.

CEDAR WAXWING, *Ampelis cedrorum*.—Formerly irregular, it is now a common resident. It was decidedly common during the past summer, nesting in orchards and in towns.

WILSON'S THRUSH, *Turdus fuscescens*.—During the last two summers it has nested rather commonly. Our records show that it is variable in this respect.

In the foregoing enumeration I have purposely omitted all species about which there might be a question, because of the greater amount of field work which it has been possible to do in the last four years than formerly.

It is my hope that more careful attention may be given to the actual numbers of individuals of the different species that are more common and more familiar, with the idea of furnishing exact data for comparison in years to come. We need to learn the effects of our civilization upon our environment.

LYNDS JONES, Oberlin, Ohio.

AN AFTERNOON AMONGST OLD SCENES.

Tuesday, September 13th, finds us once more walking through those favorite fields of the collector, which bound the Mississippi below the C. B. & Q. R.R. bridge, opposite Burlington, in Illinois,—our destination being Ellison Slough. The day is all that can be desired—bright, yet pleasantly cool.

As we push through the timber we note numerous feathered friends,—the Woodpeckers being perhaps the most conspicuous since they insist upon making their presence known by their loud notes. Next in point of noise, or perhaps I should have placed him first, is our garrulous Blue Jay, who is ever willing to let us know his whereabouts by some appropriate remark. Little fellows are now and then seen flitting among the taller elms and the Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos seem not to have forgotten their sweet cry, for ever and anon we hear one babbling to himself, no doubt recounting the pleasures of the past season. Even the cheery little note and bright gleam of the Redstart do not arrest our step,—but we do stop, just for an instant, yet long enough to add a Golden-crowned Thrush to our study series.

On we tramp, pausing to add a Tufted Tit to our bag, before we cross the trestle which spans Running and Prairie Sloughs. Here we admire the new club house and wish we might enjoy its hospitality and comforts