

BIRDS OF ALLEGANY AND GARRETT COUNTIES,  
WESTERN MARYLAND.<sup>1</sup>

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THE topography and physiography of the two westernmost counties of Maryland are very complex and interesting, and accordingly the faunal and floral life-zones and areas are correspondingly complex and interesting. The lowest point that I can find on the beautiful maps lately published by the Maryland Geological Survey is 500 feet above sea level. This is in the extreme southeastern corner of Allegany County, on the Potomac River, and is the only point so low in the section under consideration. From this the elevation rises at many places very rapidly to 2500–3000 feet and attains the greatest height, 3400 feet, on the summit of the Great Backbone Mountain in the southwest corner of Garrett County and of the State. Cumberland is 800 feet, Frostburg, both in Allegany County, 2000 feet, rising rapidly to the top of the Big Savage Mountain, on whose side it lies, to 3000 feet. Oakland, Accident, and Finzel, Garrett County, lie in the broad glades and basin between the high ridges, all being 2400 to 2600 feet in elevation. These higher ridges, such as the Backbone, Big and Little Savage, Negro, Meadow, and Dan's Mountains, the last with Dan's Rock, from which a sublime view is to be had, are 2800 to 3400 feet high.

The lower parts, of which Garrett County has next to none, are in the Upper Austral or Carolinian life-zone, as is plainly to be seen by birds like the Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and Bluebird being permanent residents, and by trees like the tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sassafras (*S. sassafras*), dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). The

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<sup>1</sup> Since Maryland is very narrow in its western part, being at Cumberland only five miles, and as many of these observations have been made along the two boundaries of the State — the Potomac River on the one side and the Mason and Dixon line on the other — and have been frequently corroborated on the other side of each, this list holds good also for the adjoining part of West Virginia and for Somerset County, Pennsylvania.



hills and mountains from about 1500 feet upwards, except some southern mountain sides, and about all of Garrett County, are in the Alleghanian division of the Transition zone, characterized by an intermingling and overlapping of northern and southern types of the fauna and flora. The tops of the highest mountains, those in the neighborhood of 3000 feet, contain a strong admixture of high Transition and even Boreal species. This is especially evident in the sphagnum, alder, and cranberry swamps on the tops of some of these mountains and in the small depressions between them, *e. g.*, in the one between the Big and Little Savage Mountains, near Finzel, Garrett County, or the one on top of Negro Mountain near Accident, at both of which places I have frequently been. There are also some dark, virgin tracts of fine tall spruce and hemlock here, soon to be desecrated by the ax, where Boreal conditions of fauna and flora exist. In such places may be found, of birds, the Carolina Snowbird (*Junco hyemalis carolinensis*), Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica maculosa*), Canadian Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*), Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), and the Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*); of mammals, the Redbacked Mouse (*Evotomys gapperi*), Canadian White-footed Mouse (*Peromyscus canadensis*), and Varying Hare (*Lepus americanus virginianus*); of trees and other plants, the tamarack (*Larix laricina*), black spruce (*Picea mariana*), golden club (*Orontium aquaticum*), cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*), wild calla (*Calla palustris*), gentian (*Gentiana angustifolia*), etc.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, while it may in general be said, that the fauna of Allegany County is a mixture of Carolinian and Transition, and that of Garrett County Transition, high Transition, and even Boreal, yet these zones and areas overlap, intergrade, and run into each other in a most surprising and very interesting way. Tongues of Carolinian fauna and flora run into the Transition and Boreal belts,

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<sup>1</sup> For some of these statements, notably for those on mammals, I am partly indebted to an excellent paper in the Maryland Geological Survey Report on Allegany County, entitled: 'The Fauna and Flora,' etc., 'The Summer Birds of Western Maryland,' by C. Hart Merriam and Edward A. Preble.



especially along the creeks and rivers; *e. g.*, the Louisiana Water-Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) follows up the water courses into the domain of the Water-Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), and the Catbird is found side by side with the Alder Flycatcher, Carolina Junco, and Hermit Thrush. On the other hand, tongues of the Transition zone extend far into the Carolinian, as, *e. g.*, the Chestnut-sided and Golden-winged Warblers (*Dendroica pennsylvanica*, *Helminthophila chrysoptera*) bred quite plentifully this year right near Cumberland, and plants like the clammy azalea (*Azalea viscosa*), turk's cap lily (*Lilium superbum*), *Maianthemum canadense*, etc., follow rivers and cool northern mountain sides far down, where they do not seem to belong. I can recommend Oakland, and the glade district of Garrett County in general, as a veritable naturalists' paradise, as it is also a place where coolness reigns in summer and pure, delicious, ozone-laden air is found in abundance. There many beautiful and some rare plants flower in profusion; for instance, the wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), the turk's cap lily (*L. superbum*), and the meadow lily (*L. canadensis*) can be found at the end of July, blooming side by side, and while hearing or seeing the Magnolia, Cerulean, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue and Green Warblers, Wilson's and Hermit Thrushes, and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, one may pluck, if he likes, indian-pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), sweet pine-sap (*Hypopitys hypopitys*), rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*), purple and green habennarias, or three orchids blooming simultaneously (*Cypripedium acaule*, *pubescens*, and *parviflorum*).

As to the following list of birds, I wish to bespeak reliability for it. All of the species mentioned, excepting fifteen, can be seen in my collections of either mounted specimens or skins or in both, and about half of those fifteen species I saw in the flesh in someone else's possession. I have seen a few more species than those mentioned, but since I could not take them and they must be considered rare or accidental visitants here, I did not include them in the list. A few species I mention on the authority of others, but they are such as undoubtedly occur here and every sportsman knows, but there being some room for doubt, I have marked them as uncertain.

Of literature on the birds of this region, I know of two sources



only, one being: 'A List of the Birds of Maryland,' etc., by F. C. Kirkwood, Baltimore, Md., 1895, which, however, contains but little available material for this section, since Mr. Kirkwood spent only a few days here, June 5-14, 1895, and had no correspondent here. Then there is the excellent treatise by C. Hart Merriam and Edward A. Preble of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, of whom the latter was detailed to work over this section for the Maryland Geological Survey. He spent some weeks here in May, June, and July, 1899, and that he worked very thoroughly is attested by his fine list of 100 species, which, however, he had to call 'Summer Birds,' on account of the season of the year, in which his stay here fell.

The dates I have given under the several species are not the only ones I have for them, but merely characteristic or somewhat unusual ones.

#### PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

1. *Colinus virginianus*. BOB-WHITE.—Some years ago, I am told, this species was nearly or quite exterminated by severe and adverse winter conditions, whereupon local sportsmen imported and liberated about 100 pairs, and now they are plentiful again at most points.

2. *Bonasa umbellus*. RUFFED GROUSE.—Still common in spite of the persistent hunting. I encountered many families this spring (1903) on the wooded ridges and hillsides, whereas in Pennsylvania I rarely flush one. The farmers there ascribe this to the fact, that no bounty is paid any longer for foxes, etc., which is done this side of the Mason and Dixon line.

3. *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*. WILD TURKEY.—Well able to keep his own on the long, densely-wooded and sometimes almost inaccessible ridges. Many are sold in the local market in winter.

4. *Buteo platypterus*. BROAD-WINGED HAWK.—Not common.

5. *Syrnium varium*. BARRED OWL.—Seems to be about as common as the next species. Occasionally one is shot in the city.

6. *Megascops asio*. SCREECH OWL.—Not as common as in other States, since there is a bounty paid here for all hawks and owls, still it is not scarce. Both color phases occur.

7. *Bubo virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL.—Common over the whole territory. They are often caught in traps by farmers and brought alive to the city.

8. *Dryobates villosus*. HAIRY WOODPECKER.—Abundant in migration, rather rare otherwise.



9. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*. DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Very abundant some days during migration (Oct. 24, 1900), otherwise about as rare or common as the preceding species.

10. *Ceophlœus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER.—Rare, except in some of the higher parts. Locally called Indian Hen and sold as a game bird in Cumberland. April 19, 1903, I watched a pair for a long while at Accident. They were feeding on the ground and often hopped or flew against a stump or decayed tree as though hiding there what they found. Took one August 1, 1901, at the same place.

11. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK.—Many flocks on hills and roads about Cumberland in winter, often together with Tree Sparrows, Juncos, etc. Breeds in the higher parts.

12. *Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY.—Common in the higher parts all the year, scarce during summer in lower parts.

13. *Corvus corax principalis*. RAVEN.—A colony of about twenty-five pairs nest in the cliffs at Rocky Gap, six miles east of Cumberland. Mr. Preble notes a pair nesting in a large hemlock near Finzel, Garrett County, May 15, 1903; saw a pair chasing each other on Will's Mountain, giving vent to notes like the loud howling, whining and barking of a large dog, sounds I would not have expected from any bird. Saw the same pair often.

14. *Corvus americanus*. CROW.—Very abundant; form large colonies in winter, which roost at certain places for weeks, on the wooded hillsides near the city.

15. *Astragalinus tristis*. GOLDFINCH.—In large flocks all the year except July and August, when they are in pairs.

16. *Junco hyemalis carolinensis*. CAROLINA SNOWBIRD.—Breeds in numbers in the highest parts of Garrett County; in winter seen in lower parts also.

17. *Melospiza cinerea melodia*. SONG SPARROW.—Very abundant at all times. Seem to winter also in higher parts.

18. *Cardinalis cardinalis*. CARDINAL.—Very abundant in lower parts, a few also in higher. In winter they are in flocks about Cumberland, and in places are as plentiful as Juncos.

19. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. CAROLINA WREN.—This cheerful whistler can be heard along large and small water courses any day of the year, cold or warm, rain or shine. Common in lower parts only.

20. *Sitta carolinensis*. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Abundant in winter in lower parts, scarcer in the higher; in summer the opposite is true.

21. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Not common during winter in lower parts. "A small flock of these birds, evidently a family, was seen on the branches of a tall dead tree, in the deep woods near Bittinger. It was also seen near Finzel about the middle of May, where it was doubtless breeding." (Preble.) On account of this record I give it as permanent resident.



22. *Bæolophus bicolor*. TUFTED TITMOUSE.— Common at all times and over the whole territory.

23. *Parus atricapillus*. CHICKADEE.— Equally abundant in both counties, summer and winter. Many seem to approach *P. carolinensis*, but all my skins were pronounced *P. atricapillus* by Mr. Ridgway.

24. *Parus carolinensis*. CAROLINA CHICKADEE.— Mr. Kirkwood says: "On Dan's Mountain, June 6, '95, young were in the nest of the only pair seen."

25. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.— An abundant summer resident over the whole area, and in the lower parts, at least around Cumberland, many brave the inclemencies of the generally not very harsh winter. They may be seen any bright day in January or February, even if rather cold, in most of the small sheltered valleys about the city. Oct. 24, 1900, hundreds were in the clearing adjoining Allegany Grove.

IRREGULARLY OR NEARLY PERMANENT RESIDENTS, OR OF UNCERTAIN STATUS.

26. *Gallinago delicata*. WILSON'S SNIPE.— Abundant during migration and apparently must sometimes breed. I have dates from April 10 (1901) to May 21 (1903), and Mr. Kirkwood gives them for Cumberland from Feb. 28 to June.

27. *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE.— Common in both counties. March 15 to Dec. 6, on which latter date a flock of about 30 was seen in a field.

28. *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.— The most common of the hawks, probably because it is able to escape the hawk-hunters, that shoot hawks and owls to secure the 50 cents bounty foolishly paid in Allegany County for each hawk and owl. Breeds in the hills of Cumberland; took two full-grown young Aug. 3, 1900.

29. *Buteo borealis*. RED-TAILED HAWK.— In spite of the bounty act, it may be heard or seen now and then. Many are caught in traps put up by farmers on poles, of both this and the next species.

30. *Buteo lineatus*. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.— Rarer than preceding species, but may be met with over the whole territory. Dates: Jan. 27, Feb. 17, 1900; July 1, 1901; May 8, 1902. Mr. Preble noted a noisy pair near Finzel, and others near Grantsville and Bittering, all in Garrett County.

31. *Falco sparverius*. SPARROW HAWK.— Not common in lower parts, common in higher; I observed several families near Accident each summer. Abundant during migration at Cumberland. I have two winter dates: Dec. 23, 1899, and a male taken at Lonaconing Feb. 15, 1902.

I suppose the preceding four species should be classed as permanent residents, but since I have no winter dates for them, excepting the last two, I thought it safer to place them here.



32. *Nyctala acadica*. SAW-WHET OWL.—The only record I have for this is July 6, 1903, when a full-grown young one in good condition and plumage was brought to me alive. It had been caught in a tree in the city.

33. *Carpodacus purpureus*. PURPLE FINCH.—I do not know whether to class this as a migrant, a permanent resident, or a winter resident, as witness the following dates: Nov. 11, 1899; Feb. 10, 1900 (big flock); Feb. 24, 1900; Mar. 11, 1900; April 24, 1900; Nov. 23, 1901; Dec. 6, 1901; Jan. 15, 1902; Feb. 15, 1902; May 6, 1902; April 6 and 11, 1903; and on July 27, 1903, while in an alder swamp along Bear Creek, near Accident, a fine male flew into the top of an alder bush before me, and looked and acted as though he was fully at home there and thought I had no business intruding. To make the identification sure I took him.

34. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER.—I would class this as a winter resident, having dates from Oct. 19 (1902) to April 28 (1900), were it not for the fact that Mr. Preble took a female in heavy hemlock woods near Bittinger, Garrett County, on June 28, 1899. This renders its status doubtful.

35. *Regulus satrapa*. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—The dates I have for this species also makes its status doubtful. Some of these dates are: Jan. 15 and 27 (1902, 1900); Feb. 15 (1902); April 7 and 12 (1900, 1902); May 1 (1901); May 23 (1903). This last specimen was seen and taken at Cumberland, in full song. Aug. 7 (1901); Oct. 5, 19, 27 (1900, 1901); Nov. 16 (1901); Dec. 6 (1902), etc.

36. *Merula migratoria*. ROBIN.—Large flocks of this bird stay late into November and return end of February. A few stay all winter in favored localities.

#### SUMMER RESIDENTS.

37. *Aix sponsa*. WOOD DUCK.—A scarce breeder but a common migrant. March 18 to April 8, 1901; Sept. 5, 1901, etc.

38. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN.—Not common. March 30 (1901) to Sep. 16 (1899). June 30, 1902, a full-grown one was brought to me.

39. *Ardetta exilis*. LEAST BITTERN.—Rare; two dates only—May 30, and Aug. 26, 1901.

40. *Ardea herodias*. BLUE HERON.—A somewhat familiar figure along the creeks; scarce in the higher parts.

41. *Butorides virescens*. GREEN HERON.—Not rare, at least in lower parts.

42. *Philohela minor*. WOODCOCK.—Common resident over both counties. It stays so late and comes so early, that it may almost be counted a permanent resident.

43. *Bartramia longicauda*. BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER.—Common in



migration, not so common as a breeder, perhaps on account of the lack of large meadows. Found a pair at Vale Summit (alt. 2000 ft.) on May 30, 1902; May 21, 1903, I found nine or ten pairs at the so called Swamp Ponds, on the other side of the Potomac River, and the same number July 13, the young having undoubtedly been drowned or killed by the heavy rains of this season.

44. *Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER. — Abundant over the whole region, at all large and small watercourses, ponds and waterholes.

45. *Oxyechus vociferus*. KILLDEER. — Common in both high and low parts. Stays late and comes early, like the Woodcock. About October 1 they come to town in numbers and stay along Will's Creek until Nov. 22 (1902).

46. *Cathartes aura*. TURKEY BUZZARD. — Cannot be called common, nor rare. A pair evidently nests each year on Will's Mountain, near Cumberland, and several pairs at Rocky Gap, with the Ravens.

47. *Accipiter cooperi*. COOPER'S HAWK. — Rather scarce. A young one, full grown, was brought to me at Accident July 22, 1903, and Mr. Preble notes one near Swanton.

48. *Coccyzus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. — Not rare in both counties.

49. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. — In lower parts during migration only, and then not common. Breeds in higher parts.

50. *Ceryle alcyon*. KINGFISHER. — Common in all parts. Dates: Mar. 25 (1902) to Sept. 28 (1901). On Aug. 26, 1901, one was killed by flying against a telegraph wire in the city.

51. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. — Not uncommon, notably in higher parts. Dates: April 6 (1903) to Oct. 24 (1900). On April 20, 1903, the woods were full of them at Accident.

52. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. — Has become rather rare in the lower parts, although a pair breeds here and there, but very abundant in the higher parts, where there are many 'dead-enings.' Dates: April 17 (1903, Accident) to Sept. 15 (1899).

53. *Colaptes auratus*. FLICKER. — Common over the whole area; especially abundant in higher parts and during migration, when the black gum and other trees entice him to stay long and in large numbers. Dates: Mar. 1 (1902) to Nov. 15 (1902). Its numbers are increasing around Cumberland.

54. *Antrostomus vociferus*. WHIP-POOR-WILL. — Evenly distributed over the whole territory; plentiful in some parts. Dates: April 21 (1902) to Sept. 14 (1899).

55. *Chordeiles virginianus*. NIGHTHAWK. — Not as common as last species, except during the last week in August, when they appear in large numbers, flying over the house-tops after insect food. Dates: May 3 (1902) to Sept. 2 (1903).

56. *Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT. — Common breeder over



the whole region. They can be seen in vast numbers over Centre Street Public School, darting out of and into the capacious chimney. Dates: April 16 (1901) to Aug. 27 (1903).

57. *Trochilus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. — Common over the whole area.

58. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD. — Not common at Cumberland, plentiful in the higher parts.

59. *Myiarchus crinitus*. GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER. — Not common, except locally.

60. *Sayornis phœbe*. PHŒBE. — Common in all parts, from Mar. 11 (1902) to Oct. 19 (1902).

61. *Contopus virens*. WOOD PEWEE. — Common. May 3 (1902) to Oct. 19 (1901).

62. *Empidonax alnorum*. ALDER FLYCATCHER. — Although I have looked high and low for this species in the alder-swamps, for hours at a time, I have not had the good fortune to see it, at least well enough to positively identify it. But Mr. Preble saw it and took it in the same and similar localities, June 3 and 4, 1899.

63. *Empidonax minimus*. LEAST FLYCATCHER. — Common as a migrant, but much rarer as a breeder, in both the low and high parts. Dates: April 30 (1903) to Sept. 14 (1899).

64. *Corvus ossifragus*. FISH CROW. — I saw what I took to be a pair of this species March 21 and May 21, 1903. Am familiar with their appearance and note from several visits to Washington, where they are plentiful in the parks.

65. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. BOBOLINK. — More of a migrant than breeder. Saw five or six on May 21, 1903, and Mr. Preble found them at Grantsville, June 23, 1899; am also told that they breed, some years, in the large meadows near Frostburg, which is very probable.

66. *Molothrus ater*. COWBIRD. — Not very common, except in migration; Nov. 3, 1901, thousands of this species, together with Redwings and Grackles, covered the fields along Eavitts Creek. March 22 (1901) is the earliest date I have.

67. *Agelaius phœniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. — Abundant in suitable places over whole area. March 14 is my earliest date.

68. *Sturnella magna*. MEADOWLARK. — Of uniform abundance over the whole area from Mar. 1 (1902) to Oct. 23 (1901). May 21, 1903, two nests with five eggs in each.

69. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE. — Not common except some days in spring migration. Nearly absent from the higher parts in summer.

70. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE. — Common over the whole area. Earliest date, April 27, 1902.

71. *Quiscalus quiscula*. PURPLE GRACKLE. — Plentiful everywhere from March 14 (1903) to Nov. 3 (1901). All that I have taken seem to belong to this eastern species, none to the western.



72. *Poœcetes gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW.—Very common breeder in higher parts, from 2000 ft. up. In Cumberland they can be seen only in migration and now and then a stray one in summer.

73. *Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—Very common, especially in the higher parts, from May 1 (1902) to Sept. 5 (1901), but most disappear before the end of August.

74. *Chondestes grammacus*. LARK SPARROW.—Know of only one colony, which I found July 23, 1901, four miles from Accident, Garrett County. This year (1903) I visited the same place, and after much searching found only one bird; there may have been more near by.

75. *Spizella socialis*. CHIPPING SPARROW.—Very abundant everywhere. Appears to be becoming also a bird of the woods, for I find nests in the middle of second growth woods. March 21 (1903) to Nov. 1 (1901).

76. *Spizella pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW.—Same as *S. socialis*. March 21 (1903) to Nov. 4 (1899). May 10, 1901, nest with five eggs on ground; May 21, 1902, nest, one foot high in laurel bush, with three young and one egg.

77. *Melospiza georgiana*. SWAMP SPARROW.—Not rare where conditions are favorable; Mar. 30 (1901) to Oct. 3 (1901).

78. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. TOWHEE; CHEWINK.—One of the most abundant birds here, especially in the thickets of scrub-oak, etc., with which large parts of the hills and mountains are covered. In September and October hundreds, if not thousands, are to be seen. Dates: April 22 (1900) to Oct. 28 (1899).

79. *Zamelodia ludoviciana*. RED-BREASTED GROSBEAK.—Rare in lower parts, even in migration; rather common breeder on higher ground, from 2000 feet up.

80. *Cyanospiza cyanea*. INDIGO BUNTING.—Common, more so in lower than higher parts, from beginning of May till Oct. 15 (1902). In fall they associate in flocks with the Song Sparrows in the bushes along rivers and creeks.

81. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER.—Common, especially on wooded tops of mountains. May 1 (1903) to Sept. 27 (1902).

82. *Piranga rubra*. SUMMER TANAGER.—Saw and heard this fine whistler only once, July 1, 1901.

83. *Progne subis*. PURPLE MARTIN.—Common over the whole area, often in middle of cities, where martin-houses are put up. April 2 to Aug. 27, 1903. Usually, however, they come a few days later and depart several days earlier than this year.

84. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. CLIFF SWALLOW.—Common wherever it can build its nest.

85. *Hirundo erythrogaster*. BARN SWALLOW.—Like the last species, abundant, especially in farming districts. April 12 (1901) to Aug. 14 (1903), at which latter date hundreds of this and the preceding and following species were assembled in the bushes on a small island in the lake at Mt. Lake Park, Garrett County, evidently preparatory to going south.



86. *Riparia riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—Not as common as the preceding species.

87. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—More common than the Bank Swallow, but not as common as the Barn Swallow.

88. *Ampelis cedrorum*. CEDARBIRD.—Very abundant over the whole area. Mar. 24 (1900) to Oct. 19 (1901-'02), at which latter dates the woods were full of old and young. Its numbers seem to be increasing from year to year.

89. *Vireo olivaceus*. RED-EYED VIREO.—One of the commonest summer birds. May 2 (1902) to Sept. 4 (1901).

90. *Vireo gilvus*. WARBLING VIREO.—Not common. Earliest date, April 26, 1902.

91. *Vireo flavifrons*. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.—Not common, except in migration. May 30, 1902, nest, fifteen feet up in a small oak, female sitting.

92. *Vireo solitarius*. BLUE-HEADED VIREO.—While I have found this species only as a migrant (May 8, 1902, many; May 15, 1902; Oct. 12, 1901; Oct. 19, 1902), Mr. Preble has found it a rather common resident at Finzel, Grantsville, Bittinger, Kearney, Swanton, and Dan's Mountain. This was in June, 1899; so there can be no doubt that it is a breeder in the higher parts.

93. *Mniotilta varia*. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—Common at all points. May 1 to Sept. 22 (1900).

94. *Helmitherus vermivorus*. WORM-EATING WARBLER.—To be found in proper locations in both counties. May 8 (1902) to Sept. 20 (1900).

95. *Helminthophila chrysoptera*. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.—An abundant migrant and becoming a common breeder, also in lower parts. During migration (from May 2 on) they prefer to sit on dead saplings to utter their monotonous *tsee, tsee, tsee*. Quite a number bred this year on Will's Mountain, Cumberland, where I saw old and young out of nest on June 19; also at Frostburg, July 17. It frequents the same places as the Towhee.

96. *Compsothlypis americana*. PARULA WARBLER.—Rare as a breeder and migrant.

97. *Dendroica æstiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Abundant as a migrant, not so abundant as a breeder in low parts and still less in high parts. Still it cannot be called rare anywhere. In Cumberland they seem to disappear about the end of July. April 23 (1902) to July 31 (1902).

98. *Dendroica cærulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—Abundant migrant, notably in fall. In spring it, together with its companion, *D. virens*, seems to skip the lower parts and fly directly to high ground. There it is a very abundant breeder and its note, *dill, dill, dill, tree*, rapid and ascending, is heard into August. Other notes are: a shrill *tssee, tssee*; and *dēē dērēē' dī*. Dates: May 16 (1903) to Sept. 28 (1901).



99. *Dendroica maculosa*. MAGNOLIA WARBLER. — Fairly numerous migrant and breeder; the latter in high parts only. May 18 (1901) to Oct. 19 (1902). Song: *ĩrrēē dĕrēē' dī*, not so loud as that of *D. cærulescens*.

100. *Dendroica rara*. CERULEAN WARBLER. — Of about the same frequency as the preceding species, only they are much more in evidence during the spring migration and breed as low as Cumberland. This species seems to be extending its breeding area. I found them numerous near here June 19, 1903, when their song — *rēē, rēē, rēēr* (last note high) — could be heard frequently. They seem to disappear, however, as soon as their young can fly away. Dates: May 2 (1902) to July 19 (1901, Accident).

101. *Dendroica pensylvanica*. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. — Seems to frequent the same places as the Golden-winged Warbler, but is much more common over the whole region, breeding from 2000 feet up. It stays in low thickets of oak, laurel, locust, etc. Dates: May 2 (1902) to Sept. 21 (1901).

102. *Dendroica blackburniæ*. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. — Common migrant and breeder in higher parts; fall migration seems to be chiefly of birds of the year. May 3 (1902) to Sept. 24 (1900).

103. *Dendroica virens*. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. — This apparently inseparable companion of *D. cærulescens* is generally to be seen in the same places and numbers and at the same time as that species, only it frequents the trees rather than underbrush. April 20, 1903, I saw and heard it on Negro Mountain, near Accident, where there was yet no sign of opening vegetation, whereas here at Cumberland, I saw none till May. My latest date for it is Oct. 19.

104. *Dendroica vigorsii*. PINE WARBLER. — Very common in migration, especially the young in fall. It nests very sparingly. Dates: March 20 (1903) to Oct. 19 (1900).

105. *Dendroica discolor*. PRAIRIE WARBLER. — Common breeder in low land, not in high. Its queer note can be heard from May 2; after the end of June it is no longer in evidence.

106. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. OVENBIRD. — One of the most common birds in low parts; not nearly so common in higher parts. May 1 (1900) to Sept. 29 (1899).

107. *Seiurus noveboracensis*. WATER-THRUSH. — I have so far found only one in migration (May 16, 1903) and one in its breeding places in high ground (July 17, 1903), but Mr. Preble reports it fairly common about Finzel, June, 1899, when every stream had a pair or two.

108. *Seiurus motacilla*. LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH. — Rather common throughout the range; more so in the Carolinian parts of it. April 7 (1900) to July 30 (1902). After the end of July they are not to be seen.

109. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT. — Perhaps the most abundant warbler here, even in the high alder and sphagnum swamps. April 26 to Sept 12 (1902).

110. *Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. — Common in scrubby



underbrush over the whole area, but more common in lower than higher parts. The earliest date I have is May 2 (1902).

111. *Wilsonia mitrata*. HOODED WARBLER.—Rather common over the whole area, but more so in the lower parts. Its penetrating song — *pea'ry, pea'ry pie'ah*, or sharp call-note, *tsink* — can be heard on most hill-sides about Cumberland. Dates: May 2 (1902) to Aug. 14 (1901), at which latter date I saw a full family.

112. *Wilsonia canadensis*. CANADIAN WARBLER.—Common migrant, and more common breeder in high parts. It seems to be fond of rhododendron thickets. They arrive at Cumberland about May 8.

113. *Setophaga ruticilla*. REDSTART.—Common throughout the region, locally abundant. May 1 (1900) to Sept. 20 (1902).

114. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD.—Abundant throughout, even in high alder-swamps. April 28 (1900) to Sept. 29 (1900).

115. *Toxostoma rufum*. BROWN THRASHER.—Almost as common as the preceding. April 19 (1902) to Oct. 12 (1901). April 18, 1903, there were some at Accident, although there were none at Cumberland till several days later.

116. *Thryomanes bewickii*.—BEWICK'S WREN.—Common in the whole section. Mar. 12 (1901) to Oct. 19 (1902).

117. *Troglodytes aëdon*. HOUSE WREN.—Common throughout the section. Arrives beginning of May; latest date I have is Oct. 19 (1902).

118. *Poliophtila cærulea*. BLUE-GRAY GNAT-CATCHER.—Strange to say, this species is very rare here; I have two dates only: May 27, 1900, and May 18, 1901.

119. *Hylocichla mustelina*. WOOD THRUSH.—Very common over the whole section. May 1 (1900) to Sept. 3 (1901).

120. *Hylocichla fuscescens*. WILSON'S THRUSH.—While this species breeds plentifully at Frostburg, 11 miles from here, I have never yet been able to see or take it here in migration. May 23, and June 16, 1903, there were many in full song on Savage Mt., near Finzel.

121. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. HERMIT THRUSH.—Have been able to see this only once in migration here at Cumberland, whereas they are common in high ground. April 20, 1903, I saw about a hundred on Negro Mountain but not one here, before or after that date. The latest date is Oct. 19, 1902.

#### MIGRANTS.

122. *Podilymbus podiceps*. PIED-BILLED GREBE.—Common in migration even in the city, on Will's Creek, where two were caught alive, Oct. 8, 1901. Dates: Mar. 18 (1901) to April 20 (1903, Accident) and Sept. 18 (1900) to Oct. 8 (1901).

123. *Merganser serrator*. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.—Have only one date for this, Dec. 23, 1901.



124. *Lophodytes cucullatus*. HOODED MERGANSER.—Rare. A female specimen was shot on the Potomac, March 16, 1901.

125. *Anas boschas*. MALLARD.—This can be seen now and then all winter, so that it may perhaps be classed as a winter resident. Nov. 11 (1902) to May 23 (1901). May 13, 1901, a big flock was on the Potomac.

126. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK.—This is seen mostly with the Mallard, same places and times. April 24, 1903, there was a big flock on the Potomac. Jan. 17, 1903, I watched five at a distance of ten feet feeding in a hole in the ice near the bank.

127. *Mareca americana*. BALDPATE.—Scarce; only one date, April 8, 1901.

128. *Querquedula discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—Plentiful in April; have no dates for fall migration.

129. *Dafila acuta*. PINTAIL.—One is shot now and then. Got a male March 21, 1902.

130. *Aythya marila*. AMERICAN SCAUP DUCK.—Plentiful in spring migration, April 8 to May 24 (1901). May 13, 1901, about thirty were swimming on the Potomac, and May 22 a fine one was seen all day within the city limits.

131. *Aythya affinis*. LESSER SCAUP DUCK.—Rare. April 8, 1901.

132. ? *Clangula clangula americana*. GOLDEN-EYE.—Hunters tell me that they take this species now and then, which is very probable. I think all species of ducks that frequent Chesapeake Bay come here occasionally, if not regularly.

133. *Charitonetta albeola*. BUFFLEHEAD.—Rather common migrant. Dec. 19, 1901, one killed itself by flying against a telegraph pole in the city. April 8, 1901 and 1902; March 21, 1902.

134. *Harelda hyemalis*. OLD-SQUAW. Rare. Dec. 19, 1900, one was brought to me that had been killed with a stone on Eavitt's Creek.

135. *Branta canadensis*. CANADA GOOSE.—Common in spring migration.

136. *Porzana carolina*. SORA.—May 23 and 30, 1901, I found very many at the "Swamp Ponds," but they were not there in summer. Are here again Sept. 5 (1901) to Oct. 3 (1901).

137. *Totanus flavipes*. YELLOW-LEGS.—Not rare during migration.

138. *Helodromas solitarius*. SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—This species, locally called Black Snipe, is shot much during migration. I am almost certain, however, that it breeds in the high parts, since I saw a pair of what I took to be this species July 25, 1903, at Friendsville, Garrett Co. At Cumberland I have taken it as late as May 23 (1901), and again Aug. 31 (1901).

139. *Empidonax acadicus*. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—Seems to be a rare migrant in lower parts. I have only one date, Sept. 3, 1901. It may also be a rare breeder, since Mr. Preble saw one at Oldtown in June.

140. *Scolecophagus carolinus*. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—A migrant that I have never found common. Spring dates: April 11, (1903) to April 26 (1901); fall: Nov. 22 and 23, (1901); snow on last date.



141. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—A rather rare migrant. These are all the dates I have for Cumberland: April 26, 1901, two pairs; May 2 and 7, 1902; May 4 and 13, 1903; and Oct. 12, 1901. No records for the higher sections.

142. *Zonotrichia albicollis*.—WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—Common Mar. 21 (1903) to May 2 (1900), and Sept. 25 (1900) to Oct. 25 (1902).

143. *Melospiza lincolni*. LINCOLN'S SPARROW.—Rare migrant; I took one Oct. 19, 1900.

144. *Passerella iliaca*. FOX SPARROW.—Not as common as *Z. albicollis*, yet by no means rare. March 14 (1901) to April 6 (1903), and Oct. 27 (1900) to Nov. 4 (1900).

145. *Vireo philadelphicus*. PHILADELPHIA VIREO.—Very rare; took one May 8, 1901, when there was a big bird wave on Will's Mountain, Cumberland.

146. *Helminthophila ruficapilla*. NASHVILLE WARBLER.—I saw none of this species until May 3, 1902, when Will's Mountain was full of them.

147. *Helminthophila peregrina*. TENNESSEE WARBLER.—The only date I have for this rare species is May 6, 1901, when Mr. V. Laney took one for me.

148. *Dendroica tigrina*. CAPE MAY WARBLER.—Numerous in fall migration. Sept. 21 (1900) to Oct. 27 (1900), mostly young. May 21, 1902, is the only spring date I have.

149. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER.—Scarce; have two dates only: May 5, 1900, and Oct. 25, 1900.

150. *Dendroica castanea*. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.—Rare; saw one May 8, 1902, and another May 17, 1902.

151. *Dendroica striata*. BLACK-POLL WARBLER.—Plentiful on certain days during migration. It is a late comer in spring; May 16, 1903, and May 18, 1901, the woods were full of them. In fall, Oct. 2, to Oct. 19; only young ones seem to come through here. This year (1903) some lingered at Cumberland till May 21.

152. *Dendroica palmarum*. PALM WARBLER.—Very rare; saw and took one only, May 3, 1902.

153. *Geothlypis formosa*. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—Very rare here, while it was a common breeder at my former home near Pittsburg, Pa. Have two dates only, Sept. 22 and 29, 1899.

154. *Wilsonia pusilla*. WILSON'S WARBLER.—Rather scarce. Sept. 4 (1901) to Sept. 21 (1900). No spring dates.

155. *Regulus calendula*. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.—I believe this comes near to being a winter resident, if it not actually is one. Kinglets may be seen all winter, mostly *R. satrapa* to be sure, but undoubtedly there are some of this species with them. Oct. 19 (1900) to May 3 (1902).

156. *Hylocichla aliciae*.—GRAY-CHECKED THRUSH.—Rare. Sept. 15 (1902) to Oct. 6 (1900). No spring dates.

157. *Hylocichla ustulatus swainsonii*. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.—Common only in fall migration. Sept. 9 (1901) to Oct. 6 (1900). It is then colored red inside and outside with the juice of the pokeberry.



WINTER RESIDENTS.

158. *Gavia imber*. LOON.—A few stay around here all winter, if the river is not frozen over, which is not often. April 10, 1901, an extraordinarily large one was taken; it measured 39 in. from tip of bill to end of toe, 34 in. from bill to end of tail. April 9, 1902, one was swimming on the Potomac within the city limits, above the dam for the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, enjoying himself dodging bullets and stones of foolish people.

159. *Merganser americanus*. AMERICAN MERGANSER.—Can be seen throughout the winter, if the river is not frozen over. Dates I have extend from Feb. 7 (1903) to April 8 (1902).

160. *Spizella monticola*. TREE SPARROW.—Common from Nov. 16 (1901) to April 12 (1902).

161. *Junco hyemalis*. SNOWBIRD; JUNCO.—Very abundant, Oct. 12 (1901) to April 21 (1903). Dec. 14, 1900 and April 17, 1903, also common at Accident.

162. *Troglodytes hiemalis*.—WINTER WREN.—Not common. Sept. 21 (1901) to April 8 (1901).

This looks like a small list of winter residents, but when the permanent and occasionally permanent residents are added to it, it becomes plain that bird life is not at all rare here in winter, at least around Cumberland.

ACCIDENTAL AND ERRATIC VISITANTS.

163. *Gavia lumme*. RED-THROATED LOON.—On Dec. 19, 1900, one was brought to town and kept in a box in front of a store for some days, that had landed on the ground and been unable to take wing again.

164. *Larus argentatus*. HERRING GULL.—One or more are seen now and then after hard storms. On April 21, 1901, *e. g.*, about six were flying over the river with about fifty of the next species.

165. *Larus philadelphia*. BONAPARTE'S GULL.—Seen now and then after storms, as, *e. g.*, April 21-24, 1901; at the same time a pair were taken at Accident on a little fish pond. April 8, 1902, 25-30 were over the Swamp Ponds.

166. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. BLACK TERN.—Observed only one so far, May 30, 1901.

167. ? *Nettion carolinense*. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—Mr. McKee of Cumberland tells me that he took one some years ago.

168. *Olor columbianus*. WHISTLING SWAN.—Saw the feet of several nailed against a building, that Mr. Goss had taken a year or two before. On Dec. 16, 1902, the papers reported that a swan measuring 6 ft. 10 in. from tip to tip, had been shot near Oakland, Garrett Co.

169. *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.



— On May 5, 1901, Mr. Baker shot a young one of this species. This points to it being at least a rare summer resident.

170. *Fulica americana*. COOT.— April 25, 1903, a female was shot on Will's Creek, in the middle of the city (Cumberland).

171. *Phalaropus lobatus*. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.— May 23, 1901, Mr. V. Laney took one for me at the Swamp Ponds, and said he saw another one like it in its company.

172. ? *Ectopistes migratorius*. PASSENGER PIGEON.— This region was formerly one of its favorite haunts, there being an immense roost near Oakland, Garrett Co. Farmers and others that know them well from former times, tell me that they now see small flocks of from 2–12 occasionally. I think I saw five on Keyser's Ridge July 19, 1901, and a pair on Savage Mountain, July 17, 1903.

173. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. BALD EAGLE.— This is a not uncommon resident in the mountain fastnesses of West Virginia and occasionally one is seen and taken at or near Cumberland. On Sept. 17, 1902, a young one was captured alive while fighting with a Wild Turkey, on Knobley Mountain across the river.

174. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*. OSPREY.— Now and then seen over the river and fish ponds, *e. g.*, April 22, 1901 and April 19, 1903.

175. *Nyctea nyctea*. SNOWY OWL.— One is seen or taken now and then by hunters. Mr. McKee shot one Nov. 25, 1901.

176. *Centurus carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.— I have never seen this species here, but one was brought to me Dec. 29, 1900, that had been shot on Iron Mountain, this county. There were then said to be several more there.

177. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. AMERICAN CROSSBILL.— Saw five or six Feb. 5, 1902; took a pair out of about 25 Feb. 28, 1902; saw one in company of Snowbirds Jan. 17, 1903.

178. *Acanthis linaria*. REDPOLL. Observed a flock of eight at a distance of twenty feet through a glass Dec. 6, 1901 (Auk, XIX, p. 212).

179. *Passerina nivalis*. SNOWFLAKE.— Saw this species only on two days: Nov. 16, 1901, and Feb. 8, 1902 (Auk, XIX, p. 212).

180. *Lanius ludovicianus*. LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.— Despite diligent searching for this species, in the kind of places I know it frequents in other localities, I have found it only once, March 30, 1901, at the Swamp Ponds.





1904. "Birds of Allegany and Garrett Counties, Western Maryland." *The Auk* 21, 234–250. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070046>.

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