

## THE BIRDS OF OTTAWA.

BY C. W. G. EIFRIG.

(Continued from page 163).

## ORDER PALUDICOLÆ—CRANES, RAILS, ETC.

## RALLIDÆ—RAILS.

57. *Ralluse elegans*, King Rail. Rare accidental visitor. Mr. G. R. White identified one that had been shot at Billing's Bridge, May 7th, 1896.

58. *Rallus virginianus*, Virginia Rail. A moderately common summer resident. Breeds in large and small cat-tail marshes, like the small ones at Blueberry Point, near Aylmer. On July 13th, 1909, Mr. C. N. Robertson and the writer found the marsh along Cranberry Creek near Osgoode full of the little young ones, which are pitch black. They arrive during the first half of May, just when is hard to say, as they are retiring and secretive. They leave about September 10th.

59. *Porzana carolina*, Sora. Of the same status and habits as the preceding species, perhaps a little more numerous. On May 8th, 1906, one was found dead in New Edinburgh, having probably flown against a wire over night, and on October 29th, 1906, Mr. C. H. Young saw one along the Rideau.

60. *Coturnicops noveboracensis*, Yellow Rail. Being small, in addition to its skulking habits, and in more or less impassable haunts, it may eventually be found commoner than the now available dates warrant. There are only two, October 22nd, 1895, and October 20th, 1909, both records made by Mr. G. R. White. Accordingly, we have to put it down now as a very rare accidental visitor or breeder.

61. *Gallinula galeata*, Florida Gallinule. It is interesting to record this bird in our list, as it probably finds its northern limit of distribution for this part of Canada in the Ottawa district, where it is a rather common breeder in the marshes along the Rideau River at Osgoode and Kars. A nest with seven eggs, partly incubated, was taken there by Messrs. W. E. and F. A. Saunders, July 9th, 1890. Mr. G. R. White shot one still farther north, namely at Hurdman's Bridge, Ottawa.

62. *Fulica americana*, Coot. A moderately common summer resident in its chosen haunts, the marshes along the Ottawa. There, Mr. E. Bedard shot one May 11th, 1909, and Mr. E. White saw one as late as October 19th, 1905, at Lochaber Bay, and in the same marshes Mr. G. R. White found three nests.



## ORDER LIMICOLÆ—SHORE BIRDS.

## PHALAROPODIDÆ—PHALAROPES.

63. *Phalaropus fulicarius*, Red Phalarope. A rare accidental visitor. Two only have been taken here, one October 21st, 1886, by Mr. E. White; the other September 1st, 1888, by Mr. G. R. White.

64. *Lobipes lobatus*, Northern Phalarope. Rarer than the preceding species. A specimen was shot September 10th, 1890, at Burritt's Rapids, and identified by Mr. A. G. Kingston.

## SCOLOPACIDÆ—SNIPES, SANDPIPERS, ETC.

65. *Philohela minor*, Woodcock. A moderately common summer resident. Extreme dates are: May 8th, 1908, and October 31st, 1908, when Mr. Bedard, Jr., saw a flock of eleven on Kettle Island, out of which he took several. This is considerably after the soft spongy ground in the woods, out of which they extract their staple article of food, earthworms, is frozen over several times.

66. *Gallinago delicata*, Wilson's Snipe, Jack-snip. An abundant migrant and moderately common breeder. Extreme dates: April 14th (1904), and November 5th (1906), at which latter date Mr. N. Lachance shot one at Shirley's Bay, which he gave to the writer.

67. *Macrorhamphus griseus*, Dowitcher. A rare accidental visitor. A pair were shot May 22nd, 1890, by Mr. E. White.

68. *Tringa canutus*, Knot. Rare, accidental visitor. A male in full breeding plumage was shot by Mr. E. White on June 4th, 1890.

69. *Arquatella maritima*, Purple Sandpiper. Rare, accidental visitor. One was shot on the Rideau, October 29th, 1885, by Mr. W. Forbes.

70. *Pisobia maculata*, Pectoral Sandpiper. A common migrant in spring and fall. Extreme dates, April 14th, 1909, when several were taken by Mr. E. Bedard, and October 28th, 1907, when Mr. N. Lachance shot one on Shirley's Bay.

71. *Pisobia fuscicollis*, White-rumped Sandpiper. A rare migrant. One was shot in 1883, and two on the 8th, one on the 18th, and two on the 27th of October, 1884, three by Mr. E. White and two by Mr. S. Herring.

72. *Pisobia bairdii*, Baird's Sandpiper. A very rare accidental visitor, the only record being one taken by Mr. G. White, September 11th, 1894.

73. *Pisobia minutilla*, Least Sandpiper. A moderately common migrant. I took one in Hull, September 6th, 1905.

74. *Pelidna alpina sakhalina*, Red-backed Sandpiper. A rare migrant. On October 28th, 1908, Mr. E. Bedard shot three immature ones.



75. *Ereunetes pusillus*, Semipalmated Sandpiper. A moderately common fall visitor. As early as August they are seen in company with the Sanderling and Semipalmated Plover, nimbly scurrying over the sand at the water's edge along the beaches of Kettle Island and similar localities. On August 24th, 1906, Mr. G. R. White saw some at Kettle Island, and on August 12th (1904), specimens were seen by the writer.

76. *Calidris leucophæa*, Sanderling. A moderately common migrant. On October 1st, 1908, Mr. E. Bedard shot two. Its habits are like those of the preceding species.

77. *Limosa fedoa*, Marbled Godwit. A rare accidental visitor. The only record is that made by Mr. G. R. White, who took one of these birds on June 4th, 1902.

78. *Limosa hæmastica*, Hudsonian Godwit. Like the preceding. The only record is October 20th, 1900 (G. R. White).

79. *Totanus melanoleucus*, Greater Yellow-legs. A common migrant. Extreme dates, April 27th (1897), and October 29th (1908).

80. *Totanus flavipes*, Yellow-legs. A moderately common migrant; it arrives and departs at about the same time as *melanoleucus*.

81. *Helodromas solitarius*, Solitary Sandpiper. A common migrant and rare breeder. Mr. E. White has found young, recently out of the nest, along the Ottawa. Extreme dates, May 11th and October 10th.

82. *Tryngites subruficollis*, Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Rare accidental visitor. One was shot near Templeton by Mr. E. White on August 24th, 1886.

83. *Actitis macularius*, Spotted Sandpiper. An abundant summer resident. Seems to be increasing in numbers. Extreme dates are April 24th (1893) and October 30th (1908). The bulk arrives during the first half of May. In the first week of June, their nests, with usually four eggs, may be found, often in gardens or fields far away from water.

#### CHARADRIIDÆ—PLOVERS.

84. *Squatarola squatarola*, Black-bellied Plover. A moderately common fall migrant, apparently becoming rarer. On October 19th, 1905, Mr. E. White shot one at Lochaber Bay.

85. *Charadrius dominicus*, Golden Plover. Status same as last species. Quite a few are offered for sale in the market each fall, nearly all birds of the year. Dates: September 3rd (1906) to November 4th (1908).

86. *Oxyechus vociferus*, Killdeer. A common migrant and moderately common breeder. In the meadows near Holland Avenue and in those between the city and Blackburn on the



Canadian Pacific Railway, several pairs may usually be seen all summer. It is one of the first arrivals in spring, which announces its presence in no uncertain way, by its shrill call, *killdee, killdee*. Dates: March 27th (1907) to October 15th (1909).

87. *Ægialitis semipalmata*, Semipalmated Plover. This diminutive plover is found in the groups of other small shore-birds on the same beaches along our rivers and lakes, from August to September, the 29th of the latter month being the latest date at hand. It thus may be classed as a moderately common fall migrant.

APHRIZIDÆ—TURNSTONES.

88. *Arenaria interpres*, Turnstone. In the list of 1891 this is called a rare migrant. I have not met with it.

ORDER GALLINÆ—GALLINACEOUS BIRDS.

TETRAONIDÆ—GROUSE, PARTRIDGES, ETC.

89. *Canachites canadensis canace*, Canada Grouse, Spruce Partridge. Formerly a common if not abundant permanent resident, but now a rare one. The Mer Bleue, a large bog a few miles east of the city, was formerly a favorite haunt. It probably is still found in some of the densest and most impassable spruce thickets in the district. In the winter of 1908-1909 Mr. E. Bedard saw one in a thicket at the river's edge on the Rifle Range, and Mr. C. H. Young once told me of several he had seen in a woods near Billings' Bridge.

90. *Bonasa umbellus togata*, Canadian Ruffed Grouse. A common permanent resident. Frequently still found in the small pieces of woodland near the city limits. It should be protected more, otherwise its days will soon be numbered.

[*Lagopus lagopus*, Willow Ptarmigan. It is very doubtful whether this northern species should have a place in our list. The reference to it in the 1891 list: "One shot on the Gatineau in the winter of 1885-6," refers to the shooting of several at Gracefield, which is far beyond the accepted limits of our district. However, having come down so far, they may be expected to turn up any winter within our territory.]

ORDER COLUMBÆ—PIGEONS.

91. *Ectopistes migratorius*, Passenger Pigeon. Formerly a common summer resident, but now evidently extinct here. The last positive dates of its occurrence in the district are the following: on June 6th, 1884, an adult male was shot in Cumming's woods; on May 10th and on August 25th, a male was seen in Col. W. White's garden, and on June 25th of the same year a female and one young were shot near McKay's Lake;



on April 15th twelve, and on May 24th, 1886, one was seen at the same lake; and, finally, in 1887, one was seen on August 23rd in the above-mentioned garden, and on September 3rd one on Kettle Island (Messrs. G. R. and E. G. White).

92. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*, Mourning Dove. This desirable, more southerly species can now be added to our list. Specimens were seen near Shirley's Bay on August 20th, 1903. Several were also seen in the summer of 1908. On August 9th, 1910, a young one in the first plumage was shot near Dow's Swamp, thus clearly establishing its breeding here.

#### ORDER RAPTORES—BIRDS OF PREY.

##### BUTEONIDÆ—FALCONS, HAWKS, EAGLES, ETC.

93. *Circus hudsonius*, Marsh Hawk. A common summer resident. Can be seen harrying back and forth over extensive meadows having here and there a marshy place. The bulk of the species arrive in early April and depart in October, but extreme dates are, March 25th (1907), and November 7th (1905), when Mr. N. Lachance shot one on Shirley's Bay.

94. *Accipiter velox*, Sharp-shinned Hawk. This little terror to small birds is a common summer resident and less common permanent resident, *i.e.*, a few remain here over winter and then work havoc among the English Sparrows in the city. Favorite nesting sites are the small black spruce trees in the Mer Bleue, where on June 30th, 1909, we found a nest with four nearly fresh eggs. On July 11th, 1904, I found several families of young in the spruce stand near Blackburn Station.

95. *Accipiter cooperi*, Cooper's Hawk. A rare summer resident, and fortunately so, because it is a very destructive species. It arrives in April (17th, 1904), and is still seen in September.

96. *Astur atricapillus*, Goshawk; Blue Hen-hawk. The three accipitrine hawks are the only really harmful ones to farmers and poultrymen. The Goshawk is the largest and fiercest of them, but again, fortunately, it is only a winter resident with us, though a few undoubtedly breed in the big woods in the northern part of the district. A great part of their number migrate, following the ducks, etc., south in October, and return with them in April. In these two months, therefore, they are mostly seen here. Dates at hand range from October 18th (1906) to May 13th (1908). For an account of a migration of this species see OTTAWA NATURALIST, vol. XX., p. 217; and of their ferocity, vol. XXI., p. 96.

97. *Buteo borealis*, Red-tailed Hawk. This large, slowly sailing buzzard is a moderately common summer resident. A pair of either this or the next species may be seen sailing over



most of the larger woods in the district. Dates range from April 11th (1908) to November 1st (1908).

98. *Buteo lineatus*, Red-shouldered Hawk. Of about the same degree of frequency as the Red-tailed. Dates: from March 28th (1909) to November 6th (1907).

99. *Buteo platypterus*, Broad-winged Hawk. A moderately common summer resident. This useful hawk is smaller than the two last named and rather unsuspicious. On June 1st, 1907, while on an excursion of the Club to Chelsea, a section of the party found a dead one in the woods there. On May 8th, 1909, one was taken at the Rifle Range, and on October 16th, 1908, a bird of the year. This is the latest date for the year on record, the first being April 23rd (1908).

100. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*, Rough-legged Hawk. This large, useful buzzard is a rare migrant. Dates are: March 16th, 1898, and November 1st, 1908. Probably commoner in migration than supposed.

101. *Aquila chrysaetos*, Golden Eagle. This majestic bird is a rare accidental visitor. It breeds sparingly in the Laurentian Hills north of us, and may do so near the northern limits of our district. A young one, but fully grown, was caught in a trap at High Falls, Quebec, on November 22nd, 1904, and given to the writer. The local taxidermist now and then gets a specimen, shot not far up the Gatineau, and Mr. E. Bedard reports one flying about, over the Rifle Range, for several days in January, 1910.

102. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Bald Eagle. A rare accidental visitor and possibly a rare breeder. There was a nest formerly at Lake Wilson, near Wakefield. One was shot October 28th, 1892.

#### FALCONIDÆ—FALCONS, ETC.

103. *Falco rusticolus gyrfalco*, Gyrfalcon. Rare accidental visitor. One was shot by Mr. E. White on the bank of the Rideau below Cumming's Bridge, on December 23rd, 1890.

104. *Falco peregrinus anatum*, Duck Hawk. A rare migrant. One was seen April 28th, 1889, by Mr. G. R. White; another at King's Mountain, July 11th, 1890, by Messrs. W. E. and F. A. Saunders. The latter also shot but not secured, another on September 22nd, 1890.

105. *Falco columbarius*, Pigeon Hawk. A rare migrant. On April 9th, 1905, Mr. E. White saw one and on October 5th, 1904, secured another. On May 5th and 11th, 1905, one was seen about Col. White's garden, being attracted there by the presence of some pigeons.

106. *Falco sparverius*, Sparrow Hawk. A moderately com-



mon summer resident. It arrives in April, but usually diminishes in numbers before the fall migration, when it again becomes more numerous. Extreme dates: March 30th (1907) and September 21st (1904). A winter record is January 26th, 1890.

PANDIONIDÆ—OSPREYS.

107. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*, Osprey. A moderately common migrant and rare breeder. Its bulky nest may be seen on a few of the lakes in the Gatineau district, where campers may also see it perform its fishing tactics. Dates: April 11th (1908), to September 21st (1904): On May 3rd, 1908, Mr. E. Bedard saw a regular flight of them on the Ottawa, no less than eleven being in sight at one time.

STRIGIDÆ—HORNED OWLS, ETC.

108. *Asio wilsonianus*, Long-eared Owl. A rare resident or migrant. The latest dates of its capture are as follows: November 1st, 1901; October 28th, 1904; October 24th 1905; November 4th, 1905. Two of these are in my collection.

109. *Asio flammeus*, Short-eared Owl. Also of uncertain status. Dates of capture are: November 16th, 1894, on which date Mr. G. R. White shot several in a swampy wood, and again on the 6th of November, 1895; on October 20th, 1904, one was taken by Mr. E. White, and on December 2nd, 1905, one by Mr. E. Bedard.

110. *Strix varia*, Barred Owl. A rare resident, more common in the Gatineau district. For an account of a fight between one of this species and a Goshawk see THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, vol. XXIV., p. 97. A female in my collection was taken on November 24th, 1905.

111. *Scotiaptex nebulosa*, Great Gray Owl. This large northern species is an irregular accidental visitor here, becoming rather common at times. In November, 1905, one was taken by a farmer at South March; on February 1st, 1906, one near East Templeton, now in my collection; on January 10th, 1907, Mr. Henry got two to mount, which had been taken near the city a day or two previously; on March 19th, 1908, Mr. E. Bedard shot one on the Rifle Range.

112. *Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*, Richardson's Owl. A rare accidental winter visitor from the far north. Late dates are: December 15th, 1903; November 16th, 1906, and in February, 1907, Mr. E. Bedard shot one, which is now in the writer's collection, on the Rifle Range.

113. *Cryptoglaux acadica*, Saw-whet Owl. This diminutive species is a moderately common resident. It lives in thickets composed of spruce, cedar and alder, also in cemeteries and



similar places. On April 11th, 1901, a female was found dead in a yard in New Edinburgh, having a fully developed egg in the ovary. Other dates: October 16th, 1906; January 20th, 1907.

114. *Otus asio*, Screech Owl. This useful little owl has of late years put in an appearance here, and is now a moderately common resident, apparently becoming more numerous. Both the gray and brown forms are seen, the former predominating. On December 8th, 1908, a brown one flew into the kitchen of Dr. Saunders' residence on the Experimental Farm. They are more in evidence in winter than in summer, as they then seem to move into the city to live on the English Sparrow.

115. *Bubo virginianus*, Great Horned Owl. A moderately common resident of the large woods of the district. At High Falls I once saw two in one tree. For an account of one from Inlet, Quebec, which must have had an encounter with a porcupine, see the Auk, vol. XXVI., p. 58.

116. *Nyctea nyctea*, Snowy Owl. This large northern owl is usually a rare accidental winter visitor, but occasionally a big flight comes through, as several years ago, when the local taxidermist received about three hundred. Also, in November, 1906, and December, 1907 and 1908 he got several from the Gatineau valley, one being from Farrelton.

117. *Surnia ulula caparoch*, Hawk Owl. Another rare accidental winter visitor from the far north. Dates are: October 9th, 1906, one shot in Beechwood; November, 1906, one taken in Graham's bush, Ottawa East; January 20th, 1907; April 5th, and May 8th, 1908, on which dates Mr. E. Bedard shot several at the Rifle Range. Perhaps they are commoner and stay longer than usually supposed.

#### ORDER COCCYGES—CUCKOOS.

##### CUCULIDÆ—CUCKOOS, ANIS, ETC.

118. *Coccyzus americanus*, Yellow-billed Cuckoo. A rare summer resident, arriving late in May. It may be found in bushy woods, vine-covered trees, etc., as at Blueberry Point and along the Base-line road, east of the Catholic cemetery on the Montreal road.

119. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, Black-billed Cuckoo. A moderately common summer resident, locally even common; in 1909 it was more numerous than ever before. It is found in similar localities as the Yellow-billed, also in orchards. On September 7th, 1908, a dead one was found in Beechwood; most of these birds are gone, however, long before that time.

##### ALCEDINIDÆ—KINGFISHERS.

120. *Ceryle alcyon*, Belted Kingfisher. A common summer



resident. Dates extend from the 8th of April to the 23rd of October. One or two pairs usually nest in the gravel pit at Britannia. This bird, being a decided ornament to our rivers, creeks and lakes, should be protected and not made the target of prowling boys and men.

ORDER PICI—WOODPECKERS.

PICIDÆ—WOODPECKERS.

121. *Dryobates villosus leucomelas*, Northern Hairy Woodpecker. A rather rare resident, apparently becoming rarer, although it is difficult to assign a reason for this.

122. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*, Northern Downy Woodpecker. A common resident; on some days during migration in April or May it is even abundant. They are also frequently seen in the streets of the city. Dates of greatest abundance, April 8th and May 8th, 1905, at Beechwood and Britannia.

123. *Picoides arcticus*, Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker. Rare resident, more in evidence in the Laurentian Hills north of us than in other parts of the district. On June 14th, 1905, I observed one at Inlet, Quebec, calling and making much ado. Specimens were taken at Ottawa on October 12th, 1907 (Kettle Island); February 13th, 1908; October 28th, 1908; April 3rd, 1909; the last three at the Rifle Range.

124. *Picoides americanus*, American Three-toed Woodpecker. An even rarer resident than the foregoing. Seen 28th and 29th September and 12th and 13th October, 1890 (F. A. Saunders).

125. *Sphyrapicus varius*, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A moderately common summer resident and abundant migrant. The earliest arrivals come April 6th, but they reach their greatest abundance about the 26th of that month. Nests with nearly full grown young, in stumps and trees from three to forty feet up, were found June 24th and July 1st. Some remain till end of September.

126. *Phlæotomus pileatus abieticola*, Pileated Woodpecker. A resident which is rare and becoming rarer in most parts of the district, but moderately common in the northern portion of it. At High Falls, its loud, wild call and its striking form of black and white may often be heard and seen. It has even been seen on Parliament Hill. It is the largest of our woodpeckers.

127. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, Red-headed Woodpecker. This formerly common bird must now be called a rare summer resident, as one sees only about two to five in a season. The reason for this, undoubtedly, is the fact that there are fewer dead trees left standing than formerly. It arrives in May and remains till well into September.



128. *Colaptes auratus luteus*, Northern Flicker. This large, handsome woodpecker is a common or even abundant summer resident, apparently increasing in numbers. The earliest date of arrival is March 26th (1907), but the bulk arrive from the 5th to 21st of April. Those which breed locally leave by about September 9th, but migrants from farther north continue to pass through till September 30th. A pair had their nest in a hole in a trolley pole at one of the entrances to the Rifle Range, from which a total of 60 eggs were gradually taken, but nothing daunted, they finally brought out their brood of young.

ORDER MACROCHIRES—GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, ETC.

CAPRIMULGIDÆ—GOATSUCKERS.

129. *Antrostomus vociferus*, Whip-poor-will. A moderately common summer resident. It arrives in the first part of May, April 29th, 1908, being an exceptionally early date; the last are usually heard September 16th, but in 1909 one tarried until October 16th (G. R. White).

130. *Chordeiles virginianus*, Nighthawk. An abundant summer resident. It breeds on many of the flat roofs in the city and therefore may be seen any day performing its wonderful aerial evolutions overhead. It is also remarkable for the regularity of its coming and going, it arriving usually May 16th (some years May 11th), and departing about August 23rd, when large numbers are seen over or near the city. For an account of its nesting on a residence in the city see THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, vol. XIX., p. 56.

MICROPODIDÆ—SWIFTS.

131. *Chætura pelagica*, Chimney Swift. An exceedingly abundant summer resident. Flocks of hundreds may be seen nearly every evening in summer whirling over and into the large ventilator shafts and chimneys of the Parliament, and departmental, buildings, and of some of the public schools. The date of their arrival varies with the meteorological conditions of the seasons, the earliest date being April 22nd (1897), and the latest May 10th; they leave at the end of August and beginning of September (10th last date). In 1883 a live Swift was captured during the first week of February in the house of the late Dr. Whiteaves.

TROCHILIDÆ—HUMMINGBIRDS.

132. *Archilochus colubris*, Ruby-throated Hummingbird. A common summer resident. They arrive during the middle of May, the 9th being the earliest date, and leave about the middle of September (9th to 14th). In 1909, however, owing to the unusually mild autumn one was seen as late as October 16th (G. R. White).



## ORDER PASSERES—PERCHING BIRDS.

## TYRANNIDÆ—FLYCATCHERS.

133. *Tyrannus tyrannus*, Kingbird. A common summer resident. It arrives early in May (4th to 16th), and the last of the breeding birds leave about August 28th (Mrs. Brown).

134. *Myiarchus crinitus*, Crested Flycatcher. A moderately common summer resident. Its coming and going coincides with that of the Kingbird. But, while the latter is a bird of the open field and meadow, perching on fences and wires, this is distinctly a woodland bird. At Blueberry Point, Chelsea, etc., one or two pairs may usually be met with. At the former place a nest with four eggs, in a Flicker's hole, was found June 12th, 1909.

135. *Sayornis phæbe*, Phœbe. A common summer resident. For an insectivorous bird it comes very early, too early for its own welfare, one would think. The first date is March 28th. A nest with four eggs was found May 14th. The latest date is October 9th.

136. *Nuttallornis borealis*, Olive-sided Flycatcher. This interesting northern flycatcher is a rare summer resident over most of the district, although rather common in its chosen haunts, e.g., the western end of Meach Lake. In places like this, swampy borders of lakes and streams, fringed or overgrown with spruces, it breeds, and there its call: *hood take care*, may be heard all day long. The swampy widening of the canal at the Experimental Farm also harbored a pair in 1909. During their migration, from May 17th, they may be seen in the spruces along the water-front, Hull, and around Cache Bay. They leave unostentatiously in August.

137. *Myiochanes virens*, Wood Pewee. A common summer resident. Like most of the flycatchers it arrives late, during the second half of May, the 12th being a very early date. It breeds where there are large trees in open woods or in city streets, where their monotonous *pee-a-wee* may be heard at all hours of the day and sometimes of the night. The local birds have gone by the 1st of September, the 22nd being the latest date for any migrants.

138. *Empidonax flaviventris*, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. A rare summer resident, breeding sparingly in the Mer Bleue and the silent moist evergreen woods in the northern part of the district. Dates: May 10th to August 15th.

139. *Empidonax traillii alnorum*, Alder Flycatcher. A common summer resident. The name well indicates its habitat. It is common in the alder fringe around the Mer Bleue, in the Beaver Meadow and similar places. Dates: May 19th, August 15th.

140. *Empidonax minimus*, Least Flycatcher, Chebec. A



common summer resident. One never needs to be in doubt whether it has arrived in the spring or not, for its call, *chebec*, hurled out in a somewhat scratchy voice, heralds its presence plainly enough. This is in the latter half of May (11th to 17th), and may be heard in any of our city streets lined with large trees. It leaves in July and early August (10th), the remarkable fall of 1909 again being an exception, when one was seen as late as September 14th.

ALAUDIDÆ—LARKS.

141. *Otocoris alpestris*, Horned Lark. A rare migrant, although when it comes at all it will, locally and temporarily, be abundant. The writer has never met with this bird here, despite careful looking for it. In 1890 a flock remained from April 19th to May 25th, and again from September 26th to October 28th.

141. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*, Prairie Horned Lark. A common spring and summer resident and abundant migrant. This is our earliest arrival from the south, as early as February 10th. The bulk of the species come in the first part of March, but by the end of that month these flocks have again moved on or have scattered into breeding pairs. Nests with eggs may be found in old meadows, etc., as early as March 28th, and fully fledged young in May. It is thus the earliest breeder of our common perching birds. In summer they make themselves less apparent. The latest dates for fall migrants are: November 22nd, 1908; January 12th, 1909, when one was seen.

CORVIDÆ—CROWS, JAYS, ETC.

143. *Cyanocitta cristata*, Blue Jay. A moderately common resident, although most of them move southward for the winter. Their number, for a certain locality, changes from season to season. Mrs. R. D. Brown noticed them fifteen times in January, 1908, but only four times from November 1st, 1908 to March 21st, 1909. In April it is locally abundant.

144. *Perisoreus canadensis*, Canada Jay; Meat Bird. This inhabitant of the northern woods makes the Ottawa River the southern boundary of its range, rarely, even in winter, going far south of it. It is a moderately common resident in the northern parts of the district. At the farm houses along the Gatineau and Lievre it is a daily visitor in winter, especially at butchering time. It nests even earlier than the Prairie Horned Lark, namely in February and March, when the thermometer is often far below zero. For an account of its fearlessness or rather greediness for food, see THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, vol. XXII., p. 65.

(To be continued.)







Eifrig, Charles William Gustav. 1911. "The Birds of Ottawa, continued." *The Ottawa naturalist* 24(10), 176–187.

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