

21. HOODED WARBLER (*Wilsonia citrina*).

Very common summer resident, arriving occasionally as early as March 29. The latest record is September 10, 1909. The Hooded Warbler is a common breeder.

22. REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*).

An abundant migrant, especially from mid-summer to late fall. The earliest record is March 24, 1911, and the latest spring record is May 22, 1909. July 18, 1908, and October 21, 1920, are the earliest and latest records, respectively, for the fall migration.

Summerton, S. C.

---

 RANDOM NOTES FROM ARKANSAS.

H. E. WHEELER, CONWAY, ARK.

The following observations on certain birds of this state are given chiefly for their interest from a distributional standpoint. The several references made to the observations of Mr. Arthur H. Howell are taken from his list of the Birds of Arkansas, published by The Biological Survey in 1911.

BLUE GOOSE (*Chen carulescens*)

A crippled specimen of this species dropped into a small artificial lake near Conway, in Faulkner County, early in the spring of 1922 and at this writing (September 25th) was still making himself at home among a flock of domestic ducks. This species is new to Mr. Howell's list.

GREATER YELLOW-LEGS (*Totanus melanoleucus*)

One bird of this species was observed for a day or two during the middle of May (1922) in the same pond as above noted. On May 29 this pond attracted a belated visitor in the shape of a Lesser Scaup Duck.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*)

A set of two badly incubated eggs was collected from a cliff on the Arkansas River in Faulkner County on June 5th, 1922. Here this pair of vultures has nested for many years though subject to frequent molestation. When exploring the cliffs of Frog Bayou in Crawford County I learned that formerly hundreds of pairs of "buzzards" had formerly nested there, but that a bitter and persistent prejudice on the part of a few individuals

in the neighborhood had been the means of practically exterminating them. There was not a pair left to nest there this season. The boys of the community had dilligently sought out every opportunity to break up every nest, and it is not likely that they will attempt to regain footing in this region again.

It should not be understood however that the species is decreasing in Arkansas.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Phlaeotomus pileatus pileatus*)

Whenever this species is reported as becoming rare let the reported reporter visit Arkansas. The writer will be glad to show even the man from Missouri. In nearly every heavily timbered section of Arkansas this magnificent species is to be found, and it is not nearly as difficult to observe as the supposedly commoner Hairy Woodpecker. The nesting sites of this species are not so difficult to find, but the birds are gifted in the selection of situations which are ideally inaccessible. For the most part this is a huge "snag" or deadened tree, which cannot be climbed, and which will likely fall before the summer is over.

Six nests have been visited this year (1922) from all of which sets have been collected. One of them contained three eggs, three of them four eggs, and one of them five eggs. In last season's takes there was also a clutch of five. These have been collected from Yell, Pope, Sebastian, and Faulkner Counties.

This bird, often designated by the natives as the "Indian Hen," is now seldom shot for its plumage, and it has learned to be wary of the man with a gun. We have heard the name "Wood-chuck" applied to it, and even more frequently, both in Alabama and Arkansas, the title, "Lord God." It is a mighty "excavator," the entrance to most nests is not only large, but the cavity beneath is deep and very ample.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

This species, as might be expected, is distributed over the entire state. We have found it abundant in almost every county visited, there being apparently one exception. But while formerly common in Pope County and in all the lower foothills along the mountain streams it does not now seem able to maintain itself in these situations. Not a single bird was observed in a wide belt of country lying north of the Arkansas River and extending through the interior of Pope and adjacent counties. Is the Red-headed Woodpecker becoming a town bird? His favorite

nesting site is a telephone pole or suitably deadened timber in the open fields. He clings tenaciously to a chosen locality, and does not seriously object to association with the English Sparrow who may have taken lodging in an older nest in his "own" pole. The Red-headed Woodpecker generally lays a clutch of five eggs, though rarely six may be taken.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Centurus carolinus*)

This beautiful species is common to all the regions visited in Arkansas, but it can hardly be said to be as sociable as it is reported to be. Somewhat inaccessible nesting sites are frequently chosen, and he is still a lover of the deep woods. One nest from which a full set of four eggs was taken was fully seventy feet from the ground, in the dead limb of an immense Post Oak. Five eggs of this species must be considered unusual. The note of this Woodpecker is less harsh than that of the Red-headed but cannot be mistaken even at a distance when one is familiar with it.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW (*Antrostomus carolinensis*)

This is the most abundant "goatsucker" in Arkansas, and quite generally distributed. It is especially abundant in the lower foothills of the Ozarks. I have found it very common along the Ouachita river in Garland and Hot Spring counties and especially so in Pope county along Big Piney creek. I have collected the eggs of the Chuck-will's-widow at Fayetteville in Washington county, near Conway in Faulkner county, near London in Pope county, and they have been collected near Van Buren and Fort Smith in Sebastian and Franklin counties.

WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Antrostomus vociferus*)

The area to which this species has been restricted must now be greatly extended. A set of eggs was taken this year on Big Piney creek, seven miles west of Dover in Pope county, on May 19th of this year. A splendid photograph of this nest was secured. Though much rarer than its larger cousin it can also be found in all the foothills of the Ozarkian uplift, and doubtless will be reported from the tier of counties along the western border of the state, well down to the Texas line.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*)

It has been my good fortune to locate many nests of this little Hummer this season. The behavior of the female will

invariably betray her home. It is easier still to locate the "house" if the birds are building, as in the case of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, for the birds keep their territory pretty well cleared of intruding visitors. On one occasion the female Ruby-throat left her nest repeatedly to torment a family of Carolina Wrens, and to pay her respects to a Tufted Titmouse. Otherwise I think I should have never located the tiny nest situated 50 feet above ground, and so thoroughly concealed from view.

With us it would seem that the nesting site most preferred is one over-arched by some large protecting limb, and below the nest there is generally another heavy limb which makes concealment the more complete. The nest is thus placed on a limb protected from the sun above, and observation below, and singularly enough these protecting limbs are such that the wind seldom lashes them against the limb on which the nest is saddled.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Muscivora forficata*)

This species can now be definitely reported as a rather common Summer resident in Western Arkansas. However its range is limited to the small prairies of Sebastian and Crawford counties, and parts of Franklin county. It has not failed to nest almost in the heart of Fort Smith for many years, and it was my good fortune to observe several pairs of these birds on the edge of the city during the week of August 13-19, 1922. Whether the bird has established itself further inland along the western tier of counties is not yet known, but it is certainly not found north of Fort Smith.

(To be concluded in March Bulletin)