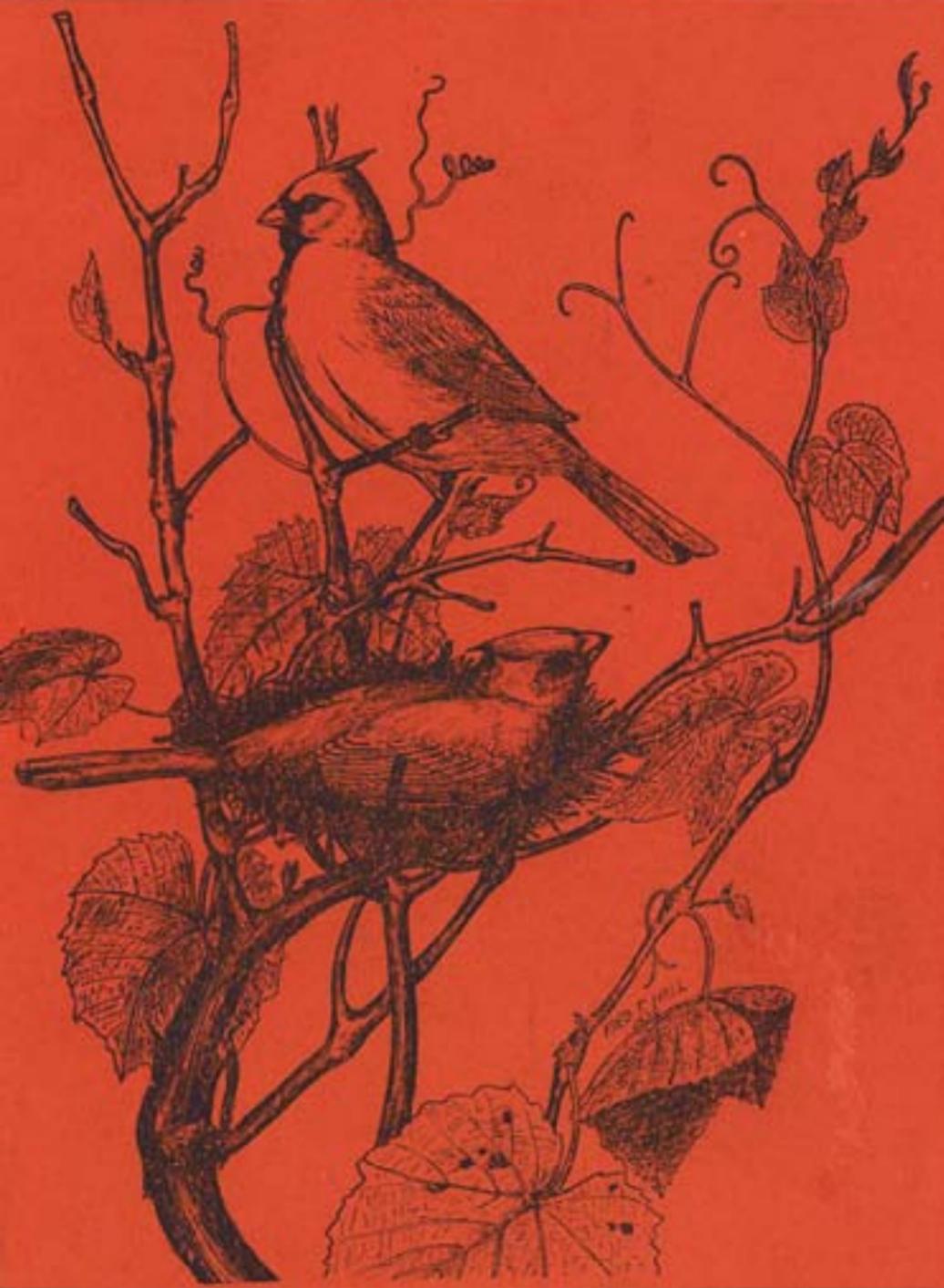


# Common Birds of Indiana



Earl Brooks

# COMMON BIRDS OF INDIANA

A consideration of all the Birds recorded from Hamilton County, which is centrally located in the state. Of the 358 recorded from the state 222 have been recorded from Hamilton County

Elsewhere in the state there are 30 species that may be considered as more or less common. These are considered in the appendix by Sidney R. Esten. The remainder on the state list are either rare migrants or accidental visitors

The illustrations number 140

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## FOREWORD

The Blatchley Nature Study Club, Inc., was organized in 1922 and has enjoyed, from the beginning a sustained interest among its members.

Many features of public service have been carried out through the years. The publication of this book being the latest and probably the most pretentious we ever attempted. In as much as there has been no book published on Indiana Birds since 1897 when Butler's Birds of Indiana was issued. It has long been out of print and is no longer available. The board of directors of our club deemed this book would in a measure, fill a long felt want. Therefore, we submit it to the public.

This club has built up a library of over 14000 accessions. Our museum contains many thousands of specimens, all pertaining to the natural sciences. These features have grown so rapidly that inadequate space renders it necessary to keep them in storage.

We hope, when building conditions are more favorable to build a Club House. This will house not only our library and museum but with an adequate auditorium. This will make it possible to accept a long list waiting for membership. We can then render the public a better service in the field of Nature Study

MALCOLM BUNDY,  
Past President of the Blatchley Nature  
Study Club, Inc.

Through the courtesy of Earl Brooks, and the other contributors, all the profits from the publication of this book, belong to the Blatchley Nature Study Club, Inc., to be used in the construction of our proposed Club House.

## INTRODUCTION

Originally this text about birds was published as "Birds of Hamilton County, Ind." as a serial in a local newspaper, as a public service, under the sponsorship of The Blatchley Nature Study Club, Inc. When it was decided to publish it in book form, the title was changed to "Common Birds of Indiana" as the text, it was thought, was applicable under that title.

Of the 358 species of birds on the state check list, it was found that 222 have been recorded from Hamilton County, by the Blatchley Club. Of the remaining 138 species on the State check list all but approximately 30 species are listed as rare migrants or accidental visitors. These additional common species has been considered by Mr. Sidney R. Esten and appears on Page 88 as an appendix.

Geographically, Hamilton County lies almost in the center of the State. The surface features of this county are level or gently undulating, with some broken areas along the streams. The West fork of White River traverses the county almost diagonally. Numerous creeks empty into it. The largest body of water is a storage reservoir on Fall Creek, covering several hundred acres, however, this is of comparative recent construction. There are some glacial bogs in the county, the most notable of which is Fox Prairie which, including the borders, covers roughly a hundred acres. There is only a comparative small amount of waste land as the cleared land is almost all cultivated. While there are numerous woodlots of deciduous trees, only a few remain unpastured.

Only common names of the Birds have been used. They are, however, arranged according to the 1931 check list of the American Ornithologist's Union. (A. O. U. C. L., 1931).

Most of the line drawings for illustrations, unless otherwise designated, are through the courtesy of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All the photographic reproductions, unless otherwise designated, are from the photographs taken by the author.

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EARL BROOKS,

Librarian for the Blatchley Nature Study Club, Inc.

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## LAWS RELATING TO BIRDS

By Roger S. Roberts,

Past President of The Blatchley Nature Study Club, Inc.

According to the laws of United States and of the several States, no person has any property rights in any wild bird or animal unless he has taken actual physical possession of such bird or animal. Wild animals and wild non-migratory birds belong to the State. Migratory birds which do not migrate beyond the limits of the United States, belong to the United States. Birds which migrate beyond the boundaries of the one country, belong to all countries visited by the birds in their travels.

The United States has executed treaties with certain other countries agreeing on protection of certain migratory birds. We also have Federal laws to enforce the provisions of treaties and for further protection of wild life beyond the treaty provision.

The State of Indiana has also put into effect many laws for the protection of birds and other wild life. The State laws cannot change the Federal laws, but they can be more stringent.

The State of Indiana, in 1931 and 1939, passed acts consenting to the acquisition of land by the United States for migratory bird reservations, and assenting to aid of the United States in wildlife restoration projects. The State law of 1937 also provides it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, shoot, take, kill, or possess, or attempt to hunt, shoot, take, kill, or

possess, sell or offer to sell, purchase or offer to purchase, ship or transport, carry or deliver, or receive for shipment, transportation or carriage in this state, any migratory bird in violation of any law of the United States, any treaty of the United States with any other country, or any rule and regulation duly issued and promulgated by any department of the United States government pursuant to any law or treaty of the United States, concerning migratory birds, now in force or hereinafter enacted or promulgated, except as otherwise provided.

The State law names and divides migratory birds into the following classes:

1. Migratory game birds: (a) Anatidae, or waterfowl, including brant, wild ducks, wild geese and swans; (b) Gruidae, or cranes, including little brown, sandhill and whooping cranes; (c) Rallidae, or rails, including coot, gallinules, and sora and other rails; (d) Limicolae, or shore-birds, including avocets, curlews, dowitchers, godwits, knots, oyster, catchers, phalaropes, plovers, sandpipers, snipe, stilts, surf birds, turnstones, willet, woodcock, tattlers, and

yellow legs; (e) Columbidae, or pigeons, including doves and wild pigeons.

2. Migratory insectivorous birds: Cuckoos, flickers and other woodpeckers; nighthawks or bullbats, and whippoorwills; swifts; humming birds, flycatchers; bobolinks, meadow larks and orioles; grosbeaks; tanagers; martins and other swallows; waxwings; shrikes, vireos; warblers; pipits; catbirds and brown thrashers; wrens; brown creepers; nuthatches; chickadees and titmice; kinglets and gnat catchers; robins and other thrushes; and all other perching birds which feed entirely or chiefly on insects.

3. Other migratory non-game birds: Auks, auklets, bitterns, fulmars, gannets, grebes, guillemots, gulls, herons, jaegers, loons, murre, petrels, puffins, shearwaters, and terns.

Special State laws provide for closed season on the following upland game birds: wild turkey, ruffed grouse, chukar, partridge, dove, pheasants, Hungarian partridge, Prairie chicken and quail, some being closed the entire year. All eagles, homing pigeons, mourning doves and all other non-game birds are fully protected the year around, except the following which are declared pests: English or European house sparrows, starlings, crows, sharp-shinned hawks, Crooper's hawks, goshawks and great horned owls.

It should be remembered that our conservation and game laws are subject to change at any time Congress or our Legislature is in session. As to any particular question on these laws, that may arise from time to time, it is suggested that correct up-to-date information may be obtained by writing to the Department of Conservation, State Library Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

## VALUE OF BIRDS

By Alden H. Hadley.

Educational Representative Indiana Department of Conservation  
and National Audubon Society.

I suppose there are about four ways in which one may become interested in birds and place an evaluation upon them. These may be listed as follows with no thought of emphasizing one viewpoint above any other.

First of all there is the viewpoint and the interest of the scientific student of birds, the ornithologist. It is, of course, very desirable and worthwhile to know, as far as is possible, what a bird is, the relationship it bears to other forms of life and the part it plays in the economy of nature.

In the second place one's special interest in birds may be from the point of view of their economic value, their usefulness to the farmer and the orchardist as destroyers of noxious insects and weed seeds, or destructive rodents: in general, as helpers in maintaining that fine balance of nature without which human life might become a little more difficult on the earth.

In the third place, one's chief interest in birds may be in game species, from the point of view of sports afield with dog and gun, or waiting from a blind for the clamorous wild fowl that come winning their way southward before the nipping blasts of Autumn.

In the fourth place, our greatest interest in birds may be from the point of view of their sentimental and esthetic value, from the pleasure and satisfaction we experience in providing feeding stations and nesting boxes and attracting them about our homes.

Let us consider this view point and special interest first. To-day an ever increasing number of persons are going afield with bird glass and camera and are experiencing not only an abiding satisfaction and recreational delight, but health and peace of mind as well.

A few years ago when Senator George McLean was making his eloquent and moving appeal before the U. S. Senate in behalf of the passage of the Federal Migratory Bird Law, addressing the presiding officer who happened to be Vice-President Marshall, he said, "Mr. Chairman, I confess that I could vote to save the birds for their beauty alone, for if some Spring the birds should fail to return to my dooryard then you may have the dooryard and the Spring for neither of them would interest me."

Now that, in some measure at least, is no doubt the viewpoint of many birdlovers, or to use the more recent and better name "**bird watchers.**"

Perhaps no one has more fervently and eloquently expressed the delight which many of us feel in the return of the Spring migrants than Emerson in his "May Day."

"I greet with joy the choral trains  
Fresh from palms and Cuba's canes.  
Best gems of nature's cabinet,  
With dews of tropic morning wet,  
Beloved of children, bards and Spring,  
O birds, your perfect virtues bring,  
Your song, your forms, your rythmic flight,  
Your manners for the heart's delight,  
Nestle in hedge, or barn, or roof,  
Here weave your chamber weather-proof,  
Forgive our harms, and condescend  
To man, as to a lubber friend,  
And, generous, teach his awkward race  
Courage and probity and grace!"

I am sure that countless numbers of persons in our land feel precisely that way about the birds and many such are experiencing pleasure and abundant satisfaction in devoting themselves whole heartedly to making their home surroundings more attractive to the birds by the judicious planting of food and shelter producing trees, shrubs and vines, and by the provision of nesting boxes, bird baths, and feeding stations. Not only are such activities the means of attracting many birds and helping them at times to survive the stress of severe winter weather, but add much to the attractiveness and interest of the home itself. No garden, or dooryard is quite complete without its birds, and it is often amazing what results may be accomplished by a little well directed planning and forethought.

I have in mind a simple country home which has a natural setting of rare beauty and charm. Embowered with trees and beside a spacious garden, in May and June this spot is all a medley of bird songs and flowers, while just a stone's throw beyond the garden's edge a charming little creek goes dashing and tumbling over its boulder-filled bed. This modest enough country home with its birds and its garden has afforded endless delight and given inspiration to the many friends of the genial hosts, who have ever dispensed an abounding hospitality.

Some years ago I stood in the lawn of a wood-embowered cottage of a mid-western city and observed at close range the home life of a pair of rose-breasted grosbeaks who had their nest in a tree beside the cottage. In this particular setting it was a sight worth going many miles to see. The gorgeous male with the splash of rose-red on his breast seemed quite the most beautiful of all the many flowers in this quaint and fascinating garden of this bird-loving lady.

Although it may not be difficult to convince the average person as to the value and beauty of most of our song birds, it is often hard to explain to certain unimaginative individuals why, for instance, the Na-

tional Audubon Society has expended so much time, energy and money in an effort to protect and preserve certain much persecuted water and marsh loving birds, such as the herons, egrets, ibises, and spoon-bills. Sometimes the question is asked, "Of what use are these birds, they don't sing and you don't eat them?" One might just as well ask, "Of what use are roses and violets and sunsets, and the laughter and smiles of little children?"

These beautiful bird forms are among nature's finest masterpieces. They have come down to us from a past that is infinitely remote and to many of us they represent the most consummate flowering of the tree of life on the earth. The brightness of their presence, so to speak, puts just another smile in the face of nature and their utter passing would bring a feeling of sadness and regret to countless numbers of those who love these things for their own sake.

It is quite unnecessary to dwell at greater length upon the sentimental and esthetic value of birds and no further argument need be used to maintain this point of view for it is abundantly proved by experience.

Coming briefly now to the practical, or economic value of birds, it is known to many that during the last half century or so, a vast amount of valuable and exact data has been secured by scientists in the field of economic ornithology.

The careful and long continued investigations of the ornithologists connected with the United States Department of Agriculture are outstanding in this field and have served as a valuable incentive to ornithologists working with various other agencies and institutions. As a result of the sum total of these investigations not only has an immense store of valuable information been obtained but many erroneous opinions as to the reputed harmful characteristics of certain birds have been discredited.

As a conspicuous example of this were the long continued and careful studies of the food habits of the hawks and owls of the United States begun years ago by Dr. A. K. Fisher. These, and later studies, have shown to be entirely false the popular notion that all hawks and owls are bad and should be shot on sight. As a result of these studies it has finally come about that many states have enacted protective legislation which differentiates between useful and harmful species. Indiana, for example, has a law which protects all hawks with the exception of the Coopers, Sharp-shinned, and the Goshawk, while all owls are protected with the exception of the Great-horned. However, in spite of this protective legislation, there still remains in most parts of the country an unreasoning and deep-rooted prejudice against all hawks and owls which is difficult to dispel. Education, in the long run, is, no doubt, the only and final solution of this problem.

On the other hand it takes little, or no argument, to convince the average person as to the useful characteristics of most of our song birds, although now and then some particular bird is accused of destructive habits which it does not possess; or, there is failure to give it credit for certain beneficial habits. Again, it will be recalled that exhaustive and careful studies by the United States Government in this field as well as by many state and other agencies and institutions afford a great fund of information as to the economic status of our various groups of birds. These studies should convince all open minded persons.

Referring briefly now to the value of our game birds for those who enjoy sports afield, in the opinion of many these constitute an invaluable national asset which should be conserved at whatever cost as a means of wholesome outdoor recreation. On the other hand, a small minority would prohibit the taking of any wild bird or animal for game.

Lastly, and in the fourth place, birds have long claimed the interest of the scientific student of ornithol-

ogy, and some of our largest and best known colleges and universities years ago began to offer courses of study in this special field. In many instances these students are interested in birds from all four points of view. Some, after finishing their courses, have secured profferships in various educational institutions, while some have become connected with State Departments of Conservation, or Game Commissions as experts in the field of ornithology, or of Game Management. These students, one and all, and in various ways, are making invaluable contributions to the cause of the protection and preservation of our wild bird life.

# FIELD CHECK LIST OF INDIANA BIRDS

Indiana Audubon Society, Inc.

Prepared by Sidney R. Esten.

7. Common Loon.....R.M.-R.W.V.  
 11. Red-throated Loon.....Occ.R.W.V.  
 2. Holboell's Grebe  
     R.M.-R.W.V.S.Ind.  
 3. Horned Grebe.....R.M.-R.W.V.  
 4. Eared Grebe.....R.M.  
 1. Western Grebe .... Casual R.-M.  
 6. Pled-billed Grebe.....M.-S.Res.  
 106.2. Madeira Petrel.....Acc.V.  
 125. White Pelican.....R.M.  
 126. Eastern Brown Pelican.....Acc.V.  
 117. Gannet.....Acc.V.  
 120. Double-crested Cormorant  
     M.Occ.W.V.S.Ind.  
 120 a. Florida Cormorant...S.Res.S.Ind.  
 118. Water Turkey.....Acc.V.  
 128. Man-o'-war Bird.....Acc.V.  
 194. Great Blue Heron.....M.-C.S.Res.  
 194b. Ward's Heron.....S.R.S.W.Ind.  
 196. American Egret.....Occ.R.S.Vis.  
 197. Snowy Egret.....Occ.R.S.Vis.  
 199. Louisiana Heron...V.R.S.Res.S.Ind.  
 200. Little Blue Heron.....R.Occ.S.Vis.  
 201. Eastern Green Heron.....C.S.Res.  
 202. Black-crowned Night Heron  
     S.Res.loc.  
 203. Yellow-crowned Night Heron  
     V.R.Acc.S.Vis.Wabash Valley.  
 190. American Bittern  
     M.-S.Res.-R.W.V.S.Ind.  
 191. Eastern Least Bittern  
     M.-S.Res.loc.  
 188. Wood Ibis.....V.R.S.V.S.Ind.  
 184. White Ibis.....V.R.V.  
 183. Roseate Spoonbill...for.V.R.Acc.V.  
 178.2 Mute Swan.....Intro.loc.  
 180. Whistling Swan...R.M.-Occ.R.W.V.  
 181. Trumpeter Swan  
     form.R.M.Ext.Ind.  
 172. Canada Goose  
     C.M.-R.W.Res.-R.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 172a. Hutchins' Goose.....V.R.Occ.M.  
 173a. American Brant.....R.Acc.V.  
 171. White-fronted Goose  
     R.M.-Occ.W.V.S.Ind.  
 169. Lesser Snow Goose  
     R.M.-Occ.W.V.S.Ind.  
 169 a. Greater Snow Goose.....R.M.  
 169.1 Blue Goose.....R.Occ.M.  
 132. Common Mallard  
     Ab.M.-Occ.W.Res.-Occ.S.Res.  
 133a. Red-legged Black Duck  
     R.M.-Occ.W.Res.  
 133. Common Black Duck  
     R.M.-R.Occ.S.Res.  
 135. Gadwell.....R.M.  
 136. European Widgeon.....Acc.V.  
 137. Baldpate  
     C.M.-R.S.Res.N.Ind.R.W.V.S.Ind.  
 143. American Pintail...M.-Occ.W.Res.  
 139. Green-winged Teal  
     C.M.-W.Res.S.Ind.  
 140. Blue-winged Teal  
     C.M.-R.S.R.N.Ind.  
 141. Cinnamon Teal.....Acc.V.  
 142. Shoveller...for.C.M.-R.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 144. Wood Duck  
     M.-S.Res.-W.Res.S.Ind.  
 146. Redhead  
     C.M.-Occ.W.Res.S.Ind.-R.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 150. Ring-necked Duck  
     M.-for.R.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 147. Canvas-back.....R.M.  
 148. Greater Scaup Duck.....R.M.  
 149. Lesser Scaup Duck  
     Ab.M.-for.R.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 151. American Golden-eye..C.M.-R.W.V.  
 152. Barrow's Golden-eye..R.W.V.N.Ind.  
 153. Buffle-head...M.-R.W.V.Lake Mich.  
 154. Old Squaw.....W.Res.Lake Mich.  
 165. White-winged Scoter  
     R.M. and R.W.V.L.Mich.  
 166. Surf-Scoter.....R.W.V.L.Mich.  
 163. American Scoter  
     R.M. and R.W.V. Lake Mich.  
 167. Ruddy Duck  
     M.-R.S.Res.N.Ind.-R.W.V.S.Ind.  
 131. Hooded Merganser  
     M.-R.W.V.Lake Mich.  
 129. American Merganser...C.M.-W.V.  
 130. Red-breasted Merganser.....M.  
 325. Turkey Vulture  
     R.S.Res.N.Ind.-C.S.Res.S.Ind.  
 326. Black Vulture.....Res.S.Ind.  
 327. Swallow-tailed Kite...Acc.V.S.Ind.  
 329. Mississippi Kite....R.Occ.V.S.Ind.  
 334. Eastern Goshawk....R.W.V.N.Ind.  
 332. Sharp-shinned Hawk  
     C.S.Res.N.Ind.-C.P.Res.S.Ind.  
 333. Cooper's Hawk  
     Res.-R.W.Res.N.Ind.  
 337. Eastern Red-tailed Hawk  
     C.Res.S.Ind.-C.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 337a. Krider's Hawk.....R.W.V.  
 337d. Harlan's Hawk.....R.W.V.  
 339. Northern Red-shouldered Hawk  
     C.Res.-R.W.Res.N.Ind.  
 343. Broad-winged Hawk  
     Res.S.Ind.-C.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 342. Swainson's Hawk  
     R.S.Res.-R.Acc.W.V.  
 347a. American Rough-legged Hawk  
     C.Irreg.W.V.  
 348. Ferruginous Rough-leg  
     R.Occ.W.V.  
 349. Golden Eagle.....Irreg.Occ.V.  
 352a. Northern Bald Eagle  
     R.Res.N.Ind.loc.  
 352. Southern Bald Eagle  
     R.Res.S.Ind.loc.  
 331. Marsh Hawk.....C.Res.  
 364. Osprey.....Reg.M.-R.S.Res.loc.  
 355. Prairie Falcon...V.R.Occ.West.Ind.  
 356a. Duck Hawk.....R.V.S.Wes.Ind.  
 357. Eastern Pigeon Hawk.....R.M.  
 360. Eastern Sparrow Hawk  
     C.Res.-R.W.V.N.Ind.  
 300. Eastern Ruffed Grouse  
     R.P.Res.loc.  
 300a. Canada Ruffed Grouse  
     Rare loc. N. Indiana  
 305. Greater Prairie Chicken...Res.loc.  
 288.1 European Partridge  
     Intro.-C.Res.loc.  
 308b. Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse  
     Intro.-loc. N. Indiana  
     Chukar Partridge, Intro. in  
     N. and S. Ind., Rare, Decreasing  
 289. Eastern Bob-white.....C.Res.loc.  
 289b. Texas Bob-white  
     Introduced S. Ind.  
 309.1 Ring-necked Pheasant  
     Intro.-C.Res.loc.  
 310a. Eastern Turkey...for.C.-Intro.loc.  
 204. Whooping Crane...for. M. Ext. Ind.  
 206. Sandhill Crane R.Irreg.M.-Occ.S.V.

208. King Rail.....M.-R.S.Res.loc.  
 212. Virginia Rail.....M.-R.S.Res.loc.  
 214. Sora Rail.....C.M.-S.Res.loc.  
 215. Yellow Rail.....R.M.-S.Res.loc.  
 216. Black Rail.....R.M.-S.Res.loc.  
 218. Purple Gallinule.....R.Irreg.S.V.  
 219. Florida Gallinule....M.-S.Res.loc.  
 221. American Coot  
       C.M.-S.Res.loc.-Occ.W.V.  
 277. Piping Plover  
       V.R.M.-S.Res.Lake Mich.  
 274. Semipalmated Plover.....R.M.  
 273. Killdeer.....C.S.Res.-W.R.S.Ind.  
 272. American Golden Plover..Irreg.M.  
 270. Black-bellied Plover.....V.R.M.  
 283a. Ruddy Turnstone.....R.M.  
 228. American Woodcock  
       C.S.Res.loc.-R.W.V.S.Ind.  
 230. Wilson's Snipe  
       M.-S.Res.N.Ind.-R.W.V.S.Ind.  
 264. Long-billed Curlew  
       R.M.-Occ.R.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 266. Eskimo Curlew  
       V.R.Occ.M.-Irreg.V.  
 261. Upland Plover  
       M.R.S.Res.loc.N.Ind.  
 263. Spotted Sandpiper....C.M.-C.S.Res.  
 256. Eastern Solitary Sandpiper  
       M.-S.Res.loc.N.Ind.  
 258. Eastern Willet.....R.M.  
 258a. Western Willet.....R.Occ.V.  
 254. Greater Yellow-legs.....M.  
 255. Lesser Yellow-legs  
       M.-for.R.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 234. American Knot.....V.R.M.  
 235. Purple Sandpiper.....V.R.M.  
 239. Pectoral Sandpiper  
       M.-less C. in spring.  
 240. White-rumped Sandpiper  
       V.R.M.  
 241. Baird's Sandpiper.....V.R.M.  
 242. Least Sandpiper.....M.  
 243a. Red-backed Sandpiper.....R.M.  
 231. Eastern Dowitcher.....V.R.M.  
 232. Long-billed Dowitcher....V.R.M.  
 233. Stilt Sandpiper.....R.M.  
 246. Semipalmated Sandpiper....R.M.  
 247. Western Sandpiper.....V.R.M.  
 262. Buff-breasted Sandpiper....R.M.  
 249. Marbled Godwit.....V.R.M.  
 251. Hudsonian Godwit.....V.R.M.  
 260. Ruff.....R.Occ.Acc.Vis.  
 248. Sanderling.....R.M.  
 225. Avocet.....V.R.M.  
 222. Red Phalarope.....V.R.M.  
 224. Wilson's Phalarope  
       R.M.-R.S.Res.N.W.Ind.  
 223. Northern Phalarope.....R.M.  
 36. Pomarine Jaeger.....V.R.Vis.  
 37. Parasitic Jaeger.....R.Occ.Vis.  
 38. Long-tailed Jaeger.....R.M.  
 42. Glaucous Gull  
       Occ.R.W.V.Lake Mich.  
 43. Iceland Gull...V.R.W.V.Lake Mich.  
 47. Great Black-backed Gull  
       R.W.V.Lake Mich.  
 51a. Herring Gull  
       C.M.-W.V.Lake Mich.and Ohio R.  
 54. Ring-billed Gull  
       R.M.-W.V.Lake Mich.  
 59. Franklin's Gull...Occ.V.Lake Mich.  
 60. Bonaparte's Gull  
       M.-R.W.V.Lake Mich.  
 69. Forster's Tern.....R.M.  
 70. Common Tern.....M.-S.Res.N.Ind.  
 72. Roseate Tern.....Acc.V.  
 74. Least Tern.....R.M.-R.S.V.N.Ind.  
 64. Caspian Tern.....V.R.M.  
 77. Black Tern.....V.R.M.  
 31. Brunnich's Murre.....V.R.Acc.V.  
 313.1 Rock Dove.....Intro.-C.P.Res.  
 316. Eastern Mourning Dove  
       C.S.Res.-W.Res.S.Ind.  
 315. Passenger Pigeon  
       form.C.M.-Now extinct.  
 382a. Louisiana Parouquet..form.C.-Ext.  
 387. Yellow-billed Cuckoo....C.S.Res.  
 388. Black-billed Cuckoo.....R.S.Res.  
 365. Barn Owl.....P.Res.loc.  
 373m. Eastern Screech Owl....C.Res.  
 375. Great Horned Owl.....Res.  
 376. Snowy Owl.....Irreg.W.V.  
 377a. American Hawk Owl...R.Occ.W.V.  
 378. Western Burrowing Owl  
       Acc.V.-Ind.Dunes.  
 368. Northern Barred Owl.....Res.  
 370. Great Gray Owl.....R.Irreg.W.V.  
 366. Long-eared Owl  
       R.Res.Woods.W.Ind.  
 367. Short-eared Owl...R.Res.Prairies.  
 372. Saw-whet Owl.....Irreg.R.V.N.Ind.  
 416. Chuck-wills-widow  
       V.R.S.Res.SW.Ind.  
 417. Eastern Whip-poor-will  
       C.S.Res.loc.  
 420. Eastern Nighthawk  
       Ab.M.-C.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 423. Chimney Swifts..Ab.M.-C.S.Res.loc.  
 428. Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
       C.S.Res.  
 390. Eastern Belted Kingfisher  
       Res.open winters.  
 412a. Northern Flicker  
       C.Res.-L.C.W.Res.N.Ind.  
 412. Southern Flicker...R.Res.S.W.Ind.  
 405a. Northern Pileated Woodpecker  
       R.Res.N.Ind.  
 405. Southern Pileated Woodpecker  
       R.Res.S.Ind.  
 409. Red-bellied Woodpecker  
       Res.-C.loc.S.Ind.  
 406. Red-headed Woodpecker  
       C.Res.S.Ind.-C.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 402. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
       M.-R.W.V.S.Ind.-R.S.Res.N.Ind.  
 393. Eastern Hairy Woodpecker..R.Res.  
 393b. Southern Hairy Woodpecker  
       R.Res.S.W.Ind.  
 394c. Northern Downy Woodpecker  
       C.Res.  
 394. Southern Downy Woodpecker  
       Poss.Res.S.W.Ind.  
 400. Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker  
       V.R.W.V.N.Ind.  
 392. Ivory-billed Woodpecker  
       for.C.-now extinct.  
 444. Eastern Kingbird.....C.S.Res.  
 447. Arkansas Kingbird, Acc. Rare  
       S. Res. or M.  
 452a. Northern Crested Flycatcher  
       C.S.Res.  
 456. Eastern Phoebe.....C.S.Res.  
 463. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher...R.M.  
 465. Acadian Flycatcher.....S.Res.  
 468a. Alder Flycatcher....M.-S.Res.loc.  
 467. Least Flycatcher.....S.Res.loc.  
 461. Wood Pewee.....C.S.R.  
 459. Olive-sided Flycatcher.....R.M.  
 474. Northern Horned Lark...Reg.W.V.  
 474 b. Prairie Horned Lark...P.Res.loc.  
 614. Tree Swallow.....M.-S.Res.N.Ind.  
 616. Bank Swallow.....C.S.Res.loc.  
 617. Rough-winged Swallow..S.Res.loc.  
 613. Barn Swallow.....S.Res.  
 612. Northern Cliff Swallow  
       form.C.-V.R.S.Res.  
 611. Purple Martin.....C.S.Res.  
 477. Northern Blue Jay.....C.Res.  
 475. American Magpie.....V.R.Acc.V.  
 486. Eastern Raven  
       for. Res.-Now Acc. V.

488. Eastern Crow.....Ab.Res.  
735. Black-capped Chickadee Res.N.Ind.
736. Carolina Chickadee.....Res.S.Ind.  
731. Tufted Titmouse C.Res.-Rare N.Ind.
727. White-breasted Nuthatch...C.Res.  
728. Red-breasted Nuthatch...M.-W.Res.  
729. Brown-headed Nuthatch...V.R.A.V.  
726. Brown Creeper....C.M.-R.W.Res.  
721. Eastern House Wren.....C.S.Res.  
721a. Western House Wren R.V.N.W.Ind.
722. Eastern Winter Wren...M.-W.Res.  
719. Bewick's Wren M.-S.Res.-L.C.N.Ind.
718. Carolina Wren C.Res.S.Ind.-R.Res.N.Ind.
725. Long-billed Marsh Wren S.Res.loc.  
725d. Prairie Marsh Wren...S.Res.loc.  
724. Short-billed Marsh Wren S.Res.loc.N.Ind.
703. Eastern Mockingbird C.Res.S.Ind.-R.S.Res.N.Ind.
704. Catbird.....C.S.Res.  
705. Brown Thrasher.....C.S.Res.  
761. Eastern Robin C.Res.-L.C.W.Res.N.Ind.
755. Wood Thrush.....C.S.Res.  
759b. Eastern Hermit Thrush....C.M.  
758a. Olive-backed Thrush.....C.M.  
757. Grey-cheeked Thrush.....C.M.  
756. Veery.....C.M.-R.S.Res.N.Ind.  
756a. Willow Thrush.....Casual M.  
766. Eastern Bluebird C.S.Res.-W.Res.S.Ind.
761. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher M.-S.Res.N.Ind.
748. Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet M.-W.Res.S.Ind.
749. Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet M.-W.Res.
697. American Pipit.....M.-Occ.W.V.  
618. Bohemian Waxwing Irreg.W.V.N.Ind.
619. Cedar Waxwing S.Res.loc.-W.V.loc.
621. Northern Shrike.....R.W.V.N.Ind.  
622e. Migrant Shrike.....C.S.Res.  
493. Starling.....Ab.Res.  
631. White-eyed Vireo.....S.Res.  
633. Bell's Vireo...R.M.-R.S.Res.N.W.Ind.  
628. Yellow-throated Vireo M.-R.S.Res.loc.
629. Blue-headed Vireo.....M.  
624. Red-eyed Vireo.....C.S.Res.  
626. Philadelphia Vireo.....R.M.  
627. Eastern Warbling Vireo...C.S.Res.  
636. Black and White Warbler M.-R.S.Res.N.Ind.
637. Prothonotary Warbler M.-S.Res.loc.
638. Swainson's Warbler V.R.S.Res.S.Ind.
639. Worm-eating Warbler M.-S.Res.loc.
642. Golden-winged Warbler M.-R.S.Res.N.Ind.
641. Blue-winged Warbler...M.-R.S.Res.  
640. Bachman's Warbler V.R.S.R.S.W.Ind.
647. Tennessee Warbler.....M.  
646. Orange-crowned Warbler....R.M.  
645. Nashville Warbler M.  
648a. Northern Parula Warbler M.-V.R.S.Res.loc.
652. Eastern Yellow Warbler...C.S.Res.  
657. Magnolia Warbler.....C.M.  
650. Cape-May Warbler.....M.  
654. Black-throated Blue Warbler..R.M.  
655. Myrtle Warbler.....Ab.M.  
667. Black-throated Green Warbler C.M.
658. Cerulean Warbler..M.-R.S.Res.loc.  
662. Blackburnian Warbler.....M.  
663a. Sycamore Warbler..M.-S.Res.loc.  
659. Chestnut-sided Warbler M.-R.S.Res.N.Ind.loc.
660. Bay-breasted Warbler.....M.  
661. Black-poll Warbler.....M  
671. Northern Pine Warbler R.M.-R.S.Res.loc
670. Kirtland's Warbler.....R.M.  
673. Northern Prairie Warbler M.-S.Res.NW.Ind.
672. Western Palm Warbler.....R.M.  
672a. Yellow Palm Warbler.....M.  
674. Ovenbird.....M.-S.Res.loc.  
675. Northern Water-thrush.....M.  
675a. Grinnell's Water Thrush....R.M.  
676. Louisiana Water-thrush M.S.Res.loc.
677. Kentucky Warbler..M.-R.S.Res.loc.  
678. Connecticut Warbler R.M.-C.in spring,R.in fall.
679. Mourning Warbler.....R.M.  
680. Macgillivray's Warbler...R.Acc.V.  
681d. Northern Yellow-throat..C.S.Res.  
681a. Western Yellowthroat R.Occ.S.R.Prairies.
683. Yellow-breasted Chat....C.S.Res.  
684. Hooded Warbler...M.-R.S.Res.loc.  
685. Wilson's Warbler.....M.  
686. Canada Warbler.....M.  
687. American Redstart...M.-C.S.Res.loc.  
688.2. English Sparrow.....Ab.P.Res.  
494. Bobolink.....M.-C.S.Res.loc.N.Ind.  
501. Eastern Meadowlark C.S.Res.-W.Res.S.Ind.
- 501c. Southern Meadowlark R.S.Res.Lower Wabash Valley.  
501.1 Western Meadowlark R.S.R. Western Ind.
497. Yellow-headed Blackbird Occ.R.M.
498. Eastern Red-wing.....C.S.Res.  
506. Orchard Oriole.....C.S.Res.loc.  
507. Baltimore Oriole.....C.S.Res.  
509. Rusty Blackbird M.-R.Occ.W.Res.S.Ind.
- 511b. Bronzed Grackle Ab.Res.-L.C.in W.
495. Eastern Cowbird.....Ab.S.Res.  
608. Scarlet Tanager.....C.S.Res.  
610. Summer Tanager C.S.Res.in S.and Central Indiana.
593. Eastern Cardinal.....Ab.P.Res.  
Brazilian Cardinal, acc. escaped cage bird
595. Rose-breasted Grosbeak M.-S.Res.N.Ind.
597. Eastern Blue Grosbeak R.Acc.S.V.S.Ind.
598. Indigo Bunting.....C.S.Res.  
604. Dickcissel.....C.S.Res.  
514. Eastern Evening Grosbeak Irreg.W.V.
517. Eastern Purple Finch M.-Occ.R.W.Res.
515. Canadian Pine Grosbeak Acc.W.V.N.Ind.
- 527a. Hoary Redpoll.....R.Occ.W.V.  
528. Common Redpoll.....Irreg.W.V.  
528b. Greater Redpoll..Irreg.W.V.N.Ind.  
533. Northern Pine Siskin..Irreg.W.V.  
529. Eastern Goldfinch C.P.Res.-L.C.W.in N.Ind.
521. Red Crossbill.....R.W.V.N.Ind.  
522. White-winged Crossbill R.W.V.N.Ind.
587. Red-eyed Towhee C.Res.S.Ind.-C.S.Res.N.Ind.
542. Eastern Savannah Sparrow M.-R.S.Res.loc.N.Ind.-R.W.Res.S.Ind.

546. Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow  
M.-C.S.Res.
548. LeConte's Sparrow ..... R.M.
547. Eastern Henslow's Sparrow  
R.M.-R.S.Res.loc.
- 549.1 Nelson's Sparrow ..... R.M.
540. Eastern Vesper Sparrow  
C.S.Res.-R.W.V.S.Ind.
552. Eastern Lark Sparrow  
M.-C.S.Res.loc.
- 575a. Bachman's Sparrow  
R.S.Res.Lower Wabash Valley.
567. Slate-colored Junco.....Ab.W.Res.
- 567b. Shufeldt's Junco ..... V.R.Acc.V.
- 567f. Montana Junco ..... V.R.Acc.V.
559. Eastern Tree Sparrow ...Ab.W.V.
560. Eastern Chipping Sparrow  
C.S.Res.
561. Clay-colored Sparrow.... R.Acc.M.
563. Eastern Field Sparrow  
C.S.Res.-R.W.V.S.Ind.
553. Harris' Sparrow...M.-(increasing)
554. White-crowned Sparrow  
C.M.-R.W.Res.S.Ind.
558. White-throated Sparrow  
C.M.-R.W.Res.S.Ind.
585. Eastern Fox Sparrow  
C.M.R.W.V.S.Ind.
583. Lincoln's Sparrow ..... R.M.R.W.V.
584. Swamp Sparrow  
S.Res.loc.-R.W.Res.S.Ind.
581. Eastern Song Sparrow ..... C.Res.
536. Lapland Longspur..... Irreg.W.V.
537. Smith's Longspur..... Irreg.W.V.
534. Eastern Snow Bunting  
R.Irreg.W.V.
- 337a. Krider's Hawk  
Acc. W. V. West. Ind.
- 354b. Black Gyrfalcon .... Acc. W.V.
- 298c. Canada Spruce Grouse  
Acc. V. North Ind.
301. Willow Ptarmigan  
Acc. M. V. North. Ind.
205. Little Brown Crane .... Acc. M.
211. Northern Clapper Rail .. Acc. M.
280. Wilson's Plover ..... Acc. V.
265. Hudsonian Curlew ..... Acc. M.
244. Curlew Sandpiper ..... Acc. M.
231. Eastern Dowitcher ..... Acc. M.
226. Black-necked Stilt ..... Acc. M.
58. Laughing Gull .... Acc. V. or M.
40. Atlantic Kittiwake ..... Acc. M.
62. Sabine's Gull ..... Acc. M.
63. Gull-billed Tern ..... Acc. V.
71. Arctic Tern ..... Acc. V.
65. Royal Tern ..... Acc. V.
- 30a. California Murre ..... Acc. V.
34. Dovekie ..... Acc. W. V.
21. Ancient Murrelet ... Acc. W. V.
373. Southern Screech Owl  
Acc. V. North. Ind.
- 375b. Arctic Horned Owl  
Acc. South. Ind.
- 375a. Western Horned Owl  
Acc. W. V. West. Ind.
371. Richardson's Owl  
Acc. W.V. North. Ind.
- 420a. Western Nighthawk  
Acc. M. or V.
- 393a. Northern Hairy Woodpecker  
Acc. N. Ind.
442. Fork-tailed Flycatcher  
V. R. Acc. V.
443. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
V.R. Acc. V.
457. Say's Phoebe ..... Acc. V.
473. Skylark, Intro. in Cinn., Ohio,  
might have been Acc. V.
615. Violet-green Swallow....Acc. M.
484. Canada Jay  
Acc. W. V.
- 486a. Northern Raven  
Formerly Acc. V.
491. Clark's Nutcracker....Acc. W. V.
740. Hudsonian Chickadee  
Acc. S.V. South. Ind.
- 427b. Florida Nuthatch  
Acc. S. R. South. Ind.
729. Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Acc. V.
- 761b. Southern Robin  
Acc. S. R. South. Ind.
- 757a. Bicknell's Thrush ..... Acc. M.
- 765a. Greenland Wheatear .. Acc. W.V.
754. Townsend's Solitaire...Acc. W.V.
656. Audubon's Warbler .... Acc. V.
681. Maryland Yellow-throat  
Acc. S. R. South. Ind.
- 498i. Giant Red-wing ..... Acc. W.V.

**Hypothetical List of Birds for Indiana**

These birds probably have been or could be in Indiana either rarely, accidentally or occasionally. Listed in order and numbered according to A. O. U. C. L., 1931.

- 7a. Lesser Loon .... Possibly R.M.
10. Pacific Loon .. Acc. W.V.N. Ind.
98. Black-capped Petrel .... Acc. V.
119. European Cormorant .... Acc.V.
121. Mexican Cormorant  
Acc. V.S. Ind.
198. Reddish Egret  
Casual Acc. V.S. Ind.
186. Eastern Glossy Ibis  
Acc. R.M.S. Ind.
187. White-faced Glossy Ibis  
Acc. M. or S.R.S. Ind.
- 172b. White-cheeked Goose  
Acc. W. V. Lake Mich.
- 172c. Cackling Goose  
Acc. W. V. Lake Mich.
155. Eastern Harlequin Duck  
V. R. Acc. V.N. Ind.
156. Labrador Duck  
V.R. Acc. V. N. Ind.
160. American Eider  
Acc. W.V.N. Ind.
162. King Eider .. Acc. W. V. N. Ind.
168. Masked Duck  
V. Acc. S.R. N. Ind.
328. White-tailed Kite.. Acc. V.S. Ind.
- 334a. Western Goshawk  
Acc. V. West. Ind.

- |                            |                      |                                 |                               |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 510. Brewer's Blackbird    | Acc. M. or Acc. S.R. | 547a. Western Henslow's Sparrow | Occ. to Acc. S.R.             |
| 596. Black-headed Grosbeak | Acc. V.              | 554a. Gambel's Sparrow          | ..... Acc. M.                 |
| 600. Varied Bunting        | ..... Acc. S.V.      | 539. Mc. Cown's Longspur        | ... Acc. M.                   |
| 601. Painted Bunting       | ..... Acc. S.V.      |                                 | Indiana Audubon Society, Inc. |
| 528a. Holboell's Redpoll   | .... Acc. W.V.       |                                 | Total number 358.             |
| 588. Arctic Towhee         | ..... Acc. V.        |                                 |                               |

**Abbreviations—**

Ab.—Abundant.  
 C.—Common.  
 R.—Rare.  
 V.(before)—Very.  
 V.(after /)—Visitor.  
 Occ.—Occasional.  
 Acc.—Accidental.  
 For. or Form.—Formerly.  
 Intro.—Introduced.  
 S.W.—Southwestern.  
 N.W.—Northwestern.  
 Ext.—Extinct.  
 M—Migrant.  
 Res.—Resident.  
 W.—Winter.  
 P.—Permanent.  
 S.—Summer.  
 S. Ind.—Southern Indiana.  
 N. Ind.—Northern Indiana.  
 Ind.—Indiana.  
 loc.—Locally.  
 Reg.—Regular.  
 Irreg.—Irregular.



# COMMON BIRDS OF INDIANA

A systematic account of the 222 birds,  
that have been recorded in Hamilton County, Indiana.

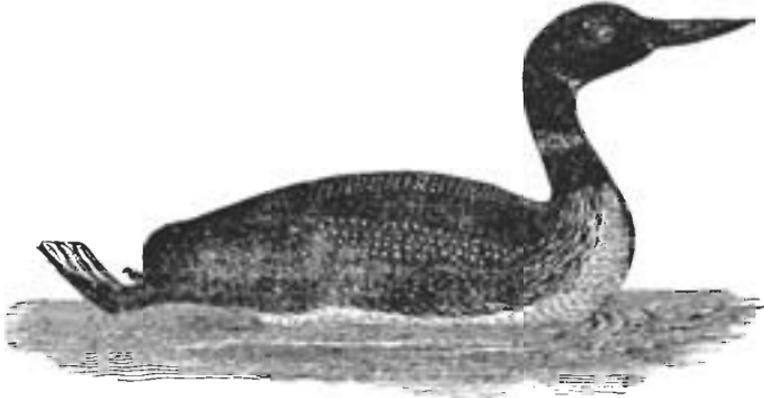
This county is situated, geographically,  
near the center of the state.

A great majority of these are common  
to the entire state.

by

EARL BROOKS

## COMMON LOON



The Common Loon, length thirty-two inches, the size of a small goose, is a migrant through our county going north in the spring and south in the autumn. It ranges as far north as Barrow Strait for breeding and winters along the Gulf Coast. It has been reported having nested as far south as northern Indiana.

Its head and neck are a glossy black, its back is spotted and barred with white, and the breast and belly are white. While in the water, (and they spend all their time in

that element except for nesting and migration) they appear as a rather long bird when their body is exposed. Sometimes they swim with only the head and neck above the surface. A few are observed on White River nearly every migration period. Now, since a considerable portion of the Fall Creek Reservoir is in our county, they can be observed there with greater frequency. Their name is suggested by their weird song, or call, which simulates the laughter of a demented person. It is an uncanny sound of the night on the northern lakes.

## PIED-BILLED GREBE

The Pied-billed Grebe, length thirteen inches, is a duck-like bird, but in the water appears to be tailless and has a short thick rounded bill with a black band across the bill. It is a gray brown bird with a throat patch of black. Its range extends from Argentina to the Hudson Bay, and it breeds in all parts of the United States. It occasion-

ally breeds in this county. However, lack of suitable habitat makes it a rather rare breeder in this county. One recorded nest was along Stony Creek east of Noblesville a few years ago. The Fall Creek Reservoir should provide suitable habitat, and they should be found there breeding in increasing numbers in the future.

## GREAT-BLUE HERON

The Great-Blue Heron, length forty-five inches, is a summer resident in our county. It is the largest wading bird we have, with the exception of the Sandhill Crane,

which is quite rare for our county and only then at migration time. The Great Blue Heron is frequently spoken of as a big blue Crane, but the Cranes all fly with their



neck outstretched while the Herons always draw their necks in during flight.

In general, its coloration is a blue-gray but whiter about the head and neck. They sometimes breed in single pairs but more often in colonies high in trees. No Her-

oney colony of this species has ever been reported from this county but single pairs do occasionally nest here.

They stand in the water, motionless until some small fish or frog comes along and with a quick thrust of its long bill it secures its food.

#### AMERICAN EGRET

The American Egret, length forty-one inches, is snow white, with black legs and feet, and a yellow bill. It nests along the Gulf Coast in early spring, and in the summer often starts northward reaching here on a "feeding trip." It will often be seen in fields feed-

ing principally on grasshoppers. This bird almost became extinct because plume hunters killed them for the beautiful plumes, or egrets, for the millinery trade, during nesting season. Fortunately, this is now forbidden by law and the bird is now making a "come back."



#### AMERICAN EGRET

Cut by Ind. Aud. Soc.

Photo. by Karl Maslowski

#### SNOWY EGRET

The Snowy Egret, length twenty-four inches, also frequently comes north in the summer on a feeding excursion and may often be seen

with the American Egret. Its smaller size, black bill, black legs, and yellow feet distinguish it from the larger Egret.

#### LOUISIANA HERON

The Louisiana Heron, length twenty-six inches, also occasionally may be seen with the other summer feeding Herons and Egrets. The immature birds are not as white as the others, having a bluish cast on the wings, the breast slaty-streak-

ed. The legs are yellow behind and black in front, the lower mandible orange-white, the upper mandible is black. These have only been reported seen in our county on one occasion while other three are frequently seen in the summer.

#### LITTLE BLUE HERON

The Little Blue Heron, length twenty-two inches, is all white its first year, and frequently accompanies the Egrets northward on a "feeding trip." It is difficult to tell

from the Snowy Egret unless you can see it with field glasses; its legs are greenish, and its bill is bluish tipped with black.

#### EASTERN GREEN HERON

The Eastern Green Heron, length seventeen inches, is the "Shite poke" to every boy who fishes our streams. It is very dark in appearance but upon close observation one sees it is a glossy, green-

ish-black. It has short yellow legs. It nests usually in single pairs in trees near some stream, building a flimsy nest of sticks, through which may often be seen the greenish-blue

eggs. When the old bird is disturbed it usually erects its shaggy crest. As the young develop they climb about the limbs of the tree

and display considerable acrobatic skill to keep their balance or gain a new perch. They may be found along all the streams of our county

### BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON

The Black-crowned Night Heron, length twenty-four inches, is rather short-legged for a heron. The adult is the only Heron we have whose back and crown are black and has a white breast. Its wings are gray. The immature bird is brown, being spotted and streaked with white.

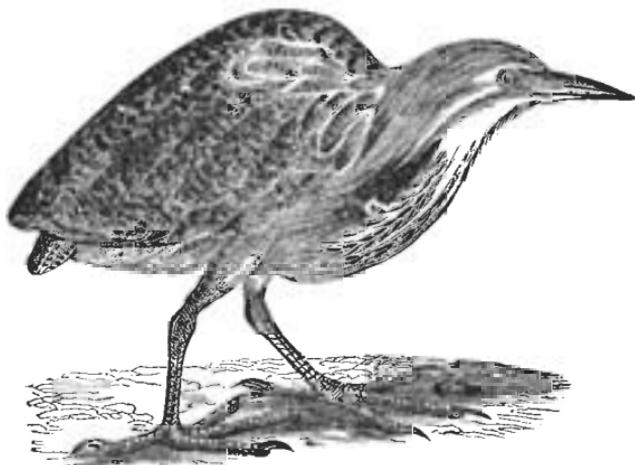
These Herons nest in colonies or Heronries. A small colony nested in the trees of Fox Prairie before the trees were cut, another small colony is near Strawtown, a large colony along Stony Creek northeast from Noblesville, and another large colony was on the Boatright farm north of Noblesville.

This bird utters a call note, a guttural "squok", not only about the nesting trees but while in flight going to and from the feeding grounds along our streams. They build a rather loosely constructed nest of twigs high in the trees and lay from three to six dull blue eggs.



Photo. by Allan D. Cruickshank

### AMERICAN BITTERN



The American Bittern, length twenty-eight inches, is a migrant through this county, no nest having been recorded here. They winter as far south as Cuba and Gua-

temala, and summer as far north as the Hudson Bay. It inhabits bogs where it finds its food. It is yellowish brown and heavily streaked, and the love song, if it can be called

that, is quite unique. It has been described as sounding like some one driving a stake in the mud with a wooden maul, hence, a local name of "Stake Driver" has been given to it in certain localities.

Again, its song has been likened to the sound produced by a dry suction pump when the water is lifted so far and 'slips back.' This has, in home localities, given the bird a local name of "Thunder Pump."

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### EASTERN LEAST BITTERN

The Eastern Least Bittern, length thirteen inches, is the smallest of the Heron family. It has a dark crown and back, and has large buff wing patches, and light underneath. It is a common summer resident here in cat-tail marshes, building its nest platform often with dried cat-tail leaves on which it lays from three to six bluish-white eggs. It poses on the nest, bill sticking straight up and has the appearance of just another reed or cat-tail stem. It is very trusting and depends on its protective coloration to conceal it. I have carefully approached one and enclosed my fingers about its body before it made any effort to escape.

It winters as far south as the West Indies and Central America.



Photo. by Karl Maslowski  
Cut by Ind. Aud. Soc.

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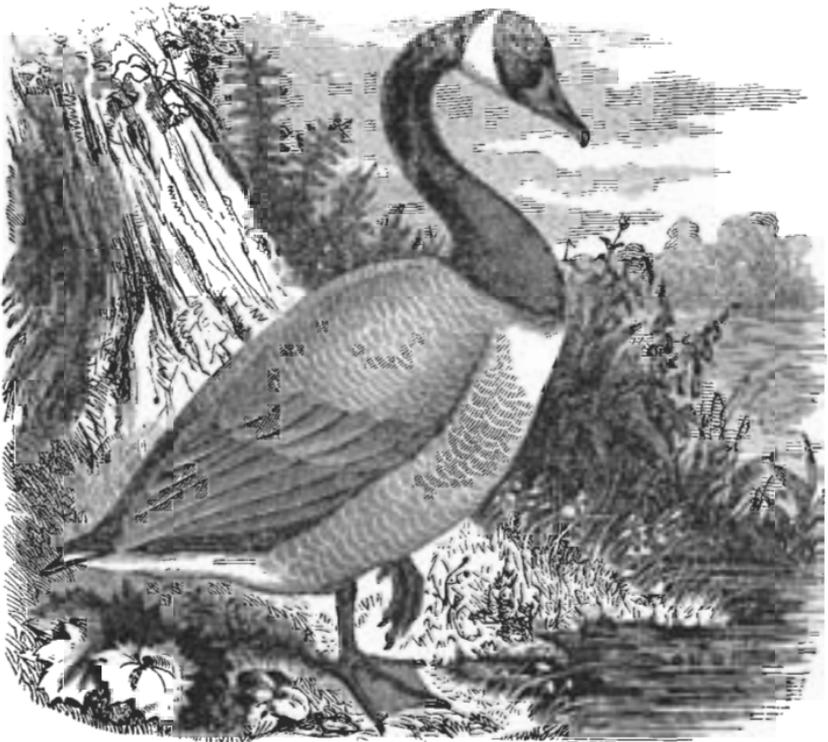
### CANADA GOOSE

The Canada Goose, length forty inches, weighs about ten pounds, and has a wing spread of between five and six feet. It is the largest of all our wild geese. It is brown in color, with a black head and neck, light breast and a white patch from beneath the chin up to the side of the head.

It is an early migrant through this area in the Spring, and breeds from northern Indiana to the tree limit in Canada. In the early Fall it migrates southward to the Gulf

Coast. No other birds are so spectacular on their migrational flights as their V formation and incessant "honking" never fail to elicit our admiration and speculation on the "where and why" of migration.

An old gander, with experience, generally leads the flock and charts the course. He has the most difficult job as he is the trail blazer. He must cleave the air alone, while the others follow in the rear and to one side, in the wake of the one ahead, sufficiently spaced as to



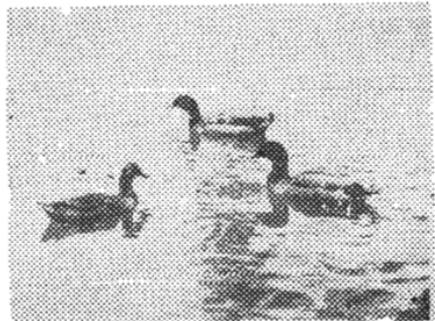
give it ample wing space and to one side far enough so its forward vision is clear. On long flights their leader may be replaced by another, and if the leader should meet with

disaster another immediately takes over without the least interruption of the forward movement of the flock.

### AMERICAN BRANT

The American Brant, length twenty-six inches (26), only about half size of the Canada, is the only other wild goose reported for our county. Its head, neck and breast are all black. It has a small white patch on the side of the neck, and flies in irregular flocks, and spends its winters and summers in about the same general territory as the Canada.

heads the Mallard is the only one having a green head with a white ring. It has a white tail. In swimming, as all dabblers do, they carry



### COMMON MALLARD

The Common Mallard, length twenty-three inches (23), is a dabbler or surface feeding duck; that is, it tips up while feeding on the bottom, rather than diving. While other ducks have greenish

the tail up and clear of the water. The Mallard, as do most of the dabblers, have a metallic patch

(spoken of as a speculum) on the back edge of the wing. The female is brownish in color. The Mallard, as well as other dabblers, when scared, rises directly from the water instead of treading the surface to gain momentum, which is characteristic of the diving ducks.

It ranges northward as far as Alaska for breeding, and winters to the Gulf Coast, occasionally some farther. We here are at about the extreme southern limit of the nesting area.

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### COMMON BLACK DUCK

The Common Black Duck, length twenty-two inches (22), is a

dabbler, and both sexes are sooty brown in general appearance with dull green bills. In flight much white shows on the under surface of the wings. Its range and breeding area is much the same as the Mallards.

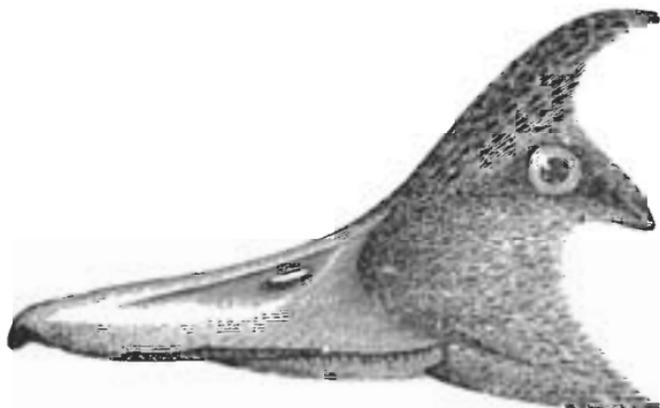
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### BALDPATE

The Baldpate, length nineteen inches (19), is a dabbler. It is our only duck with the top of the head bald, from which characteristic it derives its name, and it has a blue bill with a black tip. In flight it has a white patch on the front edge of the wings. Its range and breeding area is, in the main, similar to the Mallard.

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### AMERICAN PINTAIL



HEAD OF AMERICAN PINTAIL

The American Pintail, length twenty-eight inches (28), is a dabbler and has a long pointed tail, the only long tailed duck seen here. It also has the longest neck of ducks seen here. The front of the

neck is white with a narrow white line upon the side of the neck. In flight they are white bellied. In general, the range and breeding area is similar to the Mallard.

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### GREEN-WINGED TEAL

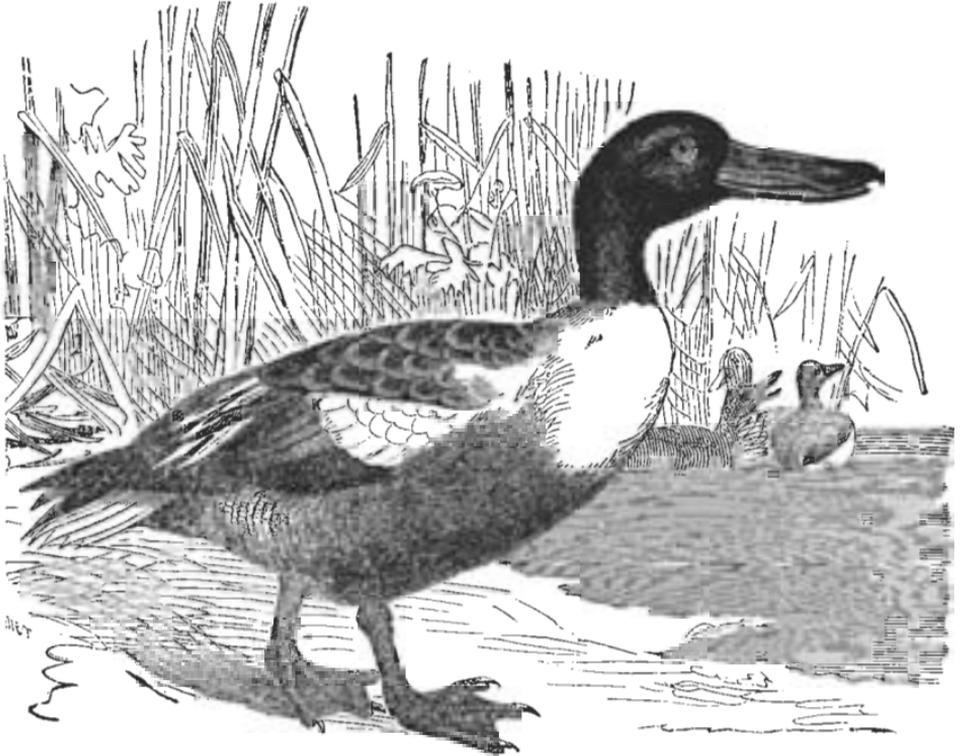
The Green-winged Teal, length fourteen inches (14), a dabbler, is a small duck with brown head and a small white patch in front of the wing. The speculum is an iridescent green, only seen in flight. Its range is, roughly speaking, similar to the Mallard, going south to the West Indies, and its breeding area not quite as far south as the Mallard.

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### BLUE-WINGED TEAL

The Blue-winged Teal, length sixteen inches (16), a dabbler, is a rather dull colored duck but has a broad white crescent band in front of the eye. The speculum is blue. Its breeding range is, roughly, similar to the Green-winged Teal, the winter range extending south as far as Brazil and Chile.

## SHOVELLER



The Shoveller, length twenty inches, a dabtler, has a long and flattened bill. It sits low in the water, and has a dark head glossed with green. It has a white breast,

the white extending up to side of the black back. Its range and breeding area is similar in general to the Mallard.

## WOOD DUCK



The Wood Duck, length eighteen inches, is a dabtler. The name indicates its habitat, even nesting in holes in trees. The Wood Duck is our most beautiful duck. The male, in breeding plumage, is the most highly colored of all our ducks. It almost runs the gamut of all the colors in striking pattern. It has an elongated crest with a white line from white bill, back over side of head through the crest. Another white line from the eye back on lower side of chest. Top of head is a purplish brown, throat white, breast gray-brown, belly white, wings tipped greenish blue. It ranges from Central Canada to the Gulf Coast, occasionally going as far as Jamaica. It occasionally nests here, which is about its southern limit for nesting.

### REDHEAD

The Redhead, length nineteen inches, is a diving duck. It is a grayish duck with a reddish brown head and a blue bill. Although grayer, it is often mistaken for the Canvas-back. It breeds from British Columbia to Southern Wisconsin, and winters as far south as Florida and Mexico. It is never very plentiful here.

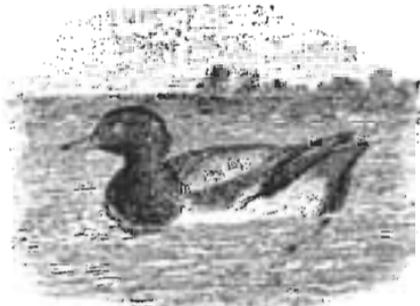
### RING-NECKED DUCK

The Ring-necked Duck, length sixteen inches, is a diving duck. It looks very much like the Scaup except it has a black back. While it gets its name because there is a faint chestnut ring about its neck, I doubt if one approaches this duck close enough to see this ring without the use of field glasses. It breeds and winters in about the same general territory as the Redhead. It is either very rare through here or else we are not able to distinguish it.

### CANVAS-BACK

The Canvas-back, length twenty-one inches, is a diving duck. It is a white duck with black breast and rufous head and neck. In flight they often form a V or string out in a long line. It breeds from the Yukon to Minnesota, and winters as far south as the West Indies and Guatemala. They are never very plentiful here during migration.

### GREATER SCAUP AND LESSER SCAUP



LESSER SCAUP

The Scaups belong to a group of ducks called diving ducks because they inhabit lakes and rivers in the deeper portions than the dabblers. They dive for their food and in arising from the water they patter

the water for some distance before arising into the air.

The Greater Scaup, length eighteen inches, and the Lesser Scaup, length sixteen inches, are similar in appearance, often spoken of as black on both ends with white center. Both have blue bills, and gunners often call them "Blue Bills".

Both have wing stripes only seen in flight, the Greater Scaup having the longer stripe. If close enough to see them, the Greater Scaup's black head has a greenish sheen while the Lesser Scaup has a purplish sheen.

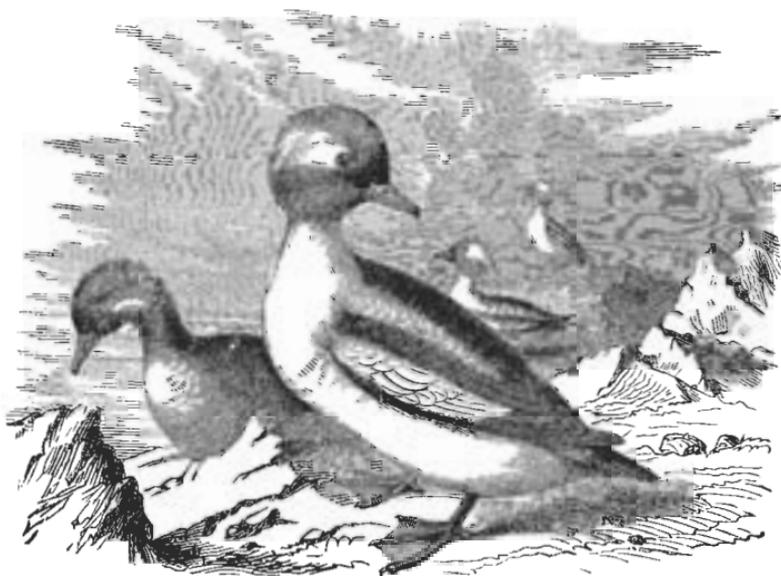
The Greater Scaup breeds from the Aleutians to Northern Michigan while the Lesser Scaup breeds from the Yukon to Northern Indiana. The Greater winters as far south as the Gulf Coast while the Lesser may go as far as Panama. The Lesser Scaup is more numerous through here during migration than the Greater. It is probably our most numerous migratory duck.

### AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE DUCK

The American Golden-eye, length twenty inches, is mostly white with a black back, a glossy greenish-black head and a large white spot between the eye and bill. The female has a brown head and no spot in front of the eye. It is a diving duck and feeds on aquatic plant life in the main but does take some animal life such as small mollusca, and similar food. It migrates south as the streams and lakes freeze and there is no open water. I have seen a flock of these ducks near Potter's Bridge during the late winter of 1943.

### BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE DUCK

The Barrow's Golden-eye, length twenty inches (20), is very similar in appearance to the American Golden-eye except the head has a purplish sheen and instead of a white spot in front of the eye as in the American the Barrow's has a white crescent in front of the eye with the concave side towards the eye. In the same flock of American Golden-eye mentioned were a half dozen Barrow's Golden-eye. This is the only record of either of these in our county thus far reported.

**BUFFLE-HEAD**

The Buffle-head, length fourteen inches, a diving duck, is about the size of Teals. It has a large puffy black head with a large white area from the eye around the back of the head. In general it appears to be a white duck with some black on it. It breeds from the Yukon to

Ontario, and winters from the lower edge of its breeding area to Florida. Like the Wood duck, it nests in hollow trees. It is never very plentiful through here and many migrational periods none will be seen.

**RUDDY DUCK**

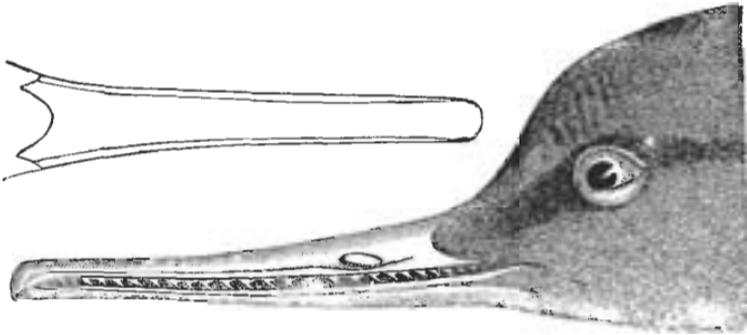
The Ruddy Duck, length fifteen inches, has the top of the head black, the side of the head white, back and throat chestnut colored, breast and belly white. The bill is blue and shovel-shaped.

It is a rather chunky duck and while in the water carries its tail erect, wren-like. It is a diving duck and only a migrant here, although it occasionally nests in Northern Indiana. It winters as far south as Guatemala, Cuba and Porto Rico.

**AMERICAN MERGANSER**

The American Merganser, length twenty-five inches (25), is similar in appearance to the Red-breasted Merganser except the male does not have any crest. The female does have a crest and is very similar in appearance to the Red-breasted female. The underparts of the male are much whiter in the American than in the Red-breasted. It is also a fish duck with a narrow serrated bill and its food is like that of the Red-breasted. This duck is usually found here every winter in the open waters when it is driven down from the north because everything is frozen over and it cannot secure its food.

## RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

HEAD OF RED-BREASTED  
MERGANSER

The Red - breasted Merganser, length twenty-two inches, is occasionally found in open water on our streams in winter. The male has a glossy greenish-black head with a distinct crest. The female has a rufous head with a crest. This is a fish duck. Its bill is narrow

and serrated on the edges, the better to hold a slippery fish. It also eats other aquatic animal life. This is a rare duck for us as it more often spends the winters on the ocean. It nests from the northern tier of states to the Arctic Circle.

## TURKEY VULTURE



The Turkey Vulture, length thirty inches, is one of the largest birds we have, ranking in size with the Bald and Golden Eagles. It soars high overhead eagle-like. When at a distance it can be differentiated

from Eagles by its small head. If near enough to distinguish, the Vulture's head is bare and red colored; the Eagle's, of course, is feathered. If it happens to be a young Vulture, its head is black. This Vulture frequently is called a Buzzard. They migrate to the southern states for the winter.

The Turkey Vulture is a scavenger, its chief source of food is carrion. Since the advent of rendering plants, the food source has become scarce, hence, we do not have this bird as plentiful as it used to be. Besides carrion, it also eats some live food such as toads, snakes, rats, mice and some young birds. Its eating of toads, snakes and young birds is a mark against it as they should be protected and preserved. The Vulture has been charged with distributing such diseases of live stock, as hog cholera, black-leg and anthrax. Experiments, however, give very little credence to this charge. It nests in hollow logs and stumps.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK**

The Sharp-shinned Hawk, length eleven (11) inches, is one of two Hawks every farmer should learn to know as there are "only two bad" Hawks that are in our county. The other one is the Cooper's Hawk. They both have long tails and short rounded wings. They are rapid fliers and seldom soar high. They usually remain in the woods except for a quick foray to the poultry yard and back to the woods. It does not perch on a pole as a rule. Its general color is a slate gray. It is slightly larger than the well known Sparrow Hawk.

It has a square end barred tail and is a permanent resident and nests high up in trees.

Its food is almost entirely young poultry and wild birds. It is NOT protected by law.

**COOPER'S HAWK**

The Cooper's Hawk, length fifteen inches (15), is, besides a Sharp-shinned Hawk, the other of the "only two bad" Hawks you will meet in this county. They are the **ONLY** two that are not protected by law. It is marked and colored similar to the Sharp-shinned. The only difference is, it is larger (not quite so large as a crow) and has a round end barred tail (note: Cooper's tail round and Sharp-shinned square).

It is a permanent resident, nests high up in trees. Its food is almost entirely poultry and wild birds.

It is NOT protected by law.

**EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK**



The Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, length twenty inches (20), is frequently a permanent resident of our county although many winters they leave for the South for a brief stay. It has broad wings and short tail. If one is near enough to see, the tail is a rich rufous color. It nests high up in trees.

It is sometimes called Chicken Hawk, a name it does not deserve as it seldom takes poultry unless hard pressed for food. It is far more useful than harmful. Dr.

Fisher, for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, made the following study of stomachs. Of the five hundred and sixty-two (562) stomachs examined, fifty-four (54) contained poultry or game birds, fifty-one (51) other birds, two hundred and seventy-eight (278) mice, one hundred and thirty-one (131) other mammals, thirty-seven (37) reptiles, forty-seven (47) insects, one (1) centipede, thirteen (13) offal, and eighty-nine (89) were empty. It IS protected by law.

**NORTHERN RED-SHOULDERED HAWK**

The Northern Red-shouldered Hawk, length eighteen inches (18), has similar habits and general appearance in the field as the Red-tail. Of course, a little smaller, but it has a short tail and broad wings. If one is close enough, or has field glasses, the red shoulder is a sure means of identifying it. It is also called, "Chicken Hawk", a name it does not deserve.

Dr. Fisher's investigation of it is as follows. Of the two hundred and

twenty (220) stomachs examined: three (3) contained poultry, twelve (12) other birds, one hundred and two (102) mice, forty (40) other mammals, twenty (20) reptiles, thirty-nine (39) batrachians, ninety-two (92) insects, sixteen (16) spiders, seven (7) cray fish, one (1) earthworm, two (2) ofal, three (3) fish, and fourteen (14) were empty.

It is a useful hawk and IS protected by law.

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK**

The Broad-winged Hawk, length fifteen inches (15), very much like the two preceding, has broad wings and a short tail, only smaller. It is a grayish brown hawk and will sit perched on a limb for long periods of time examining the surroundings. Dr. Fisher examined sixty-five (65) stomachs: contents as follows, two (2) small birds, fifteen (15) mice, thirteen (13) other mammals, eleven (11) reptiles, thirteen (13) batrachians, thirty (30) insects, two (2) earthworms, four (4) crayfish, and seven (7) were empty. It is a useful hawk and IS protected by law.

The American Rough-legged Hawk, length twenty-two (22) inches, is a rare hawk in this county, only one on record. It is another one of the broad wings and short tail type, except the largest of the four. It IS protected by law.

**GOLDEN EAGLE**

The Golden Eagle, length thirty inches (30), is an irregular rare visitor to this part of the country. It is numerous in the mountainous country of the far West, with only one record of it in this county. One was shot and injured in this county some twenty years ago.



Photo. by Rev. J. W. Baechle

**AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK**

The injured bird was brought to me for identification and the picture was taken at that time. It is rather a dark color with golden color on back of neck, but such a mark would be impossible to see in the field. The shank is heavily feathered down to the toes in contrast to the Bald Eagle whose shank is bare. This is also impossible to see in the field.

The Golden Eagle prefers to make a fresh kill at every meal whereas the Bald Eagle eats mainly dead fish washed upon some shore.

Both these Eagles have some beneficial and some pernicious habits. Where rabbits, prairie dogs, and certain squirrels are detrimental, and poultry is missing, it is most useful, but when reverse food supply exists it is most harmful. It does eat quite a number of rattle snakes. It IS protected by law.

### NORTHERN BALD EAGLE



The Northern Bald Eagle, length thirty-two inches (32), is the principal Eagle of the East. It is a rare bird in this state although more plentiful in the North part of the State. Several records of the bird have been made in this county, however, no nesting records. The immature Bald Eagle does not have a white head as it must reach full maturity for the head and neck feathers to come in white, but its great size, even while immature, distinguishes it from any other of our larger hawks.

Bald Eagles nest in tree tops and add to the nest from year to year until it reaches immense proportions. One nest is on record at Vermillion, Ohio, that was used for

thirty-five years and was eight feet across and twelve feet high.

In contrast to the habit of the Bald Eagle to build in trees, the Golden Eagle usually builds on cliffs.

Its principal food is dead fish washed ashore; however, it has been known to rob the Fish Hawk of a freshly caught fish, and, of course, will, if hard pressed, take poultry. It IS protected by law.

### MARSH HAWK



(Photo by H. H. Pittman)

The Marsh Hawk, length nineteen inches (19), is a common resident of our county. The male is pale gray in color and the female brown.

On the rump is a large white patch which shows in flight, and is very conspicuous, so one never need make a mistake in identifying it. It is a bird of the fields and flies low, and seldom, if ever, enters the deep woods. It nests on the ground, preferably in marshy areas, and lays four to six (4-6) dull white eggs, usually in May.

This hawk is a wonderful mouser. Its taste also runs to frogs, lizards, gophers and insects. It IS protected by law.

### OSPREY

The Osprey, length twenty-three (23) inches, is frequently called a Fish Hawk, which it really is. It is a bird of both North and South

**OSPREY**

America and nests over its entire range.

Several records have been made of this bird in this county and one has been observed in the neighborhood of Riverwood during nesting season but numerous searches

never revealed it having a nest in this county.

It is dark colored above and white underneath, the head resembles a Bald Eagle. If you are fortunate enough to ever observe one fishing you will discover it hovers, until it sights its prey, close its wings, and plunges feet first for the prey. It IS protected by law.

**DUCK HAWK**

The Duck Hawk, length sixteen inches (16), is the other falcon recorded from our county. However, it is rarely seen here, only one record. Paul Ulman recorded one in the vicinity of Clare in the summer of 1944. This bird is rarely seen anywhere in the state. It IS protected by law.

**EASTERN SPARROW HAWK**

The Eastern Sparrow Hawk, length ten inches (10), belongs to a group of hawks called Falcons. They have long pointed wings and long tails. It is a well known hawk and description seems superfluous. However, if you get close enough to see the bright colors of it you may be surprised that its head is a slate blue with a rufous spot on the crown. The back is rufous, tail rufous with black tip, wings slate blue with white bars, breast a cream-buff. A handsome bird indeed.

They nest in holes in trees, eggs

three to seven (3-7) creamy white with some markings. It nests in April and May. This useful hawk's name is unjust to its habits; a better name would have been Grass-hopper Hawk.

Dr. Fisher's examination of three hundred and twenty stomachs reveals the following—one game bird, fifty-three other small birds, eighty-nine, mice; twelve, other mammals; twelve, reptiles and batrachians; two hundred and fifteen, insects; twenty-nine, spiders; twenty-nine, empty.

It IS protected by law.

### GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN

The Greater Prairie Chicken, length eighteen (18) inches, once found in limited numbers in our country, is now probably extinct here. It is about twice the size of the Bob-white and inhabited the open fields. The last reported in this county, about twenty years ago, was about three miles south of Noblesville near Road 37.

### THE EUROPEAN PARTRIDGE

The European Partridge, length twelve (12) to fourteen (14) inches, often called Hungarian Quail, is larger than the Bob-White. It is grayish in color, with chestnut-colored markings. It has, in recent years, been introduced into our county, and in some localities seems to be fairly well established. However, it is not plentiful enough, as yet to know if it can hold its own in its new environment.

### EASTERN BOB-WHITE



The Eastern Bob-White, length ten inches (10), one of our game birds much prized by sportsmen, has increasingly become scarcer in our county as the cover becomes scarcer due to our intensive agricultural practices. No other factor approaches this one in determining its plentifulness. It is primarily a ground bird and is subjected to the ravages of predators more or less, some sportsmen claiming hawks and owls are largely responsible for its decrease. No doubt, they do take some, but here again, cover, if ample, protects them. An extensive scientific investigation was made in Georgia where a large area was completely rid of these predators while another was left with all these predator birds and the investigation proved that the quail increased materially in the area where the hawks and owls were undisturbed due to the fact that ground rodents were limited in this area by the hawks and owls; thus proving the rodents were the factor affecting the quail popula-

tion. The reverse was true in the reverse area.

Another charge that has been made, is, that if the covey is not shot into and broken up, the quail inbreed, thus weakening the offspring. To refute this claim is that before the advent of the gunner we had sufficient cover and no shooting, with the result, quail were plentiful and healthy. In Ohio where the quail is, by law, considered a song bird and no hunting is permitted, it has increased materially, and by scientific investigation great numbers have been trapped and weighed which determined their weight has not decreased, thus refuting this charge.

Quail eat quite a variety of foods, weed seed, waste grain, wild fruits, and insects. When a severe winter covers their natural food with snow, they suffer and may die as a result. Bird lovers and sportsmen should then come to their rescue by scattering grain under the edges of brush piles and in protected places.

### RING-NECKED PHEASANT

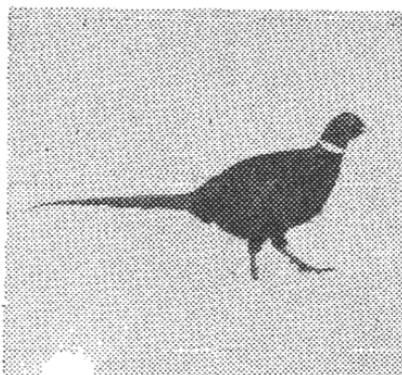


Photo. by Allan D. Cruickshank

The Ring-necked Pheasant, length of male thirty-six inches, female twenty inches, is an introduced bird in our county. It is a very handsome bird with a long tapering tail in the male, and its head and neck green with purplish reflections, red on side of face, and with a white neck ring.

Despite the fact that large numbers have been released each year in our county and only a limited number have been secured by the hunter, each open season raises the question that there is some limiting factor, otherwise they should be more plentiful. This fact is true for the entire state as well as our county.

Recent investigation points very decidedly to the fact that the "Chigoe" or "Jigger" seems to be the limiting factor of the Ring-necked Pheasant. After passing north to the Jigger limit this pheasant has firmly established itself. Here it does not seem to tolerate the Jigger infestation.

### EASTERN TURKEY

The Eastern Turkey, length forty-eight (48) inches, or usually called Wild Turkey, was formerly found in our county before its habitat was destroyed. No wild Turkeys have been reported from our county for the last seventy years.

**WHOOPING CRANE**

The Whooping Crane, length four and one-half feet, and with a wing spread of seven and one-half feet. This is an all white bird, except the primary wing feathers are black. It has a carmine bare spot on each side of the head. The legs are black.

Formerly this bird was a frequent migrant through the county. Un-

fortunately the bird became almost extinct and it has not been observed during migration here for years. The bird is now increasing and we may expect it occasionally. One individual has been observed in this county this spring and from the description given there can be but little doubt but that it was a whooping crane.

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**SANDHILL CRANE**


The Sandhill Crane, length forty-five inches, is one of the two Cranes that visits our county. Many people speak of Herons as Cranes, however, the Herons always fly with their neck drawn in while a Crane flies with its neck outstretched. It is a drab gray color with a bald red forehead.

Formerly this bird migrated through this county in great numbers but after much of the prairie land in the north part of the state was placed in cultivation they almost disappeared. However, since

some of that territory is being restored to its natural conditions, they are returning, and every spring the Sandhill Cranes may be seen in great numbers in the Jasper Pulaski Game Preserve.

The one pictured here was found injured in some manner a few years ago near Cicero Creek, northwest of Noblesville. It died in a few days, and the Blatchley Nature Study Club had it mounted, and it may now be seen in the Public Library at Noblesville.

**THE RAILS**

The Rails are slender chicken-like birds that skulk through the grasses of our marshes. The absence of much marsh area in this county results in Rails not being plentiful here. They do not flush easily and when they do, with legs dangling, they soon settle back in the tall marsh grass. The young of most of them are covered with black down and are able to leave the nest soon after hatching.

**KING RAIL**

Photo. by Harold Zimmerman  
Cut by Ind. Aud. Soc.

The King Rail, length fifteen inches, is reddish in color, and has a long bill. Its nest has been found here.

**VIRGINIA RAIL**

The Virginia Rail, length nine inches, is also reddish in color with long decurved bill. It breeds farther north.

**YELLOW RAIL**

The Yellow Rail, length seven inches, is a yellowish colored bird. It has a white wing patch, seen only when in flight. It breeds from Minnesota northward.

**SORA RAIL**

The Sora Rail, length eight inches, is a brownish-gray bird with black on its face and throat. It has a short yellow bill. It nests here.

**BLACK RAIL**

The Black Rail, length five inches, is blackish, or slate-colored, spotted with white. It breeds from Wisconsin northward.

All these Rails that may be seen here winter along the Gulf Coast, some venturing even farther.

**FLORIDA GALLINULE**

The Florida Gallinule, length thirteen inches (13), is a bluish-slate color. The crown of the head has a bright red plate, the same color extending down on the bill to its tip which is yellow. It uses the same habitat as do the Rails and breeds as far north as Minnesota.

**AMERICAN COOT**

Photo. by Karl Maslowski  
Cut by Ind. Aud. Soc.

The American Coot, length fifteen inches, although being in the same family as the Rails, it resembles a duck in appearance and habits more than the chicken-like Rails. It is slate-gray in color with a frontal plate, and bill white, and shaped much like a chicken's bill. It either dabbles or dives for its food but upon leaving the water it patters its feet like the diving ducks. Its toes are lobed to facilitate quick diving and swimming.

Frequently called "mud hen" and is not very palatable as food, the flesh being strong. It nests here.

#### SEMIPALMATED PLOVER

The Semipalmated Plover, length six and seven-tenths inches, is a rare migrant here. General appearance is like a small Killdeer except it has only one white ring about the neck. Malcolm Bundy has observed these in Adams Township on numerous occasions.

#### KILLDEER

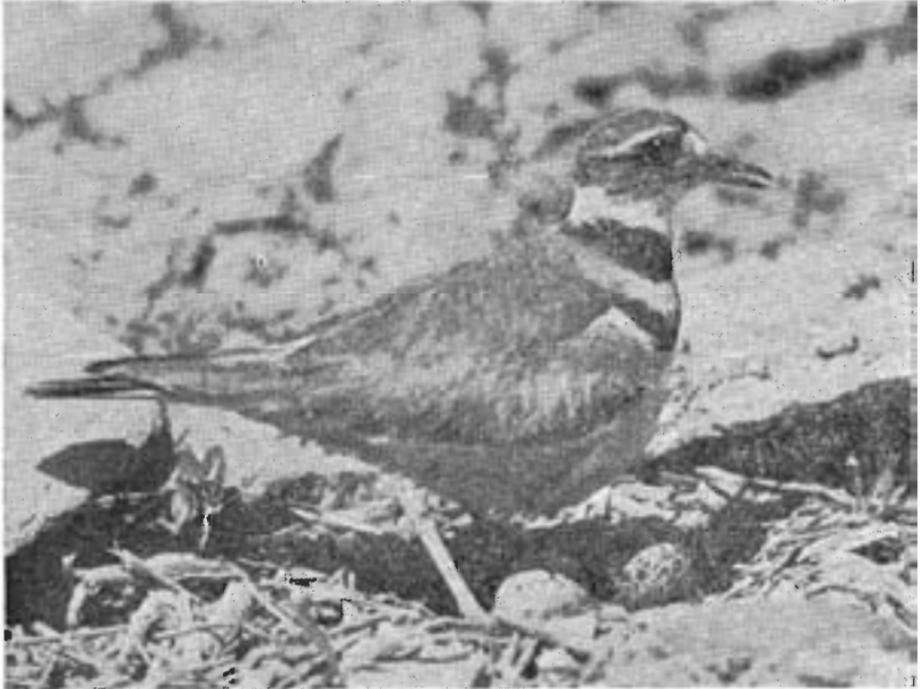


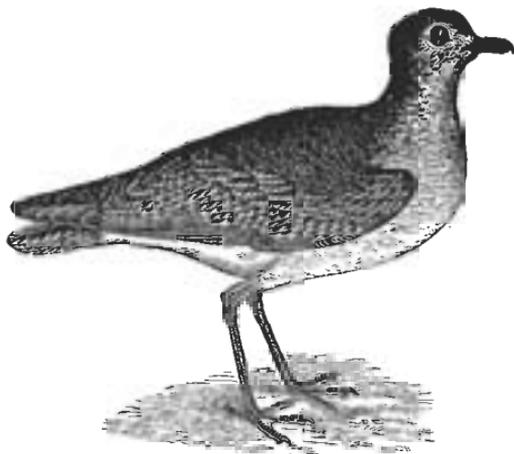
Photo. by Karl Maslowski

The Killdeer, length ten inches, cries out its name at the least sign of danger as well as at other times, even far into the night. Many of the plovers have ringed necks but the Killdeer is the only one having two rings, at least the lower one appears to encircle the neck but, as a matter of fact, it is only a band between the throat and breast. All underneath parts are white with the back a rufous brown. In flight it shows a reddish tail. The Killdeer comes very early in the spring and inhabits all sorts of open locations, not only along water ways but in fields far from water.

Cut by Ind. Aud. Soc.

In April or May it "builds", if you can call it that, a very slight depression on the open ground in which may be a few sticks, but usually a few pebbles are in the nest. It lays four buffy-white eggs with large irregular chocolate blotches, and blends so well with the pebbles they are difficult to see. If one approaches the nest too close the parent birds will run off, feigning being crippled and attract you away from the nest if possible. It nests from Central Canada to the Gulf Coast. It winters all the way from Southern Indiana to as far away as Paraguay and Chile.

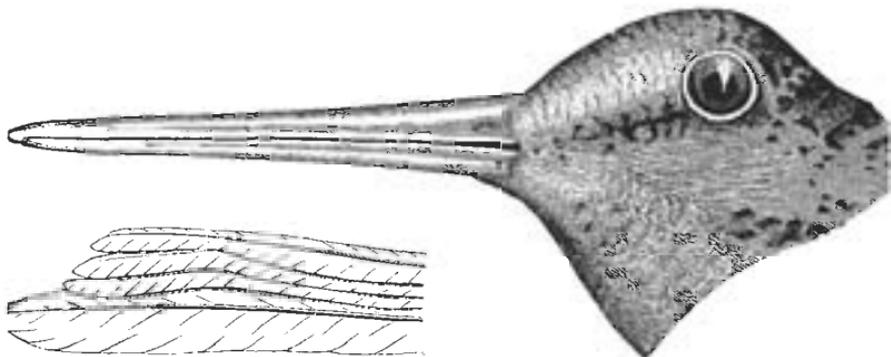
## GOLDEN PLOVER



The Golden Plover, length ten and five-tenths inches, is a rare, irregular migrant here. Its back is black with golden spots. A broad white line runs from the forehead back over the eye and down on the side of the neck and breast. The underparts are black. This bird migrates northward

through the Mississippi valley in the spring to their far northward breeding grounds; the fall southward across the Atlantic to Brazil and Argentina. Malcolm Bundy has observed these birds several times in Adams Township during spring migration.

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 AMERICAN WOODCOCK


The American Woodcock, length eleven inches, is a buffy colored bird a little bigger than a Bob White but it has a long bill. It has extremely large eyes. The top of the head is black with yellowish bars running crosswise of the head. When the bird freezes, its protective coloration so completely conceals it from view that it does not flush easily. When it does fly the wings make an extremely high pitch. It is a bird of the night and

spends its days resting. It is found on wet banks where it probes the soft mud for earth worms for food. The holes left from this probing are called "borings". The tip of the upper mandible is flexible and can be bent upward the better to grasp an earthworm. It breeds from southern Canada to Florida and occasionally can be found nesting here. It winters in the southern United States.

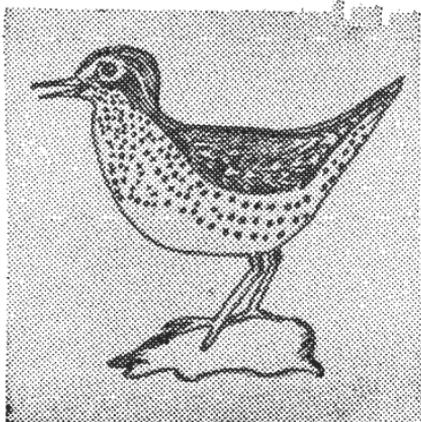
**WILSON'S SNIPE**

The Wilson's Snipe, sometimes called Jack Snipe, length eleven inches, is the same size as the Woodcock but not so chunky, and with a neck, whereas the Woodcock does not seem to have a neck. It is brownish in color striped with white, the stripes on the head lengthwise of the head. When this bird is flushed it flies in a zigzag fashion at the same time uttering a rasping note. It inhabits swampy meadows. It is only a migrant through here.

**UPLAND PLOVER**

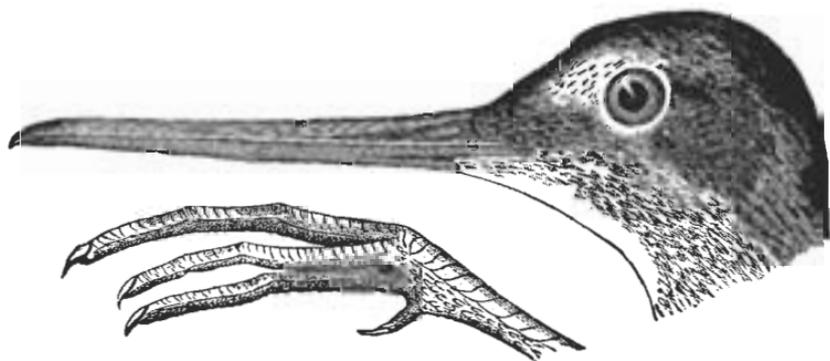
The Upland Plover, length eleven and five-tenths inches, is also a migrant here. Its nesting area is from northern Indiana to Alaska. It has a long tail, legs and neck. The back is buff mottled with black. The breast is a lighter buff, faintly barred with black. They will not allow your close ap-

proach, especially if you are walking, but will flush and fly around and about their feeding territory. In this wheeling flight, every bird in the flock seemingly tilts with mechanical precision at the same time, and when they alight they hold their wings elevated for a brief interval.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER**

The Spotted Sandpiper, length seven and five-tenths inches, is a summer resident here, although not plentiful as our sandy beaches are somewhat limited. Its back is a brownish-gray and underparts light, heavily spotted. As it runs along the beach it is constantly tetering between steps. When flushed, sharp "peet-weet" notes are heard, with a few rapid wing beats, and then it sails just above the water. It nests on the shore under a clump of grass. The eggs are extremely large for such a small bird.

## GREATER YELLOW-LEGS



The Greater Yellow-legs, length fourteen inches, is a large shore-bird and a migrant here. The upper parts are gray-black, spotted, or barred with white, the underparts light, faintly spotted with black. It has a long bill, slightly up curved. The long legs are yellow.

## SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER

The Semipalmated Sandpiper, length six and three-tenths inches, is a rare migrant here, Malcolm Bundy having reported them from Adams township. The back is grayish black, the breast is light, slightly streaked with black.

## LESSER YELLOW-LEGS

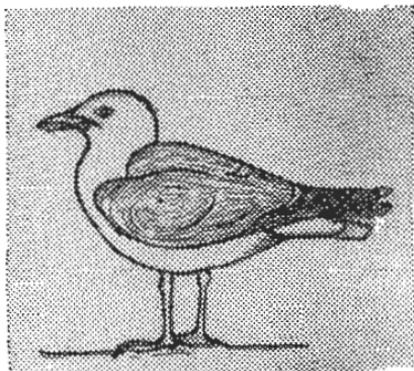


Photo. by Karl Maslowski

The Lesser Yellow-legs, length ten inches, is a migrant here, and is a small edition of the Greater Yellow-legs. Its bill is straight instead of slightly up curved as in the Greater.

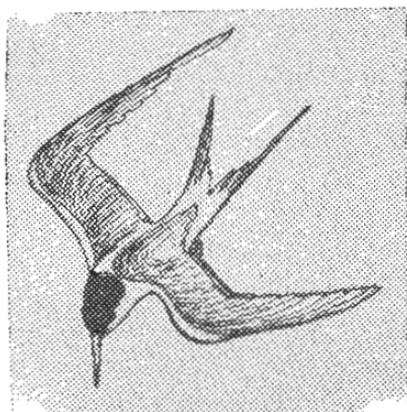
The calling notes of both birds have a "yodeling" quality.

## HERRING GULL



Drawing by Mary Esther Brooks

The Herring Gull, length twenty-four inches, is an occasional migrant here although never very plentiful. It may, on occasion, be seen on White River, or the Fall Creek Reservoir. Its back is gray with black wing tips. The head and underparts are white, legs flesh colored. The immature bird is a mottled down. It is a scavenger and valuable as such.

**COMMON TERN**

Drawing by Mary Esther Brooks

The Common Tern, length fifteen inches, is a migrant here, seen on White River or the Fall Creek Reservoir. The top of the head is black, the remainder of the bird is white. The bill is red with a black tip. The feet are red. The tail is deeply forked, and it eats small fish, in the main, but also takes some insects.

**BLACK TERN**

The Black Tern, length nine inches, is not very plentiful during migration but may be seen over the water at the Fall Creek reservoir as a rather late migrant during the spring. Its upper parts are a dark gray and the head and under parts are black. It breeds from our

northern tier of states to central Canada and winters from Mexico to South America.

**ROCK DOVE**

Photo. by Rev. J. W. Baechele

The Rock Dove, or Domestic Pigeon, about our barns and public buildings, have so established themselves that there is no escaping it. It probably does some good in eating weed seed, but the vast damage it does to our public buildings, and the damage to the hay in the farmer's barns, makes its value very questionable.

**EASTERN MOURNING DOVE**

The Eastern Mourning Dove, length eleven inches, is frequently spoken of as the "Turtle Dove", and is probably too well known by everyone to warrant description. However, did you ever note there is a black spot behind the eye? Also note its pointed tail, the middle feathers being black, the outer edge white. A distinct whistling sound is produced by the rapidly beating wings when in flight. The Mourning Dove builds a rather flimsy nest of loose sticks on which only two white eggs are laid. Often you can see the eggs through the bottom of the nest. This Dove is a very trusting bird and you can often inspire such confidence that she will allow you a very near approach to her while on the nest. The one pictured here nested within eight feet of our back door and would permit me to stroke her back while she was brooding her eggs. She was not reared as a pet but a wild bird. Doves migrate to the southward during our winters and return again in the spring. However, it is not unusual for some to remain with us throughout the winter if food is plentiful, or, if you offer them food. On Christmas day, 1944, although very cold and the ground covered with snow yet, we counted seven near our feeding station.

This bird is considered a game bird in many southern states but is protected in Indiana. May this state never, never, even consider making it a game bird. It is too useful a bird to our agriculture. Scientists, for the government's investigation, proved this beyond any doubt. One stomach contained seventy-five hundred sorrel seeds, another sixty-four hundred foxtail seeds, another ninety-two hundred bindweed seeds, to mention only a few, and this was just one meal for one bird.

### PASSENGER PIGEON

The Passenger Pigeon, length sixteen inches, is an extinct bird that was once so numerous that it was hunted and killed by the wagon loads and used for meat. It was

very similar to our present Mourning Dove. It was about four inches longer than the Dove, upper parts a bluish color in place of the brown of the Dove.



Drawing by Nat. Aud. Soc.

Its breeding range was from northern Indiana to upper Canada and wintered in our southern states. It migrated through this county in vast flocks. My father related to me that at one time a flock so large and dense came over his boyhood home that the sun was obliterated, and so many of them settled in their home orchard that the orchard was almost ruined because so many limbs were broken by the pigeons' weight.

The last flight through Indiana was in 1888 and that was a very small number as compared to former migrations. This bird was killed by the thousands, even wagon

loads of them at times, that when their number was so reduced, they rapidly became extinct.

The last known Passenger Pigeon was in the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens as a specimen and it

died in 1914.

This is a concrete example of the fact that the time to apply conservation measures for wild life is while there is sufficient breeding stock to stage a come back.

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**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO**  
**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO**



**YELLOW-BILLED COCKOO**

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo, length twelve inches, and the Black-billed Cuckoo, length eleven and five-tenths inches, are so alike in appearance and habits they will be described together. Locally they are frequently spoken of as "Rain Crow". If one is heard in the top of a certain tree, you may walk carefully around and around the tree trying to locate it, and it will keep easing itself to the opposite side of the tree top away from you and when it leaves the tree top it will be from the opposite side of the tree from where you are standing. Both varieties are long slender birds with long tails. The Yellow-bill's wing feathers are rufous and the tail feathers are tipped with white, the lower mandible being yellow, while the Black-bill's lower mandible is black.

Both birds nest here, in low trees of bushes. There seems to be quite some interval between egg

deposition as there are often young birds of different ages in the same brood. The feathers of the juvenile remain in their sheaths until the bird is almost ready to leave the nest, giving them a porcupine appearance. When these sheaths burst, they do so very rapidly, and, usually within an hour they are fully feathered and leave the nest.

In the winter they go as far south as the West Indies, Central America, and to South America as far as Argentina.

Economically they are extremely useful. Caterpillars are especially relished by them; "catalpa worms" being choice tid-bits. In an examination of one hundred and nine stomachs they contained 1865 caterpillars, 242 grasshoppers and 291 other insects and spiders. One contained 250 tent caterpillars, and one other 217 fall webworms.

**BARN OWL**

color with a white heart shaped face. It is a permanent resident here, nesting in hollow trees, steeples, and in barns, and lays five to nine (5-9) white eggs in April. It is a very useful Owl, living almost entirely on mice and fortunate indeed is the farmer who has a pair nesting in his woods or barns. It IS protected by law.

All the species of Owls swallow their food whole, so there remains after digestion considerable undigestible material. If the meal is a rodent there will be hair and bones, if the meal is a bird there will be feathers and bones. The stomach, after digestion, rolls up the undigestible parts into a pellet which the owl regurgitates. These pellets can be collected from under the nest and examined, and an experienced naturalist can determine what food constituted the meal.

The Barn Owl, length **eighteen inches (18)** is frequently called **Monkey Faced Owl**. It is buff in

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**EASTERN SCREECH OWL**


The Eastern Screech Owl, length **nine inches (9)**, is a permanent resident here. It has **conspicuous** ear tufts for the size of the bird, being one inch long. In color there

are two phases, rufous and gray. Both phases may be in the same brood, or a brood of four to six may be all one phase. It usually nests in abandoned woodpecker

holes, or other hollows in trees, in April. They frequently take up a winter residence in the farmer's barn, and indeed fortunate the farmer is to have it there, as it will take care of the mouse situation for the season. That was

my first acquaintance with this bird. After father explained its usefulness, he warned that any scaring or disturbing it would result in a wood shed conference.

It is extremely useful and IS protected by law.

### GREAT HORNED OWL



The Great Horned Owl, twenty-two inches (22) long, is a permanent resident. It inhabits the deep woods of large tracts, hence, is extremely rare at this time in our county. In fact, there are only three records of it having nested in our county in the last twenty years. It is the only large owl with ear tufts which are nearly two inches long; hence, there can be no mistake in identifying it if one is fortunate enough to see one.

Its hoot is similar to the Northern Barred Owl but with a much deeper tone. Another difference is the Great Horn's hoot consists of three, four or six hoots while the

Barred Owl consists of eight hoots in two groups of four each.

It is frequently spoken of as "a tiger among birds," and is the only one of our owls that takes poultry and birds. The Government many years ago investigated it and found in one hundred and twenty-seven (127) stomachs examined, thirty-one (31) contained poultry and game birds, eight (8) other birds, thirteen (13) mice, sixty-five (65) mammals, one (1) fish, ten (10) insects, and seventeen (17) were empty.

It is NOT protected by law. It is the only bad owl we have and the only one not protected by law.

**SNOWY OWL**

The Snowy Owl is a rare winter visitor to our county. In fact, we have only one record of it having visited us in the last ten years. Its length is twenty-five inches (25). It is white, faintly barred with gray or brown. It only visits us when the frozen north of Canada during the winter renders it impossible to secure its living. Its economic value might be questioned if there were many of them here.

In an examination of twenty-seven stomachs, two had game birds in them; nine, other birds; eighteen, mice; two, other mammals, and twelve were empty.

Audubon, in his extensive travels claims to have observed this owl strike down ducks, pigeons and grouse on the wing, much as does the duck hawk.

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**SHORT EARED OWL**

The Short Eared Owl, length fifteen inches (15), is a resident of the prairies and there is no record of it ever having nested in our county. It is brown in color with a streaked pattern. Its ear tufts of feathers are so small one would not distinguish them in the field, and indeed, they are even difficult to distinguish when one has the bird in hand. In winter they travel

in flocks and are never seen in the woods but over the fields and marshes, and generally visit territories overrun with field mice. It has visited our county on numerous occasions. They are welcome whenever they want to come as they are extremely useful to the farmer. They ARE protected by law.

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### NORTHERN BARRED OWL



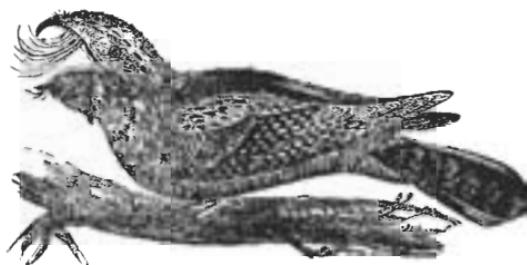
The Northern Barred Owl, twenty inches (20) long, is a permanent resident. It is grayish-brown in color, the feathers barred with white, horizontal on the breast and streaked lengthwise on the belly. No ear tufts, and is our only owl with dark brown eyes. all others have yellow eyes. They hoot with eight distinct hoots in group of

four i.e. hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo—hoo-hoo-hoo-hooah.

The Barred Owl nests both in hollow trees and also in old Crow's and Hawk's nests and lays from two to four white eggs, usually in March.

It is a very useful Owl, seldom taking poultry, usually eats field mice. It IS protected by law.

## EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL



The Eastern Whip-poor-will, length ten inches, is more often heard than seen. It is a nocturnal bird and one seldom sees it on the wing during the day, unless by chance you accidentally flush it. It then flies away, reminding one of the flight of a moth, and, as a rule, it does not fly far, alighting, if possible, on a log, sitting lengthwise where its mottled brown color so well blends with the bark that it seems to disappear instantly. I once had this experience, and although it settled on a log only about forty feet away from where I stood, it seemed to literally dissolve. Keeping my eyes glued to the exact spot where it settled, I carefully approached the spot and never was I able to see the bird until I came within about eight feet of the spot, when it again flew away. Only on

such occasions can one see it has a large white spot on the end of the tail, or a fine white line under the chin; that is, if it happens to be a male, if a female, one sees no color.

No nests, if they can be called that, as the nest is only a slight depression in the leaves of the forest floor, have been reported from this county, although it nests from the Gulf States to Southern Canada. It winters from the Gulf Coast to Central America.

Its song is a succession of "whip-poor-wills," never seeming to end the constant repeating of its name after dusk until well into the night.

It has an extremely large mouth with long bristles on the sides that comb in the insects as it gathers them from the air.

## EASTERN NIGHTHAWK



The Eastern Nighthawk, length ten inches, so nearly resembles the Whip-poor-will in color and habits that one must see it on the wing to see the difference. In flight it has a large white patch on the wing which the Whip-poor-will does not have. The Nighthawk has a wider throat band.

The Nighthawk, although having "hawk" in its name, is not even related to the Hawks. Its flight, more often in the daytime than at night, is erratic and resembles that of a bat, hence, it is often spoken of locally as the "Bull-bat."

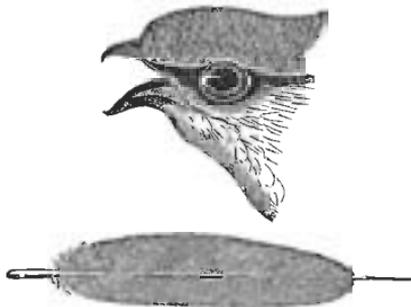
It nests from upper Canada to the Gulf States and nests here in quite some numbers. It really does not build a nest, but deposits its eggs on any gravelly surface,

especially on flat gravel roofs, or on a gravelly spot on the ground. The eggs so well blend with the gravel it is difficult to locate them. It winters in the Argentina of South America.

It also has a very large mouth with which it scoops up insects of the air while on the wing. While feeding in its aerial element it frequently, during day or night, utters a loud nasal note, "peent."

Both the Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will are extremely useful birds. The Nighthawk is very plentiful here and the Whip-poor-will only an occasional visitor.

#### CHIMNEY SWIFT



Detail of Chimney Swift

The Chimney Swift, length five and five-tenths inches, looks like a "cigar with wings" as the tail is very pointed, the tail feathers ending in a long bristle as the shaft extends beyond the veins, which easily catches on the side of the chimney wall and acts as a brace or support on which most of its body weight rests.

It is a sooty black in color with long narrow wings and resembles a Swallow, which gives rise to the local name of Chimney Swallow, however, it is not related to the Swallows.

It breeds from Southern Canada to the Gulf States but is more plentiful in the north. Only recently has it been learned where it winters as after it left the southern U. S. or Mexico, its whereabouts have been a mystery—so shrouded in mystery that a legend sprung up that they buried themselves in the mud. Just the past season thirteen leg bands from Chimney Swifts, shot by Indians in Peru of

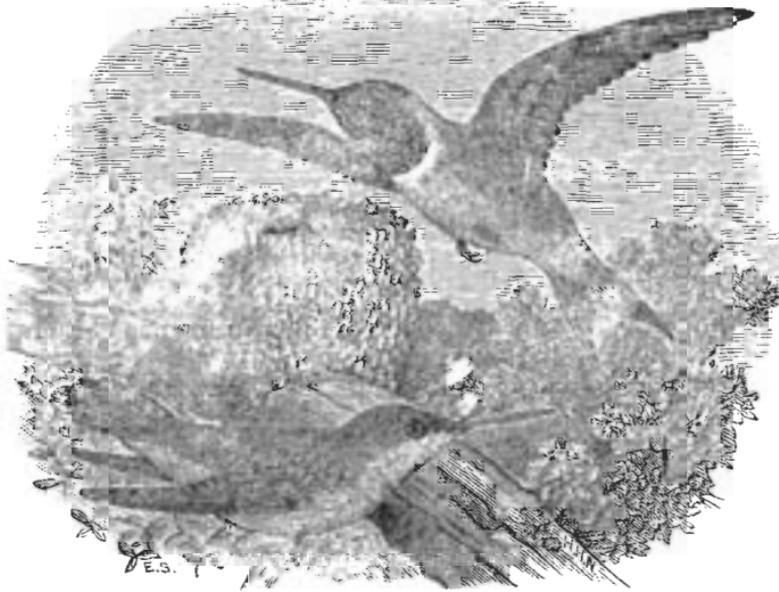
South America, which through missionaries found their way to the American Embassy there, to be sent to our U. S. Fish and Wildlife Government Department. These birds were banded during the years 1936 to 1940. Eight were banded in Tennessee, and one each from Illinois, Conn., Ala., Ga., and Ontario, Canada.



The Chimney Swift gathers insects from the air and is very useful. Its nest is one of the architectural wonders of bird's nests. While on wing the Swift breaks off a twig end which is taken to the chimney nest site and glued to the chimney wall by a saliva secreted by the bird. Other twigs are glued to form a bracket-like basket on which the white eggs are laid.

#### RUBY-THROATED HUMMING BIRD

The Ruby-throated Humming Bird, length three and seven-tenths inches, is the only humming bird we have of the eight species visiting the United States, a small number indeed, when there are five hundred species known, all of which are found in the New World.



It has a long needle like bill, has extremely rapid wing movement, upper parts a bright metallic green, breast and belly a dusky white. The male has a ruby patch on the throat. It has only a one note song, or squeak, which it only seems to utter as a warning or distrust. It is very aggressive, often fighting among themselves but does not hesitate attacking other birds many times its size when they trespass on its territory.

The speed of its wing movements has been the source of considerable investigation. No ordinary motion picture camera or still camera ever approached the speed necessary to stop its wing movement on the negative. Finally the engineers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology devised an electric flash and camera combined, used in pho-

tographing the flight of a bullet fired from a rifle. This was finally tried on the humming bird's wings. This apparatus was capable of making five hundred and fifty exposures per second, each exposure 1/100,000 part of a second. The results were, it was discovered, the hummer's wings could reach a speed of eighty completes per second. It is the only bird that can fly backwards, when the occasion demands.

It breeds from Southern Canada to the Gulf Coast, where it saddles its nest on a limb, constructed of plant down and covered with lichens. It winters in Mexico and Central America.

Its food consists of minute insects many of which it gathers at the bottom of tubular flowers where it also sips the flower nectar.

### EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER

The Eastern Belted Kingfisher is thirteen inches long. It is a big-headed blue bird, with a ragged crest, one sees along our streams. The throat and belly are white, divided with a broad belt of bluish gray. It often perches on a limb over the water. It is a fish eating bird and as it flies over the water it spies a suitable fish, and hovers momentarily for confirmation, and plunges head first into the water,

grabs its meal in its bill, emerges, shakes its plumage free from water, and flies away with a rattling call of exultation.

It nests in holes in the side of banks, often as much as six feet deep, where from five to eight white eggs are laid. It is not uncommon for them to remain here all winter if the water is open, but the majority of them migrate southward, some even going as far



as the West Indies and Columbia.

In June, 1924, I banded a nest of Kingfisher fledglings that nested in the gravel bank by the Hurlock cemetery, southeast of Noblesville. One of these birds was shot Dec. 7th, 1924, on the banks of Rio Grande River, between Texas and Mexico. Investigation shows the majority of the fish taken on our streams are varieties with little food value. However, when one takes up its residence near a fish hatchery it will do considerable damage.

The Kingfisher's foot is particularly interesting in that it has two of its digits almost completely united, called a syndactyle foot.

The Kingfisher has another trait worth calling attention to. Like the Owls, the Kingfisher's stomach rolls up the indigestible parts, such as bones and scales, and regurgitates them as pellets.

#### NORTHERN FLICKER

The Northern Flicker, length twelve inches, is the largest woodpecker one is likely to see in our county. It is the only woodpecker predominately brown in color. Its underneath parts, particularly the wings and tail, are yellow, hence, it is sometimes called the Yellow Hammer. It has a red band on the back of its head, its rump is white, and has a distinct black band be-

neath its throat. Its flight is undulating.

Although a woodpecker, but, unlike the others, it spends much of its time on the ground, for there is where it secures much of its food. It is very fond of ants, and spends much time probing ant hills where it inserts its long, sticky tongue to which the ants cling thus providing the bird with a delicious meal. It also takes other insects as well as some wild fruit, the berries of the **poison ivy being one of its favorites.**



The Flicker's display at mating time is very interesting. The male approaches the coy female, and with much nodding and swinging of his head, and spreading of tail and wings, he courts the lady of his dreams with an ardor unsurpassed.

#### RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

The Red-bellied Woodpecker, length nine inches, is one of the handsomest, and also, probably the scarcest woodpeckers that visit our county. It is a common bird of the Southern States but has extended its range northward in limited numbers. It even spends the winters here occasionally. In the male the whole top of the head and back of the neck is scarlet. In the female the scarlet is confined to the

nape. The back is barred regularly with black and white which gives the bird a local name in some southern regions as Zebra Woodpecker.

I have had a pair nest regularly in our woods for several years and have found nests as low as sixteen feet and again as high as eighty feet. It nests in May.

Like most woodpeckers, it is a very useful bird in ridding our trees of borers and larvae of numerous insects.

Today, Jan. 4, 1945, temperature fifteen degrees above zero, as I am writing this, one is feeding just outside my window on sunflower seed provided for it.

All the woodpeckers have pointed stiffened tail feathers, which they use as props while they cling to the bark with their toes, two of which are directed forward and two backward; frequently spoken of as "yoke-toed" or more properly called a zygodactyle foot.



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### RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

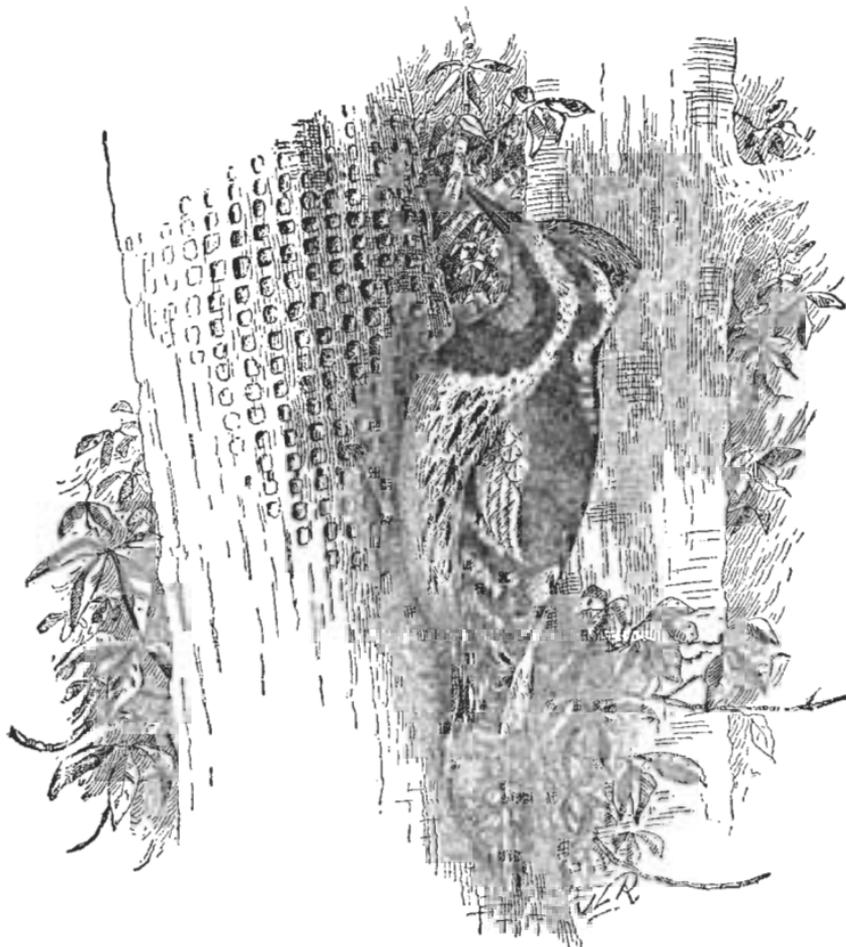


The Red-headed Woodpecker, length nine inches, like most Woodpeckers, having some red on their head, but in this case it being the only Woodpecker with the entire head and neck red. Its back is black except for large white patches on the wings. The belly is white. It nests in holes in dead stubs and trees, and in the past few years has used telephone poles extensively. This is a case where it adapted itself to modern conveniences that turned out to be very damaging to perpetuating itself. It has not learned to avoid automobiles. With

its nest hole in a telephone pole along the highway and if it happens to be on the opposite side of the road and an automobile approaches, it starts for home and, in Woodpecker fashion, approaches the pole with a dip and upswing so that at the time of alighting it is traveling upward instead of head on. This dip is usually right in the path of the oncoming car, hence the collision results in its death. This is thought to be responsible, in a great measure, for their scarcity now as compared to former years.

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### YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER



The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, length eight and five tenths inches (8.5), has many distinguishing marks, however, it is the only wood-

pecker with a red patch on the forehead in both male and female. The male throat is red while the female's throat is white. One of

the best field marks to look for is the white patch on the otherwise black wing. It has a white line running from the bill below the eye. The belly is a pale yellow.

It is a Summer resident here, arriving in late February or early March, or about the time sugar sap is running. They depart late in the Fall and spend the winters from Southern Indiana to the Gulf Coast, some going as far as Cuba, the Bahamas and Costa Rica.

It nests in holes in dead trees as other woodpeckers do, usually quite high. They frequent living trees for their food, where they perforate

the bark by pecking until the sap is reached on which it feeds along with what insects the sap attracts. While it destroys many injurious insects, especially grasshoppers, yet it does do considerable damage to forest trees. While the tree is not killed, often fungi damage the wood where the pits are bored thus leaving ugly spots so that it cannot be used in cabinet work.

This is the only woodpecker we have here that has anything objectionable about it, and it is scarce enough so that its good points more than off set its bad points.

### EASTERN HAIRY WOODPECKER AND NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER



#### EASTERN HAIRY WOODPECKER

These two woodpeckers will be considered together as they are so alike in every respect except size. The Downy is six and five-tenths (6.5) inches long while the Hairy measures eight and five-tenths (8.5) inches. They are both permanent. The Downy being the much more common here of the two, my observation being about ten to one. Both are similar in pattern, spotted with black and white, with the males having a small red area on

the back of the head. However, the females are without this patch as are also the juveniles. About the only pattern difference is that in the Downy the outer tail feathers are white with black bars. These bars are difficult to see unless one is quite close to the bird or has the use of field glasses.

Both nest in holes they excavate in dead limbs. Their song is a series of notes with descending pitch; some contend the Downy

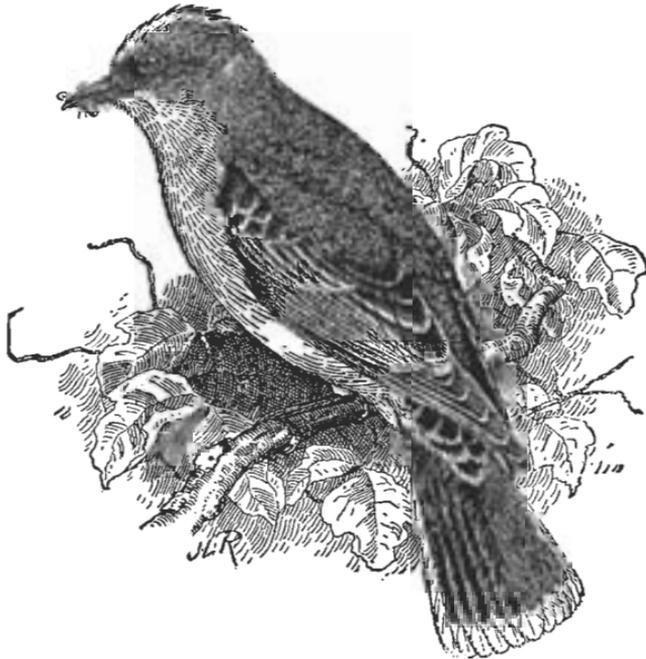
note is "pik" while the Hairy says "peek."

They are guardians of tree trunks, ever on the search for grubs, larvae, beetles and borers hidden under the bark or in the wood. If in the wood, they can tell by the resonance while tapping the wood where they dig a hole to the borer and insert their long

barbed tongue to extricate the insect.

Our orchards, shade, and forest trees owe much to the vigilance of these feathered policeman. If you want to attract them to your food tray in the winter hang up some beef suet on a post or tree trunk and you will surely have them for dinner guests.

### EASTERN KINGBIRD



The Eastern Kingbird, length eight and five-tenths inches, is black above and white underneath. When it flies a white band around the end of the tail is very conspicuous. If you are fortunate you may see a slight red mark on the crown, however, this is usually concealed.

The Eastern Kingbird belongs to a family called Flycatchers, none of which has very well developed songs. A characteristic of the family is that they perch on a twig and await the coming along of a choice insect through the air, when instantly they dart out, and if you are near enough you may hear a perceptible click of the bill as the insect is captured. They again return to the same favored perching

twig and await the next aerial tid-bit.

The Kingbird is sometimes called the "Bee Martin" a term that might suggest it eats bees, and as a matter of fact, they do, but investigation proves them to be drones and not the useful workers. To determine this, six hundred and sixty-five stomachs of the Kingbird were examined, and altogether there were sixty-one honey bees, fifty-one of which were drones. Altogether, there were ten thousand insects in this series of stomachs, nineteen stomachs contained robberflies, which are enemies of the honey bee.

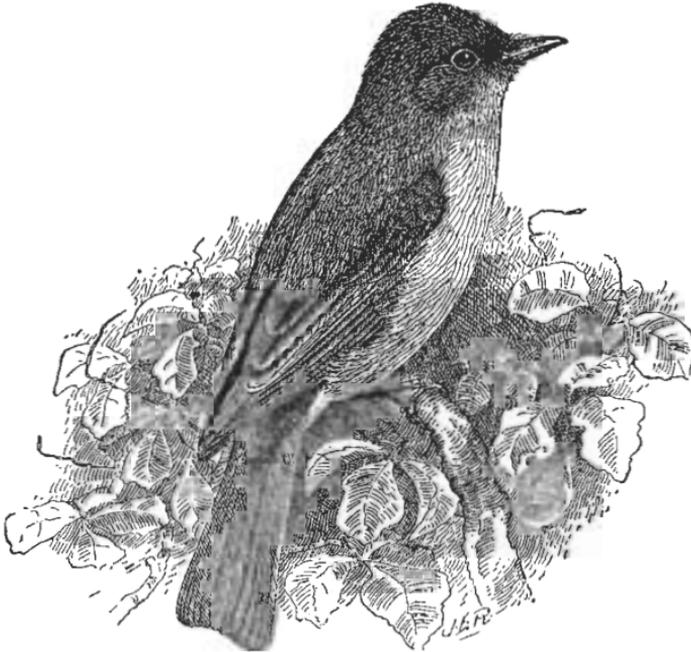
They nest in May and spend their winters in Mexico, Central America, and northern South America.

**NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER**

The Northern Crested Flycatcher, length nine inches, is the longest Flycatcher you will meet here, and is the only Flycatcher having a rufous tail. Its throat and breast are gray, and belly yellow, and has a distinct crest. It has a loud shrill call. It nests in holes in trees or posts, and usually has a piece of cast off snake skin in the nest. After nesting here they spend their winters from Mexico to Columbia, South America.

While the late Perry Bray was a rural mail carrier, he discovered one that built in a mail box. Instead of the usual cast off snake skin woven in the nest, it had instead a portion of skin from the carcass of an opossum.

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**EASTERN PHOEBE**


The Eastern Phoebe, length seven inches, is gray brown above and whitish below. It is constantly wagging its tail. Its persistent call, "phoe-be", and its black bill are points to distinguish it by. Its mud lined nest decorated with mosses are found under our bridges

or on back porches. This is a joy to any bird lover who is fortunate enough to have one in the latter location, as we have had, where each hour of the day we could watch their family life.

Many years ago John James Audubon suspected that birds, af-

ter wintering in the south, came back to the same nest site the next year. So, to prove his suspicions, he caught some Phoebes and placed a small silver wire about one of their legs and resulted in proving his suspicions to be correct, for the same bird with the silver anklet returned to his nest site the next spring. That was probably the first Bird Banding for bird study ever attempted. It seldom goes beyond the Gulf Coast for the winter.

#### **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER**

The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, length five and five-tenths inches, is the yellowest of all our Flycatchers. It is a rare migrant through here and nests in the evergreens of the north, and spends its winters in the same general area as the others. Its call is somewhat similar to that of the Wood Pewee.

#### **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**

The Acadian Flycatcher, length five and five-tenths inches, is the greenest of all our small Flycatchers. Its characteristic note is probably "peet". Its range and breeding area are similar to the Northern Crested Flycatcher.

#### **ALDER FLYCATCHER**

The Alder Flycatcher, length six inches, is the brownest of all our smaller Flycatchers. Its characteristic note is "pep". It is more often found in shrubby thickets than in deep woods. It nests here and winters in similar places as the former two.

#### **LEAST FLYCATCHER**

The Least Flycatcher, length five inches, is the smallest of all our small Flycatchers. It has very noticeable white eye rings and two white wing bars. Its characteristic note is, "che-bec", accented on the last syllable. It nests here and winters the same places as the others.

#### **WOOD PEWEE**

The Wood Pewee, length six inches, is more like the Phoebe than any other bird; a little smaller, does not wag its tail, and has two distinct wing bars. It is a woodland bird and its plaintive

call, "pee-a-wee", is unlike any other bird. It saddles its nest on a limb of a tree from twenty to forty feet up and covers it with lichens so that it appears to be a knot on the limb. It frequently winters as far south as Peru, South America.

#### **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER**

The Olive-sided Flycatcher's length is seven inches. Its throat, middle of belly and line through center of breast is white, and there is a tuft of yellowish white feathers on each flank. It is a rare migrant through here, nests farther north, and winters in the same general area as other flycatchers. If you are fortunate to hear its call it may sound like "come-right-here."

#### **PRAIRIE HORNED LARK**

The Prairie Horned Lark, length, seven (7) inches, has two horn like tufts of feathers, one on each side of the head. It has a black collar under the yellow throat. A yellow



#### **PRAIRIE HORNED LARK**

forehead extending back as a line over the eye, black head and black streak from bill backwards under the eye. The body is a grayish brown.

This bird is probably a permanent resident here although one seems to never see them except in winter as flocks, and in early spring as pairs. They are always on the ground. I never saw one perch in a tree although one sometimes alights on a fence post. Always in open fields where it always walks, and never hops.

If you come across them in the field they will frequently run ahead of you some distance before

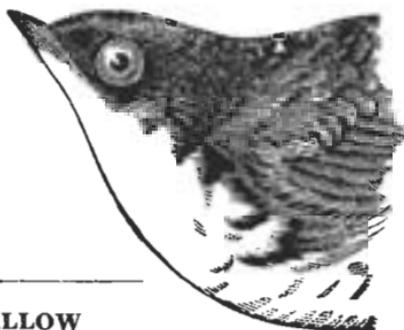
flushing. When it does fly you probably hear a faint whistle. In the spring the low song may be heard while it is perched on a clod, but may also be heard as it soars upward, much as they say the Old World Skylark does. Just about dawn is the best time to

hear this ariel song.

It nests on the ground very early, even in March, and young may be found in these ground nests with snow over the nest. They are not plentiful in this county but if you search for them in open fields you no doubt can find them.

### TREE SWALLOW

The Tree Swallow, length six inches, has a metallic greenish back with all the underparts a clear white. It may be seen here during migration. It nests in holes, preferably in trees, from northern Indiana to Central Canada. They winter along the Gulf Coast to Central America.



### BANK SWALLOW

The Bank Swallow, length five inches, is much duller in color than the Rough-winged Swallow, and has a darkish band across the light breast. Another anatomical difference you may note if you ever have a chance to have one in the hand, is that it has a small tuft of feathers above the hind toe, which the Rough-winged does not have.

The nests are built in colonies in sandy banks and are usually from two to three feet deep.

The Bank Swallow migrates through here and nests in the northern part of Indiana northward to near the tree limit. It winters in Mexico, Central America and northern South America.



Bank Swallow Nests, Webster Lake, Ind.

**ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW**

The Rough-winged Swallow, length six inches, is a brown-backed Swallow, usually observed along our streams, where they frequently nest in an abandoned rodent hole, but sometimes in the holes about bridge abutments. I do not believe they ever dig a hole

in its entirety. If you are fortunate enough to examine a specimen in the hand, note the first primary feathers on the outer side have recurved hooklets. This accounts for its name.

It winters from Central Mexico to Costa Rica and nests as far north as upper United States.

**BARN SWALLOW**

The Barn Swallow, length seven inches, is the only deeply forked tail swallow we have. It has a throat and forehead with a rich buff color, the breast and belly a much lighter buff with the upper parts a steel blue color. All the tail feathers, except the middle ones, have white spots on them.

They build their nests of mud and grasses on rafters, joists, or plates of barns and other buildings. Occasionally they nest as a single pair but often several pair will

occupy the same barn. We had thirteen nests in our barns during the past season.

They winter as far south as Argentina and Chile, and breed as far north as Alaska.

**NORTHERN CLIFF SWALLOW**

The Northern Cliff Swallow, length six inches, has a white forehead, top of head blue, throat tan, underparts light, and upper parts steel blue.

This bird is a very rare migrant through here, none has been re-

ported for several years. It nests as far north as the Arctic and winters in Brazil and Argentina. It used to nest in great numbers all over Indiana, building a jug shaped nest of mud under the eaves of our barns and was usually given the name "Eaves Swallow".

**PURPLE MARTIN**

Photo. by S. A. Grimes

The Purple Martin, length eight inches, is our largest Swallow. The male is a gleaming blue-black, with the wings and tail having a less brilliant sheen. The female is duller in color and has a much lighter breast.

All the Swallows glean their living of insects from the air, while on the wing, and are most useful. The Purple Martin is a very so-

ciable bird and nests in colonies. If you travel through our southern states you will note that many of the shanties have a pole erected near by and from cross arms a number of dipper gourds will be swinging, each occupied by a pair of Purple Martins. Here in the north where our seasons are too short to successfully raise gourds, we erect Martin houses with numerous rooms that will surely attract this interesting feathered friend to live near us. Our greatest difficulty in maintaining a colony of Martins is to control, or discourage, the English Sparrow and the Starling from usurping the nests provided for the Martins until the colony arrives, which in this territory is in March. Each colony seems to arrive on about a certain day. In our own case, the date has invariably been March 23rd over a period of years. Much experimenting has been done on the most efficient nests and the following is recommended by leading biologists.

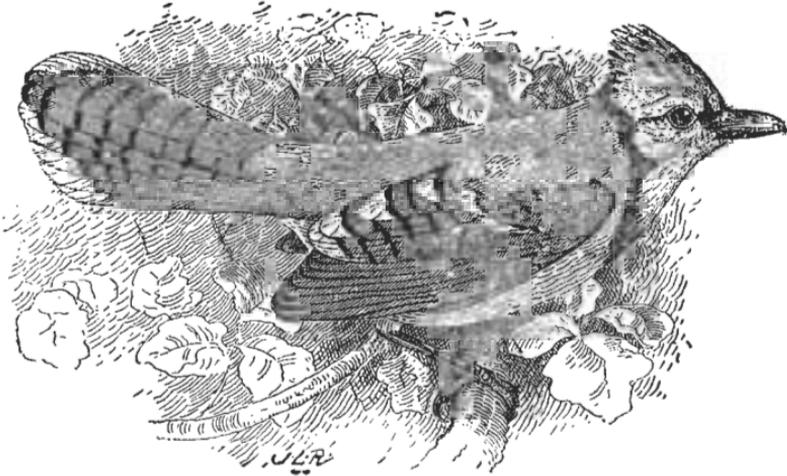
Make the rooms 6x6x6 inches with the hole one and one-half inches in diameter and set one-half inch above the floor of the nest box, so that as the bird leaves the nest they will not drag out an egg. Erect the Martin house on a pole 12 or 15 feet high away from trees or buildings for best results.

The Purple Martin winters in Brazil, South America, and nests as far northwest as Central Alaska.



Purple Martin House in a Flower Garden.

## NORTHERN BLUE JAY



The Northern Blue Jay, usually spoken of here as a Jay Bird, is a permanent resident. It is eleven and five-tenths (11.5) inches long, with a crest, blue above and dusty white below.

It builds a nest of twigs, lined with rootlets, usually in a crotch of a tree on an average about fifteen feet from the ground. Although we usually think of the Blue Jay as a rather noisy fellow yet about the nest tree he is very quiet, going and coming silently and do not be surprised if you find his nest quite close to your home, if indeed you are lucky enough to even find it.

The Blue Jay with his bright blue coat to brighten the winter landscape and his ever presence makes us admire him for his braggadocio complex.

He enjoys and promotes friendships among his Jay friends and they are a constant torment to other birds of the neighborhood by their aggressiveness. When

spring comes and his thoughts turn to love he is quite docile around his own home and appears to be a model husband. However, away from the home nesting tree he is not adverse to robbing other birds' nest of their eggs and nestlings.

Thus, he is maligned by many bird students and there seems to be much to justify this belief; yet many bird students' experience, on the other hand, do not bear this out in the extreme.

Scientific investigation is probably the best evidence we should rely on before we form an opinion. In the examination of 292 stomachs only 3 contained egg shells of wild birds, 11 contained egg shells of domestic fowl. Of the food, 75% was vegetable matter, 25% animal matter. Of the latter, 23% were insects (19% of which were nocuous species). In another test for the month of February only 1% were insects while in August 66% were insects, mostly grasshoppers, crickets, and locusts.

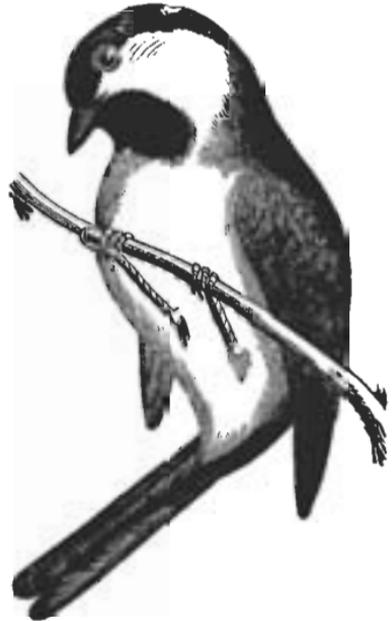
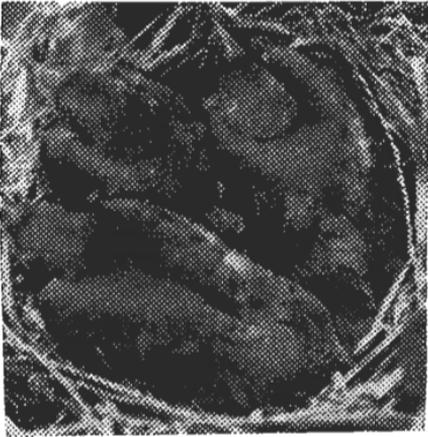
## EASTERN CROW

The Eastern Crow, 19 inches long, is so well known that a description is unnecessary for this large black bird. They nest in tree crotches 30 feet high, and upwards. He has

few friends and they are lukewarm. Most everyone is out to "get him", yet his cunning and ability to adjust himself to conditions as he becomes too numerous in a locality his bad overbalances his good and

steps should be taken to keep his numbers within reasonable bounds.

Probably no other bird has been investigated more thoroughly by



**BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE**

U. S. scientists to ascertain his true economic value. An investigation of stomach contents at one season may condemn him without question while a similar investigation at another season shows unmistakable evidence in his favor.

However, with the thousands that have been killed in this state in recent years yet each territory has its usual carrying capacity.

While it is considered a permanent resident with us as it can be observed every month of the year, yet great flocks go farther south for brief feeding excursions each winter. It is NOT protected by law.

#### **BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE**

The Black-capped Chickadee is five inches long. It has, as its name implies, a black cap but also has a black bib; otherwise white and grayish in color. It is constantly calling, "chic-a-dee-dee" from whence it gets its name. However, do not be surprised if at mating time you hear it saying, or singing, "phe-be".

It nests in holes in posts or stubs, usually one a woodpecker has started, and the industrious chickadee finishes. There is one notable difference in method of excavating. A woodpecker lets the chips fall where they will while the chickadee carries them away from the hole site before dropping them.

They may be found in the forest far away from humans or they may

nest in your door yard. One built in a cherry stub within twelve feet of our side door where they reared their family of five.

Soon after the various families are reared they unite with other chickadee families in a loose flock for the winter. They glean their living in a variety of ways. They search for food from not only the trunk of a tree and from bough and terminal branches but from the ground and weed stocks. Frequently when they alight on a small branch do not be surprised if they grip the branch from the underside and hang up side down while searching for insects about the leaves or buds.

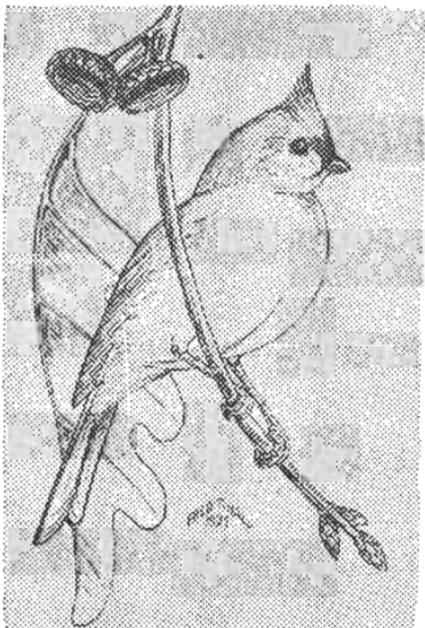
They are very beneficial as one government research determined that 70% of their diet consisted of insects and 30% from seeds.

They will readily come to your feeding station for crumbs, seeds, or suet.

#### **TUFTED TITMOUSE**

The Tufted Titmouse is a permanent resident of our county. It is six (6) inches in length and has a gray back with underparts whitish and has a pronounced crest. It nests in deserted woodpecker holes.

It constantly whistles, "peto, peto, peto", for seemingly hours at a time. This is a rather pleasing note



**TUFTED TITMOUSE**  
Drawing by Fred Hall

but becomes tiresome. Many people call it "Sugar Bird" as they notice it more frequently when gathering sugar maple sap. Occasionally it whistles, "de-de-de-de" not unlike a chickadee.

It is a very useful bird, eating many injurious insects, weed seed and galls. During winter it associates in loose flocks with nuthatches and chickadees. It is easily attracted to your feeding station for suet and seeds.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH**  
**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH**

The Red-breasted Nuthatch—length four and one-half (4.5) inches, and the White-breasted Nuthatch, length five and one-half (5.5) inches, will be considered together. The White-breasted Nut-



**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH**

hatch with its white breast, a black cap and blue-gray back is a permanent resident, while the Red-breasted Nuthatch, although similar to the White, yet smaller and with the breast somewhat buff. It also has a distinct black line through the eye and is a winter resident only with us.

The White-breasted Nuthatch nests in holes in trees, usually old woodpecker holes.

Both these Nuthatches have one characteristic exclusively assigned to their family, i. e., they can run as easily down a tree trunk as they can run up in search of insects, their eggs or larva. They associate in flocks with other winter birds such as Downy Woodpeckers, Chickadees and Tufted Titmice.

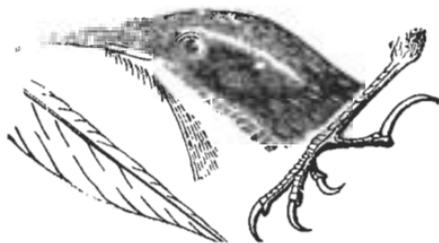
They are great bluffers, for if another bird ventures too close to him, he swells out his feathers and screams, "yank! yank!" However, if the aggressor stands his ground the Nuthatch will quickly retire.

One almost thinks the, "yank! yank!" is his only song, but if fortunate enough to observe him at mating time you may hear a monotone, "hah- hah -hah -hah -hah". Maybe you can call that a song.

They are very useful birds, as most of their diet is of injurious insects. They are easily attracted to your feed shelf if there is suet available.

**BROWN CREEPER**

The Brown Creeper is about five and one-half (5.5) inches long. It is a little brown bird with a long stiff pointed tail. Its rather long bill is slightly curved. Its general color



matches the color of the bark of trees very well, from which it glean its food.

Here it is a winter resident although in Northern Indiana it

occasionally breeds. However, it is found plentiful in Southern Canada for its summer residence.

It gleans the bark of trees for insects, eggs and larvae hidden in the crevices of the bark, and with its curved bill he can explore under the loose edges of the bark for hidden tid-bits.

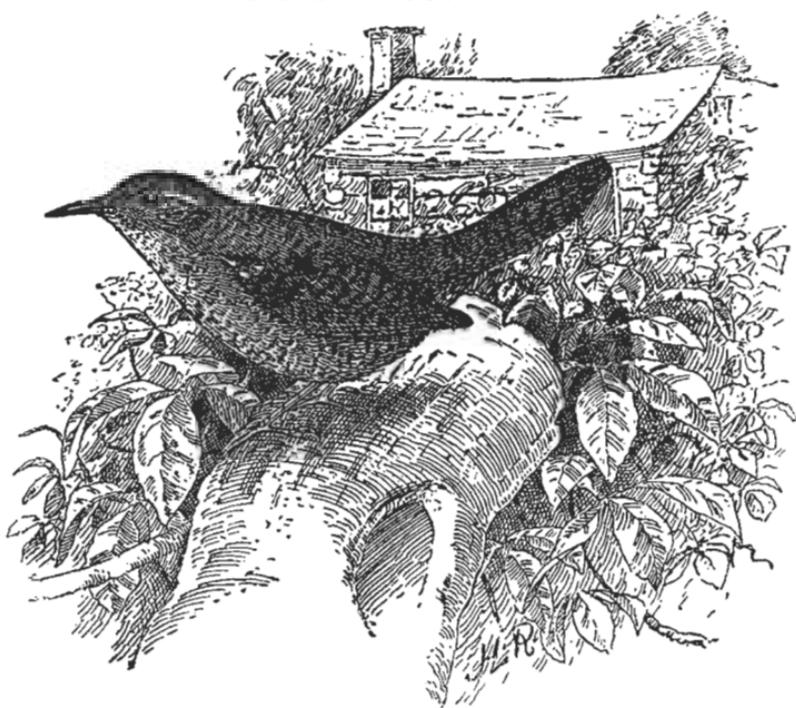
It starts its incessant search for food by alighting near the base of a tree and immediately starts his upward creep in spiral fashion, and around and around it creeps until the top is reached, when, without a moment's rest, it drops to the base of another tree and starts his in-

cessant circling ascent again. Never rave I found one at rest. Occasionally you may hear a few low squeaky notes, not much of a song, but to the bird it passes for a song.

When the bird watcher finds a Brown Creeper he is struck with the idea of being completely ignored as it may alight within arm's length of him where it again begins its circular creep without showing any signs of fear or concern of the watcher.

Any bird hike through the woods in the winter may bring you the thrill of seeing this interesting and useful bird.

### EASTERN HOUSE WREN



The Eastern House Wren, length five inches, is too well known to need much description. A cinnamon brown bird of incessant energy, with tail held over the back except when in song, at which time it usually droops. The males arrive first in the spring and almost immediately begin carrying sticks into numerous nest boxes, and when the female arrives she selects one in which to rear her family, and it is usually the one she had last year.

She carries in and builds the real nest, the sticks the male carried in were simply the "fill up". The male continues to carry sticks into other holes that appeal to him. These "cock nests" serve two purposes, they provide him with private quarters and may serve as a decoy to nest marauders. House Wrens will use almost any sort of cavity for a nest site. A leaky coffee pot with spout broken off and hung up under the grape arbor is a childhood

remembrance of a House Wren home. If you want to construct a nest box, cut the hole the size of a twenty-five cent piece near the upper part of the box and make them as single boxes, as House Wrens

are not sociable enough to share an apartment having more than one suite.

They nest as far north as Central Canada and winter as far south as the Gulf Coast.

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#### EASTERN WINTER WREN



The Eastern Winter Wren, length four inches, is our smallest Wren, and is only seen here during the winter when no other Wrens are present. He has the shortest tail of all Wrens which he carries erect

most of the time. He often bobs his head. It breeds from Central Canada south to Central Michigan, and much farther south in the Alleghanies.

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#### BEWICK'S WREN

The Bewick's Wren, length five inches, is probably often seen and mistaken for the House Wren. If it has a rather long white-tipped tail and a whitish stripe over the

eye, it is the Bewick. They are not plentiful here and are birds to be looked for to add to your life list of birds. The range is about the same as that of the House Wren.

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#### CAROLINA WREN



The Carolina Wren, length five and five-tenths, is our largest and reddest wren. It has a very distinct white stripe over the eye. It is more a bird of the woods but often builds about our homes. Last season one built in our mail box, and another

between two flower pots on our back porch. His song, although wren-like in quality, has much more volume, almost as shrill a whistle as the cardinal, and sounds like "tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle."

### LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN



The Long-billed Marsh Wren, length five inches, has a white stripe over the eye, also, black and white stripes on its back. It may be seen here during migration about our swamps and cat-tail marshes. It breeds about the lakes

in northern Indiana, and probably would breed here if we had more favorable habitat. He builds a globular nest of cat-tail leaves suspended between the stalks of the plant. One night on a northern Indiana lake the mosquitoes made sleep impossible, and one could hear the Long-billed Marsh Wren continue its song throughout the entire night.

### SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN

The Short-billed Marsh Wren, length four inches, is another migrant here. It is not only an inch shorter than the Long-bill but the markings are almost nil, and instead of finding it in the cat-tails it will be in the grasses at the edge of a marsh. Its range is about the same for both, from Central Canada to Northern Indiana for breeding, and the Gulf States for winter.

### EASTERN MOCKINGBIRD



The Eastern Mockingbird, length ten and five-tenths inches, belongs to the family of mimic birds, three of which may be seen here in our county. This is the familiar Mockingbird seen in the south and which has extended its range northward

until now there are several reported each year from our county. It is non-migratory and when once established in a neighborhood frequently stays all winter. It is about the size of a Robin, only more slender. Its upper parts are an ashy

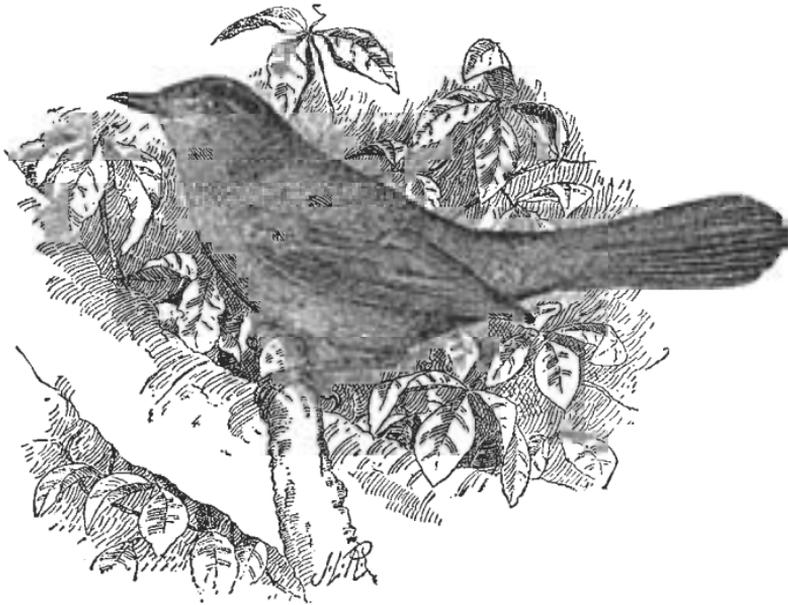
gray in color and the underparts white. It has white patches on the wings and the outer tail feathers are white. The white in the wings and tail are very conspicuous while in flight.

Just two seasons ago there were sixteen pairs of these birds reported from this county, no doubt there were many more. One pair at my place built three nests in low bushes, the first two of which were destroyed by red squirrels.

Its ability as a singer is hardly unsurpassed and many can mimic the songs of a great number of other birds, one having a repertoire

of at least thirty-two different birds. However, most of them do not imitate but a few birds. One thing that can be said is that it is not "stingy with its singing" as it is at it almost continuously, and particularly on a moonlight night will sing the whole night through. It will sit on a top-most branch or on the house-top singing its heart out, the ecstasy reaches such proportions that the bird literally bounces into the air for several feet, with dangling legs, all the while singing, and dropping back to the perch and repeating again and again.

### CATBIRD



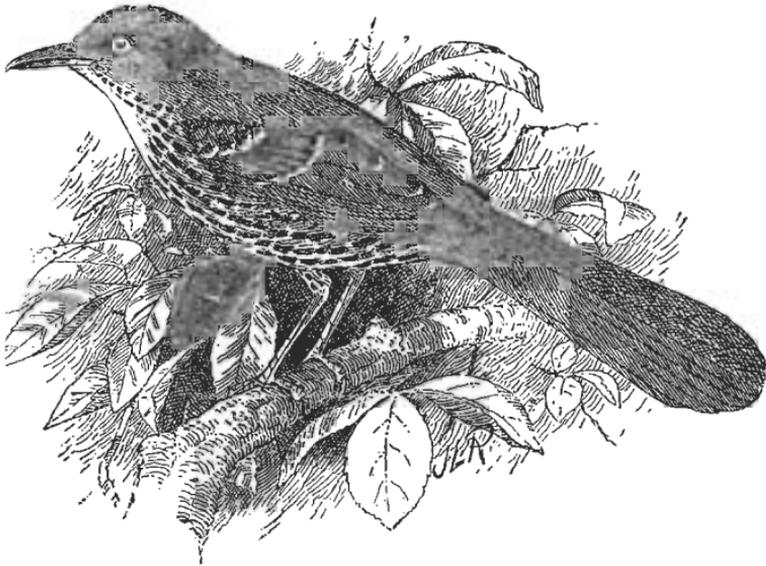
The Catbird, length nine inches, is the smallest of our three mimic birds. It is slate-gray in color, with a black cap and tan under tail-coverts.

It is a summer resident here and spends the winters in southern U. S., to as far as Central America. It nests in thickets and low bushes and vines, often more closely to our homes than does the Brown Thrasher. While seemingly it likes to be near people, yet he often scolds in his characteristic note, like a "cat's mew", from which it probably got its name.

Like the Mocking bird and Brown

Thrasher, it is a mimic bird. It does not repeat its phrases as does the Brown Thrasher, and does not have as large repertoire as the Mocking bird. It has less volume than either but makes up by having richer, clearer tones than either.

The Catbird is a devoted mother to her family and will lend a "helping hand" in rearing any orphaned bird of any other species in her territory. This happened in our own back yard one year when a nest of Cardinals were orphaned and the female Catbird reared them along with her own brood.

**BROWN THRASHER**

The Brown Thrasher, eleven inches long, is the largest of the three mimic birds seen here. Its upper parts is rufous-red solid color. The underparts light with heavy streaks of cinnamon brown. It has a curved bill. This bird is frequently called by the uninformed, "A Brown Thrush." The Thrushes of similar color have spots on the breast instead of streaks as does the Brown Thrasher.

The Brown Thrasher is a summer resident here, building its nest in low brush piles, bushes or vines,

occasionally the nest is on the ground. It winters along the Gulf Coast. He spends most of his time on and near the ground, and in very subdued tones, while in the undergrowth, he seems to rehearse his mimic song. He then mounts to a high branch to pour forth a song in volume almost, if not equal, to that of the Mockingbird; some even think it exceeds in quality the song of the "Mocker." If you will listen closely you will find he invariably repeats each phrase of his song.

**EASTERN ROBIN**

The Eastern Robin, length ten inches, belongs to the Thrush family, evidence of which any bird observer may see by looking at the juvenile's breast, which is prominently speckled.

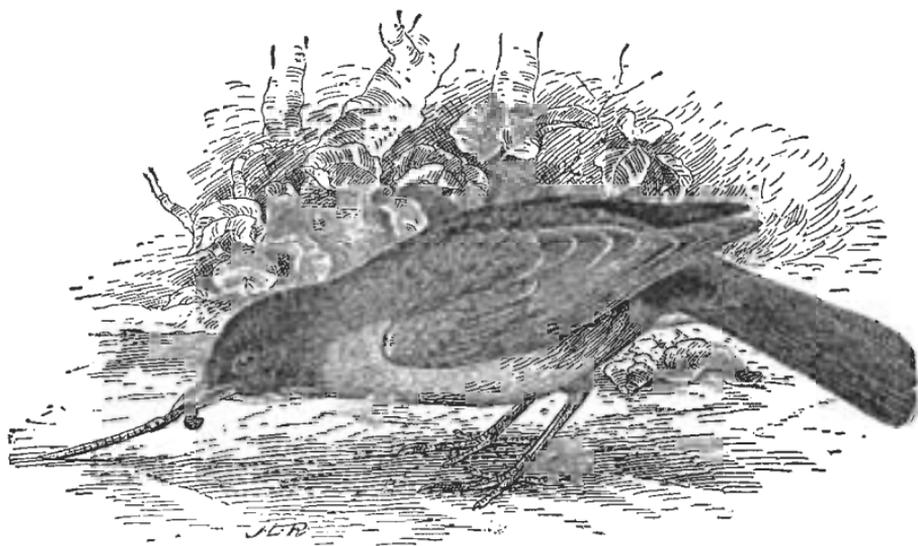
The Robin received its name, which we know it by, because the early Puritans thought it resembled their old world bird friend, the "Robin Red Breast," which foreigner, incidentally, belongs to another family.

The name became so universally used that it still remains the common name of our, "Migratory Thrush," which name would have been more suitable for it.

The Robin's head is black, with a white line both above and below the eye. The upper parts are a gray slate color. The tail is black with the outer tail feathers tipped with white. The breast is a rufous red.

Its breeding range is from the tree limits of the north to a line roughly east and west about the latitude of Tennessee. It winters from southern Indiana to the Gulf Coast. Many times a limited number remain here over winter, especially when the food situation is favorable.

While you can find Robins nesting far away in the woodland, its preference seems to be near human



EASTERN ROBIN

habitations, especially tree crotches. Many odd nest locations are recorded, from on the ground to high window ledges. It prefers to pick its nest site but will, on occasion, use a man made nest platform.

Where Robins are abundant, and wild food is scarce, they will take our garden berries and cherries. As a whole, they are very economical birds to have around as their insect intake more than pays for the small proportion of our fruit they consume. One trait we are all familiar with is its ability to pull an earth worm from the ground

without breaking it. This they will not only eat themselves but also feed their fast growing youngsters. No wonder they grow fast as the worms each fledging will eat in a day equal the weight of the bird itself.

The song of the Robin is varied and, as Frank M. Chapman writes, "offers excellent subjects for the student of bird language. Its notes express interrogation, suspicion, alarm, caution, and it signals to its companions to take wing; indeed, few of our birds have a more extended vocabulary."

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### WOOD THRUSH



The Wood Thrush, length eight inches, is smaller than the Robin. It is a cinnamon-brown above with white underparts heavily spotted

with black, (the Brown Thrasher is a long bird with the breast streaked.) The Wood Thrush is the largest Thrush we have, excepting the Robin.

Its breeding range extends from southern Canada to as far south as Louisiana. It winters in southern Mexico to Costa Rica. It nests here in the undergrowths of our forest borders, rarely lower than eight feet. Occasionally it will come to the shrubby borders of our lawns.

Early in the morning, or late of evening, its liquid, flutelike notes, which is an invitation, as it seems to say, "Come to me", is one of the richest and clearest songs of any of our feathered folk.

**EASTERN HERMIT THRUSH**

The Eastern Hermit Thrush, length seven inches, is not to be mistaken for the Wood Thrush as the Wood Thrush is the reddest on the head while the Hermit Thrush is reddest on the tail. While its throat is heavily spotted they do not extend down on the breast or sides nearly as far as do those on the Wood Thrush.

Its breeding range is from cen-

tral Canada to central Michigan. It winters from the Ohio Valley to Cuba and Texas. There is no record of it nesting in our county.

It is wilder in its disposition, and makes us go to the woodland to see it or hear its beautiful song, which it rarely sings until it reaches its breeding area. The song is, if anything, sweeter in tone than that of the Wood Thrush.

**OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH**

The Olive-backed Thrush, length seven inches, is the same sized bird as the Hermit Thrush but its back is uniformly an olive-brown in color. The throat and breast of the two are similar. If you see this Olive-backed bird, note particularly the side of the face or cheek as its cheeks will be buff in color. Another bird that is very similar in every other respect will have gray cheeks which is the distinguishing feature of the Gray-cheeked Thrush.

It nests in the coniferous forests of Canada and winters from southern Mexico to South America.

During migration it will visit the shrubby borders of our lawns.

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH**

The Gray-cheeked Thrush, length seven and five-tenths inches, is almost a duplicate of the Olive-back except it has a gray cheek, whereas the Olive-back has a buff cheek.

Its breeding range and winter range is similar and while migrating through here may often be found in the same locations as the Olive-back.

**VEERY**

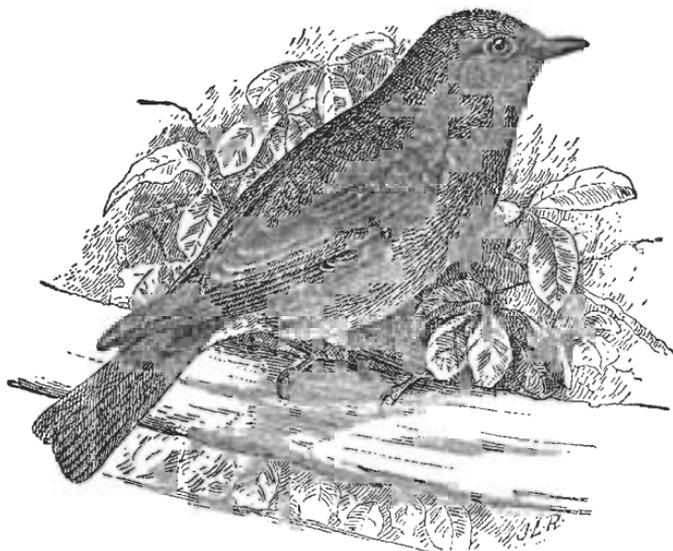
The Veery, length seven and five-tenths inches, is the same size as the former but whose back is a uniform cinnamon-brown as in the Wood Thrush; this bird being smaller and with breast similar to the Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes. The sides of its belly are whiter than of the other two.

It nests from northern Indiana to central Canada. A few records of it nesting here have been made in wet dense woodlands. The winter range is in South America.

The song is rather peculiar monotone of "vee-r-r-hu", repeated as many as seven or eight times. Its call notes are of two syllables clearly whistled, "Too-whee". This bird is sometimes called "Wilson's Thrush".

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD**

The Eastern Bluebird, length seven inches, is also a Thrush. Like the Robin, the juvenile Bluebird's breast is heavily spotted. The male's head, back and wings are a bright blue with breast and belly a rufous red. The female's upper parts are grayish with a suggestion of blue on both head and wings. The underparts are a much paler red than the male.



It is a common summer resident here and winters from southern Indiana to the Gulf Coast. They return very early as flocks of them may be seen as early as February.

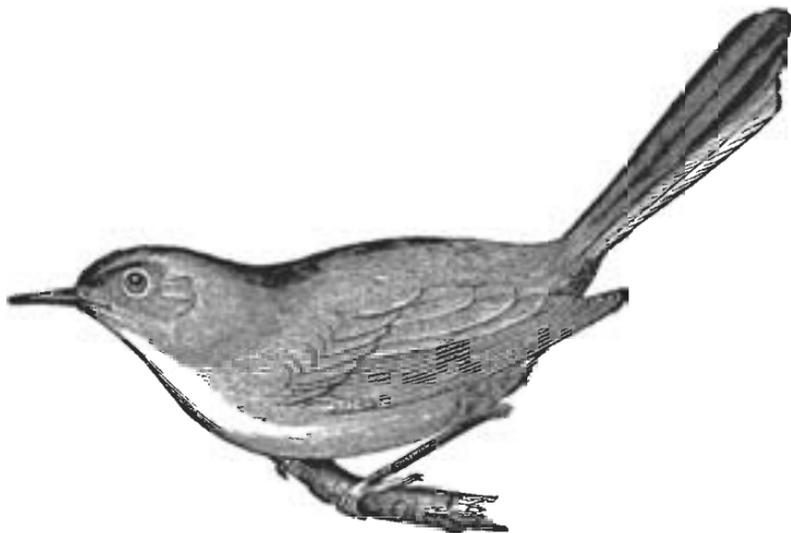
They nest in hollows of trees, or posts, and take readily to bird houses erected for them about our orchards and fences. Any box with a hole one and one-half inches in diameter (placed preferably nearer the top of the box) and nailed to a

fence post will be suitable for them. During 1944 the Blatchley Nature Study Club constructed one hundred of such boxes and distributed them over the county and many of them housed a pair of Bluebirds.

Its cheery warbling song heralds returning spring. This may be from a favorite perch or even while in flight. Like the Robin, it is a very useful bird about our garden and orchard.

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#### BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER



The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, length four and five-tenths inches, is a very small slender bird with a long tail; the body is even smaller than the Black-capped Chickadee. The upper parts are a blue-gray, and the underparts are white. The long tail is white on the outside and black in the center.

Its breeding range is over the entire United States and winters from southern United States to Guatemala.

No nest has ever been reported

from this county but it is found here in nesting season and, no doubt, does nest here. The nest is difficult to find as it is similar, although somewhat larger, to that of the Humming bird. That is, it is saddled on the top of a limb, and appears to be only a protuberance of the limb, and not a nest. It has been my good fortune to have seen one of these nests in the wild, not far from here, but not in this county.

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### EASTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET



The Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, length four inches (4), just two-thirds the size of the English Sparrow, is a "wee mite of a bird" that nests in Southern Canada and in the higher altitudes of the U. S. and migrates southward for the winter to as far as Florida or Mexico. However, they may frequently be seen here in small numbers in

the severest weather. I observed them one Christmas day several years ago when the thermometer stood eight degrees below zero. It has an olive-gray back and has a conspicuous orange crown in the male, and yellow crown in the female, and a white eye stripe over the eye.

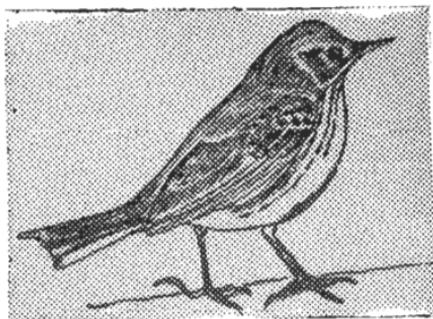
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### EASTERN RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

The Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, length four inches (4), is very similar to its cousin, the Golden-crowned Kinglet, except, in the male there is a ruby red patch on the head. However, it keeps this concealed most of the time, only occasionally it seems to raise this scarlet signal for a brief display, immediately hiding it. The female

does not have the scarlet patch. It has a very decided eye-ring of white. Both these Kinglets are very fidgety little mites. In the Spring when large flocks of them migrate northward, the two species intermingle. They pay little attention to the observer, often working over a tree or shrub within arm's reach of you. It is then your treat to hear their beautiful very low warbling song. They are very useful insect eating birds.

## AMERICAN PIPIT



(Drawing by Mary Esther Brooks.)

The American Pipit, length six inches, is about the size of our Song Sparrow, but is a much more slen-

der bird. Its bill is long. Its upper parts are a grayish brown, the under parts a buff, heavily streaked. The outer tail feathers are white, the tail being wagged almost constantly.

It migrates through here to upper Canada for breeding, and winters from southern United States to Guatemala.

They are birds of the open fields, especially plowed fields. If you meet them there, they will walk or run ahead of you for some distance before flushing when you will hear soft, "dee-dee, dee-dee" notes. You may think they have left your territory but frequently alight near you again.

## CEDAR WAXWING

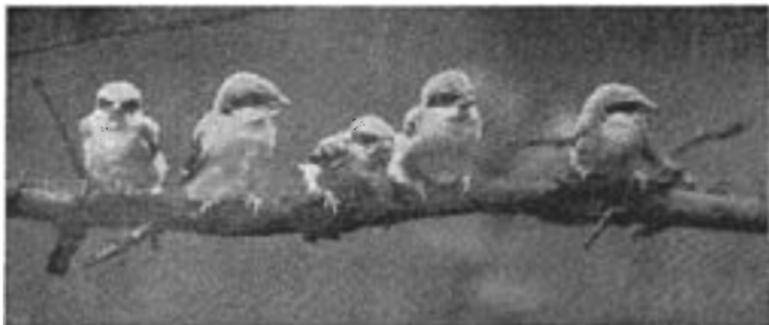


The Cedar Waxwing, length seven inches, is just three inches shorter than the Robin, and is a rich brown colored bird with a striking long crest which it can erect, not only vertical but at times even points forward. Its wings and tail are a soft gray. The tip of the tail is yellow and the end of some of the wing feathers are a sealing-wax red, the belly yellow, and the under tail coverts are white. This is, indeed, one of our handsomest birds, with its rich warm colors. The female, is more somber in color with some streakings of white.

Its breeding range is from Cen-

tral Canada to most of northern United States, occasionally nesting here in our county. It winters over much of the United States and as far south as Jamaica. Only at nesting time, which is somewhat later than most birds, do we see them in pairs. All other times they winter in flocks and are gluttons for small fruit, wild fruit, if available, but when opportunity presents, if the flock is large enough, will almost strip a cherry tree of its fruit. Its laurels rest with its appearance, and not its song, for a few low squeaky whistles about tells the story of the song.

## MIGRANT SHRIKE



The Migrant Shrike, length nine inches, is a big headed gray bird with black wings and tail and a black mask on the face. The under-parts are white. This is sometimes called the Loggerhead Shrike or Butcher-bird. The latter name it receives because it often impales its prey on a thorn or on the barbs of a barbed wire fence, after the fashion of butchers hanging the meat on a hook.

It is an abundant summer resident here and winters in the south-

ern Mississippi valley to Texas.

Its home is along hedge rows, and nests usually in thorn trees, where you may hear a guttural gurgle or squeak, not worthy of being called a song. In Flycatcher fashion, it awaits its prey coming to it before attacking. It may occasionally attack a small bird, but more often large insects such as grasshoppers. When its appetite is satisfied the kills are impaled on a thorn for another meal.

## STARLING

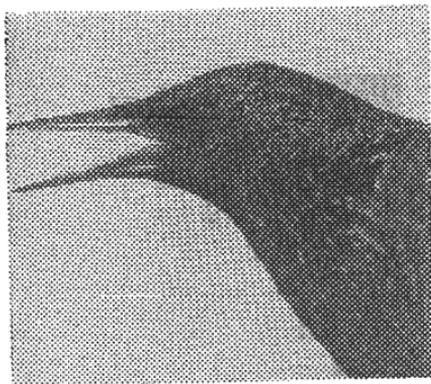


Photo by Rev. J. W. Baecle.

The Starling, eight and five-tenths (8.5) inches long, is an immigrant to this country and is a permanent resident with us. From a distance it is frequently described as a black bird with a short tail. The latter is true, it does have a short tail. The former is not true for the first time one is close enough to really see the bird, will see it is really a purplish green

color covered all over with small white spots. Closer observation over the winter and summer season will also reveal that in winter it has a dark bill but towards spring it changes color to yellow which it wears throughout the summer. The Starling is really a sweet singer at times, although the song is not very loud. It is a mimic bird and one is frequently surprised to hear some favorite bird and upon investigation find it is only the Starling mimicking your favorite bird.

The Starling nests in crevasses of buildings or in holes in trees, often preventing our native birds from these favorite nest sites. Woodpeckers, and Purple Martins are frequently driven out by them. It eats about everything, feeding with the chickens and livestock, and is a frequent visitor to take its share from your feeding shelf. During nesting time it really does some good as it takes many noxious insects to feed its various broods. It has even been observed tearing open corn stalks in the fall and winter to get the corn borer. In the East

it has been observed eating many Japanese beetles, and may have been a factor in preventing what might have been a more rapid advance westward of this very damaging insect.

During the fall and winter they congregate in enormous flocks, and roost in barns, cupolas, and about public buildings where they really do much damage in besmearing those structures.

Sixty Starlings were imported into this country in 1890 and forty more in 1891 and were released in Central Park, New York City. They increased and spread over a 100 mile radius from New York City until about the year 1925 when they began rapidly extending their range westward and south westward. They reached Indiana about 1926 and 1927. It was in 1927 that Sidney Esten, the State Ornithologist, called me and said a pair was

nesting between Anderson and Pendleton. In his company I visited this nest and saw my first Starling. Needless to say, I was all alert for the first report from Hamilton County. In the spring of 1928 Dr. Raymond Collins, who then lived with the Clark family just East of the First Ward school building in Noblesville, called me to come down and see a strange bird, and from his description I suspected it to be a Starling, which it proved to be. It was nesting in a hole in an old sycamore tree then just across the street from the Clark Plumbing Shop. He reported that it nested in the same hole the year before (1927). As far as we know that is the first recorded nest in Hamilton County. Now there are untold thousands nesting in the county. It is not protected by law.

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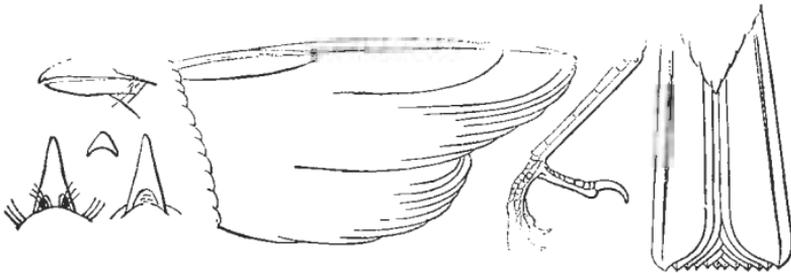
### THE VIREOS

This is a difficult group for the beginner bird student. Six species have been recorded from Hamilton county. All are migratory, i. e. none spend the winters here, three of the six nest here. As a group they inhabit tree tops, some keeping to the uppermost parts of tree tops while some haunt the lower growths. They all are sweet singers, and all

build a neat cup shaped nest suspended in a horizontal fork of limbs. They are rather slow in movement and, as a rule, glean their food from the under side of leaves. Field glasses are almost necessary as the differences are rather finely drawn. They are slender, olive backed birds and smaller than most Sparrows.

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### WHITE-EYED VIREO



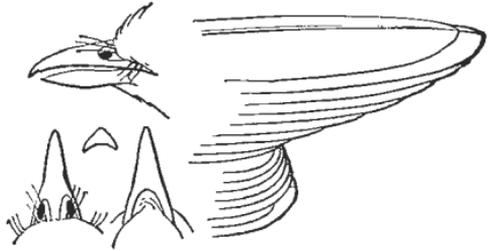
Detail structure of White-eyed Vireo. Life size.

The White-eyed Vireo, length five and two-tenths inches, nests here and as far north as Central Michigan and as far south as Central Tennessee. It winters from the

Gulf Coast to Central America. It has wing bars, underparts whitish. Its song is much like the Red-eye's but also frequently has a run, mimicing some other bird.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO**

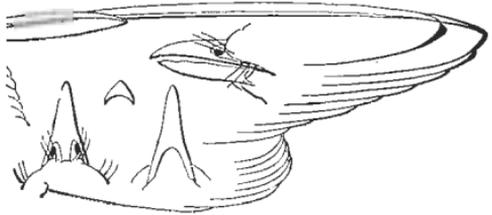
The Yellow-throated Vireo, length five and nine-tenths inches, is migratory here. It nests in upper United States and Southern Canada and winters in Central America and Northern South America. It has wing bars and a bright yellow throat and breast. Its rump is gray. Its song is much like the Red-eye's but deeper in tone.



Detail structure of Yellow-throated Vireo. Life size.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO**

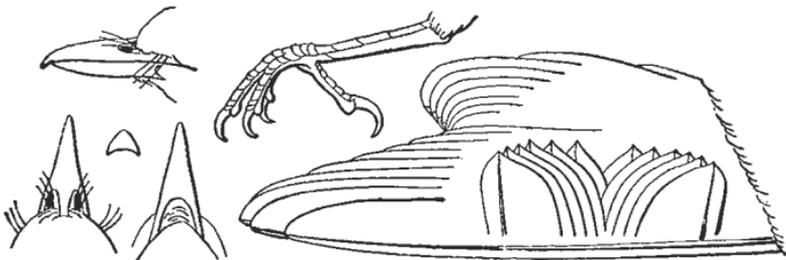
The Blue-headed Vireo, length five and six-tenths inches, is migratory here. It nests from upper border of the United States to Central Canada, and winters from the Gulf States to Central America. It has wing bars. Its head is a lead-blue color. Its song also resembles the Red-eye in the cadence of a musical chatter.



Detail structure of Blue-headed Vireo. Life size.

**RED-EYED VIREO**

The Red-eyed Vireo, length six and two-tenths inches, is the largest of the group. It nests from here to Central Canada and winters in South America. It has no wing bars, but has red eye, white stripe over the eye, black line above the white stripe, and top of head gray, light underneath. Its song is in short phrases, some seems to be interrogatory and others declaratory, "Do you see me?" "Here I am!" "See me?" etc.



Detail structure of Red-eyed Vireo. Life size.

### PHILADELPHIA VIREO



Detail structure of Philadelphia Vireo. Life size.

The Philadelphia Vireo, length four and seven-tenths inches, is the smallest of the group seen here. It is only migratory here, and nests from Northern Indiana to Central Canada and winters in Central America. It has no wing bars and the under parts are yellowish, the only one of unbarred wings that is yellowish. It resembles the Warbling Vireo very much except the underparts. However, its song is much like the Red-eye, but higher in pitch.

### WARBLING VIREO

The Eastern Warbling Vireo, length five and eight-tenths inches, nests here to northern U. S., and winters some place south of the United States but the exact location never has been determined. It has no wing bars, and is light underneath, has a faint white line over the eye but no black line, head same color of back i. e. olive colored. Its song is a strong, rich, continuous warble.



Detail structure of Warbling Vireo. Life size.

### WOOD WARBLERS

The Wood Warblers are a large American family of birds. There are one hundred and fifty-five species known and fifty-five species visit the United States. Of these, forty-three species are recorded in Indiana, and of this number thirty-eight have been recorded from this county. Most of them only visit us as migratory birds to their breeding range farther north. Nests of only five species have been recorded in this county.

This family are all small birds. Five are less than 5 inches long, three are over six inches long, and only one is over seven inches long.

Twenty-nine are between five and six inches long.

As a rule they do not appear on their spring migration until the leaves are unfolding on our trees, as most of them glean the terminal branches for the insects they eat.

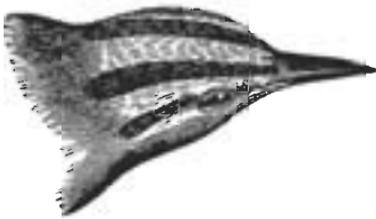
This is probably the most difficult family the bird student has to learn. They are not only small but many of them are usually in the tops of trees where their identification marks cannot be easily seen as they are constantly on the move. Field glasses are a "must" if you accomplish much in their study.

**BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER**

The Black and White Warbler, length five and three-tenths inches, is a migrant. This bird is striped lengthwise with black and white. It creeps on the limbs, over and under them, also both up and down on them, much as a Nuthatch does.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**

The Prothonotary Warbler, length five and five-tenths inches, is a scarce summer resident here although most of them passing through here go farther north. Its head and breast is a dark yellow. Its wings and tail are gray. It frequents trees near, or hanging over, the water. We have one record of it nesting in this county.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER**

The Worm-eating Warbler, length five and five-tenths inches, is a migrant here. It is an olive colored bird with black and buff stripes on the head.

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER**

The Golden-winged Warbler, length five and one-tenth inches, is a migrant here, although it nests in northern Indiana and northward. Its upper parts are gray, underparts white. It has a yellow forehead and a large yellow patch on the wings and has a black throat and a black patch about the eye.

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER**

The Blue-winged Warbler, length four and eight-tenths inches, is a migrant here. Its face and underparts is a lemon yellow and there is a narrow black line through the eye. Back is a light green, its wings and tail a bluish-gray. The wings have two distinct white bars.

**TENNESSEE WARBLER**

The Tennessee Warbler, length five inches, is a migrant here. It has a gray, olive back, underparts white. The distinguishing mark is a white line from bill extending back over the eye.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**

The Orange-crowned Warbler length five inches, is a migrant here. It has an olive-green head and back, with dirty yellow underparts, obscurely streaked. The crown is a red orange that is difficult to see.

**NASHVILLE WARBLER**

The Nashville Warbler, length four and seven-tenths inches, is a migrant here. It has a gray head and olive-green back with underparts a bright yellow. The crown is a red orange similar to the Orange-crowned Warbler, but note, this bird has a gray head which separates those two. The Nashville Warbler has a yellow throat and a white eye-ring. Another Warbler that looks similar is the Connecticut Warbler but it has a gray throat and white eye-ring.

**NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER**

The Northern Parula Warbler, length four and seven-tenths inches, is a migrant here. All upper parts are a slate-bluish color with two wing bars and a yellowish throat which is crossed by a faint blackish band.

## EASTERN YELLOW WARBLER



The male Eastern Yellow Warbler attends the young.

The Eastern Yellow Warbler, length five and one-tenth inches, is a summer resident here and winters in Yucatan, Brazil, and Peru. In general appearance it is an all yellow bird. The breast is streaked with red. This bird nests in low bushes in our door yards. They use considerable plant-down in the construction of their nests. It is victimized frequently by the Cowbird but seems to recognize the strange egg and usually builds another floor in the nest, thus walls off the strange egg. The following is a day by day record of a nest built in a deutzia bush just outside our breakfast room window in 1927. The nest was only about three feet from our observation point.

May 11—Nest completed.

May 13—7 a. m. Cowbird egg No. 1 laid on 1st floor of the nest. By evening the Warblers had built the floor upward covering the Cowbird egg.

May 14—7 a. m. Cowbird egg No. 2 laid on 2nd floor of the nest. By evening the Warblers had built the floor upward covering this Cowbird egg.

May 15—6:30 a. m. Cowbird egg No. 3 laid on 3rd floor. The Warblers carried plant-down for about an hour starting to cover this egg. This floor, if completed, would have been near the top, or rim of the nest. They never raised the rim as they built each succeeding floor. The Warblers were not seen around the nest the remainder of that day, nor on May 16.

May 17—I removed Cowbird egg No. 3 from the nest fearing the Warblers might abandon the nest.

May 18—6:30 a. m. Warbler egg No. 1 was laid.

May 20—6:30 a. m. Warbler egg No. 2 was laid. At 7 a. m. Cowbird egg No. 4 was laid.

May 21—Cowbird egg No. 4 was removed from the nest. Later in the day one of the Warbler eggs mysteriously disappeared from the nest.

May 22—7 a. m. another Warbler egg was laid and the female began brooding.

May 30—Brooding Warbler photographed.

June 1—Both eggs hatched early morning, incubation period—ten days.



X-Ray of nest, showing the two Cowbird eggs walled over, with the two upper eggs on the third level are Cowbird egg, No. 3 and 4 replaced in nest after the young warblers had left.

June 11—Fledglings ten days old. The home ties were broken and they flew away.

In this case the nest was completed seven days before the first egg was deposited and she laid only

three eggs when four or five is their usual compliment. Whether the Cowbird disturbance had any influence on this is a question that several nests' histories might help answer.

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#### MAGNOLIA WARBLER



The Magnolia Warbler, length five and one-tenth inches, is a migrant here. Its upper parts are black with a yellow rump, and a white patch on the wings and tail. The under parts are yellow with heavy black streaks, and a short white line behind the eye.

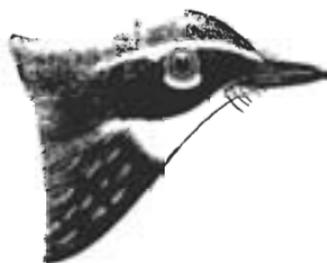
#### CAPE MAY WARBLER

The Cape May Warbler, length five inches, is a migrant here. Its crown is black, cheeks rufous, yellow patch behind the cheeks, back olive, rump yellow, white patch on wings, tail dark with white patch, underparts yellow with black streaks.

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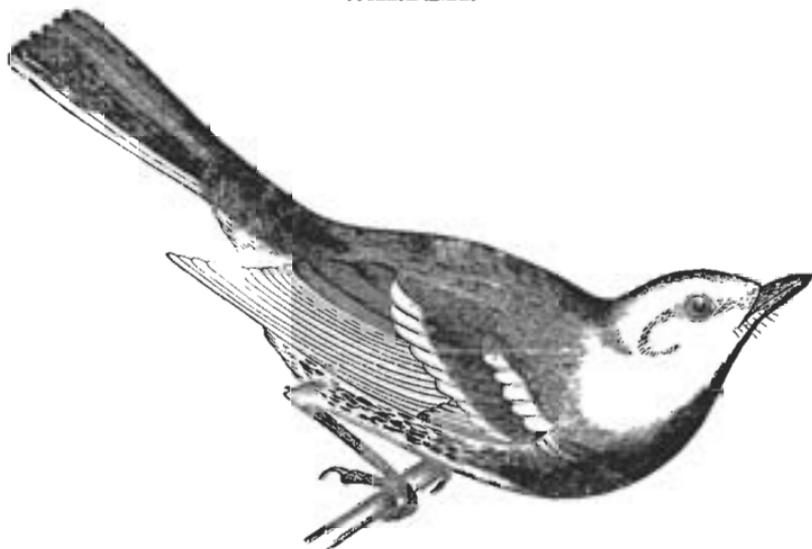
#### BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

The Black-throated Blue Warbler, length five and two-tenths inches, is a migrant here. The name describes it. The black of the throat extends back on each side of a white breast and belly.

**MYRTLE WARBLER**

The Myrtle Warbler, length five and six-tenths inches, is a migrant here. While most Warblers, being insect eaters, do not arrive until the leaves are bursting, yet, the Myrtle comes weeks earlier as it is also fond of dried berries from the previous season. It has yellow patches on the top of head, rump and sides of the breast. Otherwise, the bird is dark with white throat.

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**BLACK-THROATED GREEN  
WARBLER**


The Black-throated Green Warbler, length five and one-tenth inches, is a migrant here. It has a yellow face, an olive green back,

two white wing bars, tail dark with outer feathers white, throat and breast black, belly white, sides streaked with black.

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**CERULIAN WARBLER**

The Cerulian Warbler, length four and five-tenths inches, is a migrant here. It is cerulian-blue on the upper parts with two white wing-bars, under parts white streaked on sides with a blue-black, and

a blue-black band across the breast. The blue of this and Parula Warbler are similar but the Cerulian is streaked and has a white throat whereas the Parula is not streaked and has a yellow throat.

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER**

The Blackburnian Warbler, length five and two-tenths inches, is a migrant here. Among many Warbler fans this is considered the most beautiful of the Warblers. It has a black crown with a center patch of rich orange; a broad orange line from the bill; over the eye, ending in a patch on the side of head. The back is black streaked with white, dark wings with white patch. The throat and breast is a fiery orange, belly light orange lightly streaked with black. This Warbler is never very plentiful here during migration.

**SYCAMORE WARBLER**

The Sycamore Warbler, length four and eight-tenths inches, may be a summer resident here as we are in its breeding range. It haunts and nests high in Sycamore trees. They never seem to be plentiful, hence, the ones we do see may be breeding pairs. No breeding record has been recorded in this county. It has a gray back, yellow throat, yellowish white line above the eye, breast white streaked with black.

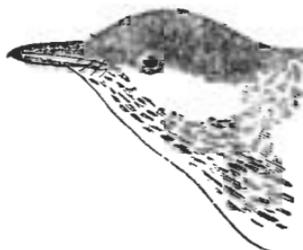
**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER**

The Chestnut-sided Warbler, length five and one-tenth inches, is a migrant here. The crown is yellow, black line through the eye, and white ear patch, with rich chestnut sides. Note that the throat, breast and belly are white so you won't mistake it for the Bay-breasted Warbler.

**BAY-BREASTED WARBLER**

The Bay-breasted Warbler, length five and six-tenths inches, is a migrant here. Its forehead and face are black. The crown, breast and

sides are a chestnut-rufous color, the belly white. There is a large pale buff patch on side of neck. Its breast is chestnut and no yellow on head as in the Chestnut-sided Warbler.

**BLACK POLL WARBLER**

The Black Poll Warbler, length five and five-tenths inches, is a migrant here. It has a black crown with white ear coverts. The remainder of the bird is ashy in color, being lighter underneath and heavily streaked with black.

**NORTHERN PINE WARBLER**

The Northern Pine Warbler, length five and five-tenths inches, is a migrant here. The upper parts are olive-green, the underparts a bright yellow with faint black streaks on the breast. It has two white wing bars. There are white spots on the tail.

**NORTHERN PRAIRIE WARBLER**

The Northern Prairie Warbler, length four and seven-tenths inches, is a migrant here. As its name implies, it is rarely found in the woods, but in the scrubby growths of old pastures. Its upper parts are olive-green, with the back spotted, rather indistinctly, with chestnut. The underparts are yellow with heavy black streaks on its sides.

**WESTERN PALM WARBLER**

The Western Palm Warbler, length five and two-tenths inches, is a migrant here. The crown is chestnut, back an olive brown slightly streaked, underparts a dull yellow, and it has a white line over the eye. It constantly wags its tail. Like the Prairie Warbler, it avoids deep woods.

**YELLOW PALM WARBLER**

The Yellow Palm Warbler, length five and four-tenths inches, is a migrant here. It is very similar to the Western Palm except the underparts are a brighter yellow and has a yellow line over the eye. These eye lines are more pronounced in their colors in the Fall than in the Spring. It also avoids the deep woods.

**OVEN-BIRD**

Photo. by Rev. T. W. Baechle.

The Oven-bird, length six and one-tenth inches, is one of our larger Warblers and is a summer resident here.

The center of its crown is a pale orange with a black line on each side of the crown. The back is olive and the underparts are white, heavily streaked with black on sides of throat, breast and belly. It is a walking Warbler of the forest floor where it builds its covered nest with the entrance on one side. The song is very characteristic. It seems to repeat the word, "teacher", several times, each utterance being louder and louder until the air is filled with its vibrant chant.

**NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH**

The Northern Water-thrush, length six and four-tenths inches,

is another of our larger Warblers that is a migrant here. All its upper parts are olive-brown, underparts yellowish-white, with black streaks. It has a yellow line over the eye. It is found along streams and is constantly teetering like a Sandpiper.

**LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH**

The Louisiana Water-thrush, length six and two-tenths inches, is also a migrant, very much like the Northern Water-thrush in appearance and habits. Its underparts are a buffy-white and the line above the eye is white, which distinguishes it from the Northern Water-thrush with yellowish white underparts and yellow line above the eye.

**KENTUCKY WARBLER**

The Kentucky Warbler, length five and three-tenths, is a migrant here. Its forehead is dark and all other upperparts olive colored. All underparts are plain yellow. There is a yellow strip from the bill back over and behind the eye, a patch of black under the eye runs down on side of neck. Its song is somewhat similar to the Carolina Wren.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER**

The Connecticut Warbler, length five and four-tenths inches, is a migrant here in the Spring while its southern migration in the Fall is along the eastern part of the country. It has a gray head and neck, olive back, and yellow underparts, and has a white eye ring.

**MOURNING WARBLER**

The Mourning Warbler, length five and six-tenths inches, is a migrant here. It is very similar to

the Connecticut Warbler in general appearance. However, the head and neck, especially the neck, is much darker. It does not have any eye ring.

#### MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER

The MacGillivray's Warbler, five inches, is a rare accidental migrant here. It is very similar in appearance to both the Connecticut and Mourning Warbler except it does not have a complete eye ring. In other words, there is a line above and another below the eye which do not join either in front or back of the eye. Its breeding range is along the eastern foothills of the Rockies extending eastward as far as Nebraska and the Dakotas, but in limited numbers.

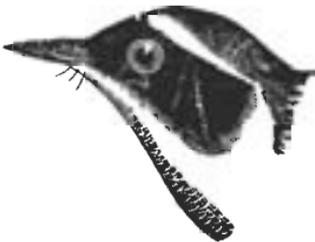
In 1923, while operating a banding station for the United States Biological Survey, we trapped a bird that did not seem to conform to either the Connecticut nor Mourning Warbler, being familiar with both of them by handling them while banding.

We confined the bird in a canary cage for study with Chapman's, "Warblers of North America." The line above and below the eye was the big item, however, it conformed in minutest detail (in every anatomical detail,) as outlined in that text. This bird was a male.

This is the only record from this county and only the second from the state. One other which antedated my record was from the northern part of the state, which bird was killed and a skin prepared which now is in the British Museum.

We released ours with a numbered band on its leg hoping for some future word about it but these hopes were in vain.

#### NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT



The Northern Yellow-throat, length five and three-tenths inches, is a summer resident here. For several years we called this the Maryland Yellow-throat but taxonomists have determined the one we have here the Northern, while the Maryland ranges farther south, and the third, or Florida, ranges still farther south than the Maryland.

The Northern Yellow-throat upper parts are an olive green, the throat and breast yellow, and the belly a yellowish white. The outstanding feature is the black mask on the face. It nests on or near the ground. The song is very characteristic as it seems to say, "witchity-witchity-witchity-witch". It is said to also have a flight song.

#### YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT



The Yellow-breasted Chat, length seven and four-tenths inches, is our largest Warbler (only an inch shorter than the Catbird), and is a summer resident here. The upper parts are an olive green. The throat, breast and upper belly is a bright yellow; the under belly is white. A line from the bill to eye, the eye-ring, and a line on the side of the throat are white.

This is a bird of the thickets and does not want any audience while performing either his vocal variety or aerial gymnastics. The song, if you can call it that, is a series of, "clucks, chucks", clear whistles, harsh caws, etcetera. These utterances may take place while perched or while in flight. This flight while

singing is something else difficult to describe. The tail and legs dangle and flop as he utters his nondescript song. This performance to be perfect must be done unattended, for once he sees you spying on his antics everything changes and he is shy and suspicious and secretes himself in the thicket.

### HOODED WARBLER



The Hooded Warbler, length five and six-tenths inches, is a migrant here. It has a black hood which covers the head, encircling the neck, and covering the throat. The face is yellow. The upper parts are olive and the underparts are yellow. It has some white in the tail.

### WILSON'S WARBLER

The Wilson's Warbler, length: 5 inches, is migrant here. Its back is an olive green and underparts a bright yellow. The crown of the head is black.

### CANADA WARBLER



The Canada Warbler, length five and six-tenths inches, is a migrant here. All its upper parts are plain gray, with a yellow stripe from bill to eye, underparts yellow. Across the breast is a necklace of black spots.

### AMERICAN REDSTART

The American Redstart, length five and four-tenths inches, is a migrant here. When at rest it is almost all black, however, it is constantly on the move spreading its wings and tail when you see best the orange-red patches on its wings and tail. This bird reminds you of a butterfly. Chapman says, "it is called 'Candelita' in Cuba, meaning the little torch that flashes in the gloomy depths of tropical forests."

### ENGLISH SPARROW

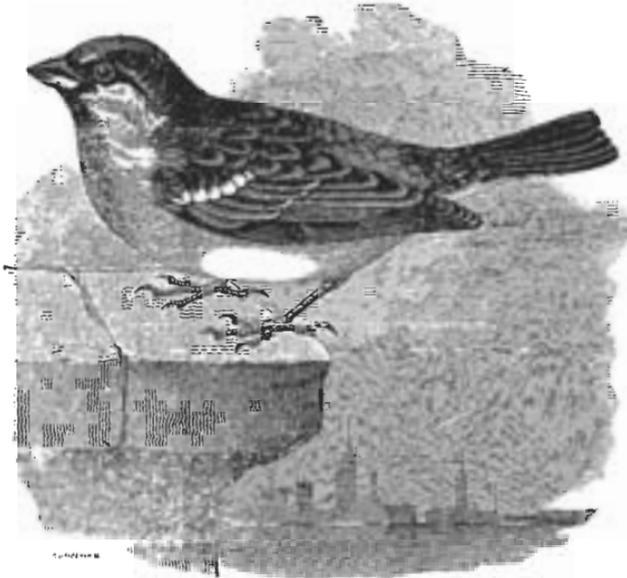
The English Sparrow, length, six (6) inches, is too well known by everyone to make any description necessary.

This immigrant was first brought to this country in 1851 and in 1852, to Brooklyn, New York. It confined itself to the Atlantic states until 1870, when by its rapid increase in numbers, its adaptiveness parts of the United States. It has spread throughout practically all part of the United States. It has become so numerous in many localities that its incessant chirp almost drowns out the chorus of our native birds. It got the name we know it by because it was brought to us from England. However, it has for ages been rampant

over practically all of Europe. Also, we often think of it as a representative of all the great family of Sparrows when, as a matter of fact, it is not a sparrow at all but instead a Weaver bird.

For many years, nearly every student of bird life did not give it a kind word, nor give it credit for having a place in our way of thinking of bird life from an economical or esthetic viewpoint.

Whatever your reaction to it, it is here to stay. Let us consider it as it is. Living principally near populous human dwellings, it gleans its livelihood from our gardens and dooryards. Its diet is from fruit grains, garbage, insects, succulent new garden plants, etc. While, no



ENGLISH SPARROW

doubt, it does do considerable harm to many things we cherish, yet it pays for this by destroying many injurious insects and weed seed so

that maybe it, from an unbiased viewpoint, may have a justifiable existence.

BOBOLINK



J. L. R.

The Bobolink, length seven inches (7), is the only bird, that is, the male, that seems to have gotten his colors on in reverse. Its head and all under parts are black, the back of its neck is buff, and all other upper parts white. The female is buff colored heavily streaked with black, and sparrow like in appearance. The male in the fall changes its plumage and is very similar in appearance to the female.

The Bobolinks arrive in May and take up residence in our meadows and clover fields, where they pour forth their indescribable song from the ground, fence posts, weed stalk or while on the wing. The song while in flight seems to be the most interesting as it seems to pour out in an irrepressible bubble, so intent that one wonders whether the

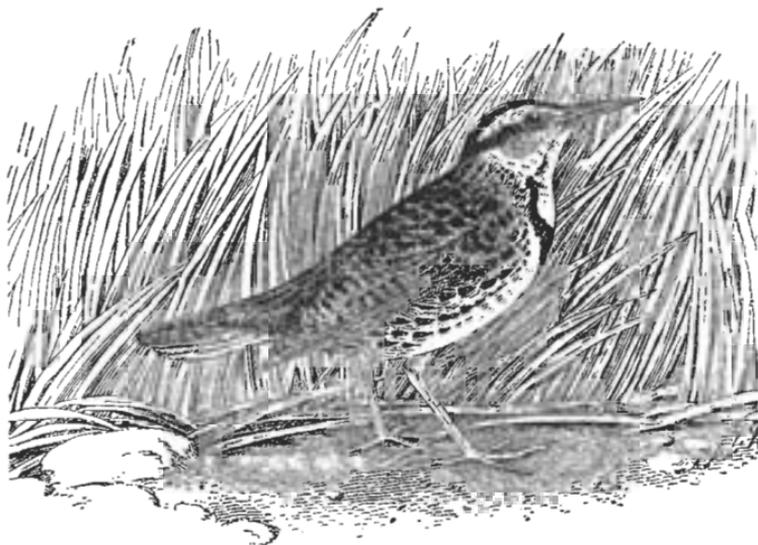
bird won't forget its flying, being so intent on singing.

The nest is built on the ground and is so hidden that it is difficult to find. One may have the general nest location in mind, but if you approach too closely the male will lead you away, while the female leaves the nest and runs through the grass some distance from the nest before arising in the air. During nesting season they are great insect feeders. After the brood is reared they become seed eaters and do considerable damage to grain fields of our southern states during their southern migration.

Its nesting range extends from southern Canada to Kentucky, from the Atlantic Coast to the Rocky Mountains in agricultural areas. It winters in southern Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

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### EASTERN MEADOWLARK



The Eastern Meadowlark, length eleven inches, is a chunky rufous colored bird, head striped with black and buff, the outer tail feathers are white. Its throat and belly are yellow with a distinct black crescent on the breast.

Its breeding range is from upper United States south to Southern Indiana. It winters from here to the Gulf States. Flocks of this bird frequently may be seen throughout the winter.

The Meadowlark flies with several flapping wing-beats and then sails, repeating this sequence again and again.

It nests in May on the ground, generally with an arch of grass formed over the nest, so that it enters from the side. If flushed, it flies off to a fence post, where it nervously flits its tail, showing the white tail feathers.

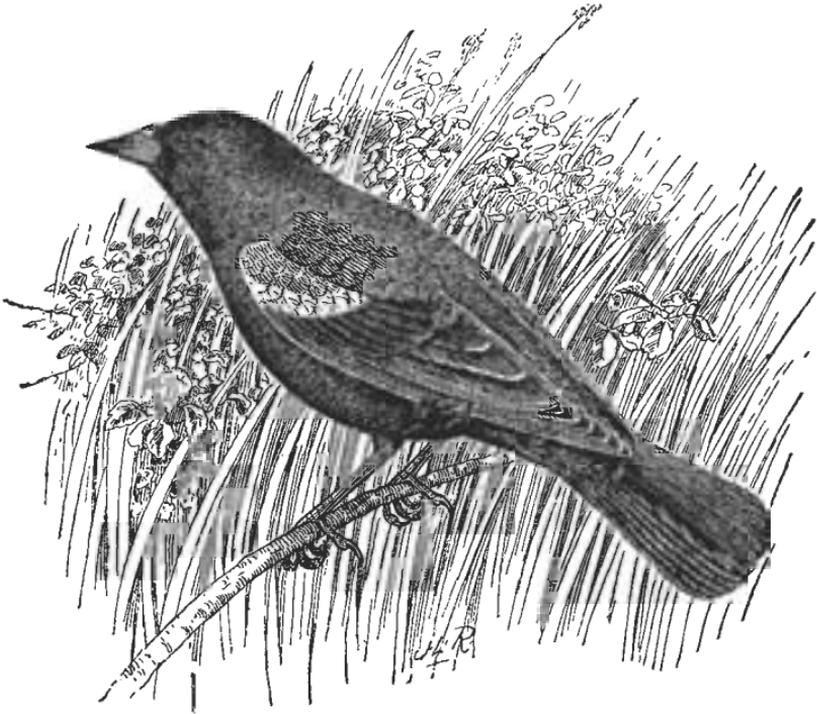
The male Meadowlark is a persistent singer, and sings from early

spring until late fall. It also has an aerial song, similar in some respects to the Bobolink's song, but not nearly as hurried.

They are a very useful bird, feeding in the summer on insects, and in the winter on noxious weed seeds.

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### EASTERN RED-WING



The Eastern Red-wing, length ten inches, is the typical blackbird of the marshland. The male is all black with a red shoulder epaulet. When at rest sometimes the red does not show so well and you only see a yellowish patch which is really the edge of the red patch. The female is slightly smaller than the male and has a general rufous color heavily streaked black and whitish, and Sparrow-like in appearance, although larger.

Its breeding range is as far north as the edge of Canada, and south to the Southern States. It winters from Indiana to the Gulf Coast. A few occasionally will winter this far north. They arrive very early in large flocks, being a welcome reminder that Spring is coming.

When a flock alights, there is usually a sentinel on watch to report anything it deems suspicious.

While they usually build their nests in or near marshes, yet a few will sometimes nest long distances from water.

While there are various clucks and whistles, yet the main song is a rich 'O-ka-lee', often followed by another lower note.

In the winter they sometimes do considerable damage to grain fields, but with us they are a very useful bird, destroying insects and weed seeds. One stomach examined contained eighteen hundred ragweed seeds. During nesting season their food is principally insects and they are particularly fond of cutworms.

### ORCHARD ORIOLE

The Orchard Oriole, length seven inches, is very similar to the Baltimore Oriole except where the Baltimore Oriole is orange the Orchard is a chestnut tan. The female is yellowish in color.

Its breeding range and wintering area are similar to the Baltimore's.

They are quite scarce here and you are lucky to find a half dozen during a single season's search.

Its nest is usually suspended (much like a Vireo's nest) but never hangs down as does the nest of the Baltimore Oriole. It is usually woven with coarser material but lined with fine material.

### BALTIMORE ORIOLE



The Baltimore Oriole, length seven and five-tenths inches, is smaller than a Robin, and was called by Gene Stratton Porter a "Gold Bird." Its breast, belly, and lower back are a deep orange, with the head, neck, and upper part of back and wings black. The female is a brownish orange and underparts a dull orange.

Its breeding range extends northward to Central Michigan and south to Tennessee, so we are almost in the center of its north and south breeding range. It winters from Southern Mexico to Columbia, South America. It arrives here about the time the leaves appear on our trees when we hear its loud clear whistling notes, which are difficult to describe, but welcome

to hear at first, however, become monotonous as he keeps everlastingly whistling. This continues until the family duties of feeding the ever hungry baby mouths keep him, along with Mrs. Oriole, busy gathering insects to feed the "constantly-calling-for-food-youngsters."

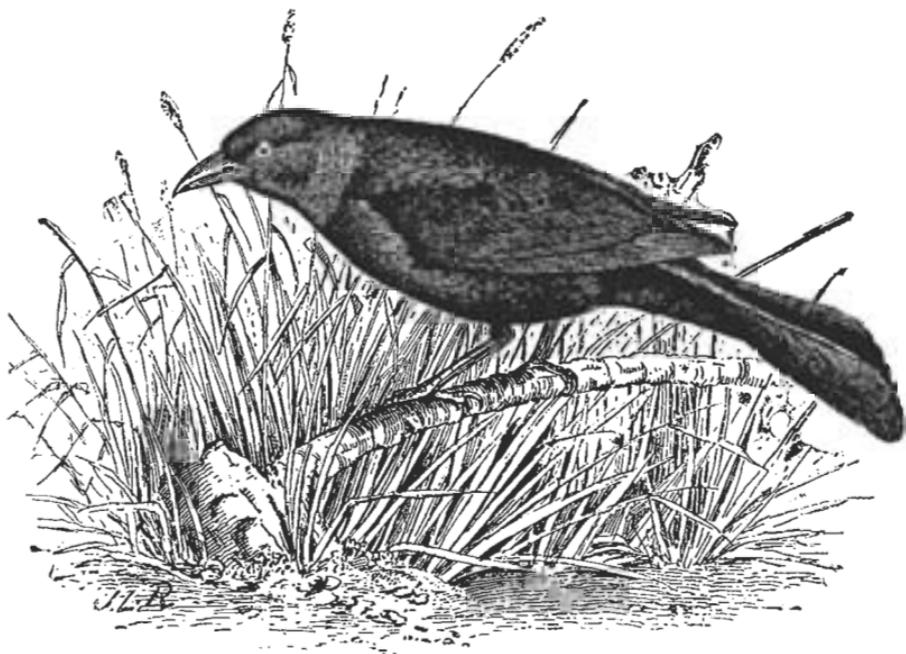
The Baltimore Oriole nest is the most pendulous nest of any that we have here. The female is the skilled weaver that attaches the nest to a swaying branch of a tree in such a manner as to be concealed by leaves.

If you place pieces of string, about eighteen inches long, out on the shrubbery you will see Mrs. Oriole carrying them away, follow her and you will see her weaving it into her nest.

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD**

The Rusty Blackbird, length nine and one-half inches, is only a migratory bird here, and not plentiful. It is about the size of a Robin with a dull rusty appearance, instead of

the brilliant bronze of the former. The eye is whitish and it has a call note, or song, not unlike the squeak of a rusty hinge.

**BRONZED GRACKLE**

The Bronzed Grackle, length twelve inches, is our commonly called "Blackbird". In strong light it is a brilliant metallic bronze in color with a lemon-yellow eye. The female is much duller in color.

Its breeding range extends from Central Canada to our Southern States and it winters from the Ohio valley to Southern Texas.

During nesting season they are much devoted to family care, but

at all other times they wander in careless roving flocks for foraging, walking over our lawns and fields of the countryside.

This bird has met with disfavor occasionally because it has pulled newly sprouted corn, and when it resorts to this practice it deserves criticism. Fortunately, it does not follow this practice very often, but in the main it is insectivorous, and is very fond of beetles.

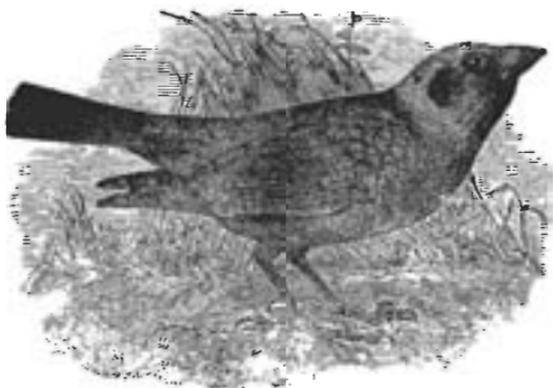
**EASTERN COWBIRD**

The Eastern Cowbird, length eight inches, sometimes called "Cow-black bird", is between the English Sparrow and the Robin in size. The male is a metallic black bird with a brown head; the female is all over gray.

It gets its name, Cowbird, from the fact that frequently it follows the cattle through the pastures,

and as the insects are disturbed and arise before the slowly grazing herd the Cowbird takes advantage of the situation to catch them as they show themselves. A lazy attribute, to let some one else "scare up" your dinner.

This is not, however, the only lazy trait this bird is noted for. It does not build any nest, but lays its



eggs in the nests of other small birds and lets them incubate the eggs and rear their young. Well over a hundred different species of our birds have fallen victim to this parasite. Their victims range from very small birds to some much larger, however, most of the nests into which they slip their eggs are of the smaller birds. The incubation period of the Cowbird egg is about ten days, a shorter period than most of our passerine birds. The Cowbird is hatched ahead of its foster brothers and sisters and its incessant call for food is satis-

fied beyond its rightful share by the concerned foster parents. It thus receives the lion's share and grows faster and soon is so large and strong that often the smaller legitimate children are shoved over the side of the nest to perish.

Most birds tolerate this laggard while a few seem to recognize the strange egg and build a wall over the Cowbird egg to seal it off.

Its breeding range is from Canada to the Gulf Coast and winters in the southern part of the breeding range to Mexico.

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### SCARLET TANAGER



black wings and tail. The female is a dull greenish bird. The male's winter plumage is similar to the female.

It is an abundant summer resident here and winters from Colombia to Peru in South America. If you want to see this bird look into the tree tops for that is its home and where its rich, Robin-like, melody may be heard.

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### SUMMER TANAGER

The Summer Tanager, length seven and five-tenths inches, is a rose-red bird all over. The female is dull yellowish color with the back slightly olive in color.

It is a rare summer resident here, this being the extreme northern limit of its nesting range. It winters in much the same territory as the Scarlet Tanager.

Drawing by Mary Esther Brooks

The Scarlet Tanager, length seven inches, is a bright red bird with

## EASTERN CARDINAL



The Eastern Cardinal in our country is frequently called the Red Bird. Its length is about eight inches. The male is all red with black about the bill and down on the chin. It is the only red colored bird we have with a crest. The female is a much duller color, a sort of dull brown with some red. She also has a crest. Both male and female have heavy red bills.

The Eastern Cardinals are permanent residents; i.e., they remain with us both winter and summer. During summer they pair and set up house keeping, building their nests in bushes and tangled vines. The nest is rather loosely built of twigs, bits of bark and rootlets, lined in turn with finer rootlets and grasses. They usually rear two broods and occasionally have the third, especially if there is any mishap with either the first two. Their young are the victims of many predators, especially cats, particularly in the towns and about farm houses where cats are also harbored. In the open edges of woodlands and tangled fence rows they are more successful in rearing their family.

During the winter many Cardinals seem to enjoy company and are frequently seen in flocks living in complete harmony, but when

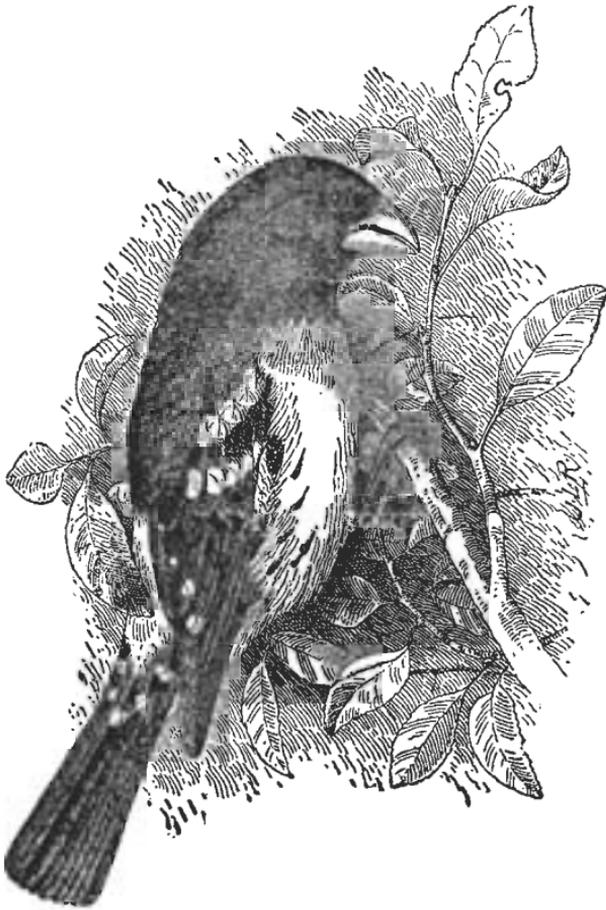
mating time comes around each male outlines a feeding territory that he defends, particularly against other Cardinals, but also some other birds, however, allowing some species to share his territory.

The male is a renowned singer, with a loud clear whistle. The female also sings but with much subdued tones as compared to the male. While each individual has different songs, his "much cheer, much cheer, much cheer" is probably best recognized.

They have practically no bad habits and are very useful birds. In summer their diet consists of insects such as locusts, beetles, weevils, etc., along with some fruit and seeds. During the winter they subsist principally on weed seed and waste grain along with such dried wild fruit as they can find. If you want to attract them to your feeding shelf during the winter offer them sunflower seed, they are very fond of them.

The Eastern Cardinal is by law our State bird. It is found throughout the entire state, is a permanent resident, a handsome bird with a beautiful song. Found both in town and country, a useful bird with no bad habits, truly a wise choice to represent us as our State Bird.

## ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK



The Rose-breasted Grosbeak, length eight inches, has a black head, throat and back, the underparts are white. On the throat is a large rich rose spot in the shape of a triangle. The wings are black and white. The female looks like a large striped Sparrow.

This bird only migrates through here. Its breeding range is from northern Indiana to the lower Canadian area. It winters from southern Mexico to northern South America.

The song of this bird resembles the Robin in form, with the quality of the Cardinal.

This bird is a wonderfully valuable bird to destroy insects. It is especially fond of Colorado Potato beetles.

Every bird student has some particular bird that he is always look-

ing for and seems never to be able to find, and when he does come across it, it is a red letter day for him. I had this experience myself with the Prairie Horned Lark.

The late John O. Clarke, a charter member of the Blatchley Club, was an outstanding field student of bird life, and was always looking for the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. One early May morning, in company with him, we were in Forest Park and I located this bird, singing in a tree top with its rose breast facing the sun. I called Mr. Clarke's attention to the end of a certain limb, on which he focused his field glasses. When the bird came within focus for him, I received the outstanding thrill of that trip to see his reaction as he experienced a "Red Letter" day in his bird experiences.

**INDIGO BUNTING**

Drawing by Mary Esther Brooks

The Indigo Bunting, length five and 5.5 inches, almost an inch shorter than the English Sparrow, is a rich blue color all over with black wings and tail. The female is a "sparrow brown" color with no streaks. The male, in winter plumage, looks very much like the female.

It is an abundant summer resident here and winters from southern Mexico to Panama. It builds a neat nest of grasses in the crotch of a low bush or berry vines. The male has a rich, melodious loud song that he continues to sing well up into August, long after many other birds have ceased their nuptial songs.

It is a very useful insectivorous bird, being especially fond of cankerworms.

**DICKCISSEL**

**DICKCISSEL**

The Dickcissel, length six inches, the same size of an English Sparrow, will, when you first see it, remind you of a miniature Meadowlark. It has a yellow breast with a black chin. The female looks very Sparrow-like with a suggestion of yellow on the breast and a white stripe over the eye.

It is an abundant summer resident here in the meadows and grass fields, the same locations in which you also find the Meadowlarks. It winters in South America. It nests on the ground while the male sits on a fence post or tall weed and calls out its name, rather unmusical but with extreme earnestness.

It is an insect eater, being also fond of cankerworms, as well as many other nocuous insects.

**EASTERN PURPLE FINCH**

Photo. by Edna Banta

The Eastern Purple Finch's length is six inches (6), or the same size of an English Sparrow. From its name one might assume it to be purple but that is not exactly the case, "a suggestion of purple", or you might call it "faint old rose", brightest on the head. It is a migrant through here and can be

attracted to your feeding shelf, being particularly fond of sunflower seeds.

**COMMON REDPOLL**

The Common Redpoll, length five inches (5), is a bird of similar habits and range as the Purple Finch. However, when they visit us they are more inclined to linger longer, or during more severe weather. It is a lighter colored bird than the Purple Finch and the male's breast is pinkish with a bright red cap and black chin. They feed on weed seed.

**NORTHERN PINE SISKIN**

The Northern Pine Siskin, length five inches (5), is another bird of similar habits and range that migrates through these parts and is a seed eater while with us. It is noticeably streaked brown. The wing and tail feathers are yellow at their bases and you get a flash of yellow as it flies. It has a call note that our young son described and called, "the wheel-barrow squeak" bird. It is a seed eater.

**EASTERN GOLDFINCH**

The Eastern Goldfinch, length five (5) inches, is a permanent resident with us.

In the summer the male is bright yellow with black wings and a black forehead. The female, however, is an olive yellow with blackish wings. In the fall the male after moulting, is similar in color to the female.

The flight of the Goldfinch is undulating and while on the upward swing they utter notes which seem to say, "per-chic-o-ree." Their love song is very canary like and from this it is frequently called Wild Canary.

It nests quite late as the nest of fine grasses is usually lined with

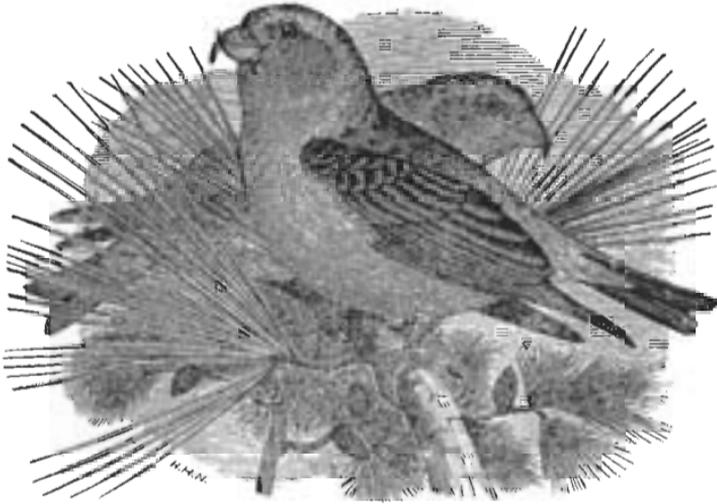
thistle and dandelion down, and nests in low bushes having from three to six bluish-white eggs.

Goldfinches are very socialable as they roam in flocks all year around except at nesting time.

They are very useful birds in that they are weed seed eaters almost exclusively the varieties that are available in each season. Dandelion and thistle are favorites when ripe. The dandelion stem will bend somewhat but will hold up the little body while he picks out the seed on which to make a meal.

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### RED CROSSBILL



The Red Crossbill, length six inches (6), is a dull red, or brick red. Both these Crossbills have the tip of their bills crossed. This is so arranged the better to serve them in tearing off the scales of the conifer cones so they can get to the seeds. In flight both these birds

undulate similarly to the Goldfinch. In recent years there is again being planted in this state conifers in generous numbers. In a few years they will be old enough to bear cones and then again we will probably see the Red and White-winged Crossbill.

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### WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

When I was a boy the older residents' idea of landscaping was to have a yard full of pine trees, a lilac bush, a snowball bush, and some yellow roses. These old patriarchal cone bearing pines have about disappeared, and so have a

group of birds that seemed to always be associated with them.

The White-winged Crossbill, length six inches (6), the size of an English Sparrow, was a "pink" bird with black tail and wings.



WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

### RED-EYED TOWHEE



The Red-eyed Towhee, length eight inches, resembles a Robin in build, however, about two inches shorter. It is sometimes called a Marsh Robin, and sometimes it is called Chewink because its call sounds like that name.

This is a very handsome bird. The male has a black head, back and tail are tipped white. Its breast is white with sides a rufous color, like that of a Robin. In the above picture a female is similarly mark-

ed with a substitute of brown where the male is black.

It is a summer resident of the woods floor where it builds its nest in which it lays its pinkish or rufous eggs. It winters from central Indiana to the Gulf Coast. It frequently winters in limited numbers here. The first year Forest Park was established a winter feeding station was maintained and a flock of eighteen Towhees spent the winter there. During the past winter one lone female depended on my feeding station and fed daily there. Under such circumstances you can readily see it scratching in "chicken" fashion, then backing up to see if it had uncovered a tid-bit, if not, stepping forward and repeating the same.

Its love song, not indulged in very generously, but when heard is very passionate and difficult to describe. Ernest Thompson Seton describes it as, "chuck-burr, pill-a-will-a-will-a."

### SPARROW

The Sparrow family is quite large, and with stout, conical bills are our chief seed eaters. Principally while feeding their young they also eat and feed their fledglings many insects. This group economically is a very important asset to the farmer.

As a group they are not highly colored, being often streaked with brown and is a rather difficult group for the beginner bird stu-

dent. Many of them are ground inhabiting birds, flitting among the ground foliage and making their meager field marks difficult to see.

### EASTERN SAVANNA SPARROW



The Eastern Savanna Sparrow, length five and six-tenths inches, is a migrant here. It is very similar to the Song Sparrow but has a shorter tail and no central breast spot. There is a yellowish stripe over the eye.

### EASTERN GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

The Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow, length five and three-tenths inches, is a summer resident here and at that season is our only Sparrow with an unstreaked dull colored breast, with a white belly. The tail feathers are pointed at their ends. Its song is not loud and sounds like the buzz of an insect. I well remember when I first became acquainted with this bird. It was on my own farm and Sidney Esten was with me when he remarked, "just listen to the Grasshopper Sparrows, there must be several near here." This was very good news, for now I was to learn a new bird, but listening with all the pow-

er I possessed I could not hear a Sparrow anywhere, only the incessant buzz of insects came to my ears. Time and time again he remarked, "One just finished singing, there, did you hear that one?" It did not register; finally he directed me to watch near a certain clump of grass some thirty feet away where he seemed to think it was secreted and he held his finger to one side of my eyes, and as the bird began its song he raised his finger and lowered it as the bird finished singing. In this way I learned what I thought was the buzz of an insect was the song of the Grasshopper Sparrow. In a short time I not only heard but also saw the bird while singing and have always cherished that day as a red letter Sparrow day.

### LeCONTE'S SPARROW

The LeConte's Sparrow, length five inches, is a migrant here. One must go to the wet marshy meadows to see it. It is very difficult to identify. Field glasses are very useful here to see an ochreous-buff line over the eye, the nape a reddish brown. It has a sharp tail. It has a cream stripe through the center of the crown. The Henslow's Sparrow also has a sharp tail but does not have this whitish line through the crown. The LeConte's underparts are more ochre in color than the underparts of the Grasshopper Sparrow, which also has a sharp tail.

### EASTERN HENSLOW'S SPARROW

The Eastern Henslow's Sparrow, length five inches, is another wet-meadow Sparrow with a sharp tail. The head is a pale olive and the wings are rufous-brown in color. It occasionally nests in this county. Malcolm Bundy located several nests in Adams Township. However, it breeds plentiful from northern Indiana to northern borders of the United States, and winters along the Gulf Coast.

### EASTERN VESPER SPARROW

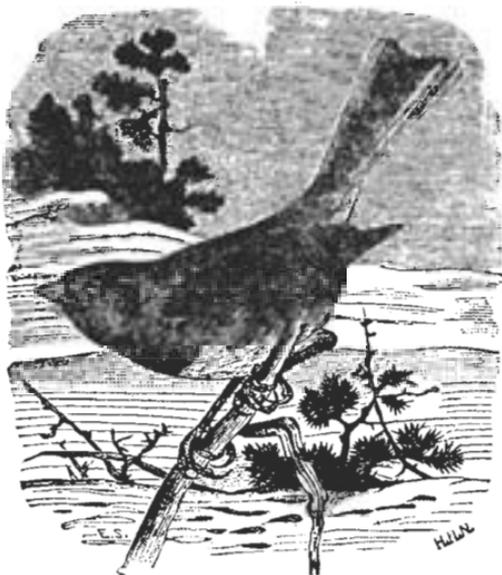
The Eastern Vesper Sparrow, length six and one-tenth inches, is a summer resident here. This bird is easily identified by the white outer tail feathers which are conspicuous in flight. The Junco also

has white outer tail feathers but it is slate colored while the Vesper Sparrow is brown. The Pipit is another brown bird with white outer tail feathers but it has a thin bill while the Vesper Sparrow has a short conical bill.

This bird frequents dry fields and roadsides and will often run ahead of you at a safe distance for some time before flushing. The song is similar to the Song Sparrow's song, but more plaintive and frequently heard near the close of the day.

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### SLATE-COLORED JUNCO



The Slate-colored Junco is very frequently spoken of here as Snow Bird. However, that name has also been frequently applied to the Eastern Snow Bunting. The main reason it does not cause considerable confusion is the fact that the Eastern Snow Bunting, while occasionally seen in our county, it is quite rare here, while the Slate-colored Junco is an abundant winter visitor.

The Junco is about six and one-half inches long, and, as the name implies, it is slate-gray in color, with a white belly. The outer tail feathers are white. One will rarely hear their song while sojourning with us but they have a call note "tsip", which is persistently used.

In autumn when most of our summer birds have gone South and a tang of crispness is in the air, we look out the window on some gray morning and see a whole flock of

these plump birds about our doorway picking up such tid-bits as they can find. As the cold snow and blustery weather increases the Juncos seem to also increase. They seem to enjoy our winters as being mild for they come to us from the north, even as far as the tree limit.

They are a real help to our agriculture in the fact that the majority of their winter fare is noxious weed seed. It is not uncommon in an hour's walk through a weed field when the snow covers the ground to count several hundred of these Slate-colored Juncos threshing out the seeds of the weeds above the snow for their daily diet. Throughout the winter with us they account for several tons of weed seed destroyed that would plague us the following season.

They are easily attracted to your feeding station by scattering some crumbs or meal on the ground.

**EASTERN TREE SPARROW**

The Eastern Tree Sparrow, length six and three-tenths inches, is a winter visitor here. It is usually associated with the Juncos in about equal numbers. This sparrow has two conspicuous wing-bars, a red brown cap on the head, and a single round black spot in the center of its otherwise light breast. It feeds entirely on weed seeds in winter. In a research by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture it is estimated the Tree Sparrow in Iowa alone consumed eight hundred and seventy-five tons of weed seed annually.

**EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW**

The Eastern Chipping Sparrow, length five and three-tenths inches, is a summer resident here. The top of the head is rufous and has a black line through the eye.

It is unafraid and will come very near to you, and will often nest in a very low bush within a few feet of your door. The nest is constructed of very fine grasses and invariably lined with hair. The song is rather monotonous and insect-like as he utters, "chippy-chippy-chippy."

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**EASTERN FIELD SPARROW**

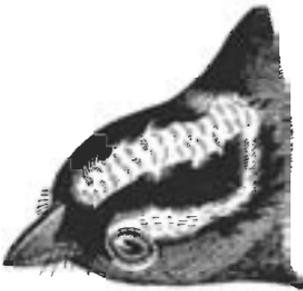

The Eastern Field Sparrow, length five and six-tenths inches, is a summer resident here. It is our only small brown Sparrow with a pink or flesh colored bill. It can

usually be found around bush clumps, but rarely in the open fields, as its name would indicate.

Its song is a very clear, melancholy whistle of several notes fading at the end of the run.

**HARRIS SPARROW**

The Harris Sparrow, length seven and five-tenths inches, is a migrant here and only a few records have been made in the county. I observed this bird near Potter's Bridge May 13, 1925, and had the bird under observation with field glass for several minutes at close range. It is a very large Sparrow and also has a pink bill. Its main distinguishing mark is its black head, face and throat.

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**

The White-crowned Sparrow, length six and eight-tenths inches, a little larger than the English Sparrow, is a migrant here. This bird can be easily distinguished by the apparently puffy head with stripes of black and white, the central stripe being broad and white.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW**

The White-throated Sparrow, length six and seven-tenths inches, is a migrant here. Its head is flatter than the White-Crown but has similar stripings. However, the White-throat has a yellow line before the eye and a very distinct white throat which the White-crown does not have.

**FOX SPARROW**

The Fox Sparrow, length seven and two-tenths inches, is, besides the Harris Sparrow, our largest Sparrow. It is a migrant here and may be found in damp thickets, being a rich brown bird with a rufous tail and breast heavily streaked.

**SWAMP SPARROW**

The Swamp Sparrow, length five and eight-tenths inches, is a migrant here. It is found in extremely wet fields or marshes where it will be wading in the shallow edges of the water hunting its food. It has a red cap similar to the Chipping Sparrow but you will never find the Chippy in the swamp.

**EASTERN SONG SPARROW**

The Eastern Song Sparrow, length six and five-tenths inches (6.5), is a permanent resident here. Its breast is noticeably streaked with a moderately large spot in the center. Its tail is rounded. (During migration we also have the Savannah Sparrow that is very similar to the Song Sparrow except it is one inch shorter, does not have the central breast spot, and its tail is forked). Another characteristic of the Song Sparrow is that it frequently wags its tail when it flies.

The Song Sparrow builds a neat nest of coarse grasses, rootlets, dead



#### EASTERN SONG SPARROW

leaves, and lines it with finer grasses, and frequently horse hair. It is placed either on the ground or in very low bushes, and lays four

to five (4-5) bluish-white eggs, heavily marked with brownish splotches.

It will be found in open wood margins or in your door yard. One nested in a yellow rose bush about fifteen feet from our front door.

Its song is very melodious and while indulged in more frequently during breeding season, yet it sings every month of the year. It never flocks with others of its kind.

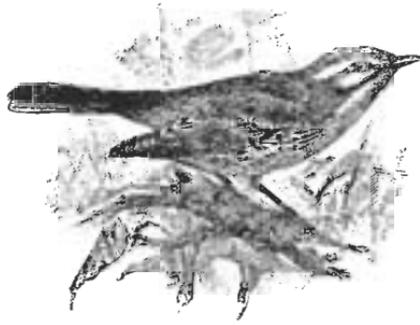
This sparrow is a very useful bird, three-fourths of its diet being noxious weed seeds, and one-fourth insects, chiefly weevils when they can be found.

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#### EASTERN SNOW BUNTING

The Eastern Snow Bunting, length six and eight-tenths inches, is a rare winter visitor here. It is almost a white bird with some black on wings and tail. There is a suggestion of rustiness on the white of the crown, face and sides. This bird has been recorded from our county and called locally a Snow Bird.





COMMON BIRDS OF INDIANA  
APPENDIX

A systematic account of thirty birds from  
Indiana that have not been  
recorded in  
Hamilton County.

by

SIDNEY R. ESTEN

### DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

The double-crested cormorant is a migrant in Indiana, usually rare, but often frequent. This species, unlike the sub-species, the Florida cormorant, nests in rock crags of the northern United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Several years ago one was seen perched on the top of the lamp post near the east end of the 30th Street bridge over White River in Indianapolis. The double-crested is the northern sub-species of the cormorant and is larger than the Florida form. It is about 32-inches in length, of a glossy, greenish black with two curly black crests.

### FLORIDA CORMORANT

This is the sub-species that nests in the tops of Cypress trees in Hovey Lake in Posey County and is found in the lower Wabash Valley. Robert Ridgeway measured many specimens of this form and from measurements found that there were differences in each specimen and intermediate measurements from the true smaller Florida Cormorant to the larger sub-species, the Double-crested Cormorant; yet all the Posey County nesting cormorants build their nests in trees—which is not true of the Double-crested which nests on the ground—among the rock cliffs of northern United States.

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### MUTE SWAN



Of the seven species of Swans in the world the Mute Swan is native of Europe but has been introduced into the United States. It is found in many City and State Parks, taking well to captivity—and in many cases it goes wild—nesting in many of our natural and artificial lakes. It is a beautiful bird with graceful, strong swimming strokes. The two native American Swans, the Whistling and the largest, the Trumpet-

er, both rare and both once nesting in Indiana, though very rare are slowly increasing in the United States although they are still rare. Both of the native swans have several varied notes while the mute swan has none.

Several of these mute swans are to be found on the artificial Lake in Spring Mill Park, where for several years they have nested.

### OLD SQUAW

The Old Squaw, one of the diving ducks, classed with the Sea, rather than the River or Dabbler ducks, is about two feet in length for the male while the female is about 16 inches long. The Old Squaw is frequent winter resident on Lake Michigan, often wandering down into Northern Indiana Lakes where a number of winter records have been made. A few migration records of this species have been made in the State. The male is a beautiful bird with a brownish neck and a white cheek patch, brown on wings, white underparts and several long tail feathers. The female is lighter, without the long tail feathers.

### BLACK VULTURE

The black vulture, about 26-28 inches in length with a wing spread of 4½ feet is much smaller than the more northern species, the Turkey Vulture. The Black Vulture, while shorter is heavier and more solid, its wing and tail shorter and broader—its wing strokes more rapid. The feathers come up the back of the neck to a point while with the Turkey Vulture the feathers stop in a ring around the neck. The nest site similar to that of the Turkey may be among rocks, on ground under fallen trees or under bushes. There are usually two eggs—rather large, blotched on a whitish ground color. The Black Vulture or Buzzard, also called the Black Scavenger or Carrion Crow is the southern form seldom found north of the center of the State. It is a resident in southern Indiana, more common in the summer, but in the winter, flocks remain roosting in the extreme southern part of the State. Each year at Clifty Falls State Park a flock of from 20-150 are often to be found. Nests were found at Turkey Run, McCormicks Creek State Park and Clifty for many years.

### EASTERN GOSHAWK

This species is a winter visitor in the northern part of the State, sometime wandering southward. It is a small species. The male being about 22 inches long with the female a little larger. The wing

spread is about 3½ feet. This species together with the Cooper's Hawk are very harmful to birds and poultry. They are swooping hawks, catching their prey on the wing rather than pouncing as do the mammal eating, larger hawks, such as the Redtailed and the Red Shouldered Hawk. The larger hawks are usually condemned as the "chicken-hawks" while in reality it is the two smaller species, the goshawk and the cooper's hawk, the so-called blue darters. The Goshawk is a swift flying species often doing damage to quail, ruffed grouse and other birds. It is fortunate the species is only a winter visitor to Indiana.

### SWAINSWON'S HAWK

Swainson's hawk belongs to the larger sized group of hawks of the genus *Buteo* to which both the Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks belong. The male is about 20 inches long with the female slightly larger, with a wing spread of about 4½ feet. This species is a western hawk which wanders into the state from the west rarely, in summer and accidentally in winter. Its food consists entirely of small rodents so when found it is purely a beneficial hawk. Because of its blackish plumage it is often called the black hawk. It nests in trees; its nest being of sticks and twigs. The eggs, two to four, light color with brownish blotches.

### EASTERN RUFFED GROUSE

The eastern ruffed grouse, specifically a bird of the woodlands is a rare to frequent permanent resident in the southern half of Indiana, where ever there is large enough wooded areas to protect it. At one time it seemed to be getting very rare but now it seems to be holding its own and in the Knob country from Brown County south it is, if anything, increasing slowly. During the summer of 1945 several were seen in Brown County and in Turkey Run State Parks. It is about 18 inches in size, brownish in general color with a beautiful fan tail when spread. It is truly a gallini, being plump and round rather than long and submarine shaped. It is a ground living species, nesting,

feeding and living most of its life on the ground. The nest of old leaves, feathers, grass and twigs is on the ground under bushes in or near woods with 8-12 palish eggs usually lightly and irregularly streaked with brown.

### PRAIRIE SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

The Prairie Sharp-tailed grouse is a sub-species of the northern Sharp-tailed grouse of Northern Canada. About 1000 of these birds were liberated in 1939 and 1945, chiefly in Newton, Benton, Jasper and White Counties. The latest reports show that in many cases they as a species in Indiana remains to be seen. No others to date have been liberated.

### CHUKER PARTRIDGE

This introduced species was planted in both northern and southern Indiana but from all records it has not taken well to Indiana areas and is fast decreasing, in fact, it can be found in but a few parts of the state. Unless new introductions are made it is probable the species will soon become extinct.

### TEXAS BOB WHITE

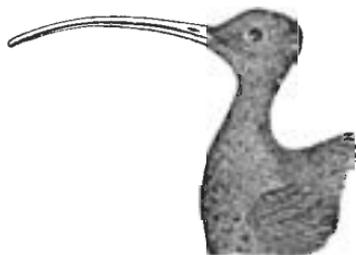
For a number of years this smaller duller bob-white quail was introduced in great numbers in Kentucky and southern Indiana. Of late years few, if any, have been identified. With all probability it has disappeared as a form—first by many dying and being killed out, and second, inasmuch as it breeds with our native quail it has not taken many years until its identity has been lost and its smaller size and paler plumage may be found in the bob-white quail of southern Indiana.

It was never, as far as I know, introduced in any other part of the state but the extreme south.

### LONG-BILLED CURLEW

The long-billed curlew often called the big culew because of its size of about two feet, was formerly common a century ago in the eastern part of the United States. Of late years it has been rarely, if ever, found in Indiana and the

Eastern United States. It is a beautiful bird with its brownish plumage marked with black and its long



downward curved bill. The bird today winters in South America and migrates north to western northern United States and Canada where it nests.

### EASTERN SOLITARY SANDPIPER

This species of sandpiper is a frequent migrant and often a summer resident locally near Indiana's northern lakes. Its name solitary does not come from any habit of migrating or being alone but from its habit in nesting in out-of-way solitary places. It is in migration usually found with other sandpipers, for most sandpipers in migration often go in large mixed flocks, or in pure flocks of great numbers. It is about 9 inches in length, olive brown above, mottled with white. Below it is white with small spots on breast and neck. It is together with other sandpipers an early migrant in the fall, wading along the shore lines of our lakes and streams in mud, to late August and on into September.

### PECTORAL SANDPIPER

The Pectoral Sandpiper is more commonly seen as a migrant in the fall from mid-August to late September. It is 9 inches in length. Brownish on the back and dusky on a whitish breast. The tail is the distinguishing feature of the bird for it is doubly notched with the middle tail feathers longer than the outer tail feathers. This sandpiper migrates up the Mississippi Valley where it is more common in the fall than in the spring. It is rare in the spring in Indiana.

### LEAST SANDPIPER

This, the smallest of the Sandpipers, is a little fellow, being only 6 inches long and should never be mistaken because of his very small size. In fact, it is about the size and shape of the English Sparrow. The least Sandpiper is similar in coloration to the semi-palmated only smaller. It differs also in that its feet are not webbed. While this species is by no means common in Indiana as a migrant only, there are a number of records and the careful observer in the spring during April should be able to see this species.

### GLAUCOUS GULL

This species nests in the arctic regions but winters southward to the great lakes and often further south. It is a very rare, usually considered an occasional migrant and a rare to frequent winter visitor on Lake Michigan. It is a large gull, often attaining a length of 30 inches, and as such is larger than the more common Herring Gull which is about two feet. It is entirely white with its mantle (or wings) a very light bluish gray. Its bill is yellow and its feet olive color.

### RING-BILLED GULL

This species is easily confused with the more common Herring Gull. It is however smaller, being only about 20 inches long. It is a rare migrant in spring and fall from the Ohio River to the Great Lakes. While it nests in the north it may often winter on the Great Lakes or go farther south to the Gulf. It is pure white with a pale bluish gray mantle. The bill is greenish yellow with a wide band of black which circles the bill.

### LOUISIANA PARAQUET

The Louisiana Parquet was formerly known as the Carolina Parquet, but of late years the species has been divided into two sub-species. The one formerly found in Indiana, now being known as the Louisiana Parquet, is as its name implies, a small parrot, being only 13 inches long with a green body and a yellow head. While it is now and has been for many years ex-

inct, it was years ago very common in Indiana. Records and early observations claim that these beautiful little birds roosted at night in hollow trees by hanging upside down by their feet.

### WESTERN BURROWING OWL

This species is included in the Indiana list because of one individual killed some years ago by Stoddard, burrowing in the sand of the Indiana Dunes. It is the only record of this little sand burrowing desert species ever recorded this far north. The skin is in the Field Museum in Chicago. It is common in Arizona and New Mexico, south in areas where the desert prevails and cacti holds forth. What it was doing and how it ever got into Indiana Dunes will never be known.

### LONG-EARED OWL

This species is a rare permanent resident in Indiana, considered by some to be more often found in winter than in summer. It is about 16 inches in length with a 3½ ft. wing spread. It is brownish mottled with black and white and has very conspicuously long feathered ear tufts. While it, like all other owls is nocturnal in its feeding habits, it often roosts during the day in trees or bushes rather than in hollow trees.

### SAW-WHET OWL

The Saw-whet owl is our smallest owl, being only 8 inches long while the screech owl is 10 inches long. The Saw-whet owl is not common in Indiana but we have a number of records. While it is very rare in summer as a nesting species, it is more often to be found in the winter in northern Indiana.

### CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW

There has been much question about this bird in Indiana, but we have many records of the species breeding in Southern Indiana, especially in the lower Wabash Valley and in Posey County in the pocket of Indiana between the Ohio and Wabash Rivers. This species is larger than either the Nighthawk or Whip-poor-will being about 12 inches long to their 9½ to 10 inches

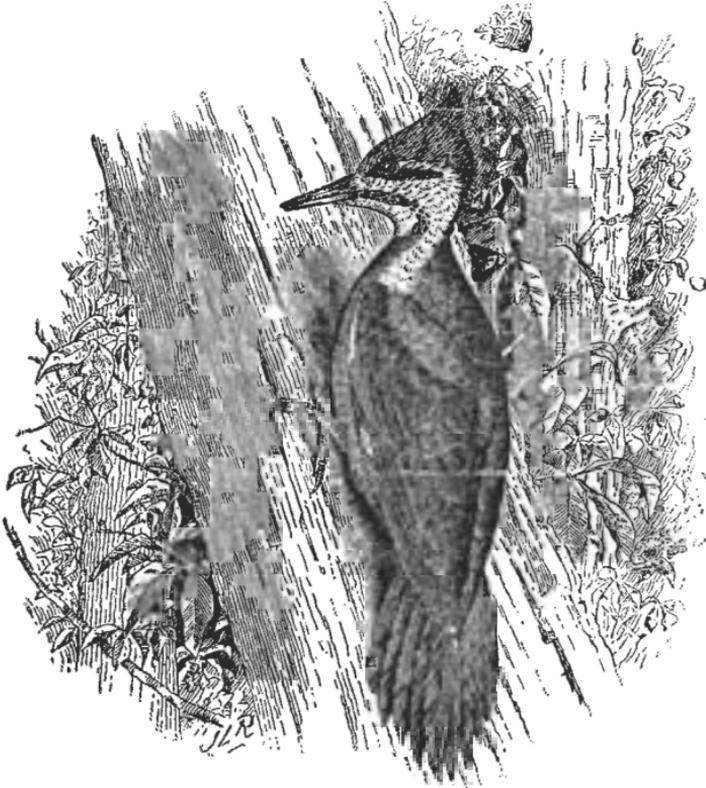
in length. It is similar in coloration to the whip-poor-will but its call differs greatly and there should

be very little trouble in distinguishing them.

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### THE NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER



This is a sub-species of the southern pileated which ranges in the northern woods down to the Dunes area. While formerly common in

the Dunes, none have been seen in northern Indiana for a number of years.

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### THE SOUTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER

Some years ago this species was supposed to be nearly extinct in southern Indiana, but of late years it has been increasing throughout the heavily wooded areas of the state from Brown County, (The Knob Areas) south to New Albany and west to Tell City. This is Indiana's largest woodpecker ranging in length from 16-20 inches. It, once seen, will never be mistaken for any other species. Its size, its

long neck, its extremely loud drumming, easily distinguishes it. There are a number of them nesting in Brown County State Park.

### NORTHERN HORNED LARK

This species is very similar to the Prairie Horned Lark which is a permanent resident common in Indiana in the open prairie areas. However, the Northern Horned Lark is larger and darker and nests north of Indiana into Canada. It is a frequent to common winter visitor

in the prairie areas of northern Indiana. Some winters being much more common than others. It, with the Prairie, are very beautiful birds. They are true larks—belonging to the same family as the skylark of England and are noted for their beautiful songs while in flight. The so-called horns are not horns at all but tufts of black feathers which may be raised to give the effect of horns or they may be lowered against the head, not appearing as horns at all.

#### THE EASTERN RAVEN

This large bird is but a glorified Crow, being 27 inches long compared to 19 inches for the Crow. While these birds are supposed to have formerly been common in Indiana, they have been for many years considered extinct until the last few years, several records have been seen. In one case one bird, 26½ inches long was killed by a farmer while trying to steal chickens.

#### CAROLINA CHICKADEE

A sub-species of the Black-capped chickadee, this is the southern form. It is very similar to the black-capped chickadee, but slightly smaller with little, if any, white on wings or tail. The call differs very slightly. They are very difficult to distinguish, the southern form, The Carolina extends more common in summer from southern Indiana northward and the Black-capped occurs more commonly in the winter from northern Indiana southward. In central Indiana both forms are found.

#### WESTERN YELLOW THROAT

While the former yellow throat in Indiana was called the Maryland Yellow throat. The last few years sub-specific rating has been given our common yellow throat as the Northern Yellow Throat. It is larger and darker than its southern form. The Western Yellow Throat is duller and it may rarely be found in western Indiana. It too is a sub-species.

#### THE EASTERN LARK SPARROW

The Lark Sparrow, 6½ inches in length, is a very beautiful bird, being characterized by its brown crown and cheeks. It is a fine singer. This bird is a frequent to common summer resident, much more common in open field areas than most people know, because he is unfamiliar to them. A little diligent search will acquaint many who do not know him, with one of our finest sparrows.

#### BACHMAN'S SPARROW

Bachman's Sparrow is considered one of our rarest sparrows, yet a careful study will prove it to be a rather frequent summer resident in southern Indiana. It is found in similar areas with the field sparrow—but its song, as well as its coloration, differs.

It is hoped that this sparrow as well as the Nelsons and the Harris, once supposed never to be seen in Indiana, may become better known and more often seen, recognized and recorded.

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