

number of small ponds and streams. For the first few years after their introduction into the park, these Mallards were kept in confinement for a portion of the time, and wandered at pleasure only when their wings were clipped, but during later years they or their descendants have been free to go and come as they pleased, with unclipped wings. Many of these ducks have bred in the park, and others have disappeared in the spring and reappeared in the autumn in increasing numbers. Last winter, at one time, the park contained between sixty and seventy of these ducks. This year and last several nests of Mallards have been found in the vicinity of Springfield, but a number of miles from the park. In former years this species of duck was not known to breed in Massachusetts, although it was a regular migrant in the western part of the state, appearing in spring and autumn on the waters of the Connecticut river and its tributaries in more or less numbers.

Florida cærulea.— On the twenty-second day of July, of the present year, a Little Blue Heron, in its white plumage was captured in West Springfield.

Ixobrychus exilis.— On the seventeenth day of last June a nest of a Least Bittern, containing four eggs, was found in Longmeadow. This is the only record of the nesting of this species in the vicinity of Springfield.

Corvus ossifragus.— On the tenth of last April a Fish Crow was seen in Forest Park in Springfield. Only on very rare occasions do representatives of this species of bird come up the Connecticut valley as far as this point. While the bird in question was not taken, a very close inspection was had, and the observers were guided to the vicinity of the bird by the easily identified notes that it uttered.

Icterus galbula.— In the latter part of last autumn a Baltimore Oriole appeared in a thickly settled residential portion of Springfield, and remained in that vicinity until the latter part of December, an interesting sight to many observers.— ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

West Virginia Notes.— **Bonasa umbellus umbellus.**— While on an observation trip in the Rich Mountains of West Virginia, May 15 to 18, 1914, Mr. Orr R. King saw several Ruffed Grouse with their young. In the spruce forests of those mountains and in the 'cut-over' areas these fine game birds are still quite common. In many parts of our state the Ruffed Grouse is becoming rare.

Cathartes aura septentrionalis. A few years ago the Turkey Vulture was abundant in all the interior region of West Virginia. Now it has become quite rare in the central hill region of the state, but is common east of the mountains.

Dryobates villosus villosus.— During the first week of June, 1914, with two assistants, I made a trip to the Cranberry Glades, at the head-waters of the Cranberry River. This is a region of unusual interest as may be seen by some of the notes that follow. Among the Woodpeckers to be found in the great forests and the 'cut-over' areas the Hairy Woodpecker was by

far the most common of all. Evidently breeding all through the mountains at the head of Cranberry, Greenbrier and Cheat Rivers.

Chætura pelagica.— A curious nesting habit of the Chimney Swift was observed at the foot of Kennison Mountain, Pocahontas County, at the lower end of Cranberry Glades. A woodsman told us that these birds sometimes nest among the rocks and in abandoned lumbermen's shanties. While we found no nests among the rocks, we did find several nests in an old house which the lumbermen had used some years before. This particular building had been used as a blacksmith's shop. The nests were glued to the boards on the wall in the attic of the building. The presence of quite a number of these birds in the vicinity of these old lumber camps seemed to indicate that this is a common mode of nest-building in these mountain regions.

Nuttallornis borealis.— Four or five pairs of Olive-sided Flycatchers were observed in the region round about the glades. The males kept constantly in the highest tree-tops. On account of the date and the actions of the birds we concluded that they were soon to begin nest-building, though no nests were found.

Empidonax trailli alnorum.— Several Alder Flycatchers were heard and seen in the dense alder thickets among the glades. The males were uttering their characteristic notes. Several old nests were found in the alder bushes, but no nests of this year. A fine male was taken on June 3. The measurements of this specimen were as follows — Length, 5.58; wing, 2.90; Tarsus, .77; tail, 2.30; bill from nostril, .34. The greatly enlarged testes of this specimen indicate that the nesting season was just about to begin.

Empidonax minimus.— The Least Flycatcher was found in great abundance throughout all the mountain region about the head-waters of the rivers mentioned above. Three nests were found, each with four white eggs.

Corvus corax principalis.— On three different occasions a flock of four Northern Ravens was observed flying over the mountains in the region about the Cranberry Glades. On the fourth of June we were on the top of Black Mountain, about 4,600 feet above sea level, and the four Ravens came down in an open field near by. One Raven was observed on the Shaver's Fork of Cheat a few days later.

Chondestes grammacus grammacus.— On May 15, 1914, a nest of the Lark Sparrow was found by Maurice G. Brooks at Frenchton, West Virginia. The nest contained four fresh eggs. Because of some disturbance the birds left the nest and the eggs were collected (only three of them being preserved), and are now in the collection of Orr R. King. The measurements of these eggs are as follows — No. 1, .72 × .59; No. 2, .73 × .60; No. 3, .77 × .61.

Peucæa æstivalis bachmani. A nest of the Bachman's Sparrow was found near French Creek, West Virginia by Paul Cutright in July, 1913. One infertile egg was left in the nest after the young birds had flown.

This egg, the first one taken in West Virginia, is now in the collection of Orr R. King, Weston, W. Va. During the past ten years this sparrow has become quite common in many parts of our state.

***Dendroica tigrina*.**— Though the Cape May Warbler is rare in many places, it is exceedingly common in the interior of West Virginia, in migration, and, at times, becomes very destructive to the grape crop.

***Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi*.**— Several specimens of Cairns' Warbler were taken about the Cranberry Glades showed few of the supposed marks of *cairnsi*. In almost every respect they were typical specimens of *Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*.

***Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*.**— The Water-Thrushes were very abundant at the headwaters of Williams, Cranberry, Greenbrier and Cheat Rivers in West Virginia. At our camp near Cranberry Glades these birds could be heard almost constantly, and were common in the higher altitudes wherever we went.

***Oporornis philadelphia*.**— A great many Mourning Warblers were seen in the mountains round about the Cranberry Glades and in the more elevated regions at the head-waters of the Greenbrier and Cheat Rivers. Previously Dr. Rives had found this bird in the summer in the great spruce belt near Davis in Tucker County, and I had found them breeding on Spruce Knob in Pendleton County. The presence of this northern warbler in so many places greatly extends its known breeding range in West Virginia. No nests were found, but up to June 9 the birds were still abundant in the regions visited. Three pairs were observed on Shaver's Mountain near Wildell.

***Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*.**— A nest of the Olive-backed Thrush was found on June 9 on top of Shaver's Mountain. This nest was placed in a small red spruce about two feet from the ground, and contained three fresh eggs. This is the second nest of this species ever found in West Virginia, and, with the nest which I found on Spruce Knob in 1908, marks the southern limit of the breeding range of this species. The eggs, which we needed for scientific purposes, are now in the private collection of Orr R. King. I believe this species may soon be found as far south as the Cranberry Glade region, where so many northern forms occur.— EARLE A. BROOKS, *Weston, West Virginia*.

Some Winter Bird Notes from the Yellowstone National Park.— From February 21 to March 1, 1914 I was at Gardiner, Montana, having gone there to see what I could of the game animals of the Yellowstone National Park in winter. I spent some of every day during that time in the Park, sometimes the greater portion of the day. My observations extended as far as Mammoth Hot Springs, and from there along the Cook City road for about two miles. On the twenty-eighth I walked to Mammoth by way of the "old road" which takes one up over the hills; the other days I was up and down the road along the Gardiner River. I also spent considerable time about the low hills around the field just inside the



Brooks, Earl Amos. 1914. "West Virginia Notes." *The Auk* 31, 544–546.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/4072026>.

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