

Contrary to the newspaper report, we thought the nest appeared to be about five feet in diameter and three feet in height or depth. It was made of brush.

From July 31 to August 4, 1906, we again had the opportunity of visiting the place. At this time we observed both adults and both young. The latter were in their dark plumage with some blotches or streaks of white. We were privileged to observe them several times and to hear their cries until familiar. It is to be hoped that the game warden will do his duty in seeing that these magnificent birds will be preserved for the pleasure of all who may enjoy them.

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## AUGUST BIRDS OF LAKE SEBAGO, MAINE.

BY CHRESWELL J. HUNT.

Thirty miles from Portland, in Cumberland County, Southwestern Maine, lies Sebago, one of those glacial lakes which are scattered all over the state. It is twelve miles long with an expanse of eight miles at its widest point. Aside from a few summer camps and several saw mills the shores remain in their wild state. These shores are rocky with here and there sandy beaches behind which lies a forest of white pine and spruce interspersed with white and yellow birches. Here the undergrowth is composed largely of the moose-wood (*Acer pennsylvanicum*) and the ground is covered with mossy boulders about which grow clusters of wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), bunch berry (*Cornus canadensis*) and clintonia (*Clintonia borealis*), together with numerous ferns.

To the north of Lake Sebago lies Long Lake, the two being connected by the Songo River, a crooked little stream which flows six miles to go two miles as the crow flies. A line of small steamboats ply between Sebago Lake at the foot of Lake Sebago and Harrison at the head of Long Lake. To the westward the country rolls away toward the White Mountains, the hills about the lake reaching a height of from 500 to 1,300 feet.



The week of August 6th to 13th, 1906, was spent in company with Mr. B. W. Griffiths at the head of Lake Sebago, making the little village of South Naples our headquarters. We were ten miles from the nearest railroad station (Mattocles on the Main Central), and in the way of showing that the country retained some of its wildness, I might mention that in returning from a boat trip up the Muddy River, which entered the lake at South Naples, we surprised a doe and fawn within a mile of the settlement, also the beach from which we took our daily swim was marked with footprints of deer. Back from the lake the villages are small and the farms few and scattered.

According to Mr. Hoffmann's faunal map of New England, in that excellent little volume "The Birds of New England and Eastern New York," Lake Sebago lies in the Transition or Alleghenian Zone.

August is not the ideal month for field work but one can always learn something and there are two facts that made deep impressions in my mind. First, that though one be surrounded by a boreal fauna and flora, the temperature can climb very high indeed. Second, that the State of New Jersey does not hold as big a monopoly upon the mosquito as I had always been led to believe. We had them both in abundance—heat and mosquitoes—and I must confess that the cool crystal waters of the lake were far more enticing than the mosquito-ridden woods. But although our swims were possibly too frequent and a bit lengthy, we did not neglect the birds, and though the following is by no means a complete list, I cannot help but feel that it includes most of the birds to be found here during early August.

One of the men employed in the saw mill told me that the Wood Duck and Black Duck both breed about the lake. He also said that a great many of the small birds that were now becoming fairly common had been almost unknown in that section until two or three years ago.

Very few hawks were seen and no owls. The total absence of White-throated Sparrows surprised me, as also did the



finding of Hermit Thrushes and no Veerys of Olive-backs.

We were greatly amused by the curiosity displayed by a male Loon. We had gone to explore Trickey Pond, a small sheet of water lying to the north of the lake, and had forced our way through the bushes at its edge and each stepped out upon a rock projecting into the water. We had stood for several minutes looking about when a harsh laugh reached us, and a look revealed the bird swimming about near the farther shore. I tried to imitate his wild laugh and immediately he answered me. Thus we kept it up for some time, the bird diving and coming up again at a point somewhat nearer us, until at last we had him within 200 yards. I would not ask a better look at any bird. The binoculars showed every feather! We were standing in plain sight with no attempt whatever at concealment. His curiosity was far greater than his fear.

1. *Gavia imber*.—Loon. Seen several times.
2. *Ardea herodias*.—Great Blue Heron. Several.
3. *Totanus melanoleucus*.—Greater Yellow-legs. A single bird.
4. *Actitis macularia*.—Spotted Sandpiper. A number seen.
5. *Bonasa umbellus*.—Ruffed Grouse. Said to be common. On each of the two only extended tramps into the woods we flushed a covey.
6. *Buteo borealis*.—Red-tailed Hawk. Several.
7. *Buteo lineatus*.—Red-shouldered Hawk. Saw only one.
8. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.—Bald Eagle. One male.
9. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*.—Black-billed Cuckoo. Several.
10. *Ceryle alcyon*.—Belted Kingfisher. A few seen.
11. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*.—Downy Woodpecker. Abundant.
12. *Sphyrapicus varius*.—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Heard on several occasions.
13. *Geophloeus pileatus ebieticola*.—Northern Pileated Woodpecker. Seen frequently during the winter. Said to spend the summer in the more secluded swamps. Upon the shore of the lake stood a dead tree, the side of which had without question been excavated by this species.
14. *Colapates auratus luteus*.—Northern Flicker. Fairly common.
15. *Antrostomus vociferus*.—Whip-poor-will. Heard singing on several evenings.
16. *Chordeiles virginianus*.—Nighthawk. A number seen.
17. *Chaetura pelagica*.—Chimney Swift. A few seen at North Sebago. Absent about South Naples.
18. *Tyrannus tyrannus*.—Kingbird. Fairly common.



19. *Sayornis phoebe*.—Phoebe. Common.
20. *Contopus virens*.—Wood Pewee. Common.
21. *Empidonax traillii alnorum*.—Alder Flycatcher. Only one seen.
22. *Cyanocitta cristata*. Blue Jay. Seen only twice but said to be common.
23. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*.—American Crow. Fairly common.
24. *Dolichonyx cryzivorus*.—Bobolink. One small flock.
25. *Astragalinus tristis*.—Goldfinch. Common.
26. *Pooecetes gramineus*.—Vesper Sparrow. Seen in old pasture on side of Peaked Hills.
27. *Spizella socialis*.—Chipping Sparrow. About clearings.
28. *Spizella pusilla*.—Field Sparrow. Common in suitable locations.
29. *Junco hyemalis*.—Junco. Seen only on the Peaked Hills and near Songo Lock.
30. *Melospiza cinerea melodia*.—Song Sparrow. Abundant.
32. *Progne subis*.—Purple Martin. Common about South Naples.
32. *Hirundo erythrogastra*.—Barn Swallow. Common.
33. *Tachycineta bicolor*.—Tree Swallow. Abundant.
34. *Ampelis cedrorum*.—Cedar Waxwing. Abundant.
35. *Vireo olivaceus*.—Red-eyed Vireo. Common.
36. *Mniotilta varia*.—Black and White Warbler. Fairly common.
37. *Dendroica aestiva*.—Yellow Warbler. Several. Only heard the song and was a bit doubtful of this species until the following week at Camden on the Penobscot Bay, 125 miles farther east and in a distinctly Canadian fauna—according to Hoffmann—I positively identified one of this species.
38. *Dendroica pensylvanica*.—Chestnut-sided Warbler. A few seen.
39. *Dendroica blackburniae*.—Blackburnian Warbler. One at Mattocks.
40. *Dendroica vigorsii*.—Pine Warbler. Common near Mattocks. Not seen at South Naples.
41. *Seiurus aurocapillus*.—Oven-bird. Only one seen.
42. *Sylvania canadensis*.—Canadian Warbler. Fairly common.
43. *Setophaga ruticilla*.—Redstart. Fairly common.
44. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*.—Catbird. Rather common about clearings.
45. *Certhia familiaris americana*.—Brown Creeper. Several at Mattocks.
46. *Sitta canadensis*.—Red-breasted Nuthatch. A number at Mattocks.
47. *Penthestes atricapillus*.—Chickadee. Abundant everywhere.
48. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*.—Hermit Thrush. In song—common. Besides the Robin and Bluebird this was the only thrush found about So. Naples.
49. *Merula migratoria*.—Robin. Fairly common.
50. *Sialia sialis*.—Bluebird. Not common.



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