

Scotia, some six miles southwest of State College, and a smaller pond at Oak Hall, five miles northeast of the town, but otherwise with the exception of a few creeks there are few inducements for such species as ducks or sandpipers to linger here on their way north or south.

#### IV. STRAGGLERS

1. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER—*Centurus carolinus*  
One record, a single bird seen March 12, 1917, in a tree at the side of a road.
2. PURPLE MARTIN—*Progne subis subis*  
Two records, single birds, seen Sept. 30, 1915 and May 4, 1916.
3. CAROLINA WREN—*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*  
Two records, single birds seen Feb. 19, 1917 and March 16, 1917, each time in the top of a tree singing.
4. LABRADOR CHICKADEE—*Penthestes hudsonicus nigra*  
One bird seen March 18, 1917, near Rouchtown, Lycoming County, a neighboring county lying in this same range of mountains.  
Georgia State College of Agriculture,  
Athens, Georgia—January, 1924.

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### WATER BIRDS BREEDING ON PIERCE POND, MAINE

ALLEN H. WOOD, JR., BOSTON, MASS.

Pierce Pond is one of Maine's most beautiful lake-jewels, set eleven hundred feet above sea level in the mountains near the Canadian border. The pond is approximately nine miles long and not over three miles wide at any point.

Only three camps on the shores of the pond disturb the absolute wilderness of the surrounding country; except during the fishing and gunning season, there is seldom anyone in the three camps.

Twenty-two years ago the stream-outlet at the foot of the pond was dammed to provide headwater for logging. This dam caused the water in the pond to rise about six feet above its former level. Thousands of trees which were growing close to the edge of the pond were partially submerged and soon died. Today, thousands of dead and broken stumps border the pond. These stumps vary from three to forty feet in height, and most of them are partly or entirely hollow.

*American Golden-eye.*

The American Golden-eye Duck breeds in these stumps of dead trees by the hundreds. Joe, my guide, and I found ten nests in one large cove where the stumps were particularly thick. I saw several male Barrow's Golden-Eyes during my four

days' visit, but found no evidence of their breeding on Pierce Pond.

The "whistlers" were very numerous and not very wild. A pair visited me every night about six o'clock. They swam up and down the shore directly in front of my cabin. The male bird had a peculiar habit of bending his neck until the top of his head touched his back. After each contortion he would swim up close to the female and give two hoarse grunts as if asking her approbation of his exhibition. Then they would both dive. I was interested in watching them dive as they both did so at the same instant, and came up at the same instant. I never saw such perfect team work before.

*Black Duck.*

*Anas rubripes* also breeds on the shores of the wooded islands in Pierce Pond. Their nests are very difficult to find and I counted myself fortunate in finding one.

Joe and I had landed on a small, heavily wooded island to eat lunch; as I was picking up some dry wood to build a fire, a female Black Duck flew out of the bushes almost between my legs. Snugly hidden under a small evergreen tree I found her nest. The eleven buff eggs were grouped in a feather-lined hollow in the ground—packed in with mathematical precision. A ridge of breast feathers about two inches high surrounded the hollow. The nest as a whole, with its protecting spruce trees and its outlook on the pond, was the most beautiful wild duck nest I have ever seen.

*Red-breasted Mergansers.*

The Red-breasted Merganser breeds on this body of water, I am sure, as I saw dozens of pairs every day. I was unable to find any nests of this species, but Joe, and another guide assured me that they had often found "Sheldrake" nests under stump roots and in the brush along the shores of the pond.

*Scaup Duck.*

I make a record here of the "Blue Bills," not because I could find any positive evidence of their breeding in the vicinity of Pierce Pond, but because there is a possibility of their doing so. I saw fourteen pairs of Greater Scaup, and three pairs of Lesser Scaup during my stay; and their presence on the pond during breeding season leads me to believe that they quite possibly do breed here.

*Wood Duck.*

Several pairs of Wood Duck breed regularly in the vicinity

of the camp where I slept during my stay at Pierce Pond. One pair bred in a huge birch which stood about one hundred feet from the lake directly in back of my cabin. The nest hole was about forty feet from the ground. I saw the female circle about and dive into the hole a dozen or more times, while her beautiful mate would swim in the pond close to shore.

I found one other Wood Duck's nest on the opposite side of the pond in a large pine. Both females were laying and had not begun to set.

*Gavia immer* is another resident breeder. Joe took me to an island where a pair of these birds have built their haphazard nest for the past three years—on a mud bank about four feet from the water. We saw the Loons four or five times, but they will not commence laying for another two or three weeks.

I saw two pairs of Loons and understand that six pair breed regularly on various islands in the pond.

*Herring Gull.*

Scattered throughout the pond are numerous rocks of varying sizes. Many of these isolated rocks are occupied by Herring Gulls who build a fairly substantial nest of rock moss, grass and rubbish, in which they lay their three splotched eggs.

I found fourteen Herring Gull nests within four miles of my cabin—all with three eggs in them.

*Spotted Sandpiper.*

The only other bird which breeds on the pond that I could ascertain by observation and questioning is the Spotted Sandpiper.

They are fairly numerous and lay their speckled eggs under the bushes and grass on the sand spits around the shores of the pond. I was unable to find any nests, as it was too early in the season, but saw photographs of birds, nests and eggs which the guides had taken last year. The identification was positive.

Insectivorous birds, Hawks, Eagles, and Owls also breed around Pierce Pond, but as I was particularly interested in the water birds, and my visit very brief, I paid practically no attention to any other avi-fauna.

I did blunder on a Chickadee's nest in an old birch stump. The nest hole was lined with usnea moss and fine strips of bark. Two eggs had been laid.

My visit at Pierce Pond extended from May 21 until May 26, and all observations recorded above were made in that period.

May 28, 1924.