

NOTES ON BIRDS OF PINELLAS AND PASCO COUNTIES,
FLORIDA

BY WM. G. FARGO

In the years 1923-24-25 and '26, the writer has arrived in Florida about the middle of January and has spent some time, usually several months, at Pass-a-Grille, which is on Long Key on the west coast and at the north side of the mouth of Tampa Bay. In 1925 the entire time until April 10 was spent here in Pinellas County, and in 1926 practically all the time from January 11 until May 17.

Frequent excursions for bird study have been made to various parts of Pinellas County and into southern Pasco County, which joins Pinellas on the north. Pinellas County is a peninsula, bounded on the east and south by Tampa Bay and Old Tampa Bay and on the west by the Gulf of Mexico. Tarpon Springs is within and near the north boundary of Pinellas County and the observations on bird life, recorded in this paper, reach some six miles into Pasco County or about half way from Tarpon Springs to New Port Richie.

Thus the territory covered is essentially that Florida region in which W. E. D. Scott principally worked between 1879 and 1888. The present notes therefore in a measure will indicate the changes in bird life of this territory after a lapse of about 40 years. During this time Pinellas County has become thickly settled.

In general it may be said that the birds at all common during the years of Mr. Scott's observations may be seen in this territory today, but it is quite uncertain how long this condition will hold, as the central and southern portions of the state are being settled and cleared with great rapidity.

Great progress in Florida has been made in the past few years in creating public sentiment toward the protection of birds and enormous areas have been put into reservations where no killing of wild life is permitted. The last Florida legislature passed an Act providing for an adequate organization to enforce the existing game laws. The County Commissioners of Pinellas County at their spring session of 1926 voted to recommend to the next state legislature the setting aside of the whole county of Pinellas as a wild life reservation.

At present there are continuous reservations west of the Tamiami Trail, along the Gulf Coast of Florida, through Sarasota and Charlotte Counties and that part of Lee County south of the Caloosahatchee River and thence through Collier County down into the Ten Thousand Islands. In Tampa Bay there are two large and three small keys

which have been made Federal reserves. In these protected areas the birds soon lose their fear of a man and here in Tampa Bay close to populous communities, both of the egrets are breeding in numbers.

Before proceeding further it will be well briefly to outline the topography of the region covered by these notes.

As its name implies, Pinellas County originally consisted for the most part of (flat) pine woods. Between Clearwater and Tarpon Spring, however, the country is rolling, with ponds in many of the hollows. The soil throughout is sandy and hammock areas are few.

East of Tarpon Springs, there are high ridges on both sides of Lake Butler. All along the coast line bayous indent the shore.

Along Tampa Bay, especially towards its mouth, are vast areas of mud flats covered by water at high tide. These provide winter feeding ground for vast flocks of mixed "shore birds"; and numerous herons, gulls, and terns feed or nest there on the bars. Later, the resident gulls, terns, and Black Skimmers nest there as do some shore birds.

Such creeks as there are in Pinellas County are small, short, and unimportant. The Gulf beaches on the keys in Pinellas County are of sand and shells. The inner beaches on the mainland are usually covered with short marsh grass.

At the mouth of the Anclote River and thence northward, the Gulf shores are covered, often for great widths, with needle pointed tules often growing higher than a man's head and into which the tide rises.

Mangroves cover many of the keys and line much of the shore of the mainland.

On Bird Key (called Indian Key on some maps) off Maximo Point on the north side of and near the mouth of Tampa Bay, the nests of herons, egrets, ibises, and cormorants are in mangroves at heights of eight feet, to about twenty-five feet.

When Mr. W. E. D. Scott visited this key in the early summer of 1886, after an absence of seven years, he found that plume hunters had killed off the birds and what was once a vast breeding colony of divers species was only "a deserted mangrove island". In 1924, eighteen years after this key became a Federal reservation, there were nesting here sixty or more pairs of American Egrets, great numbers, perhaps 500 pairs, of White Ibises, moderate colonies of Ward's Herons, Little Blue, and Louisiana Herons, small colonies of both Black-crowned, and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, and probably nearly a thousand pairs of Florida Cormorants. Small numbers of Snowy Egrets nest here, and several hundred pairs of Brown Pelicans.

The Wards' Herons, Mrs. Katherine B. Tippetts, of St. Petersburg, tells me, have young in the nest nearly every month in the year, the season of greatest activity being the first six months of the year. The American Egrets begin nesting in February, while the smaller herons begin nesting early in April, as do the White Ibises, cormorants, and Brown Pelicans in this territory.

On Bird Key there are always a few (say 12 to 20) Fish Crows about seeking an opportunity to steal eggs while the owner is off the nest; however, the eggs are seldom left alone and it does not appear that many eggs are taken by crows. The warden, acting on orders from the Biological Survey, is shooting the crows with a .22 caliber rifle equipped with a silencer, and has also attempted to poison them with treated hens' eggs placed in empty nests. Owing to the wariness of the crows neither of these methods has been very successful.

While on the Key in 1925 and 1926 a Fish Crow entirely devoid of a tail was repeatedly seen. It seemed to fly about as well as the others but would not venture from cover in a stiff wind.

Mr. Harold Bennett, the warden in charge of the Tampa Bay reservations, writes me that in June, 1926, he found something was eating the young herons, leaving only the feet and bills. There are usually a few Black Vultures and Turkey Buzzards on the Key, perhaps less than a dozen of each. Suspecting these birds, he killed as many as possible and noticed no further trouble.

The other large key of the Tampa Bay Reservations, known both as Bush Key and as Tarpon Key, lies two miles to the south of Bird Key. While well adapted to bird nesting by reason of its cover of large mangroves, it is practically untenanted by nesting birds with the exception of a few Ward's Herons.

Southern Pasco County is somewhat rolling, it has more streams than Pinellas, there are more areas of hammock growth and much of the flat pine woods area is thoroughly cut up with small cypress swamps, usually occupying narrow depressions, winding about the plains. In this varied topography the tree growth and vegetation are also varied and here may be found a variety of birds not often seen elsewhere in the territory described.

On islands in fresh water ponds, the Anhinga and White Ibis nest as do the Florida Gallinule and the Coot. In the above described pine woods are found Pileated, Red-headed and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, also the southern forms of the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. The Red-bellied Woodpecker is everywhere abundant. Here also are seen the Carolina Chickadee and the Florida White-breasted Nuthatch.

Doubtless the Brown-headed Nuthatch is here but the writer has not discovered it.

Along the salt marshes of the coast are found during early spring Scott's Seaside Sparrow and Marian's Marsh Wren.

The settlement of Pasco County has not yet reached a point resulting in the destruction of any considerable amount of bird coverts, hence the variety and amount of bird life is greater than in the more populous County of Pinellas. Little change in the avifauna of this region seems to have occurred in the past forty years.

In the following annotated list of birds of Pinellas and southern Pasco Counties, no records of species have been introduced where there was any reasonable doubt of identity. Specimens were collected of those species or forms marked * and these have been, in large part, deposited in the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

The writer desires to acknowledge the kindness of Mr. A. C. Bent in giving permission to use the various 1925 records credited to him in the text, and for identifying skins of Caspian Tern, Cuban Snowy Plover, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Scott's Seaside Sparrow, Pine Woods Sparrow, Bachman's Sparrow, Sycamore Warbler, Long-billed Marsh Wren, and others.

For the determination of the Grasshopper Sparrow we are indebted to Mr. James L. Peters of the Museum of Comparative Zoology. For the determination of the Red-winged Blackbirds we are indebted to Dr. Charles W. Richmond and Mr. Arthur H. Howell, of the United States Biological Survey.

My own observations in the following list were made between January 11 and May 17, 1923, and during the same period in 1924, 1925, and 1926. If the year is not specified it may be understood to be 1926.

[The following list contains 184 named forms.—Ed.]

Horned Grebe—*Colymbus auritus*. A not uncommon winter resident.

Pied-billed Grebe—*Podilymbus podiceps*. Not uncommon in fresh water ponds.

*Loon—*Gavia immer*. Common winter resident in salt water. Not seen in breeding plumage.

Herring Gull—*Larus argentatus*. Common winter resident, the adults left early in April, the immature birds remaining until after the middle of April, 1926.

*Ring-billed Gull—*Larus delawarensis*. Common winter resident, although in fewer numbers than the preceding. The younger birds remained for several weeks after the adults left and then commonly were seen in flocks of fifty or more.

*Laughing Gull—*Larus atricilla*. Common resident; about 400 present on breeding ground south of Long Key, in May, 1926. Courtships began March 20, but no nests found on May 11.

*Bonaparte's Gull—*Larus philadelphia*. Occasional in winter. Not seen in 1926. None seen in summer plumage.

*Caspian Tern—*Sterna caspia imperator*. Three seen from late March to April 22, 1926. One collected from three seen January 26, 1925.

*Royal Tern—*Sterna maxima*. Common resident, breeds. A few in the dark hood by March 1, but some do not acquire it until a month later.

*Cabot's Tern—*Sterna sandvicensis acuflavida*. Mr. A. C. Bent "saw several and collected one" in the spring of 1925.

*Forster's Tern—*Sterna forsteri*. Not uncommon as a winter resident.

*Least Tern—*Sterna antillarum*. Appeared on Long Key, April 18, 1926, when a flock of twenty-seven were seen. On May 11, there were seventy or eighty at the nesting place on the first bar south of Long Key, at which time there were but four nests, only one having as many as three eggs. Nesting had just begun. Many Least Terns were also seen at Indian Pass, near Indian Rocks, Florida.

*Black Tern—*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*. May 11 a flock of about sixty were seen at sunset on a bar south of Long Key. Not seen before nor afterward.

*Black Skimmer—*Rynchops nigra*. Common resident. They rest during the day on various bars where they are not likely to be disturbed, in flocks of 200 to 300. Nesting had not begun near Pass-a-Grille, on May 11, 1926.

*Water Turkey—*Anhinga anhinga*. Found in fresh water ponds in northern Pinellas and Southern Pasco Counties. Young in nests at least two weeks old on April 7, 1925. Not uncommon throughout Florida in suitable locations. They often flap and sail alternately and when they alight in water, submerge so that only the slender neck and head appear. In reedy creeks they are hard to flush.

*Florida Cormorant—*Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus*. Common resident. The crests appear on some birds early in March and are not seen after the breeding season, which begins about April first. Per-

haps about 1,000 pairs nest in the mangroves on Bird Key, about twenty feet up. There is another Cormorant rookery on the coast near Ozona, Pinellas County. During the years 1925, '25, '26 the cormorants have roosted on a bar just south of Long Key in numbers estimated in 1925 at 3,000.

White Pelican—*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. Seen during the winter months in flocks from three to twenty.

*Brown Pelican—*Pelecanus occidentalis*. Common resident. About April 10 they begin nesting at Bird Key. Prior to that time they rest and roost in large numbers on the bars south of Long Key, but during the breeding season only immature birds and non-breeding birds are seen there. Some adults have the dark neck early in March.

Frigate Bird—*Fregata aquilla*. Rarely seen in winter. They become more common early in March and gradually increase in numbers. On May 14, 1926, between 5:15 and 5:45 A. M. (before sunrise) there were counted 250 Frigate Birds sailing southeasterly over Long Key going to the Gulf from their roost on Bird Key. Mrs. Katherine B. Tippetts tells of seeing thousands of them here during mid-summer in recent years where they rob the pelicans. The writer has not seen them molesting other birds. They are not known to breed here. In a thirty-five mile gale they can turn in the air as on a pivot and move off in the opposite direction without flapping their wings.

*Red-breasted Merganser—*Mergus serrator*. Common winter resident. In the early spring of 1925 there were flocks up to several thousand about Tampa Bay. From January to May, 1926, only flocks of a score or two were seen. They are seldom molested by hunters.

Florida Duck—*Anas f. fulvigula*. Occasional.

Pintail—*Dafila acuta tzitzihua*. Occasional in early spring.

Wood Duck—*Aix sponsa*. Two pairs seen several times in February and March, 1926, on Holmes' Pond northeast of Clearwater.

*Lester Scaup—*Marila affinis*. Most common duck in Florida in winter and are seen in both salt and fresh water. Many about as late as the middle of May, 1926.

*Ring-necked Duck—*Marila collaris*. February 8, 1926, saw four pairs on the pond next east of Holmes' Pond. A male duck collected in Pinellas County, April 2, 1925, appears to be a hybrid between *M. affinis* and *M. collaris*. This duck was found resting on the mainland beach opposite John's Pass. Apparently it was ill or injured although when skinned no wounds nor injuries were visible. The head and neck are essentially those of *M. collaris*, and it has the white chin patch of *collaris* although small, being one-fourth inch by three-six-

teenths inch. The upper breast is a little darker than *affinis*, likewise the back. The bill has the appearance of *affinis*, to which species it has more points of resemblance, as the speculum is white.

Roseate Spoonbill—*Ajaja ajaja*. Early in April a few birds usually appear about Tampa Bay. In July it is more common. There is no evidence of its nesting here.

*White Ibis—*Guara alba*. The White Curlew is uncommon here in winter. Usually a few including immatures at Bird Key then. Later the immatures are not often seen here. Late in March or by the first of April the adults begin to appear in flocks at their breeding places. During the years under the writer's observation a colony of several hundred pairs has bred on Bird Key, another of at least 50 pairs on an island in Holmes' Pond and a larger colony bred in 1926 south of Tarpon Springs. The nests are in bushes eight to twelve feet above ground, frequently there are green leaves in the nest; the eggs are laid early in April. The White Ibis feeds in both salt and fresh water, but seems to prefer the latter. They are easily approached.

Wood Ibis—*Mycteria americana*. The Flinthead is seen in small numbers from January to March, sometimes alone and sometimes with herons and egrets.

Bittern—*Botaurus lentiginosus*. Not uncommon in suitable localities, both in salt and fresh water marshes.

*Least Bittern—*Ixobrychus exilis*. Occurs same as last above.

Ward's Heron—*Ardea herodias wardi*. Well distributed throughout the state. Seems to nest nearly throughout the year except perhaps the last three months of the year.

*American Egret—*Casmerodias egretta*. Well distributed over the state. Common resident around Tampa Bay. They begin nesting early in April and forty to seventy-five pairs nest on Bird Key. Fewer nested there in 1926 than in the two years preceding.

*Snowy Egret—*Egretta c. candidissima*. Appears well distributed now over the Gulf Coast of Florida. Have never seen over twenty individuals together. The warden states that they nest on Bird Key. One was seen going on to its nest by A. C. Bent in 1925.

Reddish Egret—*Dichromanassa rufescens*. Rare now; seen in 1925.

*Louisiana Heron—*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*. Common and well distributed. Begins nesting early in April.

*Little Blue Heron—*Florida caerulea*. Same as last.

Green Heron—*Butorides v. virescens*. Common, especially in fresh water streams and ponds; breeds.

*Black-crowned Night Heron—*Nycticorax n. naevius*. Well distributed; nests early in April. A few appeared to be nesting on Bird Key in 1925.

*Yellow-crowned Night Heron—*Nyctanassa violacea*. Less common than the last; also nests on Bird Key early in April, well up in larger trees.

*Florida Clapper Rail—*Rallus crepitans scotti*. Common in salt marshes; nests in April and May.

Carolina Rail—*Porzana carolina*. Occasional.

Florida Gallinule—*Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*. Common on fresh water ponds and sometimes on brackish water. Breeds here.

Coot—*Fulica americana*. Common on fresh water ponds and at times seen on salt water.

Wilson's Snipe—*Gallinago delicata*. Not uncommon in winter and spring.

*Dowitcher—*Limnodromus g. griseus*. Common winter resident, leaves in April or early May.

Long-billed Dowitcher—*Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus*. Occasional in winter.

*Knot—*Calidris canutus*. Occasional in winter in the gray plumage, in flocks of fifty or more. In May this late migrant appears in numbers on the mud flats of Tampa Bay. A flock of 200 was seen on Mullet Key, May 14, 1926. They were not yet in full red plumage.

Pectoral Sandpiper—*Pisobia maculata*. Only seen in migration. (March 31, 1926).

White-rumped Sandpiper—*Pisobia fuscicollis*. A few in migration, May 14, 15, 1926.

Baird's Sandpiper—*Pisobia bairdi*. Migrants, May 14, 15, 1926.

*Least Sandpiper—*Pisobia minutilla*. Exceedingly common from January 11 to May 17 (the latter date ending observations).

*Red-backed Sandpiper—*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*. Same as last except in lesser numbers.

*Semipalmated Sandpiper—*Ereunetes pusillus*. Not common during winter, but numerous in May. Typical specimens may be distinguished from *P. minutilla*, in life, by the dark legs, stumpy bill and grayer appearance of back. Flocks of 200 seen up to May 17, 1926.

*Western Sandpiper—*Ereunetes mauri*. During winter often seen in small numbers with the other small sandpipers.

*Sanderling—*Crocethia alba*. Common in winter, leaves last of April.

Marbled Godwit—*Limosa fedoa*. One seen near Pass-a-Grille, March 2, 1925, and one at Cedar Keys, Florida, February 19, 1923.

Greater Yellow-legs—*Totanus melanoleucus*. Occasional.

Yellow-legs—*Totanus flavipes*. Less common than last.

Solitary Sandpiper—*Tringa s. solitaria*. Occasional in March.

*Willet—*Catoptrophorus s. semipalmatus*. Numerous in suitable localities about Tampa Bay in winter. Flocks up to 800 rest or roost on bars near Gulfport in 1925-26. They leave in late April and early May for their breeding places in the salt marshes along the Gulf coast, from the Anclote River northward.

*Western Willet—*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*. Common in migration. Is said not to breed here.

Spotted Sandpiper—*Actitis macularia*. Few in numbers but not uncommon after February first.

Hudsonian Curlew—*Numenius hudsonicus*. In small numbers in April and May, 1926.

*Black-bellied Plover—*Squatarola s. cynosurae*. Common winter resident, leaving before the middle of May and before entirely attaining the breeding plumage.

Killdeer — *Oxyechus v. vociferus*. Common winter resident in small flocks.

*Semipalmated Plover—*Charadrius semipalmatus*. Common winter resident, more numerous than last.

*Piping Plover—*Charadrius melodus*. Seen in flocks of twenty to fifty in winter with the Cuban Snowy Plover.

*Cuban Snowy Plover—*Charadrius nivosus tenuirostris*. Not uncommon resident, appears to breed around mouth of Tampa Bay.

*Wilson Plover — *Pagolla w. wilsonia*. Common after March first. Earliest record, February 27, 1926. Nests on the little dunes which collect about tufts of beach grass. Lays three to four eggs, hatching about middle to last of May.

*Ruddy Turnstone—*Arenaria interpres morinella*. Common winter resident, never many together.

*Florida Bob-white — *Colinus virginianus floridanus*. Common resident, but becoming less numerous as the country is settled.

*Mourning Dove — *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*. Common resident. Four taken from a flock, February 10, 1926, were all males.

*Ground Dove—*Chaemepelia p. passerina*. Common resident; breeds.

Turkey Vulture—*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*. Common resident; breeds.

*Black Vulture—*Coragyps u. urubu*. Common resident; breeds.

Marsh Hawk—*Circus hudsonius*. Common resident; said to breed.

Sharp-shinned Hawk—*Accipiter velox*. Common resident.

*Cooper's Hawk—*Accipiter cooperi*. Common resident.

Red-tailed Hawk—*Buteo b. borealis*. Common resident; breeds.

*Florida Red-shouldered Hawk—*Buteo lineatus alleni*. Common resident; breeds.

*Broad-winged Hawk—*Buteo p. platypterus*. Not uncommon in winter.

Bald Eagle—*Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus*. Common resident; breeds in numbers around Tampa Bay and adjacent Gulf shores. Often found close to populous communities. There are several nests, used from year to year on two of the golf links adjacent to St. Petersburg. Usually where pine trees provide suitable nesting places a pair of these eagles will be found in about every mile of shore line in this vicinity. Food is largely fish; some duck bones were found under nests, these being mostly merganser. They lay about December first and the young leave the nest in this latitude in March.

*Duck Hawk—*Falco peregrinus anatum*. Rare winter visitor, an adult female was taken March 11, 1925.

*Sparrow Hawk—*Cerchneis s. sparveria*. Common resident, but more numerous in winter. The migrants leave about March 15. *C. s. paulus* was not taken in this territory. A number of the smaller and darker birds were collected, but all proved to be *C. s. sparveria*.

Osprey—*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. Not uncommon resident. An empty nest found on Bush Key in 1924, had the appearance of an Osprey's nest. No other personal evidence of its breeding in this region.

*Barn Owl—*Tyto alba pratincola*. Resident; not common.

Short-eared Owl—*Asio flammeus*. Resident; not common.

Florida Barred Owl—*Strix varia alleni*. Common resident; breeds.

Great Horned Owl—*Bubo v. virginianus*. Mr. A. C. Bent reports a set of eggs taken on the Pinellas Peninsula, by Mr. Oscar E. Baynard of Plant City, Florida, in 1925.

*Florida Screech Owl—*Otus asio floridanus*. Not uncommon resident; breeds. The one specimen taken in 1925 and the one in 1926 were in red phase and both found dead in paved road.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—*Coccyzus a. americanus*. Rather uncommon. Not seen in winter; earliest record, April 20. Is said to breed.

*Belted Kingfisher—*Ceryle alcyon alcyon*. Common resident; more numerous in winter.

*Southern Hairy Woodpecker—*Dryobates villosus auduboni*. Rather uncommon resident; breeds.

*Southern Downy Woodpecker—*Dryobates p. pubescens*. Fairly common resident; breeds.

*Red-cockaded Woodpecker—*Dryobates borealis*. Not uncommon resident of pineries; breeds.

*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—*Sphyrapicus v. varius*. Not common winter resident.

*Pileated Woodpecker—*Phloeotomus pileatus*. Not uncommon north of Tarpon Springs and elsewhere in suitable hammocks.

Red-headed Woodpecker—*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Uncommon resident. Seldom seen in 1925-26 in southern Pinellas County.

*Red-bellied Woodpecker—*Centurus carolinus*. Abundant throughout the state; breeds.

*Flicker—*Colaptes a. auratus*. Abundant resident; breeds.

*Chuck-will's Widow—*Antrostomus carolinensis*. Common, arriving in March. Earliest nesting record March 24, 1925. The first syllable of the call is heard only when within about 100 yards of the bird. Across water, the latter syllables may be heard readily a mile away. One bird, heard repeatedly at Bonita Springs, Florida, gave the call "Chuck-widow-will." The birds heard in Lee County in April, 1926, seemed to give a louder and more distinct "chuck" than the birds of farther north.

Whip-poor-will—*Antrostomus v. vociferus*. A not uncommon migrant, and probable winter resident as one was seen by Mr. A. C. Bent in this territory in December, 1924. One was seen by the writer at Gainesville, Florida, February 17, 1923.

Nighthawk—*Chordeiles v. virginianus*. Seldom seen by the writer in Pinellas or Pasco Counties, and no birds were collected there. One taken in Lee County was *C. v. chapmani*.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—*Archilochus colubris*. Not seen in winter. Early records: March 1, 1925; April 8, 1926.

*Kingbird—*Tyrannus tyrannus*. Common summer resident. First record in 1925, March 21; in 1926, March 24.

*Gray Kingbird—*Tyrannus d. dominicensis*. Common summer resident, arriving about April 18, 1926.

Crested Flycatcher—*Myiarchus crinitus*. Common summer resident. Early records: 1925, April 9; 1926, April 1.

Phoebe—*Sayornis phoebe*. Rather common winter resident.

*Florida Blue Jay—*Cyanocitta cristata florincola*. Common resident.

*Florida Jay—*Aphelocoma cyanea*. Rare in this territory, arriving early in April; breeds. Saw a pair building a nest near Gandy Bridge, April 9, 1925, and collected a pair near Indian Rocks, April 7, 1926.

Crow—*Corvus brachyrhynchos*. Not common; a few seen around a slaughter house north of Tarpon Springs in March and April, 1926.

Fish Crow—*Corvus ossifragus*. Common locally; feeds in flocks. It is often found around habitations and at the heron rookeries awaiting a chance to steal eggs. Steals many hens' eggs. Has a habit of taking its food to one certain place to eat it.

Bobolink—*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Migrant; not common on west coast.

*Red-winged Blackbird—*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*. Common resident (?); breeds. Young were flying May 6, 1926.

Northeastern Redwing—*Agelaius phoeniceus predatorius* (Wilson). Common winter visitor; probably does not breed here.

A series of ten of the breeding form of Redwing taken by the writer in Pinellas County in the first half of April, 1926, were sent to the U. S. Biological Survey, and Mr. Charles W. Richmond, Associate Curator, Division of Birds, writes regarding these specimens under date of August 14, 1926, as follows: "Mr. Arthur H. Howell reports the specimens to be typical *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*, which ranges from Carolina to Florida, the bird of the eastern and northeastern parts of the United States being *Agelaius phoeniceus predatorius* (Wilson), as shown by Dr. Mearns. All of this is at variance with the last edition of the Check-List but it probably reflects what will be given in the next edition."

Dr. Donald R. Dickey also reached the same conclusion regarding the form breeding in Pinellas County from a series of twelve sent to him by Mr. A. C. Bent in 1925.

*Southern Meadowlark—*Sturnella magna argutula*. Common resident; breeds; young were flying May 9, 1926.

Orchard Oriole—*Icterus spurius*. Appears April 1 to 3; breeds in northern Florida.

Rusty Blackbird—*Euphagus carolinus*. A few were seen late in March, 1925.

Florida Grackle—*Quiscalus quiscula aglaeus*. Common locally in many parts of Florida but not observed by me in Pinellas or Pasco Counties.

*Boat-tailed Grackle—*Megaquiscalus m. major*. Common resident; breeds. The males, the young males, and the females each flock by themselves in winter.

Goldfinch—*Astragalinus t. tristis*. Rather common winter visitor, and usually leaves early in March.

Vesper Sparrow—*Poecetes g. gramineus*. Occasionally seen as a winter visitor; leaves in late March.

English Sparrow—*Passer d. domesticus*. Common resident; not observed to nest in winter.

*Savannah Sparrow—*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. Except the last, is the most common sparrow in winter. Left about April 15, 1926, except for a few stragglers.

*Grasshopper Sparrow—*Ammodramus savannarum australis*. One was collected near Elfers, Pasco County, March 26, 1926. Saw others.

*Sharp-tailed Sparrow—*Passerherbulus caudacutus*. Common winter resident in short-grass tide marshes, from Tampa Bay northward. Left about April 15, 1926. Out of ten collected in 1925-26, only two were adults.

*Scott's Seaside Sparrow—*Passerherbulus maritimus peninsulae*. A few in salt marshes west of Elfers. Collected one April 5, 1926, and on May 13 saw five in same marsh where they seemed to be nesting, although Scott says "Common from December to February, does not breed here."

Chipping Sparrow—*Spizella p. passerina*. Occasional winter visitor. Near Clearwater and Tarpon Springs flocks of fifteen and fifty, February 23 and March 5.

Field Sparrow—*Spizella p. pusilla*. Occasional winter visitor. (February 23, 1926).

*Pine Woods Sparrow—*Peucaea a. aestivalis*. Fairly common resident in certain open pine tracts where it is found usually in saw-palmettos along borders of swamps. Breeds. Very hard to flush.

*Bachman's Sparrow—*Peucaea aestivalis bachmani*. Less common than last. Took one and saw several west of St. Petersburg, March 26, 1925. Saw them in same place early in March, 1926. Collected one on the Anclote River plains March 18, 1926. Found no nests.

*Song Sparrow—*Melospiza m. melodia*. Uncommon winter visitor.

*Swamp Sparrow—*Melospiza georgiana*. Common winter resident.

Towhee—*Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus*. Common winter resident.

*White-eyed Towhee—*Pipilo e. alleni*. Common resident; breeds. Locally called Joree; is a fine singer.

*Florida Cardinal—*Cardinalis c. floridanus*. Common resident, nests in May. Well distributed throughout the state.

Indigo Bunting—*Passerina cyanea*. Uncommon migrant.

Painted Bunting—*Passerina ciris*. Mr. A. C. Bent saw one on Long Key in 1925.

Summer Tanager—*Piranga r. rubra*. Summer resident; breeds. Saw a male and female April 25, 1926.

Purple Martin—*Progne s. subis*. Summer resident; breeds. First seen in 1925 on March 24, and in 1926 on February 25. No specimens being taken it is possible the Cuban Martin visits this territory.

Barn Swallow—*Hirundo erythrogastra*. Migrant. First seen in 1926 on April 4, and for a week thereafter; none later. Seen at St. Marks, May 18, 1926.

Tree Swallow—*Iridoprocne bicolor*. Common winter resident; left about April 15, 1926.

Cedar Waxwing—*Bombycilla cedrorum*. Was seen with great flocks of Robins in latter half of January, 1926. Thirty to 100 waxwings seen, but none later.

*Loggerhead Shrike—*Lanius l. ludovicianus*. Common resident; breeds in March.

*Black-whiskered Vireo—*Vireosylva calidris barbatula*. Summer resident. Saw three on Cabbage Key, May 5, 1926.

Mountain Solitary Vireo—*Lanivireo solitarius alticola*. One was seen near Tarpon Springs, March 18, 1926. It was examined carefully with an 8x binocular at twenty feet for several minutes. The large bill and the bright color were very evident; it therefore seems doubtful that this was *L. s. solitarius*, the Blue-headed Vireo.

*White-eyed Vireo—*Vireo g. griseus*. Appears in late March or early April; said to breed in central Florida.

*Black and White Warbler—*Mniotilta varia*. Common winter resident, remaining until May.

*Prothonotary Warbler—*Protonotaria citrea*. Migrant; a little "wave" was observed April 6, 1925.

*Parula Warbler—*Compsothlypis a. americana*. Appeared in early March in 1925-26. Said to breed here. Seldom seen after early May.

Cape May Warbler—*Dendroica tigrina*. One male migrant, April 23, 1926.

Yellow Warbler—*Dendroica a. aestiva*. A few migrants, April 17 to 21, 1926.

Black-throated Blue Warbler—*Dendroica c. caerulescens*. A few male migrants, April 10, 1926.

Myrtle Warbler—*Dendroica c. coronata*. Very common winter resident; left April 3, 1926.

Magnolia Warbler—*Dendroica magnolia*. Occasional migrant. Was seen May 5, 1926.

Black-poll Warbler—*Dendroica striata*. Occasional migrant. Was seen May 7, 1926.

*Yellow-throated Warbler—*Dendroica d. dominica*. In 1924 several were seen January 29 and afterward. None were seen in 1925. In 1926 first were seen February 12. None were seen after March 16, 1926.

*Sycamore Warbler—*Dendroica d. albilora*. One was collected March 11, 1926. Positively identified another, which was close outside my window, on March 16, 1926.

*Pine Warbler—*Dendroica v. vigorsii*. Common resident in pineries; breeds.

*Palm Warbler—*Dendroica p. palmarum*. Most numerous and widely distributed of the warblers that winter in Florida.

Yellow Palm Warbler—*Dendroica p. hypochrysea*. None were identified positively. Scott (*Auk*, VII, page 20, 1890) says: "The examples of this subspecies that I have met with in the vicinity of Tarpon Springs are of rare occurrence, but they regularly appear in small numbers late in March and early in April, remaining but a few days. I have no fall records."

*Prairie Warbler—*Dendroica discolor*. Rather common resident of Florida. Early dates of its appearance in Pinellas County are: March 3, 1924; March 9, 1925; February 2, 1926. It was plentiful in each year after these dates.

Louisiana Water-thrush—*Seiurus motacilla*. Migrant. It was seen May 5, 1926.

*Florida Yellow-throat—*Geothlypis trichas ignota*. Common resident; breeds abundantly.

Hooded Warbler—*Wilsonia citrina*. Migrant; males were seen April 8, 10, 20, 1926.

Redstart—*Setophaga ruticilla*. Migrant; April 18, 19, 1926.

*Mockingbird—*Mimus p. polyglottos*. Probably Florida's most uniformly distributed bird, and perhaps the most numerous resident.

*Catbird—*Dumetella carolinensis*. Common resident; probably breeds.

Brown Thrasher—*Toxostoma rufum*. Not uncommon winter resident.

*Florida Wren—*Thryothorus ludovicianus miamensis*. Common resident; breeds. A clear, loud singer.

Bewick's Wren—*Thryomanes b. bewicki*. Uncommon winter resident.

*House Wren—*Troglodytes a. aedon*. Common winter resident.

*Short-billed Marsh Wren—*Cistothorus stellaris*. Not uncommon winter resident.

*Long-billed Marsh Wren—*Telmatodytes p. palustris*. Occasional in winter.

*Marian's Marsh Wren—*Telmatodytes p. marianae*. Locally common. April 5, 1926, found them abundant in salt marshes, west of Elfers; males had finished molting and were singing vigorously.

*Florida White-breasted Nuthatch—*Sitta c. carolinensis*. Uncommon.

Brown-headed Nuthatch—*Sitta pusilla*. Was seen in 1925 in this territory by Mr. A. C. Bent.

Tufted Titmouse—*Baeolophus bicolor*. Not uncommon resident.

*Carolina Chickadee—*Penthestes c. carolinensis*. Uncommon.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet—*Regulus c. calendula*. Uncommon winter resident.

*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—*Polioptila c. caerulea*. Not uncommon resident; probably breeds.

Hermit Thrush—*Hylocichla guttata pallasi*. Migrant; not uncommon in spring.

Robin—*Planesticus m. migratorius*. Winter resident; wandering flocks, often of thousands, feed principally on the berries of the palmetto. When they leave a palmetto grove there are few berries left. Their numbers are so great that they make a great rustling in the dry leaves always present on the lower part of these trees. Except these wandering flocks, but few Robins are seen.

*Bluebird—*Sialia s. sialis*. Not uncommon resident; breeds throughout the state. Young birds accompanied by the parents were seen in late April and May, 1926, from Collier to Leon Counties. They prefer the pine woods.

JACKSON, MICHIGAN.



Fargo, William G. 1926. "Notes on Birds of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, Florida." *The Wilson bulletin* 38(3), 140–155.

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