Jacobs, J. W. Summer birds of Greene county, Pennsylvania.

(1893)

A-J [acobs,
J. W.]

1893

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

LIBRARY

OF THE

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOÖLOGY

54.640

BEQUEST OF

WILLIAM BREWSTER

June 24, 1920.

JUN 24 1870

125 12-30

54.640.

SUMMER BIRDS

OF

GREENE COUNTY,
GREENE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

PENNSYLVANIA.

J. Warren Jacobs.

507, 1311
507, 1311
507, 1311

complement of
the main text

SUMMER BIRDS
OF
GREENE COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA,
By
J. Warren Jacobs,
Waynesburg, Pa.

WAYNESBURG, PA.,
REPUBLICAN BOOK AND JOB OFFICE,
1896.

Introductory Note.

GREENE County, Pennsylvania, is situated in the extreme southwestern corner of the state. The county of Washington adjoins on the north, and on the east the Monongahela River separates Greene from Fayette county. West Virginia forms the entire southern and western boundaries. The territory included within the county limits comprises about 608 square miles.

The surface of the country is of a broken, hilly nature, with broad bottom lands along the streams. In the western part of the county, a zigzag ridge, running from north to south, forms the general backbone, also the watershed between Tenmile and Dunkard Creeks flowing east to the Monongahela and the Wheeling and Fishing Creeks flowing west into the Ohio.

The elevation is about 1,050, some points reaching 1,300 feet. At Waynesburg ($80^{\circ} 8' W.$ Longitude, $39^{\circ} 55' N.$ Latitude,) in the central part of the county, the elevation is about 960 feet.

The traveler, viewing the beautiful landscape and noting the general industry and thrift of the agriculturist, must pause and think of the once vast and magnificent forest that

covered the hills and valleys of this region. Grand must have been the spectacle—those ponderous “monarchs of the forest” lifting their heads heavenward, canoping the streams and crowning the hilltops—one vast field of deep green, broken only by an occasional glimpse of the silvery waters of the Tenmile or the Dunkard.

In the southeastern part of the county was, originally, woods of pine, hemlock and spruce. These, too, have been almost entirely swept away. The original forests now standing are of oak, maple, hickory, bass-wood, ash, elm, poplar, walnut, etc., with here and there an isolated clump of evergreens. These woods crown many of the hilltops, wind the curve of some steep hillside or crowd the ravines and coves.

In these places the Birds of Prey find ample nesting sites, and the smaller woodland birds breed in profusion.

On many of the hillsides are fields overgrown with the blackberry brier and stunted bushes. Here is the home of many of the smaller birds, prominent among which is the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) and the Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*).

Along the streams an abundance of willow and sycamore afford sites for colonies of Blackbirds.

The scarcity of ponds and swamps in this section accounts for the absence of the Rails and other birds that frequent such localities.

In preparing the present paper, I have aimed to give a correct list of birds found during the breeding season, and to describe, briefly, the localities frequented by the birds, and to state, where sufficient data has been gathered, the nesting date and the number of eggs composing the complement.

J. WARREN JACOBS.

WAYNESBURG, PA.,
Aug. 15, 1893.

SUMMER BIRDS.

—o—

Ardea virescens. GREEN HERON.—A common summer resident. Found resting in orchards and thickets along the streams, during May and June. Earliest date May 11. May 25th., may be considered the average date. The last set was taken July 12, and this was the second laying of one bird, the first set having been taken on May 27. The Shite-poke or "Fly-up-the-creek" lays from three to five eggs.

Philohela minor. AMERICAN WOODCOCK.—Not uncommon. From my observations it would appear that the breeding season of this bird is during the month of April. April 10th. I took a set of four eggs, incubation about one-third. Again on April 30, a set of four on the point of hatching. However, some cases vary, as on May 27, 1880, my dog flushed an adult female from a thin clump of briars near swampy ground, wherein she had been hiding with her brood. The two downy creatures sat huddled together, and although away from the nest they seemed not the least bit alarmed at my presence, but allowed me to handle them at pleasure.

A favorite nesting site is a dry bushy knoll in marshy ground.

Actitis macularia. SPOTTED SANDPETER.—Abundant and seldom seen away from the streams. According to my observations the number of eggs laid by this bird is almost invariably four. May 5th. to June 10th., average date May 20.

Aegialitis vocifera. KILLDEER.—Common in the upland nesting usually in the corn-fields. From June 15th. on they are to be found caring for their broods about the springs and marshes that occur in the vicinity of the nest. The Killdeer lays three or four eggs.

Colinus virginianus. BONWHITE.—Abundant, nesting in the upland meadows and brier-fields. Nineteen is the largest number of eggs I have found in a single nest. Fresh eggs may be found from June 15th. to the last of August.

Bonasa umbellus. RUFFED GROUSE.—Common in the thicket and mixed wood. According to my observations ten or eleven is the usual number of eggs laid. The largest set numbered thirteen, the smallest, seven eggs. Fresh eggs can be found from first to last of May. May 5th., eleven fresh eggs were taken.

Zenaidura macroura. MOURNING DOVE.—Abundant everywhere excepting the more densely wooded districts. Nests placed on stumps, top rail of fence, in orchard trees and occasionally in the tall sycamores along the streams. One nest containing two eggs was found on the ground in a meadow margined by a stream. The Mourning Dove begins nesting about the 5th. of April and from this date until the first of August fresh eggs are found.

Cathartes aura. TURKEY VULTURE.—I have observed this species throughout all the summer months, becoming quite common in August. No record of its breeding within the county.

Accipiter velox. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—Rare. On May 7th, 1892 I found a nest of this hawk placed forty feet up among some vines in a chestnut sapling. The nest contained but one egg on this date and two weeks later, May 27th, I collected the complete laying which was a small set of two eggs.

Accipiter cooperi. COOPER'S HAWK.—Abundant. Found usually in the upland timber, preferably the neglected tracts where abounds an abundance of under-growth. Eggs three to five, usually four. The nesting date extends throughout the months of May and June. Fresh eggs can be found up to June 10th.

The nesting of this hawk is often interrupted by the Crow and the Squirrel, as I have, on several occasions, found shells which bore unmistakable evidence of being emptied by these egg eaters.

Buteo borealis. RED-TAILED HAWK.—Abundant. Found nesting in all the large timber tracts, frequently in the smaller woods, and occasionally a nest is placed in an isolated tree. Two and three is the number of eggs laid, two predominating.

From March 25th to April 25th is the regular nesting period. However, I have found one or two sets before and after these dates.

NOTE.—THE BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is an irregular summer visitor, straggling from other localities. They are met with mainly in the southern part, along Dunkard Creek, during July and August.

Falco sparverius. AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK.—A common species on the outskirts of woods, in deadened timber and along the streams. Three, four and five eggs are laid.

Syrnium nebulosum. BARRED OWL.—An uncommon species. No record of its breeding.

Megascops asio. SCREECH OWL.—Abundant. Nests in hollow trees during April. Four is the largest number of eggs recorded by me. During the winter months I found this owl very common in Waynesburg.

Bubo virginianus. GREAT HORNED OWL.—Common in the deeper forests, nesting usually in natural cavities in trees. Two broods were found in old Hawks' nests. Two and three eggs are laid. Two predominating. Full sets of fresh eggs are found from the first of February to the fifteenth of March.

Coccyzus americanus. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.—Common alike in the field and woodland, nesting in scrubby trees in the woods, and orchard trees and stunted bushes in the field. Eggs two to four. June 10th. to August 15th.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.—Less common than the last named species and is decidedly partial to remote shady nooks and forest land. Two and three eggs compose the usual set. An exceptional case was five fresh eggs taken, together with the nest from an apple tree in an old orchard.

I have observed that incubation in sets of this species is more nearly regular than in those of *Coccyzus americanus*. Nesting period same as the Yellow-billed.

Ceryle alcyon. BELTED KINGFISHER.—Common along the streams. Eggs five to seven, usually the latter number, laid on the damp sand or a pile of fish bones and remains of crawfish at extremity of burrow about four feet deep. I have found nests containing fresh eggs from the 5th. to last of May.

Dryobates villosus. HAIRY WOODPECKER.—A common but shy species. I have found nests containing three and four young, but my records are so meager the number of eggs laid by this species in this locality cannot be given.

Dryobates pubescens. DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Abundant species, resorting to orchards and the outskirts of woodland. Four to six eggs are laid. Excavation usually in a dead branch.

Ceophloeus pileatus. PILEATED WOODPECKER.—Formerly a common but now

a rare species. April 28th., 1887, I went to examine nest that had been located some days before in a dead maple but found the tree prostrate. A woodchopper discovering the home of a "Great Indian Hen," felled the tree, thus destroying my much coveted prize. The cavity contained four broken eggs.

On May 21st. of the same year I found a nest, containing four young birds and one addled egg, in a live maple within a quarter of a mile of the town of Waynesburg.

After a long search on May 6th., 1893, I succeeded in finding a nest in the dead top of a living maple on the outskirts of one of our large forests. At first I thought the hole deserted, so broken and blackened was the dead wood surrounding the entrance, but a careful examination through my field-glass disclosed the telltale feathers adhering to bark near entrance. Pounding on the tree had not the effect of bringing the old bird out nor did she leave the nest until I was within reach of cavity, when apparently in great alarm she fluttered out, and giving vent to those shrill, ear-piercing cackles, disappeared in the gloom of the forest. The nest contained one addled egg, one young bird and the shell from which it had just made its exit. This shell was in two pieces which I carefully joined, and now have. In my collection, a specimen that was once the cradle of an embryotic *pileatus*, which is to-day, perchance, roving from wood to wood or hiding in some secluded nook where human footsteps seldom fall.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Rather common about newly cleared tracts, and is likewise found nesting in the sycamores along the streams and in orchards. Four to six eggs are laid, usually five. Average nesting date May 25th.

Melanerpes carolinus. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—A common species, nesting usually in live trees. When the birds discover an intruder near their nest, they become much distressed, and will often come quite close while watching the annihilation of their home. Three and four eggs have been found by me.

Colaptes auratus. FLICKER.—Abundant everywhere excepting the deeper forests. Eggs five to ten, usually six. Excavation generally in main trunk of decaying tree. During migration in Spring and Fall this species is very partial to woods. Average nesting date May 28th.

Antrostomus vociferans. WHIP-POOR-WILL.—Common. Numbers can be heard every night. They are particularly noisy during May and June. Always two eggs. Average date June 1st. Woods where under-growth is thin.

NOTE.—THE NIGHT HAWK (*Chordeiles virginianus*), doubtless, should have a place in this list as I have occasionally noted a straggler throughout the season.

A former friend told me he once found two Whip poor-will eggs, which were much darker colored than any of the eggs of that species I had in my collection. These, which he described as having a "mottled brown appearance," were, no doubt eggs of *Chordeiles virginianus*.

Chaetura pelagica. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Abundant. As far as I am aware these birds nest only in chimneys. Four to five eggs are laid.

Trochilus colubris. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Abundant, nesting in the cool shady grove and woods. The sugar maple is its favorite tree. The Ruby-throat returns year after year to its old haunts in the shady nook. Here, on top of a slender twig, it constructs its neat little nest of cottony substance, spiders' web and lichen. I have observed both birds at work on the nest. The female, however, does the greater part of the work. On a few occasions I have found the nest built on an old last year's one. Two eggs are laid and these not always on consecutive days. The female, however, does not begin to incubate the eggs until the laying is completed. Average date for fresh eggs, June 1st. Earliest record May 21st.

Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—Common, nesting in orchards and along streams. A few nests are found in isolated trees in the field. Eggs two to four, usually three.

During the Spring of '85 I found a pair of "Beebirds" repairing an old nest of the Robin on a horizontal branch of a walnut tree on the bank of Tennile Creek. In a few days the nest contained one egg which I took. Passing this way the next morning I was somewhat surprised to see the old bird leave the nest. Climbing up I found the nest contained another egg. This I also took, and so on each succeeding day until I had four eggs when the laying ceased.

Happening by this tree ten days later, I discovered the birds moving suspiciously about the branches. I ascended the tree and found the nest to contain one fresh egg the beginning of a new set. I tried the same experiment as on the former occasion with the same results. After this they abandoned the Robin's nest and built one of their own far in the top of a giant sycamore, that grew near by.

Myiarchus crinitus. CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Common alike in forest and field, nesting in natural cavities in trees. Four to six eggs are laid. May 15th. to June 15th.

Sayornis phoebe. PHOEBE.—Abundant. Most common along streams, placing the nest under bridges and against rocky banks. It is found also in places remote from water. One nest (May 5th., 1893), was placed on a brace in a dark corner of a sheepshed on top of a high hill and more than a quarter of a mile from any stream. It contained five eggs of the Phoebe and one of *M. ater*. Nests containing fresh eggs can be found from the middle of April to the last of May.

Contopus virens. WOOD PEWEE.—Common. Met with during the breeding season in the more open woods and clumps of trees in the pastures. Eggs usually three, often only two and rarely four. First half of June is the time to obtain full sets of fresh eggs.

Empidonax acadicus. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—Abundant. A common resort of this bird is along the shady brooklet in a ravine in the woods. The nest is an easy one to find, being placed in or suspended from a forked twig at extremity of some long drooping branch, and usually overhanging the ravine.

As I wind the course of some dark, dreary hollow the sharp alarm notes of *acadicus* just a few yards in advance assures me that "the place is haunted"—not by ghostly objects, but by God's creatures, the study and delight of man.

Pressing on I soon find the nest, composed of catkins, weed fiber, vine tendrils and fine grass, often so frail the eggs can be discerned through the floor. From two to four eggs are laid. The most common clutch being three. Two broods are reared during the season. Fresh eggs of the first laying must be looked for from the twenty-fifth of May to the tenth or fifteenth of June.

Cyanocitta cristata. BLUE JAY.—This noisy bird frequents the scrubby thicket where they are met with sparingly. A common bird in the fall and winter.

One nest, placed in a pine tree, contained four young. Two other nests were observed but for want of time were not examined.

Corvus americanus. AMERICAN CROW.—Abundant. Most common during Spring migration,—February and March.

Almost every woods contains one or more nests. The height ranges from twenty to eighty feet, commonly below forty. The crow is a close sitter and I have frequently climbed to nests before the old bird would leave.

Four to six eggs are laid. Most of the nests observed by me have contained five eggs. Six is undoubtedly a rare set as I have found this number but twice during the past ten years. April 1st. to May 10th.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. BOBOLINK.—Rare as a Summer resident. One nest containing five eggs was found placed in the tall grass in the midst of a large

meadow. During the Spring migration this is one of our most common birds, resorting to the woods and keeping well into the tree-tops.

Molothrus ater. COWBIRD.—Abundant. These birds arrive from the south about the first of April and are seen in small flocks of a dozen or less individuals.

About the fifth of May, the lazy female begins skulking about on the ground, or peering into the under-growth, searching for the nest of some other species, in which to deposit an egg while the owner is away from home.

I am of the opinion that this bird often returns to the same nest and deposits at least the second egg, as I have often encountered nests containing eggs of *M. ater*, which resembled each other as closely as is general with a complement of eggs of any of the smaller birds.

According to my observations, in nearly every instance, nests in which Cowbirds' eggs had been deposited, contained an incomplete complement of the rightful owner. Especially is this true with nests of *Poleptila caerulea*, *Dendroica aestiva*, *Sciurus molacilla*, *Empidonax acadicus*, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, *Vireo olivaceus*, *Icteria virens*, and *Paranga erythromelas*.

I have found a nest of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher containing a single young bird and that a Cowbird. A Red-eyed Vireo's nest contained nothing more than a hard set egg of *M. ater*. Many nests are deserted after the placing of the parasite egg. Frequently nests (Phoebe, Yellow-breasted Chat, and the Yellow and Kentucky Warblers) were found in which a new floor had been laid, entirely or partially hiding the first laid eggs which in this case, was the Cowbird. In addition to the species already mentioned as being troubled by the Cow Bunting, the following receives a fair showing of the same attention: *Icterus galbula*, *Cardinalis cardinalis*, *Spizella socialis*, *Spizella pusilla*, *Melospiza fasciata*, *Passerina cyanea*, *Vireo gilvus*, *Vireo noveboracensis*, *Helminthophila chrysoptera*, *Sciurus aurocapillus*, *Geothlypis trichas*, *Setophaga ruticilla*, *Parus bicolor*, *Turdus mustelinus* and *Sialia sialis*.

Agelaius phoeniceus. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—This is our commonest Blackbird. The first individuals reach this locality about the twenty second of March, and by the twentieth of April, flocks numbering hundreds are pouring in from the south.

During the breeding season the Redwing resorts mainly to the low lands, placing its nest in the tall grass and weeds or in the tops of low willows and elders that line the banks of many of the streams. The height from the ground is usually under eight feet, although I have found nests fifteen feet up in orchard trees, and on one occasion fifty feet above the ground in top of water elm.

May 15th, full complements of eggs are to be found. The number ranges from three to five, the latter number, however, I consider a rare set.

Sturnella magna. MEADOWLARK.—Most common in the upland pastures, nesting as early as May third (five fresh eggs). Eggs usually five, often only three or four and rarely six.

Icterus spurius. ORCHARD ORIOLE.—Common. Found nesting in orchards and in the maples and water elms along the creeks, from middle of May to middle of June. From three to five eggs are laid.

Icterus galbula. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—Common along the streams, nesting in the sycamores and elms. A few pairs nest in the orchards and woods on the hill-sides.

The largest number of eggs found in one nest was six. This large number came under my notice twice. Although taken in different years the two sets might have been laid by one bird as the nests were in the same tree. I find the usual complement is five eggs; four, however, is not an uncommon set.

May and June is the nesting period.

Quiscalus quiscula. PURPLE GRACKLE.—Abundant during migration but becomes scarce as the season advances. A few pairs remain to breed and are found in the same localities as the subspecies *Q. q. aeneus*.

Quiscalus quiscula aeneus. BRONZED GRACKLE.—Abundant, nesting commonly in the elms, pines, maples and the giant sycamores along the streams, and in the orchards on higher ground. Clumps of locust trees in the vicinity of water is also a favorite site.

Eggs four to six; five is the number most commonly met with. As early as April 25th, I have found nests containing slightly incubated eggs, and fresh eggs were found as late as May 15th.

About the middle of July, small companies are seen collecting in certain localities. As the season advances their numbers increase until flocks of hundreds, and even thousands, pack the roosts. One of these roosts exists along the creek on a farm adjoining Waynesburg on the southwest. Here, I have seen immense flocks of Blackbirds settle on the ripening corn, whose rustle, from the sudden contact, sounded like prolonged puffs of escaping steam.

The Blackbirds do but little damage to crops, in this locality, consequently they escape persecution.

Spinus tristis. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.—Abundant, and a resident throughout the year, nesting in the orchards, along edges of woods and in the isolated walnuts and other trees in the field, in July and August.

The nest is usually placed in trees, at heights ranging from ten to thirty feet above the ground. However, there are exceptions, as I have found an occasional nest above thirty feet, and one nest (August 1st., 1891), containing six slightly incubated eggs, was placed in a brier only five feet above the ground.

Most of the nests examined contained five eggs, a few only four, and one six.

Pooecetes gramineus. VESPER SPARROW.—Common in the upland pastures, placing their nests near base of a weed or bunch of grass.

Eggs three to five, the latter number being seldom met with.

It seems that more than one brood is raised during the season, as I have found eggs variously incubated, from May second to the first of August.

Ammodramus savannarum passerinus. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—So far, I have found this bird to be rare. Two nests were found on the ground in pastures on hillsides. One contained five, the other three eggs.

Chondestes grammacus. LARK SPARROW.—Rare. My brother brought in a set of five fresh eggs which he took from a nest in a small bush.

Spizella socialis. CHIPPING SPARROW.—Abundant, nesting everywhere except in the more heavily wooded tracts. A common bird in the town, nesting in the shade and other ornamental trees. Height to nest ranges below thirty-five feet. One was placed on the ground. However, this is an exception, as it is the only one found placed less than fifteen inches above the ground.

Eggs three and four. Two broods are reared, the first eggs being laid by May 15th.

Spizella pusilla. FIELD SPARROW.—Abundant in grassy fields overgrown with briars and bushes so often met with on the hillsides.

Nests placed in tuft of grass or a few inches above the ground in brier or bush. Eggs commonly three or four, rarely five. Nidification begins about the tenth of May. Two broods are raised; the second being hatched by August 15th.

Passer domesticus. ENGLISH SPARROW.—Abundant in town and are becoming so about farm houses in the country.

Four, five and six eggs are laid. Nests about buildings in town and trees and deserted nests of the Woodpecker in the country. In some of the shade trees in town I have observed the large globular nest of this bird.

During late summer and throughout the fall the English Sparrows are found in flocks, sometimes numbering several hundred. Even now, while I am writing this, there is a flock of two score or more, raising a dust and general racket out in the street in front of our house.

Melospiza fasciata. SONG SPARROW.—The first nests of the Song Sparrow are generally placed in the side of a bank along a stream or the roadside. Later in the season they are most common in pastures and neglected fields, placing the nest on or near the ground; the highest being five feet up in a bush.

Most of the nests examined contained four or five eggs. Occasionally a nest contained only three eggs. Nidification begins about the 28th. of April.

Melospiza georgiana. SWAMP SPARROW.—A few of these birds are met with in the weedy bottom land along some of the streams.

The few nests found by me were placed in low bushes or bunches of grass growing along the border of boggy places. Full sets numbered four eggs, and May 28th. and June 17th. are the dates on which they were taken.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus. TOWHEE.—Abundant along the border of brushy woods and in the brier fields, placing the nest on the ground or in a small bush. Nidification begins about May 5th., and two broods are reared. The number of eggs is usually four, often only three and rarely five.

One peculiarity I have noticed is that the first nests are nearly always placed on the ground, while the position of the second nests is usually the reverse.

Cardinalis cardinalis. CARDINAL.—The "Red-bird" is an abundant resident throughout the year, and is amongst the first of the smaller birds to begin nesting.

A common resort of this bird is the briery thicket and bushy field. Early in the season a few nests are placed in tangled roots of trees along the streams. The number of eggs range from two to four, usually three. Nest building begins about April 25, and full sets of eggs are to be found May 4th.

The Cardinal often lays abnormal eggs. Some of these are very long and tapering, some are almost spherical and others are much below the average size. One nest found May 27th., 1888, contained two eggs of the normal size and one measuring .61x.51 inches.

Passerina cyanea. INDIGO BUNTING.—Abundant along the border of woods and in the briery thickets and bushy fields.

Nests placed from ten inches to five feet above the ground. Three and four is the number of eggs laid; four predominating. Fresh eggs were found from June 11th. to August 3rd.

Pyrranga erythromelas. SCARLET TANAGER.—Common in the woods and large orchards, placing the nest on a horizontal branch. Three and four eggs are laid. Average date for fresh eggs, June 8th.

Progne subis. PURPLE MARTIN.—Abundant, nesting in boxes put up for their use. Four and five eggs are laid.

About the 8th. of August the Martins begin to collect in numbers about certain Martin houses in Waynesburg. On a few occasions I have noted flocks numbering from three to six hundred birds clinging to and circling around the cupola of the Court House. About August 17th., these flocks begin to scatter and move south in companies of less than fifty individuals. When thus migrating they do not move in a compact body, but in a scattering and straggling way,—to one uninterested hardly noticeable as a general southward movement.

Petrochelidon lunifrons. CLIFF SWALLOW.—Nests abundantly about barns and other buildings along the streams, placing the nest under the eaves. Four and five eggs are laid. June 1st. to 25th.

Chelidon erythrogaster. BARN SWALLOW.—Found associating with the last named species, and placing the nest usually on the inside of the building.

Tachycineta bicolor. TREE SWALLOW.—Only one nest observed. This was in the deserted nest of a Woodpecker in a sycamore stump.

Clivicola riparia. BANK SWALLOW.—Common along streams, placing the nest in holes in the sandy banks. Excavations vacated by the Kingfisher are readily appropriated by this swallow, for a nesting site. Five to seven eggs are laid. May 15th. to June 15th. is the date for full complements of eggs.

Stelgidopteryx serripennis. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—Rare. A few found associating with the last named species. Only one nest has come under my observation. This was placed in a crevice in a bridge wall, and contained five fresh eggs.

Ampelis cedrorum. CEDAR WAXWING.—Found nesting commonly in orchards, and in the sycamores along the streams in June. Four and five eggs compose a complement

NOTE.—LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. *Lanius ludovicianus* (?). In 1884, I found a nest of the Shrike containing two eggs. Unfortunately, the nest was removed before I had an opportunity to obtain the parent bird, so I am at a loss to know to which these eggs belonged,—the species, *Lanius ludovicianus*, or the race, *L. l. excubitorides*, White-rumped Shrike.

Vireo olivaceus. RED-EYED VIREO. Common in the upland woods, suspending the nest from forked twig of branch or bush, sapling or tree, usually below 10 feet.

The set consists of three or four eggs and in this locality are found from May 15th. to June 15th.

Vireo gilvus. WARBLING VIREO.—Common along streams, nesting in the maples, elms and tall sycamores. Nests are also met with in orchard trees.

Four eggs is the number usually found in a nest, although three is by no means rare. Nidification begins about May 22nd.

Vireo flavifrons. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.—This Greenlet is an uncommon summer resident. I have met with the nest but twice and these were deserted.

Vireo noveboracensis. WHITE-EYED VIREO.—A few are found about moist places in under-growth woods, where they breed.

A nest found on May 28th., 1889, was within ten inches of the ground and contained four slightly incubated eggs.

Mniotilta varia. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—Rare. On two occasions I have observed parents feeding young.

Helmitherus virgatus. WORM-EATING WARBLER.—A few are met with in the moist woods where there is but little under-growth.

A nest observed some years ago contained three young birds and one egg on the point of hatching.

On May 13th., 1893, I found a nest in which the old birds were just placing the lining. From this nest, eleven days later, I took a beautiful set of four eggs. The nest was sunken in the ground at base of small sprout on the side of a ravine. Another nest taken on July 2nd., contained three addled eggs which were cold. The nest was wet from recent rains and evidently had been deserted for some days. Notwithstanding this fact the male was greatly distressed by my presence. He came quite close and fluttered along on the ground. Female must have been killed, as a careful search of the vicinity revealed nothing indicative of a new nest or of young birds.

Helminthophila crysoptera. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.—Met with on the outskirts of thickets and bushy woods, where they nest sparingly. The nest is placed on the ground in the midst of a small clump of briars or weeds. The eggs number from three to four and are deposited during the latter part of May or the fore part of June.

Dendroica aestiva. YELLOW WARBLER.—Common in orchards and along the streams, nesting in fruit trees, elders and bushes. According to my observations, nest building begins early in May when the apple trees are just beginning to burst forth in green and pink. Four and five eggs compose a complement.

Seiurus aurocapillus. OVEN-BIRD.—Common, nesting in the dry upland woods. Four and five eggs are laid, and these are deposited early in June. One or two nests were found during the last week in May.

Seiurus motacilla. LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH.—Common and always found along the courses of the smaller streams in the woods.

The nest of this Water-Thrush is placed in the side of a bank and, usually, is hidden by overhanging roots and ferns. The location, however, can easily be detected, as the birds invariably have a great bunch of wet leaves hanging from the front edge of the nest. This mass soon becomes dry, and is worn smooth at the entrance of the nest. Nidification begins about the 25th. of April. Most nests contained five eggs, several only four, and often, where *M. ater* had interferred, the nest contained but three eggs. One nest contained the unusually large number of six eggs in which incubation was almost complete.

When once deprived of their eggs, this bird immediately sets to work building a new nest in the vicinity of the first.

Geothlypis formosa. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—Commonly met with in the moist woods, placing the nest on the ground at the base of a small bush or in the midst of a bunch of ferns. The number of eggs laid is three or four, and these are deposited during the latter half of May and throughout June.

One nest found May 28th., 1893, contained four fresh eggs of the Warbler and three of the Cowbird. Two of the Cowbird's eggs had been laid before the nest was completed. Undaunted by this intrusion, the birds continued building, placing the material around and over the parasite eggs.

Geothlypis trichas. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Common in the briery thickets and waste fields where they nest during the latter part of May and throughout June. Eggs, four to five.

Icteria virens. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—Abundant in all the briery fields and bushy tracts. It is also found in considerable numbers along the border of brushy woods. Nest building begins about May 1st and I have found fresh eggs as late as July 2nd. The complement consists of three and four eggs.

Sylvania mitrata. HOODED WARBLER.—A few pairs are found inhabiting the same localities as the Maryland Yellow Warbler.

On June 6th., 1891, I found a nest of the Hooded Warbler placed in the midst of a small bunch of golden-rod, on the margin of a woods, and contained five slightly incubated eggs.

Setophaga ruticilla. AMERICAN REDSTART.—Abundant throughout all the woodland, placing the nest, usually, on the branches of the larger trees. Three and four eggs are laid; four predominating. May and June.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis. CATBIRD.—Very abundant everywhere, except in the forests. Eggs usually four, often three and rarely five. Tenth of May to last of June.

Harporhynchus rufus. BROWN THRASHER.—Numerous in the briery thicket and waste pastures, nesting in various situations, such as a clump of briers, brush pile, bush, scrubby tree hedge row, and on the ground. Four and five eggs compose a complement, and are deposited during May and June.

Thryothorus ludovicianus. CAROLINA WREN.—Numerous everywhere, but is most common about farm buildings where they nest in crevices in the walls, and nooks about a shed or barn. I have also found nests placed in upturned roots of fallen trees, in logs, and in holes in the side of bluff banks. One brood was noticed

in an old Catbird's nest. In favorable seasons, nidification begins early in April, and at least two broods are reared, the second being hatched by July 1st. Eggs four to six.

Thryothorus bewickii. BEWICK'S WREN.—Met with commonly about farm houses on the hills, placing the nest in a chink or crevice about old buildings. The eggs range from five to eight, the most common clutch being seven eggs. The nesting period covers about six weeks beginning about April 20th.

Troglodytes aedon. HOUSE WREN.—Sparingly distributed and found in the same localities as the last named species, and also on lower ground.

Sitta carolinensis. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Abundant in deciduous forests, nesting in natural cavities in trees from April 15th. to May 25th. Excavations vacated by the squirrel are also used. The number of eggs range from four to ten, commonly six.

Parus bicolor. TUFTED TIT.—Numerous in the wooded districts in all situations, nesting in natural cavities in trees. Most nests contained six, a few seven and one eight eggs. One nest, in which a Cowbird's egg had been laid, contained but three of the Tit. The nesting period extends throughout the month of May.

The Tufted Tit is also found in orchards.

Parus atricapillus. CHICKADEE.—Common along the roadside and the outskirts of woods. Five to seven eggs are laid. Nidification begins about the 22nd. of April.

Polioptila caerulea. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—Numerous in the more open woods, and is decidedly partial to walnut and oak trees as nesting sites. Three to five eggs are laid; five being most commonly met with. May 1st. to June 1st.

Turdus mustelinus. WOOD THRUSH.—Abundant in all kinds of woodland, preferring, however, to nest near moist places or along the courses of the smaller streams. Eggs usually four, often three and rarely five. Nesting period extends from May 10th. to last of June. Two broods are reared.

Merula migratoria. AMERICAN ROBIN.—Abundant everywhere except in the heavily wooded tracts, placing the nest anywhere except on the ground or in small bushes. According to my observations the Robin generally lays four eggs. Three, however, is not uncommon and I have found five eggs in a single nest.

Sialia sialis. BLUEBIRD.—Common everywhere, except in the forests, nesting in natural cavities, in trees, fence posts and rails, in deserted nests of the woodpecker and in boxes put up for their use. From four to six eggs are laid. Nidification begins about April 16th. I have a set of six pure white eggs of this species.

The Bluebird sometimes forces other birds to abandon their nests. The following incident, however, proves that he is not always entirely successful and also illustrates the pluck of the Chickadee. On May 11th., 1892, a friend brought me a nest which was a mixture of fur, hair, grass and feathers and Bluebird and Chickadee eggs. He said,—and he is perfectly reliable, too,—that when he found the nest, which was placed in a post, the Bluebird was sitting on the eggs, while the Chickadee was flying about the post scolding continually.

The nest was in two parts; one constructed by the Chickadee, and the other, which was the top story, was made by the Bluebird. The first story contained two of the Chickadee, and in the next were five eggs of each species.

CORRECTIONS.

Page 4th., 20th. line, 5th. word, read *Pipilo*.

Page 5th., 18th. line, 2nd. word, read **vocifera**.

Page 6th., 18th. line, 5th. word, read *Hallucetus*.

Page 10th., 1st. and 4th. lines, 1st. words, read **Quiscalus**.

Page 11th., 17th. line from bottom, 2nd. word, read **fasciata**.

Page 11th., to **Chelidon erythrogaster** observations add: Eggs four to six
Last week in May to last of June.

Gaylord Bros.
Makers
Syracuse, N. Y.
PAT. JAN. 21, 1908

3 2044 107 221 194