

Dear Sir

The *Sialia* brought in by Lt. A. is, I think, the "Western Blue Bird", but we cannot yet identify the partridge with anything in your book. It is decidedly a dove colored bird, slightly tinged with brown, a longer tail than our quail and full as large. He saw many of them and brought in six skins. Peale¹ is disposed to think it new. He saw the skins in the hands of Pollard,² who was employed to put them up. I have advised Lt. A. to describe this bird without delay.

Yrs.

J. J. Abert.

28 April '47.

J. J. Audubon Esq.

SOME NEW AND RARE BIRD RECORDS FOR MICHIGAN.

BY NORMAN A. WOOD.

[University Museum, University of Michigan.]

DURING the summer of 1904 these records were made by Messrs. A. G. Ruthven, Otto McCreary, W. A. Maclean, Max M. Peet and the writer, while members of the Museum Expedition to the Porcupine Mountains and Isle Royale. A detailed report on the ornithological results will be published later.

Prof. W. B. Barrows of the Michigan Agricultural College is preparing a volume on the birds of Michigan, which he expects to publish at an early date. At his suggestion the following records are published in advance of the regular report, in order that they may be incorporated in his forthcoming volume.

No attempt will be made to prove that all of these are "breed-

¹ Titian Ramsey Peale, born 1800, died March 13, 1885. He accompanied the South Sea Exploring Expedition in 1838-42, under Lieut. Charles Wilkes, as Naturalist.

² Pollard. An assistant in taxidermical work under Titian R. Peale.

ing records." The facts as observed by the members of the party will be presented and the reader can draw his own conclusions. It is well understood that the presence of adult birds, even when accompanied by their young, is not positive proof of the breeding of the species in that locality, except early in the breeding season. In order that we may fully understand the conditions which prevail in the region worked it will be best to locate the Porcupine Mountains on a map of Michigan. They are situated in Ontonagon County on the south shore of Lake Superior. Across the lake to Grand Marais, Minnesota, it is about 80 miles; Isle Royale is 67 miles north. To cross the lake south from these points would be a long flight for young birds. It is possible that the birds migrated here by land, either around the western end of Lake Superior, or from Keweenaw Point, 100 miles to the northeast. There is also the possibility of a migration, partly by land, from the Minnesota shore opposite the Apostle Islands; where by crossing 40 miles of water, a rest could be had before another flight of about 40 miles due east over the lake, to the Porcupines. But to my mind none of these possibilities account for the presence of such northern forms as the Connecticut Warbler, Olive-backed Thrush, Pigeon Hawk, and the White-winged Crossbill, all of which I believe bred in the Porcupine Mountains during the past summer of 1904.

Given the presence of the young bird with the adult, the time of the year at which they are seen does not so strongly substantiate their breeding in a certain locality, as does the age and condition of the young. I have tried to make plain in the list, the data bearing on this point. I have excluded from the list birds that are early migrants like the waders, of which we took the following at the Porcupine Mountains: Wilson's Snipe July 19, Solitary Sandpiper July 18 (we saw families of this bird on Carp River at this date), Least Sandpiper July 21, and Yellow-legs August 3.

Isle Royale is about 15 miles from the Canadian shore and this distance would prevent migration of northern species until the young were old and strong enough to make the flight. All unfledged young seen here were surely bred on the Isle. The presence also, in the summer, of the Sharp-tailed Grouse on the island proves to me that they breed here. Additional authority

for this is the statement of residents and hunters who told us of them.

The determination of several doubtful forms was made by Mr. H. C. Oberholser, for which we are indebted to Mr. Robert Ridgway of the Smithsonian Institution and to Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey.

1. *Pediceetes phasianellus* (?). NORTHERN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE. — Siskowit Bay, Isle Royale, Aug. 29. A family of this species was seen at close range by Ruthven. The residents told me that the "Prairie Chicken" lived at Siskowit Bay throughout the year. The large clearing (about 500 acres) near the old mines, seems to furnish the favorable conditions for them.

2. *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. — Porcupine Mountains, July 13. Adults and young were seen nearly every day of our stay. Isle Royale, Aug. 16. Common during our stay on the Isle.

3. *Falco columbarius*. PIGEON HAWK. — Porcupine Mountains, July 24. An adult and three young were seen, and two young taken by Maclean. Isle Royale, Aug. 23. Several seen and three taken.

4. *Asio magellanicus occidentalis*. GREAT HORNED OWL. — Porcupine Mountains, July 24. An adult and two young were seen and one of the young birds was taken by Maclean. Isle Royale, Aug. 26. A family of four was seen and three of them were taken by McCreary.

5. *Dryobates villosus leucomelas*. NORTHERN HAIRY WOODPECKER. — Isle Royale, Aug. 4 to Sept. 4, several were seen and two taken.

6. *Perisoreus canadensis*. CANADA JAY. — Porcupine Mountains, Aug. 7. One seen near Little Carp Lake by Peet. Washington Harbor, Isle Royale, Aug. 18 to Sept. 4. Common. A resident said they were present throughout the year.

7. *Agelaius phœniceus fortis*. THICK-BILLED REDWING. — Washington Harbor, Isle Royale, Aug. 18 to Aug. 29. Two males and two females were taken.

8. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. AMERICAN CROSSBILL. — Porcupine Mountains, Aug. 5. Small flocks or families were seen in the tamaracks and several were taken.

9. *Loxia leucoptera*. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. — Porcupine Mountains, Aug. 5. Adult male and three females were taken in the tamarack swamp near Carp River by McCreary. The crops of these, as well as of the American Crossbill, were full of the seeds of the tamarack. Washington Harbor, Isle Royale, Aug. 18 to Aug. 30. Several small flocks were seen.

10. *Spinus pinus*. PINE SISKIN. — Porcupine Mountains, July 15 to Aug. 14. Common and several were taken. I saw a female, Aug. 4, pick up some hairs near the door of the camp and fly to the woods. The testes of the males taken also indicated the breeding season. Washington Harbor, Isle Royale, Aug. 18 to Sept. 5. Common.

11. *Vireo solitarius*. BLUE-HEADED VIREO.—Porcupine Mountains, Aug. 5. Adult male and female were taken by McCreary. They were also seen here on July 27.

12. *Dendroica cærulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—Porcupine Mountains, July 17. A pair was found whose actions indicated a nest near by. July 20, young in the down were taken and many seen, too young to fly. Washington Harbor, Isle Royale, Aug. 18 to Sept. 4. Common.

13. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER.—Porcupine Mountains, July 16. Adults with young seen by McCreary. Washington Harbor, Isle Royale, Aug. 20 to Sept. 3. Common. An adult female and a young male were taken.

14. *Dendroica blackburniæ*. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.—Porcupine Mountains, July 14 to Aug. 1. An adult female, while feeding young not able to fly, was taken with the young by Peet. Several adult birds with families were seen near camp.

15. *Dendroica vigorsii*. PINE-CREEPING WARBLER.—Porcupine Mountains, July 19. McCreary saw adults carrying food to young in the top of a pine, at the edge of a cliff.

16. *Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*. GRINNELL'S WATER THRUSH.—Washington Harbor, Isle Royale, Aug. 20 to Sept. 1. An adult female taken, Aug. 24. An adult male taken Aug. 26. In a cedar swamp I heard one singing a low sweet song Sept. 1.

17. *Geothlypis agilis*. CONNECTICUT WARBLER.—Porcupine Mountains, July 27. An adult female and young of the year were taken by Maclean. This female had the large bare space on abdomen and the thick tough skin so characteristic of breeding birds. A family of four was seen in a swampy clearing near the Lake Superior shore by McCreary.

18. *Geothlypis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER.—Porcupine Mountains, July 15. Adult female and two of her young were taken by Peet. Adults were seen near camp several times feeding young unable to fly.

19. *Wilsonia canadensis*. CANADIAN WARBLER.—Porcupine Mountains, July 15. An adult was seen with an insect in its bill. This bird acted as though its young were near by. Aug. 7, in a cedar swamp near the Lake Superior shore, an adult female was observed whose actions indicated young near at hand.

20. *Hylocichla ustulata swainsonii*. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.—Porcupine Mountains, July 26. A nest with two eggs was found by McCreary. This nest was built on a small hemlock (about 10 feet from the ground) and composed of leaves, strips of bark and grasses. The eggs were a bluish green with cinnamon brown spots sprinkled over them. An adult female was taken July 22 which had the large bare space on the abdomen and the thick skin found on breeding birds. A young unfledged bird was taken July 29. This species was common and was frequently seen and heard singing by McCreary.



Wood, Norman Asa. 1905. "Some New and Rare Bird Records for Michigan." *The Auk* 22, 175–178. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4069715>.

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