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1987

NATURE TRAILS
AND
TRAILSIDE MUSEUM
CHECK LIST OF BIRDS

by
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59.82(74.7)

BEAR MOUNTAIN
NEW YORK

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 AND
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 CHECK LIST OF BIRDS

28-111913 June 9

BOSTON - 1933
 JUNE 9

THE BIRD CHECK LIST

The Bear Mountain Nature Trail Area, situated as it is upon the banks of the Hudson, on the eastern edge of the wooded, unpopulated Harri-man Park, is ideally suited to bird life.

During the past nine intermittent years that we have spent in the Park, we have had excellent opportunity to observe and to study birds that inhabit or visit the region.

It is suggested that this check list be used as a basis of study and that those who are interested in this area use it as an aid to further their efforts in knowing birds.

We will greatly welcome additions or corrections to the list and will at all times be grateful for notes relating to the nesting habits or to the general habits of birds seen in the Park.

W. H. Carr.

SEASONAL LIST OF BIRDS

BEAR MOUNTAIN NATURE TRAILS

Before the fifteenth of April we can expect:

*Meadowlark	*Woodcock
Rusty Blackbird	Vesper Sparrow
*Red-winged Blackbird	White-throated Sparrow
*Kingfisher	*Chipping Sparrow
*Phoebe	*Field Sparrow
Cowbird	Swamp Sparrow
*Morning Dove	*Tree Swallow
*Purple Grackle	Pine Warbler
Bronzed Grackle	Yellow Palm Warbler
*Fox Sparrow	Hermit Thrush
*Robin	Black Crowned Night Heron
*Bluebird	*Towhee
Wood Duck	*Barn Swallow

By the end of April we can see:

*Green Heron	Blue-headed Vireo
Spotted Sandpiper	Black-and-white Warbler
*Whip-poor-will	Myrtle Warbler
*Chimney Swift	Black-throated Green Warbler
Bank Swallow	*Louisiana Water Thrush
*Yellow Warbler	*Brown Thrasher
*House Wren	

May will usher in the most active season of bird migration. Nearly every day will bring new arrivals. By May fifteenth the woods and fields will know:

Pigeon Hawk	*Blue-winged Warbler
*Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Black-throated Blue Warbler
*Kingbird	*Chestnut-sided Warbler
*Crested Flycatcher	*Prairie Warbler
*Least Flycatcher	*Hooded Warbler
*Baltimore Oriole	Northern Water-thrush
Orchard Oriole	*Maryland Yellow-throat
*Rose-breasted Grosbeak	*Ovenbird
Scarlet Tanager	*Redstart
Warbling Vireo	*Catbird
Yellow-throated Vireo	*Wood Thrush
*White-eyed Vireo	*Veery
Acadian Flycatcher	*Red-eyed Vireo
*Worm-eating Warbler	Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat	Olive-backed Thrush
Magnolia Warbler	Canadian Warbler
White-crowned Sparrow	*Golden-winged Warbler
Lincoln's Sparrow	Blackpoll Warbler
Gray-cheeked Thrush	

By the first of June, the following birds will also have come:

*Yellow-billed Cuckoo	*Black-billed Cuckoo
*Wood Pewee	*Indigo Bunting
*Cedar Waxwing	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Alder Flycatcher

The roll call or check list of the birds that have visited our trail area during the past years is an impressive one. It is indeed a pity that space does not permit us to tell more of them than to simply list their names. Our notebooks hold many stories of these visitors, and as we write them down, one after another, certain vivid incidents connected with the various individuals come to mind and almost demand the telling. Perhaps, however, the mere naming of them will somehow serve as an incentive to those who have not called upon us, to visit the Bear Mountain Nature Trails at a future date, thus making it possible to see the birds and to gather first hand and original information. It is more interesting to see and to hear wild birds than it is to read of them. Whenever possible, Nature Information should not be "retailed" through a "middleman"

Some other birds that have visited or have been seen from our Nature Trails and the immediate surroundings during the year have been:

Bald Eagle	Northern Shrike
Broad-winged Hawk	Migrant Shrike
*Sharp-shinned Hawk	*Downy Woodpecker
Cooper's Hawk	*Flicker
*Sparrow Hawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Duck Hawk	Piliated Woodpecker
*Red-tailed Hawk	Mocking bird
*Red-shouldered Hawk	Canada Goose
Goshawk	Great Blue Heron
Snowy Owl	Clapper Rail
*Great-horned Owl	*Virginia Rail
*Screech Owl	Greater Yellowlegs
Barred Owl	Wilson's Snipe
*Black Duck	Killdeer Plover
Scaup Duck	Osprey
Mallard Duck	Blue-winged Teal
Red-headed Duck	American Coot
Merganser (Hooded)	Prairie Horned Lark
Merganser (American)	*Florida Gallinule
Turkey Vulture	

All of the birds checked with a * (star), nested on or very near the trail area during the spring of 1927.

During June and July, many birds will have completed their nesting. Young birds will be in quiet evidence in the trees and shrubs, some still being fed by the parent birds and others ready to care for themselves. The singing of the birds will be stilled to a great extent.

August, the month of the goldenrod, will usher in the season of leave-taking for the birds. Soon many of the transients will be seen or heard no more, for they will have left on their southern journey. The crow, his nesting season over, and his young full-fledged, or nearly so, will be more conspicuous than ever.

During the remaining Winter months of the year, the out-of-doors will be host to the permanent residents and to bird visitors that come from further north. The friendly Chickadee and the industrious Downy Woodpecker will be seen on leafless branches, both engaged in that constant search for food.

It is at this time of the year, perhaps, that the best opportunity to commence a study of birds has come. The birds now in the woods may nearly all be seen the year through, thus by making their acquaintance, the beginners will have secured a background of bird study that will later be of great aid when the Spring influx of birds comes steadily in, tending, sometimes, to confuse the mind of both bird-students and beginners as well.

It is suggested that the above groups of birds be used as a check list. The visitor or camper may underline the names of the birds he has identified. Birds not recorded here may be added in "Notes". We will welcome any new discoveries, or additional nesting information to aid in making the lists more complete.

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