

THE WILSON BULLETIN

NO. 51.

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGY

VOL. XVII.

JUNE, 1905.

No. 2

A YEAR WITH THE BIRDS IN NEW YORK CITY.

BY GEORGE E. HIX.

The year 1904 was a very good one for birds in New York City, not only the common species being abundant, but the number of rare species observed being quite large also. The localities worked were Central, Bronx, and Van Cortlandt Parks, and St. Paul's church-yard in the old city, and Coney Island, Rugby, and Rockaway Beach in that portion of Long Island which is now part of the greater city.

Central Park, in the heart of Manhattan Island, is a good place in migrations, especially for Warblers. At the height of the migrations more than half the birds seen are Warblers. Excepting Robins comparatively few birds breed there, seventeen being the average number of species.

Bronx Park in the northern part of the city has been left mostly in the natural condition, and is the home of about sixty species. The Lawrence Warbler, which nested there the past year, drew more attention to that locality than had been given before. This is a good place in which to study Hawks, as they are not molested. As the larger part of the park is in charge of the New York Zoological Society, every protection and encouragement is given to the birds.

Although Coney Island is mostly taken as a pleasure resort, the extensive marshes back of the beaches are the homes of a number of marsh birds. Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows are abundant summer residents there. During migrations shore and sea birds frequently are seen.



COMMON TERN. (*Sterna hirundo*.)
Egg, Young Just Hatched, Young Two Days Old.
Woepecket Id., Mass.

Rockaway Beach is a narrow strip of land separating Jamaica Bay from the ocean. On the "bay" side there are extensive marshes and mud flats. Myrtle bushes are plentiful and there is a small cedar-forest.

Rugby is open country, mostly stubble fields, and very few trees. Adjoining Rugby are the New Utrecht meadows, which are very extensive, and through which several creeks flow. This is an admirable locality for Snipe, Herons, and Rails. There is no protection given to birds there, and everything is shot at, especially by boys with "bean-shooters."

During migration I was in Central Park practically every morning and afternoon for at least half an hour. On the Saturday afternoons the other places were visited. Rockaway Beach excepted. The entire day is needed for that trip, and I was able to get there only twice, on May 22 and November 20. More trips there would have greatly increased the number of species seen. The first trip to Rugby was on July 22. In September and October several trips were made there. On these trips I was accompanied by one or two friends.

The localities being briefly described, notes on the birds are given in the following list. All of the 160 species were seen in the limits mentioned above and during the past year. Where no localities are mentioned, it is understood the birds were generally distributed. In migrations they were often seen in trees in the city streets.

1. *Colymbus holboëlli*.—Holboëll Grebe. One seen at Coney Island on October 23.

2. *Colymbus auritus*.—Horned Grebe. Two seen at Rockaway Beach on November 20.

3. *Podilymbus podiceps*.—Pied-billed Grebe. Several seen in Central Park in the fall.

4. *Gavia imber*.—Loon. One seen at Coney Island on November 26.

5. *Stercorarius pomarinus*.—Pomarine Jaeger. Several Jaegers seen at both Rockaway Beach and Coney Island, and while most of them were undoubtedly Pomarine, there may have been some Parasitics also.

6. *Rissa tridactyla*.—Kittiwake Gull. A young bird came to within thirty feet of the board-walk at Manhattan (Coney Island) after a storm, November 26.

7. *Larus marinus*.—Great Black-backed Gull. Two adults were seen the same time as the above.

8. *Larus argentatus*.—Herring Gull. A very abundant winter resident everywhere.

9. *Larus delawarensis*.—Ring-billed Gull. Very common along the coast in October and November.

10. *Sterna hirundo*.—Common Tern. A flock of nine at Rockaway on May 22.

11. *Sula bassana*.—Gannet. An adult at Rockaway on November 20.

12. *Phalacrocorax diplophus*.—Double-crested Cormorant. One at Rockaway on November 20.

13. *Anas obscura*.—Black Duck. A flock of twenty-seven seen in the Hudson River on March 12. Common in Central Park in September.

14. *Clangula clangula americana*.—American Golden-eye. Four males flew over Bronx Park on October 16.

15. *Oidemia americana*.—American Scoter. One at Coney Island on March 5.

16. *Oidemia deglandi*.—White-winged Scoter. Common at Rockaway and Coney Island in November.

17. *Branta canadensis*.—Canada Goose. Several flocks were seen in the fall.

18. *Ardetta exilis*.—Least Bittern. A pair bred on Coney Island.

19. *Ardea herodias*.—Great Blue Heron. Two seen at Rugby on July 22.

20. *Butorides virescens*.—Green Heron. Common at Rugby in the fall and may breed.

21. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*.—Black-crowned Night Heron. Very common summer resident at most bodies of water.

22. *Rallus crepitans*.—Clapper Rail. One seen at Rugby on September 17.

23. *Porzana carolina*.—Sora. Several seen at Rugby in September.

24. *Actodromas maculata*.—Pectoral Sandpiper. A flock of seven at Rockaway on May 22, and a flock of six at Rugby on October 8.

25. *Actodromas minutilla*.—Least Sandpiper. Three at Rockaway, May 22.

26. *Totanus melanoleucus*.—Greater Yellow-legs. Two at Rugby, September 17.

27. *Helodromas solitarius*.—Solitary Sandpiper. A common migrant both on the coast and fresh water streams.

28. *Bartramia longicauda*.—Bartramian Sandpiper. Two at Rugby, September 17.

29. *Actitis macularia*.—Spotted Sandpiper. A common migrant wherever there is water.

30. *Ægialitis semipalmata*.—Semipalmated Plover. Very common at Rockaway on May 22. Several flocks were seen, which at one time united, forming one flock of at least 2000 birds.

31. *Ægialitis meloda*.—Piping Plover. One at Rockaway, May 22.
32. *Circus hudsonius*.—Marsh Hawk. Common at Rugby in the late summer and fall.
33. *Accipiter velox*.—Sharp-shinned Hawk. Common migrant in Central Park.
34. *Accipiter cooperii*.—Cooper Hawk. Central Park, one on October 3 and one on November 7.
35. *Buteo borealis*.—Red-tailed Hawk. A few were seen at Coney Island in November.
36. *Buteo lineatus*.—Red-shouldered Hawk. Common permanent resident in Bronx Park. One in Central Park, December 25.
37. *Buteo platypterus*.—Broad-winged Hawk. Two in Bronx Park, October 29. One in Central Park, October 30, and one on November 6.
38. *Falco peregrinus anatum*.—Duck Hawk. A fine adult male at Rugby, September 17.
39. *Falco columbarius*.—Pigeon Hawk. One at Rockaway, November 20.
40. *Falco sparverius*.—American Sparrow Hawk. Common at Rugby in September and October.
41. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*.—American Osprey. One in Central Park, April 9.
42. *Asio accipitrinus*.—Short-eared Owl. Several seen along the coast in October and November.
43. *Coccyzus americanus*.—Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Common summer resident in the parks.
44. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*.—Black-billed Cuckoo. Uncommon summer resident in the parks.
45. *Ceryle alcyon*.—Belted Kingfisher. Common summer resident in Bronx Park. A few in Central Park in migrations.
46. *Dryobates villosus*.—Hairy Woodpecker. A pair spent the winter of 1903-4 in Central Park. A male is present this winter.
47. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*.—Downy Woodpecker. Common winter resident.
48. *Sphyrapicus varius*.—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Common migrant.
49. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.—Red-headed Woodpecker. Two in Central Park on September 18.
50. *Colaptes auratus luteus*.—Northern Flicker. Common summer resident. Was abundant in Central Park in fall.
51. *Chordeiles virginianus*.—Nighthawk. Common summer resident. Often seen flying over the house-tops at dusk.
52. *Chætura pelagica*.—Chimney Swift. Abundant summer resident.
53. *Trochilus colubris*.—Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Summer resident in Bronx and Van Cortlandt Parks. A migrant only elsewhere.

54. *Tyrannus tyrannus*.—Kingbird. Common summer resident.
55. *Myiarchus crinitus*.—Crested Flycatcher. Common summer resident in Bronx Park. Common migrant in Central Park.
56. *Sayornis phœbe*.—Phœbe. Common summer resident in Bronx Park. Common migrant elsewhere.
57. *Nuttallornis borealis*.—Olive-sided Flycatcher. One in Central Park on May 28, and one September 30.
58. *Empidonax flaviventris*.—Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. One in Central Park on September 8.
59. *Empidonax minimus*.—Least Flycatcher. Common migrant.
60. *Alauda arvensis*.—Skylark. There is a colony of 75-100 at Rugby. They may be seen any day in the summer, but after the song season are hard to find. They may spend the winter in another neighborhood.
61. *Otocoris alpestris*.—Horned Lark. Very common at Rockaway on November 20.
62. *Cyanocitta cristata*.—Blue Jay. Common permanent resident in Bronx Park. In Central Park, only one was seen in the spring, but it was common in October.
63. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*.—American Crow. Very common permanent resident.
64. *Corvus ossifragus*.—Fish Crow. Summer resident in Bronx Park.
65. *Sturnus vulgaris*.—Starling. Abundant permanent resident, chiefly around tall buildings.
66. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.—Bobolink. Common fall migrant at Rugby.
67. *Molothrus ater*.—Cowbird. Common summer resident in Bronx Park.
68. *Agelaius phœniceus*.—Red-winged Blackbird. Common summer resident in the marshes.
69. *Sturnella magna*.—Meadowlark. Common summer resident in Bronx and Van Cortlandt Parks. Permanent resident along the coast.
70. *Icterus spurius*.—Orchard Oriole. Several in Central Park in May.
71. *Icterus galbula*.—Baltimore Oriole. Common summer resident in the parks.
72. *Euphagus carolinus*.—Rusty Blackbird. Common migrant.
73. *Quiscalus quiscula*.—Purple Grackle. Abundant migrant. Local summer resident in Bronx and Central Parks.
74. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*.—Bronzed Grackle. A fine typical male was seen in Central Park, March 13.
75. *Passer domesticus*.—English Sparrow. Abundant everywhere.
76. *Fringilla cœlebs*.—Chaffinch. There is a male in Central Park which has been there three years.

77. *Carpodacus purpureus*.—Purple Finch. Common fall migrant, in Bronx and Central Parks.
78. *Astragalinus tristis*.—American Goldfinch. Common migrant.
79. *Carduelis carduelis*.—European Goldfinch. A few were seen in Central Park in late winter and Spring. This species appears to be diminishing in numbers.
80. *Spinus pinus*.—Pine Siskin. A flock of 15 in Central Park on October 30. Three at Manhattan Beach, November 19.
81. *Poœcetes gramineus*.—Vesper Sparrow. Abundant summer resident at Rugby.
82. *Passerculus princeps*.—Ipswich Sparrow. One at Manhattan Beach, November 19.
83. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*.—Savanna Sparrow. Very abundant fall migrant at Rugby. Rather uncommon at other places.
84. *Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*.—Grasshopper Sparrow. Common summer resident at Rugby.
85. *Ammodramus caudacutus*.—Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Common summer resident at Rugby and Coney Island.
86. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*.—White-crowned Sparrow. Several were seen in October in various places.
87. *Zonotrichia albicollis*.—White-throated Sparrow. Common winter resident.
88. *Spizella monticola*.—Tree Sparrow. Local winter resident. Very rare in Central Park.
89. *Spizella socialis*.—Chipping Sparrow. Common summer resident.
90. *Spizella pusilla*.—Field Sparrow. Common summer resident in Bronx and Van Cortlandt Parks.
91. *Junco hyemalis*.—Junco. Common winter resident. Most common in fall.
92. *Melospiza cinerea melodia*.—Song Sparrow. Common permanent resident.
93. *Melospiza lincolni*.—Lincoln Sparrow. One was seen in Central Park, May 6.
94. *Melospiza georgiana*.—Swamp Sparrow. Common summer resident in the marshes.
95. *Passerella iliaca*.—Fox Sparrow. Common migrant. A few present in Central Park this winter.
96. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*.—Towhee. Common migrant. A few summer residents at Bronx Park.
97. *Cardinalis cardinalis*.—Cardinal. There are several pairs present all the year in Central Park.
98. *Zamelodia ludoviciana*.—Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A few in Central Park in May.

99. *Cyanospiza cyanea*.—Indigo Bunting. Summer resident in Bronx Park.

100. *Piranga erythromelas*.—Scarlet Tanager. Common spring migrant in Central Park. Summer resident in Bronx Park.

101. *Hirundo erythrogaster*.—Barn Swallow. Summer resident in the northern part of city; elsewhere a common migrant.

102. *Iridoprocne bicolor*.—Tree Swallow. Common spring and abundant fall migrant. Every evening from early in August until late in October this species could be seen overhead in countless numbers.

103. *Riparia riparia*.—Bank Swallow. Common summer resident at Van Cortlandt Park. Elsewhere a migrant. Abundant along the coast in fall.

104. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*.—Rough-winged Swallow. One pair bred in Bronx Park. Very likely nesting in the masonry of a new bridge.

105. *Ampelis cedrorum*.—Cedar Waxwing. Common summer resident in Bronx Park. In Central Park only one flock was seen in May, but it was very common in the fall.

106. *Lanius borealis*.—Northern Shrike. An immature bird in Central Park, November 2.

107. *Lanius ludovicianus migrans*.—Migrant Shrike. An individual was present at Rugby from about September 3 until October 22, if not later.

108. *Vireo olivaceus*.—Red-eyed Vireo. Abundant summer resident.

108. *Vireo gilvus*.—Warbling Vireo. A few were seen in Central Park in migrations.

110. *Vireo flavifrons*.—Yellow-throated Vireo. Uncommon summer resident in Central Park.

111. *Vireo solitarius*.—Blue-headed Vireo. Tolerably common migrant.

112. *Vireo noveboracensis*.—White-eyed Vireo. A pair bred in Bronx Park.

113. *Mniotilta varia*.—Black and White Warbler. Common migrant. Summer resident in Bronx Park.

114. *Helmitheros vermivorus*.—Worm-eating Warbler. One in Central Park, August 15.

115. *Helminthophila pinus*.—Blue-winged Warbler. Common summer resident in the northern part of city.

116. *Helminthophila lawrencii*.—Lawrence Warbler. A male mated with female Blue-winged Warbler in Bronx Park. It was described in various journals.

117. *Helminthophila chrysoptera*.—Golden-winged Warbler. A female in Central Park, May 7, and a male, August 15.

118. *Helminthophila rubricapilla*.—Nashville Warbler. One in Central Park, May 11, and one September 22.

119. *Helminthophila peregrina*.—Tennessee Warbler. A young bird in Central Park, September 8, and an adult male in St. Paul's church-yard, September 22.
120. *Compsothlypis americana usneæ*.—Northern Parula Warbler. Common migrant.
121. *Dendroica coronata*.—Myrtle Warbler. Abundant migrant.
122. *Dendroica pensylvanica*.—Chestnut-sided Warbler. Common spring migrant. In the fall a few were seen in Central Park only.
123. *Dendroica castanea*.—Bay-breasted Warbler. Several in Central Park in May.
124. *Dendroica striata*.—Black-poll Warbler. Abundant migrant. In the fall in Central Park, this species outnumbered all others put together. The last were seen October 19.
125. *Dendroica blackburniæ*.—Blackburnian Warbler. Several in Central Park in May.
126. *Dendroica virens*.—Black-throated Green Warbler. Common migrant in Central Park.
127. *Dendroica vigorsii*.—Pine Warbler. Tolerably common migrant in Central Park.
128. *Dendroica palmarum*.—Palm Warbler. A very typical specimen was seen in Central Park September 15.
129. *Dendroica palmarum hypochrisea*.—Yellow Palm Warbler. Common spring migrant. Uncommon fall migrant.
130. *Dendroica discolor*.—Prairie Warbler. Several in Central Park in May.
131. *Seiurus aurocapillus*.—Oven-bird. Summer resident in Bronx Park. A common migrant elsewhere.
132. *Seiurus noveboracensis*.—Water-Thrush. Common migrant.
133. *Seiurus motacilla*.—Louisiana Water-Thrush. Common migrant.
134. *Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*.—Northern Yellow-throat. Summer resident in Bronx Park. Common migrant.
135. *Icteria virens*.—Yellow-breasted Chat. Summer resident in Bronx Park. One in Central Park, May 5.
136. *Wilsonia mitrata*.—Hooded Warbler. *An adult male in Central Park, May 1.
137. *Wilsonia pusilla*.—Wilson Warbler. Common in Central Park in May. One seen October 4.
138. *Wilsonia canadensis*.—Canadian Warbler. Common spring, uncommon fall migrant.
139. *Setophaga ruticilla*.—American Redstart. Common summer resident in the parks.
140. *Anthus pensilvanicus*.—American Pipit. An abundant fall migrant along the coast.
141. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*.—Catbird. Common summer resident.

142. *Toxostoma rufum*.—Brown Thrasher. Common migrant. Summer resident in Bronx Park.
143. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*.—Carolina Wren. Two in Central Park, September 22.
144. *Troglodytes aëdon*.—House Wren. A few in Central Park in May.
145. *Olbiorchilus hiemalis*.—Winter Wren. Several in Central Park in the fall.
146. *Cistothorus stellaris*.—Short-billed Marsh Wren. One was seen with other migrants at Rugby October 8. It may be a summer resident there.
147. *Telmatodytes palustris*.—Long-billed Marsh Wren. Summer resident in the salt marshes.
148. *Certhia familiaris americana*.—Brown Creeper. Uncommon winter resident.
149. *Sitta carolinensis*.—White-breasted Nuthatch. There were a few in Bronx and Central Parks last winter (1903-4), but there are none this winter.
150. *Sitta canadensis*.—Red-breasted Nuthatch. One spent the winter of 1903-4 in Central Park. In the fall one was seen in Central Park, October 15, and one in Bronx Park, October 16. The year before they were abundant in the fall from August to November.
151. *Parus atricapillus*.—Chickadee. Common winter resident.
152. *Regulus satrapa*.—Golden-crowned Kinglet. Winter resident in Bronx Park. Elsewhere a common migrant.
153. *Regulus calendula*.—Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Very common migrant.
154. *Hylocichla mustelina*.—Wood Thrush. Uncommon summer resident in Bronx and Central Parks.
155. *Hylocichla fuscescens*.—Wilson Thrush. Common migrant. Summer resident in Bronx Park.
156. *Hylocichla aliciae*.—Gray-cheeked Thrush. Tolerably common migrant in Central Park. In early October a few, apparently Bicknell Thrushes (*H. a. bicknelli*), were seen in Central Park and St. Paul's Church-yard.
157. *Hylocichla swainsoni*.—Olive-backed Thrush. Abundant migrant.
158. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*.—Hermit Thrush. Abundant migrant. There is one in Central Park this winter.
159. *Merula migratoria*.—American Robin. Abundant summer resident. A few are present in Central Park this winter.
160. *Sialia sialis*.—Bluebird. Summer resident in Bronx and Van Cortlandt Parks. In Central Park seen only in fall migration when it was quite common.
161. *Ammodramus maritimus*.—Seaside Sparrow. Abundant summer resident at Rugby and Coney Island.