

BIRD NOTES FROM MIDDLE WESTERN OHIO.

BY W. F. HENNINGER.

Since publishing the results of bird migration this spring a number of interesting observations have been made, which are here recorded in chronological order:

1. *Rallus elegans*.—King Rail.

This bird has been found to be a common breeder at a certain part of the Grand Reservoir, six nests having been found in one day, June 5th, and again one nest on June 22d, the complement of eggs being from four to eleven. One nest contained two eggs and two young on the former date, while a nest close by contained eleven fresh eggs. Several interesting photos were taken, the first ones in Ohio, I believe, of the nest of this species, and many interesting facts in the life history of the King Rail recorded.

2. *Ixobrychus exilis*.—Least Bittern.

To the breeding stations of this bird in Ohio, enumerated in Jones' Catalogue, must be added the Grand Reservoir, where at the same locality as the King Rail, quite a number of nests with fresh eggs were found.

3. *Telmatodytes palustris*.—Long-billed Marsh Wren.

This species has greatly increased at the Grand Reservoir, nesting frequently.

4. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.—Bald Eagle.

A beautiful adult was observed on June 18th, and further investigation revealed the fact that a pair had bred along the Grand Reservoir at a locality which I shall not disclose.

5. *Florida caerulea*.—Little Blue Heron.

A fine young male of this species was shot July 16th at the Loramie Reservoir and is now in my collection. It is the first time since 1902 that I am able to rerecord this bird in Ohio.

6. *Ægialitis semipalmata*.—Semipalmated Plover.

7. *Ereunetes pusillus*.—Semipalmated Sandpiper.

8. *Pisobia minutilla*.—Least Sandpiper.

On August 31st a great number of these birds was seen and a few were taken on this date at the Grand Reservoir. They were very tame, allowing me to approach within three feet of them while they were gleaning along the sandbanks. The best diagnostic feature between *Ereunetes pusillus* and *Pisobia minutilla* to my observation is the color of the legs, these being dark in *pusillus*, light in *minutilla*.

9. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*.—Black Tern.

A young male was shot by me on August 31st at the Grand Reservoir, proving that this species is a regular, though rather rare, migrant in Western Ohio.

10. *Calidris arenaria*.—Sanderling.

On September 24th, at the Grand Reservoir, about fifty birds of this species were seen, six of which, four females and two males, were secured. This, I believe, is the first time that such a great number of this species has been observed so far in the interior of Ohio. Records along the Lake Shore are common, but inland mostly solitary birds were recorded in the past, and even at Detroit the first appearance was noted August, 1908, (*Auk*, October, 1909, page 427) by a member of the Wilson Club. All such records should be placed in the Wilson Bulletin as the best organ for ornithologists of the Middle West.

11. *Charadrius dominicus*.—Golden Plover.

Shot a female September 24th at the Grand Reservoir from a flock of nine. A male was killed October 16th at the Loramie Reservoir and sent to me, proving again that this species is a regular migrant across this section of the country.

12. *Mareca americana*.—Baldpate.

A flock of six was seen at the Grand Reservoir September 24th, 1909, my first fall record in the State.

13. *Larus argentatus*.—Herring Gull.

A beautiful pair of adults were seen at close range September 24th at the Grand Reservoir, the earliest inland fall date I can find for Ohio.

14. *Totanus melanoieucus*.—Greater Yellow-legs.

A fine male was sent to me, shot on October 16th, at the Loramie Reservoir.

15. *Phalacrocorax auritus*.—Double-crested Cormorant.

A fine young female was shot at the Loramie Reservoir on October 16th, and is now in my collection. It seems best to refer the specimen to this species and not to *floridanus*, although I have but one Comorant of the sub-species *floridanus* in my collection to compare it with.

16. *Nycticorax n. nævius*.—Black-crowned Night Heron.

Besides the specimen mentioned in the June Bulletin as taken at the Loramie Reservoir, another young male was taken at Wapakoneta in April and mounted there and then.

THE BROWN STAIN OCCASIONALLY SEEN ON
THE FEATHERS OF WILD DUCKS.

BY B. R. BALES, M. D.

During a number of years of collecting of natural history specimens, I have on several occasions taken ducks whose breasts and lower parts were stained with a rusty or brownish stain. The feathers so affected have a harsh feeling and do not have the smooth or oily feeling of ducks' feathers not so affected.

Mr. W. F. Henninger, in the Wilson Bulletin, Vo. XXII., No. 2, page 102, writes of three Scaup Ducks (*Aythya marila nearctica*) that were abnormally colored with "a rusty-brownish wash." He also quotes Mr. Leon J. Cole in the Osprey, 1897, p. 69, and Mr. I. F. Arnow in the Auk, Vol. XXIV., No.