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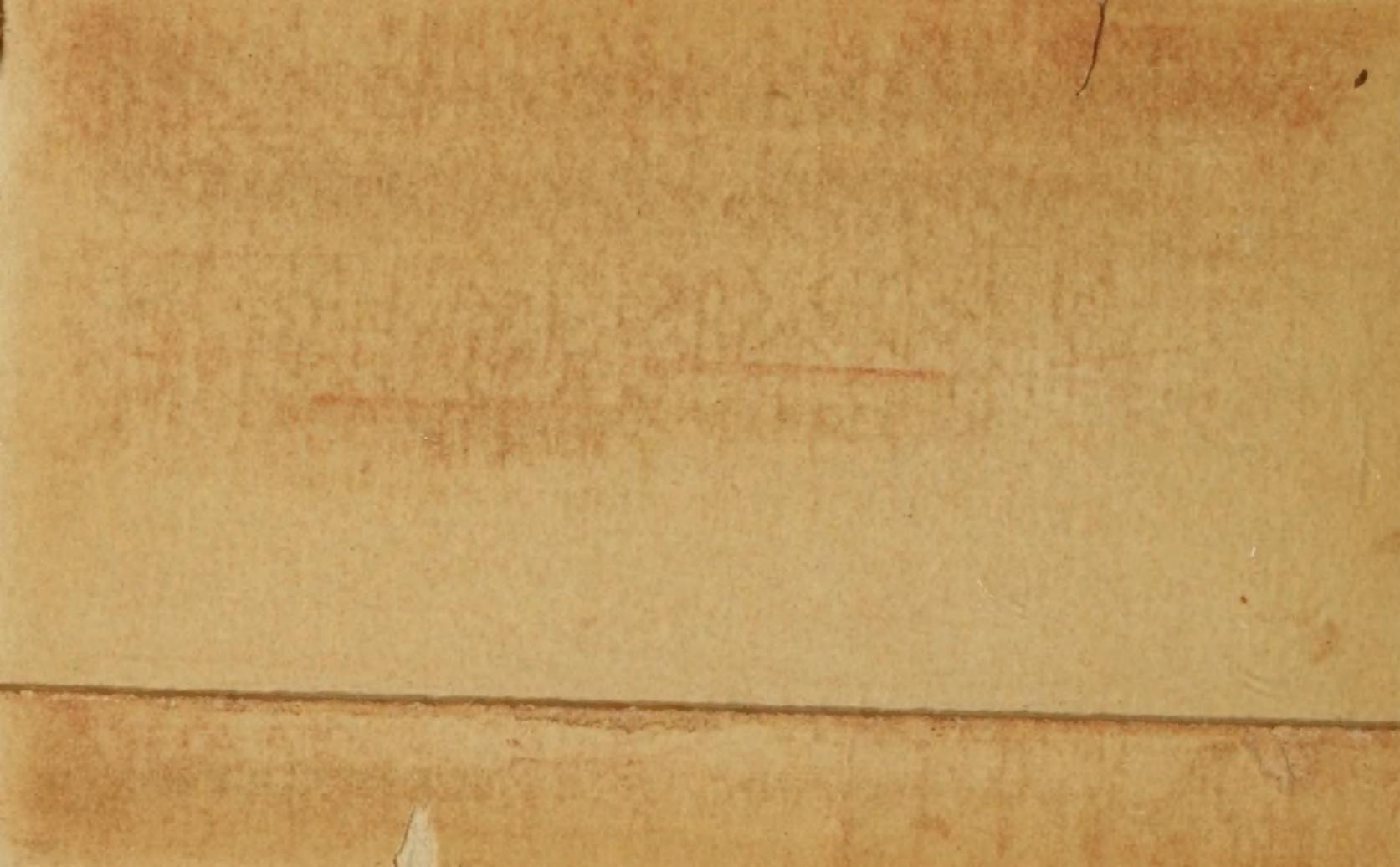


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BABY BIRD-FINDER

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Vol. I
A Pocket Guide to One Hundred and Ten Song and Insectivorous Birds of
New England with Blank Pages for Notes

BY

HARRIET E. RICHARDS AND EMMA G. CUMMINGS

Associates of American Ornithologists' Union

W. A. BUTTERFIELD, PUBLISHER

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1904

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By EMMA G. CUMMINGS and HARRIET E. RICHARDS

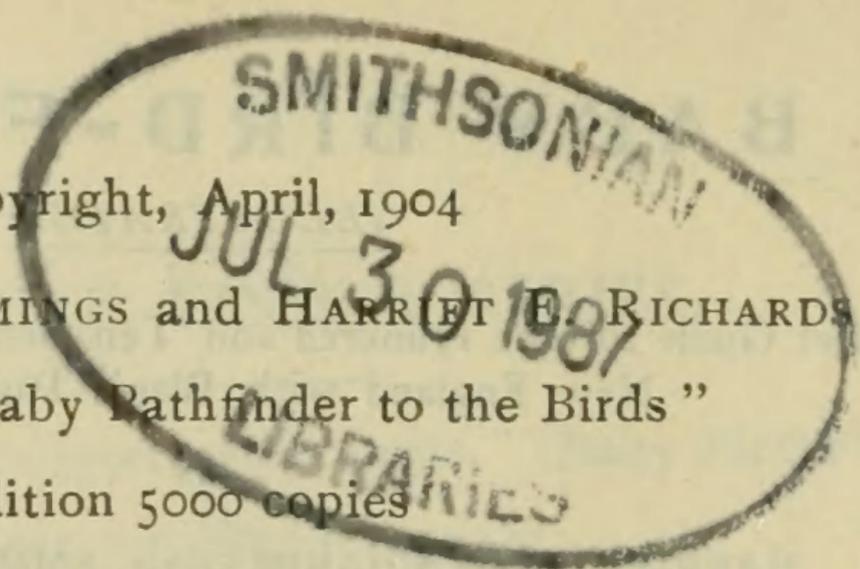
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PREFACE

THIS little guide has been prepared primarily for New England, but should be of service in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Birds of prey, game and water birds are not included.

The descriptions are based on the general appearance of adult birds as seen in the field. The small size and blank pages for notes commend the book for use out of doors, to be supplemented at home with reference to more elaborate works.

Persons interpret bird songs differently. Therefore it is difficult to put on paper the translation of a song for the use of another, but in cases where it seems distinctive we have given it. Many birds

have more than one song and more than one call note, and different birds render them differently.

The American Ornithologists' Union check list number precedes the scientific name. Use it instead of the index when consulting Chapman's Manual. When naming a new bird, locate it in its family; then look for conspicuous points, wing bars, etc., and often by deciding what it is not, you will follow down to the correct clue. If it is an immature bird or a female, it will be more difficult to identify.

Conspicuous markings are printed in italics. The measurements given are approximate only. Remember that a song sparrow is six inches long, about the size of an English sparrow, and that a robin is ten inches long.

CUCULIDAE

387. *Coccyzus americanus*

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. 12 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive-brown, color brightest on wings; upper half of bill black, lower half yellow. Below white; tail long, rounded; outer feathers black, with big white spots like thumb marks.

A slender, shy bird. These birds are closely related to the European cuckoo, which like our cowbird lays its eggs in the nests of other birds. Arrives in Massachusetts about the middle of May.

Note. Somewhat resembling the syllables *cuc, cuc cuc, cuc, keow, keow, keow*, also single coos.

Nest. In low shrubbery, loosely made.

Breeds. In southern New England.



388. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. 12 inches

Similar in appearance to the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, but distinguished from it by a red eye ring; an all black bill; uniform color above and outer tail feathers tipped with white instead of the large spots.

Both cuckoos feed on berries and insects, chiefly caterpillars. Arrives in Massachusetts about the middle of May.

Note. *Cuc, cuc, cuc, kow, kow, kow*, also coos in groups of twos, threes or fours.

Nest. Better constructed than that of the preceding and in similar locations.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

ALCEDINIDAE

390. *Ceryle alcyon*

BELTED KINGFISHER. 13 inches

Male. Above slate-blue; wings and tail spotted with white; *head large*, nearly surrounded by a white band; long thin crest; large black bill. Below white; bluish band across breast. **Female.** Similar, but with chestnut markings on the breast. Sits erect; feeds on fish. Arrives in Massachusetts early in April.

Note. A loud, harsh rattle, given on the wing.

Nest. In a hole in a bank.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

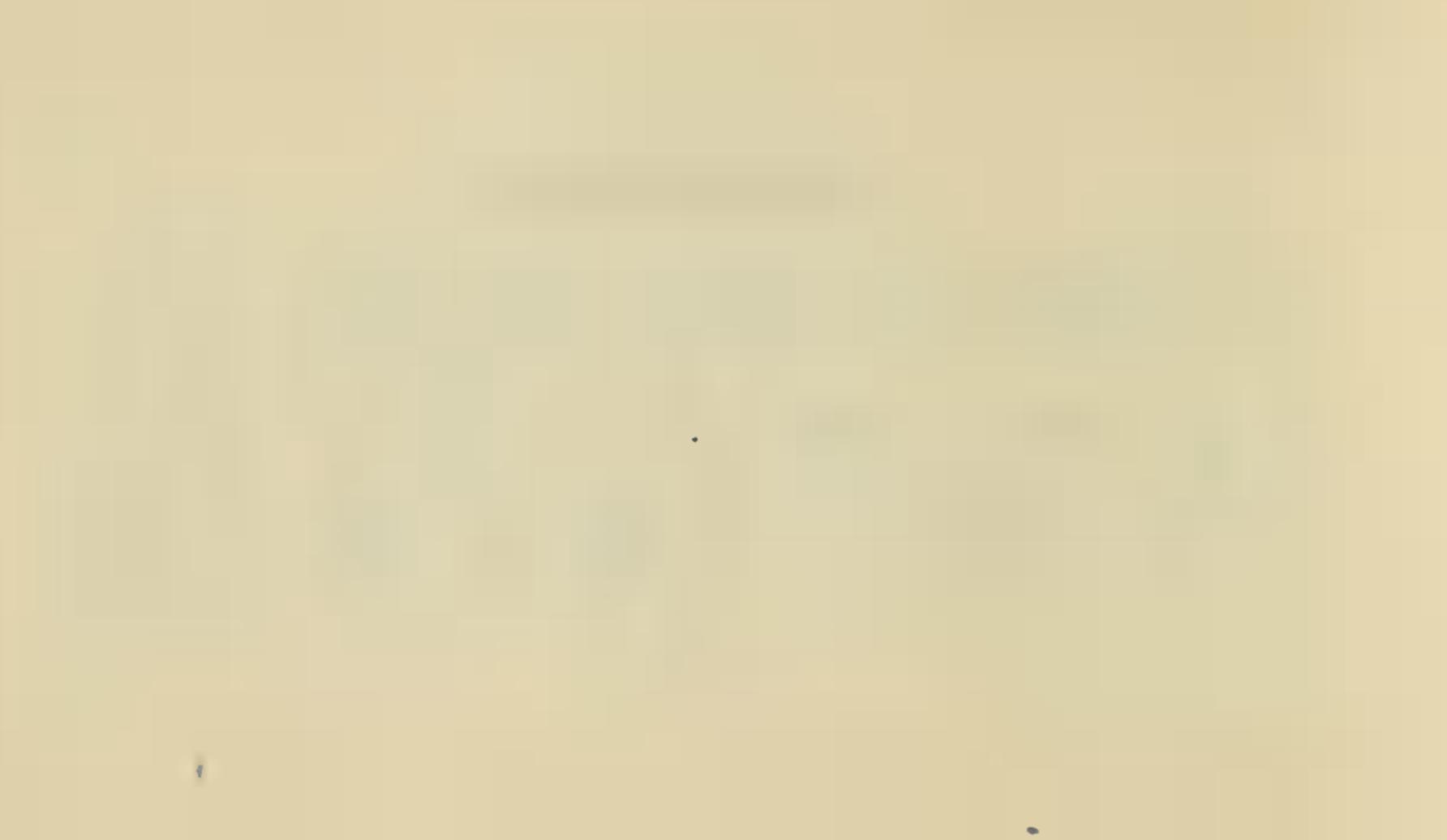


PICIDAE

WOODPECKERS

The Woodpeckers are usually seen climbing about the trunks and branches of trees searching for their insect food. Their tails are rigid and pointed at the tip, making a support for the body while they hammer the bark with their chisel-like bills. They dig out holes in trees for their nests. Their notes are loud and shrill. Their flight is undulating.





393. *Dryobates villosus*

HAIRY WOODPECKER. 9 1-2 inches

Male. Above black and white spotted; white down the middle of the back, above and below the eye and the outer tail feathers; red patch on back of the head. Below white.

Female. Similar, but without the red patch.

A bird fond of the deep woods. Resident in Massachusetts through the year.

Note. *Chink*, like noise of a chisel in drilling.

Nest. In a hole in a tree.

Breeds. Throughout New England, sparingly in the southern part.

394c. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*

DOWNY WOODPECKER. 6 inches

Male and Female. Same general coloration as the Hairy Woodpecker, only the outer tail feathers are barred with black. The best distinction between the two is difference in size. The Downy is more common about houses. Resident in Massachusetts throughout the year.

Note. *Chink*, like the Hairy's, but not as loud.

Nest. In a hole in a tree.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

402. *Sphyrapicus varius*

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. 8 1-2 inches

Male. Above black and yellowish; crown red; broad patch of white on the wings. Below, *throat red*; breast black; belly yellowish. **Female.** Similar, but *throat white*.

Feeds on insects and sap of trees. Their tapping is slower and more irregular than the other woodpeckers. The rows of holes around old apple trees are made by these birds. Spring and autumn migrant in Massachusetts in April and October.

Note. Loud and squealing.

Nest. In a hole in a tree.

Breeds. In northern New England.

406. **Melanerpes erythrocephalus**

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. 9 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above, blue-black and white; whole head red. Below, throat and upper breast red; belly white; broad patch of white on the wings.

Rare and local in Massachusetts.

Note. A rolling note, similar to a tree toad's *ker-ruck*.

Nest. In a hole in a tree.

Breeds. In New England, irregularly and locally.

412a. *Colaptes auratus luteus*

NORTHERN FLICKER. 12 inches

Male and Female alike. Above brown, barred with black; red patch on back of head; *rump white*, conspicuous in flight. Below lighter brown spotted with black; broad black crescent across breast; yellow under the wings and tail.

Called Golden-winged Woodpecker, etc. Often seen on the ground searching for ants, a favorite food. Common in Massachusetts through the year.

Note. *Wick, wick, wick*, many times rapidly repeated.

Nest. In holes in trees.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

417. *Antrostomus vociferus***WHIP-POOR-WILL.** 10 inches

Male. Above and below brown and yellow mottled; outer tail feathers white; band across the throat white; mouth large.

Female. Similar, but markings less distinct.

The mottled browns and yellows of its back are almost indistinguishable from the dry leaves of the wood path, where it often builds its nest. It flies low after sunset in search of food, and spends the day on the ground or perched lengthwise on a shaded branch. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives last week in April.

Note. *Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will,* rapid and continuous.

Nest. On the ground in the woods.

Breeds. Throughout New England.



420. *Chordeiles virginianus*

NIGHTHAWK. 10 inches

Male. Above dark brown mottled; *wings* and *tail* with *broad white band*. Below barred brown and buffy. A white band across the throat; wings longer than forked tail. **Female.** Similar, but throat band yellow.

Perches lengthwise on a limb. Flight high and circling, late in the afternoon and in the evening in search of food. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives second week in May.

Note. *Peent*, uttered on the wing.

Nest. On a low flat rock in open fields, also on gravel roofs of houses.

Breeds. Throughout New England.



MICROPODIDAE

423. *Chaetura pelagica*

CHIMNEY SWIFT. 5 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above dark brown. Below dusky, lighter on the throat; *tail short* and spiny tipped; wings very long.

These birds are often confounded with the swallows. Food, insects caught on the wing; flight fluttering. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives the last week in April.

Note. A loud chip and twittering.

Nest. Usually in chimneys, made of twigs glued together with the birds' saliva.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

TROCHILIDAE

428. *Trochilus colubris*

RUBY-THROATED HUMMING-BIRD. 3 1-2 inches

Male. Above metallic green. Below gray, *ruby* throat; bill long and needle shaped; tail notched. **Female.** Less brilliant, without ruby on the throat. Tail rounded and tipped with white.

Food, honey and small insects found in trumpet-shaped flowers. A buzzing made by the rapid motion of the wings reveals its presence. This is the only hummer occurring east of the Rocky Mountains. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 15.

Note. Sharp squeak.

Nest. On a branch covered with lichens, resembling a knot.

Breeds. Throughout New England.



TYRANNIDAE

FLYCATCHERS

Birds of plain coloring, large heads, short legs and strong individuality. They lack a true song, but each species has a characteristic note. They may be recognized in general by their habit of perching in exposed situations to watch for insects. They make a sudden dart into the air and return to the same perch, repeating the operation again and again. The snap of the bill in flight is often heard as it closes upon its prey.



444. **Tyrannus tyrannus**

KINGBIRD. 8 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above slate, a concealed patch of orange on top of the head. Below grayish white; *tail with white band across the tip.*

Usually sit erect on fence or dead twig watching for food, which is always caught on the wing; sometimes they hover near the ground. Very common in Massachusetts. Arrives the first week in May.

Note. A sharp *dzee*, repeated often and irregularly.

Nest. On a branch in a somewhat exposed situation.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

452. *Myiarchus crinitus*

CRESTED FLYCATCHER. 9 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above brownish olive; *tail cinnamon*; head crested. Below, throat and breast gray; belly yellow.

Usually perch high in open deciduous woods; a frequenter of orchards. Not common in Massachusetts. Arrives the second week in May.

Note. Loud whistle.

Nest. In a hole in a tree, generally with a piece of snake skin.

Breeds. Locally throughout New England.

456. Sayornis phoebe

PHOEBE. 7 inches

Male and Female alike. Above olive-brown ; *head large*, somewhat crested ; indistinct white markings on wings. Below yellowish white. Notice the frequent motion of the tail.

Seen about barnyards. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives the last of March.

Note. A nasal *phoe-bee*.

Nest. On a beam under a bridge or shed, made of grass and moss cemented with mud.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

459. *Nuttallornis borealis*

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. 8 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive-brown. Below, throat, breast and belly yellowish white; sides darker.

Perch high on a dead branch, preferably in coniferous growth. Rare migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives last of May.

Note. *Eh!* *phoebe* in a loud tone.

Nest. On rather a high branch, loosely made of twigs.

Breeds. In northern New England and on Cape Cod.

461. *Contopus virens*

WOOD PEWEE. 6 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive-brown; *two white* wing bars. Below, throat grayish white; breast much darker, shading to yellow on the belly.

Not exclusively an inhabitant of the woods. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 20.

Note. *Pee-a-wee*, plaintive, slow and long drawn out.

Nest. In trees some distance from the ground, firmly built and decorated with lichens.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

8 1/2 inches

11 1/2 inches

463. *Empidonax flaviventris*

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER. 5 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive, eye ring and *wing bars* yellowish. Below light yellow.

Shy birds found in northern forests, perch rather low. Rare migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives the last of May.

Note. " *Killic* " and " *puee.* "

Nest. On the ground in soft or spongy growth.

Breeds. In northern New England.

467. **Empidonax minimus**

LEAST FLYCATCHER. 5 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above dull olive; eye ring and *wing bars* white. Below grayish white.

Also called Chebec. The smallest of the flycatchers. Common about houses and orchards, jerks its tail and throws its head back while uttering its note, *che-bec*. Very common in Massachusetts. Arrives early in May.

Note. *Che-bec! che-bec!* incessantly, as many as sixty times a minute.

Nest. In the fork of a branch, often in old orchards.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

ALAUDIDAE

474. *Otocoris alpestris*

HORNED LARK. 7 1-2 inches

Male. Above brown mottled; forehead yellow; black bar on forepart of crown extended on either side into little tufts of feathers, giving effect of horns; tail black with white edgings. Below whitish; *throat yellow*; black patch on breast and under eye.

Female. Similar, but markings less distinct.

A near relative of the European skylark. In flocks on the Massachusetts coast in autumn and winter, usually on the ground, running and walking among the dead grass and weeds, the seeds of which are their principal food.

Note. A whistle.

Nest. On the ground.

Breeds. North of the United States.



CORVIDAE

477. *Cyanocitta cristata*

BLUE JAY. 12 inches

Male and Female alike. Above blue; wings and tail barred with black and tipped with white; head *crested*. Below grayish white; black collar around the neck.

Direct, strong flight. Permanent resident in Massachusetts.

Note. *Jay, jay*, and other calls.

Nest. In the crotch of a limb.

Breeds. Throughout New England.



488. *Corvus americanus*

AMERICAN CROW. 19 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above and below black with a bluish tinge.

They are walkers. Live in flocks and roost in large colonies. They nest in April and May. Food in winter, seeds and refuse, near the coast, fish and waste. In summer, insects, field mice, grain and refuse. Common and permanent resident in Massachusetts. The Blue Jay and Crow are generally disliked, yet are birds of high mental development.

Note. *Caw*, and other notes.

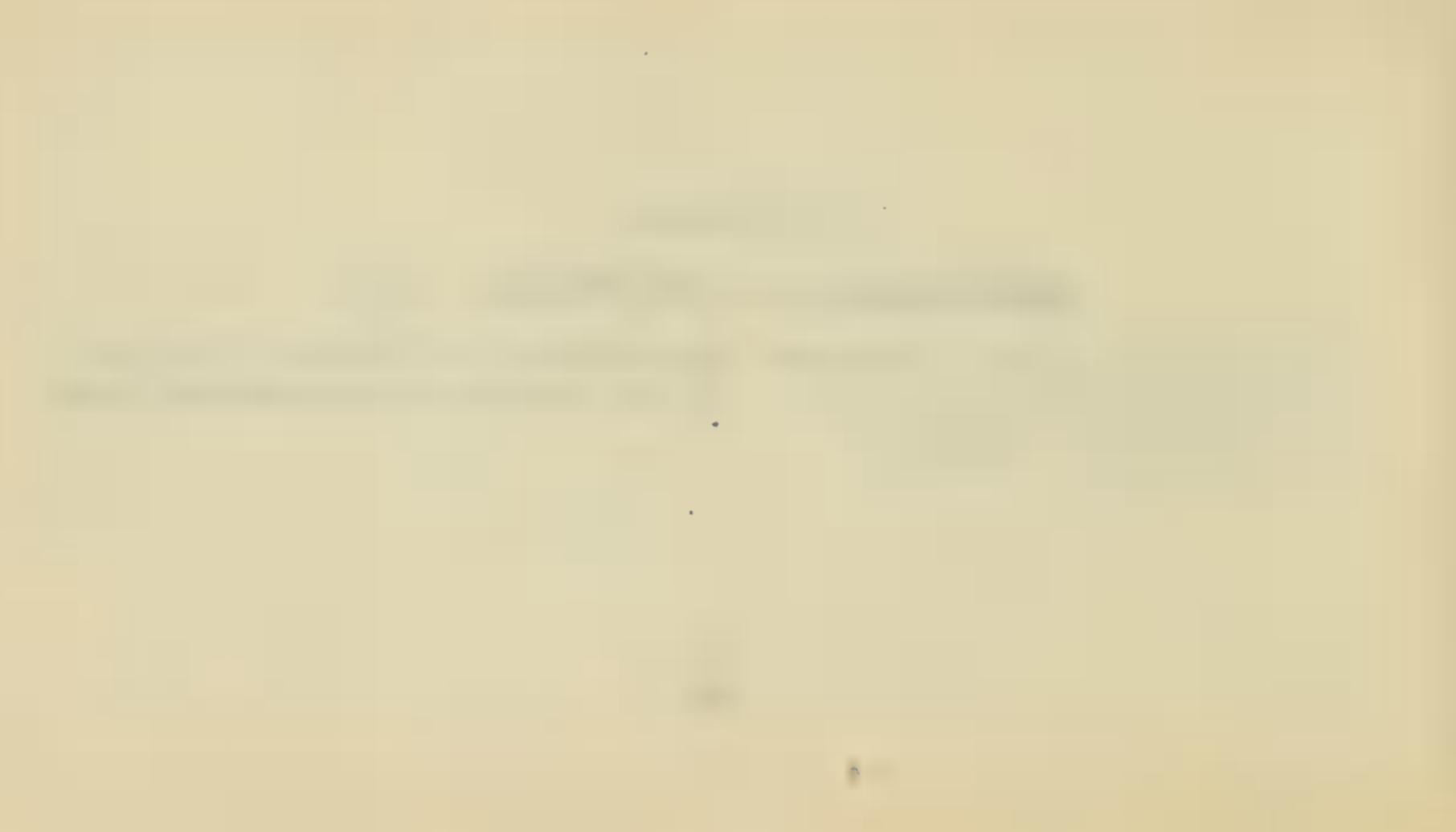
Nest. In trees, pretty high up.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

ICTERIDAE

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, ETC.

An interesting group possessed of marked individuality. They are closely related to the European starling, which was introduced into New York City in 1890.



494. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

BOBOLINK. 7 inches

Male. Above, head black; back black and white; rump white; wings and tail black; yellow patch on back of neck. *Below black.*

Female. Above *striped* olive-brown like a sparrow; two broad dark stripes on the head. Below yellowish.

Flight labored. Locally common in Massachusetts. Arrives second week in May.

Song. Joyous carol on the wing, ending in delicate harplike notes.

Nest. On the ground in hayfields and meadows.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

495. **Molothrus ater**

COWBIRD. 8 inches

Male. Above and below metallic black; whole *head rich brown.*

Female. Above brownish gray, lighter below.

Is also called Cow Bunting. A walker, often seen in open pastures following cattle to get insect food, hence its common name. Large flocks frequently perch in the tree tops. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives the last week in March.

Note. A whistle and a few short, harsh notes.

Nest. None; lays its eggs in the nests of other birds.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

498. *Agelaius phoeniceus*

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. 9 1-2 inches

Male. Above and below black; *scarlet patch* edged with buff on the wing. **Female.** Above mottled brown and buff; shoulder patch indistinct. Below heavily striped. Looks like an overgrown sparrow.

Large flocks often seen in spring *walking* on the newly ploughed land. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives in March.

Song. *O-ka-lee.* Call notes, a chuck and long whistle.

Nest. Among reeds or in a tussock or a bush, near water.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

501. *Sturnella magna*

MEADOW LARK. 10 1-2 inches

Male and Female alike. Above brown and buff mottled; broad dark stripes on the head; *outer tail feathers white*. Below *bright yellow*; sides white, spotted with black; black crescent on the breast. Flight straight but heavy, hovering as it alights. Walks and is much on the ground. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about the middle of March.

Song. Liquid and plaintive. Also has chuckling notes.

Nest. On the ground partially covered, in hayfields or pastures.

Breeds. In southern New England, sparingly north of Massachusetts. Often winters near the coast.



506. *Icterus spurius*

ORCHARD ORIOLE. 7 inches

Male. Above, head, wings, upper back and tail black; lower back and shoulders chestnut; wing bars white. Below, throat black; breast and belly chestnut. **Female.** Above olive-green; wings darker, with white bars. Below, yellowish.

Frequents orchards as well as trees about houses. Not common in Massachusetts. Arrives the last of May.

Song. Similar to the Purple Finch's.

Nest. Basket like, of grass, in fork of twigs in orchard.

Breeds. In southern New England.

507. *Icterus galbula*

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. 8 inches

Male. Above, head, upper back, wings and middle of the tail black; wing bars white; rump and outer tail feathers orange. Below, throat black, the rest orange. **Female.** Above olive, wings and tail brown; wing bars white. Below yellowish.

Called Golden Robin, Hangnest, etc. A slender, graceful bird, flight easy and direct. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 10.

Song. Clear whistled notes, loud and continuous, suggesting the Robin and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Nest. Hanging often near the extremity of a limb.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

509. *Scolecophagus carolinus*

RUSTY BLACKBIRD. 9 1-2 inches

Male. Above and below, *uniform* shining bluish black. Eye white. **Female.** Plain rusty black and of smaller size. Migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives first of April.

Song. A confused whistle. Call note, a cluck.

Nest. In a bush or low evergreen, near water.

Breeds. In extreme northern New England.

511. Quiscalus quiscula

CROW BLACKBIRD, GRACKLE. 13 inches

Male. Above and below iridescent tints of purple and bronze; long, rounded tail. **Female.** Much duller; a browner and a smaller bird.

Sub-species; Bronzed and Purple Grackles, habits of the two identical. Bronzed has more metallic lustre than the Purple. They walk, feed on grubs, caterpillars, army worms, etc. Notice their flight; it is straight and direct, and the tail is used as a rudder. Bronzed is more common in Massachusetts and northward. Arrives in March.

Note. A creaking, grating call.

Nest. Usually in an evergreen in gardens.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

FRINGILLIDAE

FINCHES, SPARROWS, ETC.

The Finches have stout blunt bills, are seed-eating birds and are for the most part good singers. In autumn and winter often found in flocks. Flight strong.

The mature males of the Grosbeaks and Finches are usually bright colored.

The Sparrows, male and female, are more or less striped gray and brown, and, as they stay much on the ground, their colors afford them good protection. Their flight is short and labored. They are difficult to identify and require patience. Note the general coloration and the breast, whether streaked or plain.

515. *Pinicola enucleator leucura*

PINE GROSBEAK. 9 inches

Male. Above and below crimson flecked with gray; wings and tail brown; *wing bars white*; bill short and thick. **Female.** Above and below gray; head and rump brownish green; wings and tail brown; wing bars white.

They visit Massachusetts occasionally in winter, when they are seen in flocks feeding on seeds, notably ash and sumach. The young males resemble the females in appearance, so that in a flock only a few birds may be brilliantly colored.

Note. Mellow whistle.

Nest. In conifers, not very high up.

Breeds. Chiefly north of New England.

Stic. Friticola angustata leucura

PIRE GRASSHOPPER. 9 inches

et. Above and below almost blacked with gray; wings are
brown; wings dark veins in short and thick. Female.
ad below gray; head and some brownish green; wings and
feet brown; other parts white.
They visit grasshoppers
and feeding on
them resemble the females in appearance as that in a book
billiard, colored.

whistle

Next I found not very high up
Stic. (chiefly north of New England)

517. *Carpodacus purpureus*

PURPLE FINCH. 6 inches

Male. Above crimson, streaked with brown, brightest on rump; bill *thick* and *rounded*; tail notched. Below crimson, shading to gray on the belly. **Female** and young males. Above and below brown, streaked like sparrows.

May be recognized by a thick rounded bill and the fact of living among high branches in contrast to sparrows nearer the ground. Common in Massachusetts where a few winter. The migrants arrive in March.

Song. Joyful, rich warble from the tree top, also on the wing.

Nest. Preferably in coniferous trees.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

RED-FINCH. 1872.

Male. Above crimson, streaked with brown brightest on rump; and rounded tail notched. Below crimson, shading to white on belly. Female and young alike. Above and below gray.

like sparrows
by a thick rounded bill and the fact of living
in the branches of trees near the ground.
Massachusetts where a few winter.

rich warble from the tree top, also on the wing.

521. *Loxia curvirostra minor*

AMERICAN CROSSBILL. 6 inches

Male. Above and below red, brightest on rump; back flecked with brownish gray; wings and tail brown; *no wing bars*; bill crossed at tip. **Female.** Above and below olive-green flecked with brown; wings and tail brown.

They visit Massachusetts occasionally in winter, live in flocks and feed on the seeds of cones. Their presence here, as is that of the White-winged Crossbill, is dependent upon the scanty supply of cones at the north.

Note. Chirp or whistle as they work and as they fly.

Nest. In conifers, of twigs and bark.

Breeds. Northern New England.



522. *Loxia leucoptera*

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. 6 inches

Male. Above and below crimson, brightest on rump; wings black with *two broad white bands*; tail black; bill crossed at tips.

Female. Above dull olive; rump olive-green; wings and tail as in male. Below grayish olive, mottled.

They visit Massachusetts occasionally in winter. Habits resemble those of the American Crossbill.

Note. A chirp very similar to that of the American Crossbill.

Nest. In trees, well made of bark and sticks.

Breeds. Chiefly north of New England.

528. *Acanthis linaria*

REDPOLL. 5 1-2 inches

Male. Above brown, much streaked; crown red; bill *sharply pointed*; tail forked. Below gray, with pink tinge; brown spot on the throat. **Female.** Similar, no bright color except on the head. They visit Massachusetts occasionally in winter, keeping in flocks and feeding principally on weed and birch seeds.

Note. Mellow call note like that of the Goldfinch and Siskin.

Nest. Not far from ground.

Breeds. Far north.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. 5 inches

Male. Above bright yellow; *crown, wings and tail black*; wing bars and spots on tail white. Below yellow. **Female.** Above brownish olive; wings and tail brown; wing bars and spots on tail white; no black cap. Below yellowish. Winter plumage of the males is like the females, excepting the wings and tail, which are black.

Usually in flocks except at nesting time. Flight undulating, often singing as they go. Common and permanent resident in Massachusetts.

Song. Canary-like, also a sweet call note *pe-e-e*.

Nest. In a bush or tree.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

533. **Spinus pinus**

PINE SISKIN. 5 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive-brown, streaked like a sparrow; bill sharply pointed; *yellow tints on wings and tail*; wing bars whitish. Below lighter, streaked with brown.

Distinguished from sparrows by yellowish tints and habit of eating seeds of cones. Flight undulating. Like the Crossbill, Pine Grosbeak and Redpoll is an irregular winter visitor in Massachusetts.

Note. Resembles that of the Goldfinch and Redpoll.

Nest. In trees, of bark and weeds.

Breeds. Northern New England.

534. *Passerina nivalis*

SNOW BUNTING. 7 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Winter plumage, above yellowish brown, streaked with black and white; wings white tipped with black; outer tail feathers white, inner ones black. Below white, with a yellowish brown collar. In summer the plumage is mostly black and white. Also called Snowflake.

In winter large flocks visit Massachusetts, particularly the seacoast. They are running, seed-eating birds, often associating with Shore Larks.

Note. A clear whistle.

Nest. On ground, of grasses.

Breeds. Far north.

540. *Pooecetes gramineus*

VESPER SPARROW. 6 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above light and dark brown, heavily streaked; chestnut or *bay* spot on bend of wing; *outer tail feathers white*. Below dusky white streaked with brown.

Usual haunts, roadsides and fields. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives the first week in April.

Song. Similar to Song Sparrow, but more plaintive.

Nest. On the ground in pastures and fields.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

541. *Passerculus princeps*

IPSWICH SPARROW. 6 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above fawn, streaked with brown. Below white, streaked with brown; indistinct patch on breast. Nearly as large as the White-crowned and White-throated. Lightest colored of the sparrows, color blending with the beach grass which it frequents.

A difficult bird to approach and to identify. Visits Atlantic sea-coasts in winter.

Song. Much like the Savanna Sparrow's.

Nest. In a little cavity in the ground, made of mosses.

Breeds. On Sable Island, its only known breeding ground.

542. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*

SAVANNA SPARROW. 5 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above brownish striped; *line over the eye yellow.* Below white, much streaked with brown.

Familiar haunts, meadows and salt marshes, running in the grass or keeping near the ground. Locally common in Massachusetts. Arrives the middle of April.

Song. Low and sweet, ending in a trill, rather insignificant.

Nest. On the ground in marshes and wet fields.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

546. *Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. 5 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above dark brown mottled; *bend of wing yellow*; line over the eye and on head yellow; tail feathers about equal length, pointed. Below grayish white, not streaked. Called Yellow-winged Sparrow. One of the smallest of the family. Does not fly until almost stepped upon and easily passed by on account of its insect-like note. Frequents waste fields. Locally common in Massachusetts. Arrives the middle of May.

Song. A thin grasshopper-like note.

Nest. On the ground well under the dry grass in old fields.

Breeds. In southern New England.

549. *Ammodramus caudacutus*

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW. 5 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above grayish brown; wings and tail reddish brown, below the eye a patch of gray surrounded by yellow; tail narrow, feathers *sharply pointed*. Below buffy, conspicuously streaked with brown.

One of the darkest colored of the sparrows. A bird of the salt-water marshes. Arrives in Massachusetts in May.

Song. A low twitter.

Nest. On the ground, hid in grass just above tide water.

Breeds. Along the marshy coast of New England.

554. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. 6 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above, *crown conspicuously striped* black and white; neck gray; back gray and brown streaked; wing bars white. Below light gray not streaked. Resembles the White-throated, but has no yellow on head or wings.

A rare migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives the middle of May.

Song. A clear, sweet whistle, suggesting the White-throated Sparrow's.

Nest. In a low bush or on the ground.

Breeds. North of New England.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, Peabody Bird. 6 1-2 in.

Male. Above, head black and white striped; *line* in front of the eye and *bend of wing yellow*; back reddish brown striped with black; wing bars white. Below grayish; throat white. **Female.** Similar, markings less distinct.

A large, handsome sparrow. A few winter in Massachusetts. Common migrant spring and autumn. Arrives the last week in April.

Song. Clear, plaintive whistle of five to eleven notes, the first two the longest, "*pea, pea, peabody, peabody, peabody.*"

Nest. Chiefly on the ground, in woodlands and bushy places.

Breeds. In northern New England.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, Peewee Bird, etc.

Male. Above head black and white and ...
Wing yellow; back reddish ...
Below grayish; throat white ...

A ... few winter in Massachusetts ...
Arrives the last week in ...

... whistle of five to eleven notes, the first ...

... in woodlands and bushy places ...
... in northern New England.

559. *Spizella monticola*

TREE SPARROW. 6 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above, *crown chestnut*; back brown streaked with black and buff; two white wing bars. Below light gray to white; faint spot on the breast.

Called Winter Chippy, but is larger than Chipping Sparrow; often in flocks in old weedy fields. Common winter resident in Massachusetts.

Song. Sweet.

Nest. Near the ground, of grasses.

Breeds. Far north.

560. *Spizella socialis*

CHIPPING SPARROW. 5 1-2 inches

Male and Female alike. Above, *crown chestnut*; back streaked brown and buff; *rump gray*; wing bars faint; bill *black*. Below grayish white, not streaked.

A sociable, familiar bird about houses. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about the middle of April.

Song. A dry, strong trill on one note.

Nest. In vines, bush or tree lined with hair, near houses.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

563. *Spizella pusilla*

FIELD SPARROW. 5 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above, *crown chestnut*; back rusty red streaked with black; wing bars faint; bill *light*. Below white tinged with buff, not streaked.

Might be mistaken for Chippy. Look for light bill and reddish back; notice haunt and song, and you will not mistake them. Usually in old fields and scrub pastures. Arrives in Massachusetts about April 15.

Song. A very sweet, bell-like trill preceded by a few slow-whistled notes.

Nest. In low bush or on the ground in scrubby pastures.

Breeds. Throughout New England, sparingly in the northern part.

567. Junco hyemalis

JUNCO, SNOWBIRD. 6 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above uniform slate color; bill horn color; *outer tail feathers white*, conspicuous in flight. Below breast slate, sharply divided from white belly.

A winter resident in Massachusetts.

Song. A trill, much like the Pine Warbler's. Call note, a metallic chip.

Nest. On the ground, usually in the open.

Breeds. In northern New England.

581. **Melospiza cinerea melodia**

SONG SPARROW. 6 inches

Male and **Female** like. Above, top of head striped gray and reddish brown; back heavily striped gray and brown; tail long and thin. Below white, heavily *streaked* with brown; a *spot* on centre of breast.

A bird of the bushy pasture and roadside, usually near water; a very constant singer. Winters sparingly in Massachusetts. Common after middle of March.

Song. Two or three clear, sweet notes followed by a descending trill.

Nest. On or near the ground by roadsides, in pastures or meadows.

Breeds. Throughout New England.



584. *Melospiza georgiana*

SWAMP SPARROW. 6 inches

Male and Female alike. Above *crown chestnut*; back striped browns and black; upper part of wings *chestnut*. Below, throat white; breast grayish.

May be recognized by its chestnut head, wings and tail. A bird of swampy thickets. Common in Massachusetts in bushy marshes. Arrives early in April.

Song. A trill resembling that of the Chipping Sparrow, but slower and more musical.

Nest. On the ground in a tussock, in meadow or bushy swamp.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

585. *Passerella iliaca*

FOX SPARROW. 7 inches

Male and Female alike. Above chestnut and gray striped, brightest on rump and tail. Below white streaked with chestnut.

The largest and reddest of the sparrows; often flock with other sparrows. They live mostly on the ground and scratch among the dead leaves for food. A common spring and autumn migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives last of March.

Song. One of the most beautiful of sparrow songs, rich, full and sweet.

Nest. Near the ground.

Breeds. Far north.

587. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

TOWHEE, CHEWINK. 8 inches

Male. Above black, *outer tail feathers tipped with white*. Below, throat and breast black; belly white; sides chestnut. **Female.** Brownish where male is black.

A bird of dry thickets, much on the ground scratching and rustling among the leaves, frequently calling *chewink*; mounts a tree to deliver its song. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives in latter part of April.

Song. “*Tee-hoo, pill-ill-ill-ill-ill.*” Call note, *che-wink*.

Nest. On the ground in scrubby woodlands.

Breeds. In southern New England.

595. *Zamelodia ludoviciana*

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. 8 inches

Male. Above, head and back black ; horn color bill *thick and stout*; rump, spots on the wings and on outer tail feathers white. Below, throat black ; breast and under the wings rose color ; belly white.

Female. Above brownish. Below streaked ; yellow under wings, no rose color. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 10.

Song. A loud warble, suggesting the Robin and the Oriole, preceded by a sharp chip.

Nest. Of twigs and rootlets in a bush or low tree.

Breeds. Throughout New England.



598. *Cyanospiza cyanea*

INDIGO BIRD. 5 1-2 inches

Male. Above and below rich *indigo* blue; wings and tail brownish. **Female.** Above olive-brown. Below, breast dingy white, slightly streaked.

Also called Indigo Bunting. A dainty bird of the roadside, fields and orchards. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about the middle of May.

Song. “*Che-ree'*, *che-ree'*, *che-ree'*, *che-ree'*, *che-rah'*, *rah-rup'*.”
Call note, a metallic “*cheep*.”

Nest. Well hidden in a low bush.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

TANAGRIDAE

608. *Piranga erythromelas*

SCARLET TANAGER. 7 inches

Male. Above and below scarlet ; wings and tail black. **Female.** Above and below olive-green ; wings and tail brownish. Frequents open deciduous woods. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 15.

Song. Loud, cheery carol, suggesting a hoarse Robin. Call note, "*chip-churr.*"

Nest. Near the end of the lower branches, loosely built.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

HIRUNDINIDAE

SWALLOWS

The Swallows are known the world over. They have a wide mouth ; long, strong wings ; tail usually more or less forked ; feet small and weak ; plumage lustrous with metallic shadings.

Flight circling. They feed on insects caught in the air. Perch often on telegraph wires, seldom alight on the ground. Nest and migrate in flocks.

611. Progne subis

PURPLE MARTIN. 7 inches

Male. Above and below lustrous blue-black; very long wings and forked tail. **Female.** Above dull black. Below grayish brown. Feeds on insects. Locally distributed in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 1.

Note. Usually like "*peuo, peuo, peuo.*"

Nest. In boxes put up by man for their use.

Breeds. Locally throughout New England.



612. Petrochelidon lunifrons

EAVE SWALLOW. 5 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above steel-blue; rump chestnut; *forehead whitish*; chestnut collar all around the neck. Below, throat dark chestnut, with a steel-blue spot; breast light brown; tail square.

Also called Cliff Swallow. This species alights on the ground about muddy places for nesting material. Arrives in Massachusetts about May 1.

Note. A twittering.

Nest. Bottle-shaped, of mud, under eaves of buildings.

Breeds. Locally throughout New England.

613. *Hirundo erythrogastra*

BARN SWALLOW. 7 inches

Male and Female alike. Above steel-blue; forehead chestnut. Below, throat chestnut; belly buffy; long wings; *tail deeply forked*, with white spots.

These beautiful skimmers of the farmyard and pastures are the most familiar of the family. Arrives in Massachusetts about last of April.

Song. "A low chattering trill."

Nests. Of mud, on rafters of old buildings.

Breeds. Throughout New England.



614. *Iridoprocne bicolor*

TREE SWALLOW. 6 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above metallic green. Below clear white; tail slightly forked.

Also called White-bellied Swallow. Arrives in Massachusetts the first week in April.

Note. A few musical notes.

Nest. In holes in trees or in bird boxes.

Breeds. Locally throughout New England.



616. *Riparia riparia*

BANK SWALLOW. 5 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above *brown*. Below white, with a brown band across the breast; tail slightly forked.

The smallest of the swallows. Breeds in colonies. Arrives in Massachusetts about May 1.

Note. A twittering.

Nest. In a hole in a sand bank.

Breeds. Locally throughout New England.

AMPELIDAE

619. *Ampelis cedrorum*

CEDAR BIRD. 7 inches

Male and Female alike. Above brownish; *smooth plumage*; head crested; forehead and eye line black; red spots like sealing wax on wings; *tail tipped with yellow*. Below olive-brown, shading to yellow on belly.

Also called Cedar Waxwing.

Dignified, affectionate birds, often seen in flocks in thickets of cedar and sumachs feeding on the berries.

Winters sparingly in Massachusetts. A common summer resident.

Calls. A few lisping notes. Also a "hushed whistle."

Nest. In tree, a deep cup built late in the season.

Breeds. Throughout New England.



LANIIDAE

621. *Lanius borealis*

NORTHERN SHRIKE, BUTCHER BIRD. 10 inches

Male and Female alike. Above gray ; black bar on side of head and to the eye ; wings and tail black, spotted with white ; black hawk-like bill. Below light gray with wavy lines.

A bird having the characteristics of a hawk ; swift, strong flight ; feeds on mice and young birds ; is usually alone or in pairs. Winter visitor in Massachusetts.

Song. A rich continuous warble, heard in early spring.

Nest. Near the ground, of grasses.

Breeds. Far north.



VIREONIDAE

VIREOS

The Vireos are small insect-eating birds, yet larger than the warblers, with slender beaks and greenish gray plumage. They frequent the outer branches of deciduous trees, yet keep well hidden among the leaves, singing as they work. Some of the species are good singers, all have a petulant call note like the word *min-u-eet'*. They build a neat cup-shaped nest, hung from a crotch in a twig.



624. Vireo olivaceus

RED-EYED VIREO. 6 inches

Male and Female alike. Above olive-brown; a *black line above a white line* over the bright red eye; no wing bars. Below white.

A bird of roadsides and the open woods. Feeds on insects, largely caterpillars. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 12.

Song. Loud and clear, delivered in conversational style all day and all summer long; might be described as a query of three syllables in rising inflection, *are you there?* then in falling inflection the answer, *we are here.*

Nest. At the fork of a branch, a dainty hanging cup.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

627. *Vireo gilvus*

WARBLING VIREO. 5 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive-brown; no wing bars. Below dull white, tinged with yellow on sides.

Frequents tall trees of the village and roadside, also in open woodlands; prefers the upper branches and is a constant singer. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 5.

Song. A rich, mellow warble, suggesting the Purple Finch's.

Nest. A tiny hanging cup on a forked branch high up in a tree.

Breeds. Throughout New England, more common in southern part.

628. *Vireo flavifrons*

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. 6 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive-green; rump gray; wing bars white. Below, *throat* and *breast yellow*; belly white.

A bird of the open woods and orchards, a persistent destroyer of caterpillars' nests. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 5.

Song. Sweet and rich in quality, in form much like the Red-eyed Vireo's, but slower and lower in pitch.

Nest. A little cup decorated with lichens, hanging at the fork of a branch, not very high up, often in orchards.

Breeds. In southern New England.

629. Vireo solitarius

BLUE-HEADED VIREO. 5 1-2 inches

Male and Female alike. Above olive-green; head *bluish gray*; eye ring and line to bill white; wing bars white. Below white; greenish yellow on sides.

A confiding bird of the woods; also called the Solitary Vireo. Arrives in Massachusetts about April 25.

Song. Resembling Red-eyed Vireo's, but richer and sweeter.

Nest. A pretty cup hanging from a forked branch low down.

Breeds. In northern New England.

631. *Vireo noveboracensis*

WHITE-EYED VIREO. 5 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive-green; eye white; wing bars white. Below white, shading to yellow on sides.

A bird of the low growths. Locally common in southern New England. Arrives about May 10.

Song. Short and emphatic "*chip-a-weeo.*"

Nest. A hanging cup from the forked branch of a low tree or bush.

Breeds. In eastern Massachusetts and southward.

MNIOTILTIDAE

WARBLERS

The Warblers are small, active, insect-eating birds. Their songs are generally sharp and wiry, lacking form and rhythm. The species that live in the trees do not sing as well as those that live on or near the ground. They are more brilliantly colored and generally have dark legs and bills. They feed among the thick foliage, often near the tree tops. The females are much duller colored, frequently lacking the bright conspicuous marks of the male, and so are puzzling birds to identify. The species that live near the ground often have white or pink legs and bills.



636. *Mniotilta varia*

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. 5 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** similar. Above and below black and white *streaked*; bill and feet black; wing bars white; outer tail feathers spotted with white.

Also known as the Black and White Creeper. A bird of the woodlands, seldom perching, most of the time creeping over the trunks and branches of trees, searching for insects. Coloring suggests Blackpoll Warbler. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 1.

Song. "*Scis-sors, scis-sors, scis-sors.*"

Nest. On the ground, usually near the stump of a tree.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

642. *Helminthophila chrysoptera*

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER. 5 inches

Male. Above blue-gray; *crown* and *patch* on wings *bright yellow*. Below white; a patch of black on throat and through eye; outer tail feathers with white spots. **Female.** Similar, without the black.

A bird of swampy woodlands. Summer resident in eastern Massachusetts. Arrives about May 10.

Song. Quality of tone like the Black-throated Green Warbler's song.

Nest. On the ground.

Breeds. In southern New England.

645. *Helminthophila rubricapilla*

NASHVILLE WARBLER. 5 inches

Male and **Female** similar. Above olive-green; *head gray* with chestnut spot on crown; eye ring white; no wing bars; no white spots on tail. Below yellow.

A bird of the scrub and lower growths. Coloring suggests the Pine Warbler. Uncommon summer resident in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 5.

Song. Resembling that of the Yellow Warbler and the Chestnut-sided, but ending in a loud trill which makes it distinctive.

Nest. On or near the ground.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

648. *Compsothlypis americana usneae*

NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER. 4 1-2 inches

Male. Above gray-blue; *yellowish patch on back*; wing bars and tail spots white. Below, throat and breast yellow, with dark band across breast, belly white. **Female.** Similar, colors duller, often without dark band on breast.

Also called Blue Yellow-backed. It frequents the tops of the trees, but during migrations is often found in orchards and park shrubbery. Arrives in Massachusetts about May 12.

Song. Starts with a buzz and ends in a husky warble like *p-r-i-t* with a strong accent.

Nest. Suspended from a branch in orchards or on edges of woods, made of usnea moss.

Breeds. In New England in localities where there is usnea moss.

652. *Dendroica aestiva*

YELLOW WARBLER. 5 inches

Male. Above yellow. Below bright yellow, with *streaks of chestnut on the breast.* **Female.** Similar, chestnut streaks indistinct or wanting.

Suggests a Canary, but has a small dark bill. Commonest of the warblers, known as Summer Yellowbird. Arrives in Massachusetts about May 1.

Song. Loud, nervous and continuous *sweet, sweet, sweet-ee'*.

Nest. In a shrub, closely built of plant down and grasses.

Breeds. Throughout New England, local in the northern part.

654. *Dendroica caerulescens*

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. 5 inches

Male. Above dark grayish blue; *white patch* on wings and white spots on tail. Below, throat and sides black; breast white. **Female.** Above dark olive. Below yellowish white; *wing patch white.*

A bird of the woods. Migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 10.

Song. *Zee, zee, zee*, loudly and slowly on an upward scale.

Nest. In bushes near the ground in dense woods. In elevated portions of southern New England it nests in mountain laurel.

Breeds. Throughout New England, very sparingly in the southern part, and only where there is mountain laurel.

655. *Dendroica coronata*

MYRTLE WARBLER. 5 1-2 inches

Male. Above gray-blue streaked with black ; wing bars and tail spots white ; *crown patch, rump and sides of breast yellow.* Below, throat white ; breast *streaked* with black. **Female.** Similar, but with indistinct brownish coloring.

Also called Yellow-rumped Warbler. Food, insects and berries, especially bayberries. A bird of the scrub pastures and roadsides, often in flocks. Abundant migrant in Massachusetts ; sometimes winters near the coast. Arrives about April 20.

Song. *Chewy, chewy, chewy*, repeated on the same note.

Nest. In conifers, not far from the ground.

Breeds. In northern New England.

657. *Dendroica maculosa*

MAGNOLIA WARBLER. 5 inches

Male. Above black; *crown blue-gray*; yellow rump; white wing patch; tail black at end, with white band across middle. Below yellow, heavily *streaked* with black on the breast. **Female.** Similar, but colors duller.

This bird is also called the Black and Yellow Warbler. It is often seen on the lower branches of evergreens, searching for insects. Migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives about the middle of May.

Song. A few clear notes.

Nest. In conifers, not far from the ground.

Breeds. In northern New England.

857. *Dendroica maculosa*

MADONIA WARBLER. 2 males

Head, crown, back, wings, yellow; throat, white; wing
end, white; tail, black; breast, white; belly,
black; feet, black.

The Black and Yellow Warbler is often
found in evergreens, searching for insects.
A few about the middle of May.

659. *Dendroica pensylvanica*

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. 5 inches

Male. Above black and gray, streaked; *crown yellow*; black line over eye; white patch under eye; wing bars yellowish, tail spots white. Below white; *sides chestnut*. **Female.** Similar, but colors duller.

A bird of the scrub and swampy open woodlands. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 5.

Song. Five or six musical notes, suggesting the Yellow Warbler.

Nest. In low, dry scrub.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

660. *Dendroica castanea*

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER. 5 1-2 inches

Male. Above brown, streaked with black; *crown chestnut*; forehead and sides of head black; wing bars and tail spots white. Below, *throat, breast and sides chestnut*; belly pale yellow. **Female.** Similar, but colors duller.

A rare migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives about the middle of May.

Song. A fine, hurried *z-e-e*.

Nest. In conifers.

Breeds. In northern New England.

661. *Dendroica striata*

BLACKPOLL WARBLER. 5 1-2 inches

Male. Above black and white, streaked; *crown black*; white patch under the eye; wing bars and tail spots white. Below white, streaked with black on sides. **Female.** Similar, with yellowish tinge.

In migration frequents tree tops. Suggests the Black and White Creeper. A common migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives about the middle of May.

Song. Similar to the Black and White Creeper's, but faster and in higher key.

Nest. In conifers.

Breeds. In northern New England, on high mountains.

BLACKBOLL WARBLER, 2-3 inches

Above: mid white and red; crown black; white patch
the eye; bars and tail spots white. Below white
on sides. Feet similar with yellowish

In migration. Migrants see top. Suggests the Black and White
Caper. A common migrant in the middle of May.
Arrives about

Song. Similar to the Black and White Caper's, but faster and
in higher key.

Nest. In conifers.

Breeds. In northern New England, on high mountains.

662. *Dendroica blackburniae*

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. 5 inches

Male. Above black streaked with white; head striped orange and black; black line under and through eye; wing patch and tail spots white. Below, *throat orange*; sides yellow streaked with black.

Female. Similar, but much duller colors.

A bird of the high open woods, usually in conifers. Sings from the tree tops. Migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 10.

Song. Rather long, ending high and wiry.

Nest. In conifers.

Breeds. In northern New England.

667. *Dendroica virens*

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. 5 inches

Male. Above olive-green; sides of head yellow; wing bars and tail spots white. Below, throat and breast black; belly white.

Female. Similar, but colors duller; black on the throat more or less obscured.

Common in Massachusetts in pine woods. Arrives about May 1.

Song. “*Trees, trees, murmuring trees,*” given rapidly.

Nest. In an evergreen tree in the woods.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

671. *Dendroica vigorsii*

PINE WARBLER. 5 1-2 inches

Male. Above olive-green; *wing bars* and *tail spots white*. Below yellow. **Female.** Similar, but colors duller.

Resembles the Nashville; look for white markings on Pine Warbler. Common in Massachusetts, in pitch pine woods. Arrives about April 10.

Song. A loud trill suggesting the Chipping Sparrow, but it has a richer quality.

Nest. Usually near the end of a pine tree branch.

Breeds. In southern New England.

672a. *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*

YELLOW PALM WARBLER. 5 1-2 inches

Male and Female alike. Above olive, brighter on rump; yellow line over eye; *crown chestnut*; no wing bars; tail spots white. Below yellow, streaked with chestnut on the sides.

More like a sparrow than a warbler in its habit of frequenting fields and open places, much on the ground, flirts its tail. Migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives about the middle of April.

Song. A thin, light trill on one note.

Nest. On the ground.

Breeds. Sparingly in eastern Maine, but chiefly north of New England.

673. *Dendroica discolor*

PRAIRIE WARBLER. 4 1-2 inches

Male. Above olive-green; *chestnut markings on back*; yellow line over eye; wing bars yellow; tail spots white. Below yellow, sides *streaked* with black. **Female.** Similar, but often lacks the chestnut markings on the back.

A bird of the scrub oaks and old pastures. Common in Massachusetts near the coast. Arrives about May 10.

Song. *Zee, zee, zee, zee*, on an ascending scale.

Nest. In pastures or scrub not far from the ground, made of grass and roots.

Breeds. In southern New England, rarely north of Massachusetts.

674. *Seiurus aurocapillus*

OVENBIRD. 6 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive-brown; crown striped orange and black. Below white, *streaked* with brown. No wing bars nor tail spots.

Known also as the Golden-crowned Thrush. A little old-fashioned bird usually found in scrubby woodlands, walking on the ground or on a tree branch, constantly flirting its tail. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 1.

Song. "Teacher, teacher, *teacher, teacher*, TEACHER."

Nest. On the ground, often roofed over, in the woods.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

675. *Seiurus noveboracensis*

WATER THRUSH. 6 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive brown, no wing bars nor tail spots. Below dull white, streaked with brown.

Known also as the Water Wagtail and Northern Thrush. A bird of low, swampy ground; a walker. Migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 10.

Song. Loud and clear.

Nest. Near the ground, in a swamp or near water.

Breeds. In northern New England.

681*d.* *Geothlypis trichas brachydactyla*

NORTHERN MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT. 5 inches

Male. Above olive-green; *forehead* and *band through eye black*; no wing bars nor tail spots. Below bright yellow. **Female.** Similar, but no black on head and yellow breast paler than the male's. A little flirt of the brookside and spring pasture, often on the ground. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 1.

Song. "*Wichity, wichity.*"

Nest. On the ground, in swampy tussocks.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

683. *Icteria virens*

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. 7 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive-green; white line over the eye; no wing bars nor tail spots. Below brilliant yellow.

An inhabitant of low bushy places. Rare summer resident in Massachusetts. Arrives about the middle of May.

Song. Loud, mimicking and rollicking, suggesting the Catbird's.

Nest. Near the ground in a thicket.

Breeds. In southern New England.

685. *Wilsonia pusilla*

WILSON'S WARBLER. 5 inches

Male. Above bright olive-green; head yellow, with *black cap*. Below yellow; no wing bars nor tail spots. **Female.** Similar, black cap sometimes indistinct or wanting.

Also called Wilson's Blackcap. Active birds found in the underbrush, flycatcher manner. A migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 10.

Song. A few weak, rapid notes.

Nest. Of leaves and grasses, on the ground.

Breeds. Northern New England and eastern Maine.

686. *Wilsonia canadensis*

CANADIAN WARBLER. 5 1-2 inches

Male. Above blue-gray; black spots on top of head; no wing bars nor tail spots. Below yellow black line under eye and down sides of throat; a *band of black spots across the breast.* **Female.** Similar, but markings dusky instead of black.

An active bird of the underbrush, flycatcher habit. Migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 20.

Song. A few hurried notes ending abruptly with a rising inflection.

Nest. On the ground, in woods near water.

Breeds. In New England, sparingly in the southern part.

687. *Setophaga ruticilla*

AMERICAN REDSTART. 5 inches

Male. Above black; large wing patch and tail blotches orange. Below black; belly white; sides of breast orange. **Female.** Greenish gray where the male is black, and yellow where it is orange.

An inhabitant of the maples and elms of the roadside, also found in open woodlands. It is a gay little flycatcher, and in flight suggests a miniature Baltimore Oriole. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 5.

Song. “*Weechee, weeche, weeche,*” thin and wiry on a rising scale.

Nest. In a crotch not very high up.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

MOTACILLIDAE

697. *Anthus pensilvanicus*

AMERICAN TITLARK OR PIPIT. 6 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above brown, faintly streaked; wings and tail darker; outer tail feathers marked with white. Below buffy; breast and sides *streaked* with brown. Frequents, in scattering flocks, recently ploughed fields and pastures; is a walker and has a habit of jerking its tail; flight undulating. Migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives about April 10.

Song. A faint note uttered on the wing.

Nest. On the ground, made of grass.

Breeds. Far north.

TROGLODYTIDAE

THRASHERS, WRENS, ETC.

The Wrens are energetic little creatures, always ready to show fight if their rights are intruded on. They have barred and mottled plumage. Notice the tails, they often bend forward or stand erect. They creep over the branches and grasses searching for insect food. The Catbird and Brown Thrasher, though much larger, are closely related, and the whole group take high rank as singers. The Wrens have astonishingly loud voices for such tiny birds; the quality is clear and sweet, except in the case of the Short-billed Marsh Wren.

704. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*

CATBIRD. 8 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above and below slate colored; crown black; a chestnut spot under the tail.

A bird of the shrubbery, usually near water, often on the ground. Notice their tails; they flirt them a good deal, droop them when singing and spread them wide when flying. Common summer resident in Massachusetts. Arrives early in May.

Song. Full, loud and happy, quite like the Brown Thrasher's. Common note, a "mew" like a cat.

Nest. In a thicket near the ground.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

705. *Toxostoma rufum*

BROWN THRASHER. 11 inches

Male and Female alike. Above cinnamon brown; white wing bars. Below white, heavily spotted with dark brown; very long tail, which it flirts in an energetic manner.

Is also called the Brown Thrush. Large birds of the scrub oaks and thickets; much on the ground, rustling among the leaves; usually in pairs. Common summer resident in Massachusetts. Arrives early in May.

Song. Rich, full and varied; seems to be full of conversation and mimicry, easily mistaken for the Catbird's.

Nest. In a shrub a few feet from the ground.

Breeds. Southern New England.

721. Troglodytes aëdon

HOUSE WREN. 5 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above reddish brown; wings and tail finely barred; tail usually held erect. Below grayish, indistinctly barred.

A brave little bird of the orchard, singing merrily through the day. Formerly they were common in southern New England, now rare except in a few localities. Arrives in Massachusetts about May 1.

Song. A loud, clear, ringing warble.

Nest. In hole in tree or in a bird box.

Breeds. Sparingly throughout New England.



722. *Olbiorchilus hiemalis*

WINTER WREN. 4 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above reddish brown; tail short and often carried erect; wings and tail finely barred. Below yellowish brown, finely barred.

A tiny, spirited bird of the deep woods, fond of the brush heap and old dead log. Migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives in April. Is more abundant in the autumn than in the spring migration.

Song. A rapid, rippling melody, rich and ringing in quality.

Nest. In a stump or the roots of a tree.

Breeds. In northern New England.

724. *Cistothorus stellaris*

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN. 4 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above brownish; tail and wings barred. Below brownish gray; throat lighter.

Both species, Nos. 724 and 725, are tiny mouse-like birds, difficult to discover, as they creep along the reeds and weed stalks hunting for spiders and insects. They live in colonies and inhabit open, swampy places. Locally common in Massachusetts. Arrives about the middle of May. **Song.** Short and unmusical. **Nest.** In the grass. **Breeds.** In southern New England.

725. *Telmatodytes palustris*

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. 5 inches

Appearance, range and habit much like No. 724, but has a longer bill and is a little larger. **Song.** A bubbling melody. **Nest.** Attached to reeds a few feet from the ground. Builds false nests.

CERTHIIDAE

726. *Certhia familiaris americana*

BROWN CREEPER. 5 1-2 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above mottled, brown and white; *long bill*; tail feathers stiff pointed. Below white.

A bird of the tree trunks, twisting slowly up, up in search of insect food, then when it has made the ascent it flies to the foot of the tree and starts up again, frequently uttering a squeaky *skeep, skeep*. Common in Massachusetts in the winter.

Song. A few weak but musical notes, seldom heard except in the breeding season.

Nest. On the trunks of trees, behind a loose piece of bark.

Breeds. In northern New England.



727. *Sitta carolinensis***WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.** 6 inches

Male. Above blue-gray; top of head black; the sides white; long black bill; wing bars and tail spots white; *tail* very *short* and *square*. Below white. **Female.** Similar, but has little black on head.

A bird of the tree trunks and branches, usually seen head downwards poking in the crevices of the bark for its insect food, is also fond of nuts and table bits that thoughtful persons furnish it. Common in Massachusetts in autumn and winter.

Song. A prolonged *ha-ha-ha-ha*, also a nasal note like *yank, yank, yank*.

Nest. In a hole in a tree.

Breeds. Throughout New England.



RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. 4 1-2 inches

Male. Above blue-gray; top of head black, the sides white; broad black line through eye; bill long and black. Below, throat white; *breast chestnut; tail short and square*, with white spots.

Female. Similar, but little black on the head.

Distinguished from White-breasted by its red breast and smaller size. An uncommon winter visitor in Massachusetts.

Song. Similar to the White-breasted but sharper and higher pitched.

Nest. In hole in tree.

Breeds. In northern New England.

to of head black, the sides white;
eye; the and black. Below throat
with white spots.
but little black on the head.
White-breasted by its red breast and
white visitor is Massachusetts.
to the White-breasted but sharper and higher

PARIDAE: PARINAE
735. *Parus atricapillus*

CHICKADEE. 5 inches

Male and Female alike. Above blue-gray; top of head black, sides white. Below yellowish white; throat black.

This dainty, much-loved creature often merrily calls its name just outside the window on cold winter mornings. In February it begins to whistle its sweet, clear "Phoebe" notes that sometimes cause the young bird student to confound it with the flycatcher Phoebe that normally does not reach Massachusetts till late in March. Common in Massachusetts, in autumn and winter.

Song. *Chick-a-dee, dee, dee, chick-a-dee, dee, dee*, and a clear whistled *Phoebe*, "represented by G and F on the piano."

Nest. Of warm material, in holes in trees and stumps.

Breeds. Throughout New England.



SYLVIIDAE: REGULINAE

748. *Regulus satrapa*

GOLDEN=CROWNED KINGLET. 4 inches

Male. Above olive-gray; crown gold; bordered with black stripe; white line around the eye; wing bars whitish. Below gray.

Female. Similar, but the crown yellow, bordered with black stripe.

Winters in Massachusetts.

Note. In winter a weak, wiry *tzee, tzee, tzee*.

Nest. In conifers, usually pensile.

Breeds. In northern New England.



749. *Regulus calendula*

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. 4 inches

Male. Above olive-gray; scarlet crest displayed at will; wing bars tinged with yellow. Below gray. **Female.** Similar, no crest. A spring and autumn migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives in April.

Song. Rich and loud, suggesting a wren.

Nest. In conifers, usually pensile.

Breeds. North and east of New England.

TURDIDAE

THRUSHES, BLUEBIRDS

The Thrushes are large brownish birds with speckled breasts. They keep near the ground, feed largely on insects and berries, and are perhaps our finest singers.

Notice that the color of the Wood Thrush is *reddish* on the *head*, that of the Veery and Olive-backed is *uniform*, and that of the Hermit is *reddish* on the *tail*.



755. *Hylocichla mustelina*

WOOD THRUSH. 8 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive-brown; *head reddish*. Below white, heavily spotted with brown.

Found in open, damp woods where there is underbrush. Common summer resident in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 10.

Song. Rich, liquid flute quality, divided into three phrases.

Nest. Eight or ten feet from the ground in open woodlands, also by the roadside.

Breeds. In southern New England.

756. *Hylocichla fuscescens*

VEERY, WILSON'S THRUSH. 7 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above *uniform* olive-brown. Below cream, *lightly* spotted with brown.

A shy bird of open wet woods and thickets, often walking and running on the ground. Common summer resident of Massachusetts. Arrives about May 10.

Song. Weird and ringing, divided in three parts, sounding somewhat like *vee-a-ry, vee-a-ry*. This interpretation has given it one of its common names.

Nest. On or near the ground.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

758a. *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH. 7 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above *uniform* olive-brown. Below cream, spotted with brown.

Its summer home is in the evergreen woods of northern New England. Migrant in Massachusetts. Arrives about May 15.

Song. Clear and ringing, easily confounded with the Hermit's song.

Nest. In a bush or low tree.

Breeds. In northern New England.

759*b*. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*

HERMIT THRUSH. 7 inches

Male and **Female** alike. Above olive-brown; *tail reddish*. Below white, heavily spotted with brown.

The Hermit has a habit of jerking its tail, which helps to distinguish it from the Olive-backed, which it so much resembles in looks and song. Migrant in Massachusetts (except on Cape Cod, where it breeds). Arrives about the middle of April.

Song. Clear and ringing, given on an ascending scale.

Nest. On the ground.

Breeds. In northern New England and on Cape Cod.

761. *Merula migratoria*

AMERICAN ROBIN. 10 inches

Male. Above brownish gray; head and tail black. Below chestnut; throat streaked with black and white. **Female.** Similar, but colors duller.

Robins migrate and roost in flocks. Hop and run; flight straight and strong. Common summer resident in Massachusetts, some winter in cedar swamps. Arrives in March.

Song. A loud, happy, *where-are-you? where-are-you?* repeated and interspersed with whistles.

Nest. In trees or bushes not very high up, made of mud, grasses, etc.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

766. *Sialia sialis*

BLUEBIRD. 7 inches

Male. Above bright blue. Below chestnut. **Female.** Browner and duller colors.

A bird beloved by the New England farmers ; feeds on insects and berries. A rhythmic, undulating flight, often seen in flocks in the autumn. Common in Massachusetts. Arrives early in March.

Song. A low, sweet warble.

Nest. In a bird house or a hole in a tree.

Breeds. Throughout New England.

INDEX

Blackbird, crow.....	36	Cuckoo, black-billed.....	5
" red-winged.....	31	" yellow-billed.....	4
rusty.....	35	Finch, purple.....	39
Blackbird.....	28	Finches.....	37
Bluebird.....	121	Flicker.....	12
Bobolink.....	29	Flycatcher, crested.....	19
Butcherbird.....	71	" least.....	24
Catbird.....	104	" olive-sided.....	21
Cedarbird.....	70	" yellow-bellied.....	23
Chat, yellow-breasted.....	98	Flycatchers.....	17
Chewink.....	60	Goldfinch.....	43
Chickadee.....	112	Grackle, bronzed.....	36
Cowbird.....	30	" purple.....	36
Creeper, brown.....	109	Grosbeak, pine.....	38
Crossbill, American.....	41	" rose-breasted.....	61
" white-winged.....	40	Humming-bird.....	16
Crow.....	27	Indigo bird.....	62

INDEX.—Continued.

Jay, blue.....	26	Pewee, wood.....	22
Junco.....	56	Phoebe.....	20
Kingbird.....	18	Pipit, American.....	102
Kingfisher, belted.....	6	Redpoll.....	42
Kinglet, golden-crowned.....	113	Redstart, American.....	101
" ruby-crowned.....	114	Robin.....	120
Lark, horned.....	25	Sapsucker, yellow-bellied.....	10
" meadow.....	32	Shrike, northern.....	71
Martin, purple.....	65	Siskin, pine.....	44
Maryland yellowthroat.....	97	Snowbird.....	56
Meadow lark.....	32	Snow bunting.....	45
Nighthawk.....	14	Snowflake.....	45
Nuthatch, red-breasted.....	111	Sparrow, chipping.....	54
" white-breasted.....	110	" field.....	55
Oriole, Baltimore.....	34	" fox.....	59
" orchard.....	33	" grasshopper.....	49
Ovenbird.....	95	Sparrow, Ipswich.....	47
Peabody bird.....	52	" savanna.....	48

INDEX.—Continued.

Sparrow, sharp-tailed.....	50	Thrush, golden-crowned.....	95
“ song	57	“ hermit	119
“ swamp	58	“ olive-backed	118
“ tree	53	“ water.....	96
“ vesper.....	46	“ Wilson’s.....	117
“ white-crowned	51	“ wood.....	116
“ white-throated.....	52	Thrushes.....	115
Sparrows.....	37	Titlark, American.....	102
Swallow, bank.....	69	Towhee	60
“ barn	67	Veery	117
“ cliff	66	Vireo, blue-headed.....	76
“ eave	66	“ red-eyed	73
“ tree.....	68	“ solitary	76
“ white-bellied	68	“ warbling	74
Swallows.....	64	“ white-eyed	77
Swift, chimney.....	15	“ yellow-throated	75
Tanager, scarlet	63	Vireos	72
Thrasher, brown.....	105	Warbler, bay-breasted.....	88

INDEX.—Concluded.

Warbler, black and white.....	79	Warbler, yellow.....	83
“ blackburnian.....	90	“ yellow palm.....	93
“ blackpoll.....	89	“ yellow-rumped.....	85
“ black-throated blue.....	84	Warblers.....	78
“ black-throated green.....	91	Whip-poor-will.....	13
“ Canadian.....	100	Woodpecker, downy.....	9
“ chestnut-sided.....	87	“ golden-winged.....	12
“ golden-winged.....	80	“ hairy.....	8
“ magnolia.....	86	“ red-headed.....	11
“ Maryland yellowthroat.....	97	Woodpeckers.....	7
“ myrtle.....	85	Wren, house.....	106
“ Nashville.....	81	“ long-billed marsh.....	108
“ parula.....	82	“ short-billed marsh.....	108
“ pine.....	92	“ winter.....	107
“ prairie.....	94	Wrens.....	103
“ Wilson’s.....	99		

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Associate of American Ornithologists' Union



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Volume II

A Pocket Guide to the Common Water and Game Birds and Hawks and
Owls of New England with Blank Pages for Notes

BY

HARRIET E. RICHARDS^C

Associate of American Ornithologists' Union

W. A. BUTTERFIELD, PUBLISHER

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1906

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PREFACE

THE water and game birds and the birds of prey are often omitted by the amateur, and it is hoped that this little book will arouse a new interest in their study and protection. The last of July the shore birds begin to arrive from the north; during August and September they continue to come and go, by the first of October most of them have gone. Then begins the flight of the ducks. Many of these remain through the winter. A day at the beach in late fall or midwinter is a pleasant outing, and many a delightful hour may be spent watching the birds off shore. At Lynn, Revere or other protected waters they are more confident and easier to approach. A few days at Chatham or Nantucket in the fall or late summer is an interesting experience. There one may secure the services of a fisherman and his dory and get acquainted with the ocean birds.

When it is recognized that the hawks and owls are of more benefit than injury to man, they will be more earnestly studied and protected. They are most abundant in the spring and fall when migrating.

The American Ornithologists' Union check list number precedes the scientific name. Conspicuous markings are printed in italics. The dimensions are taken by permission from Chapman's "Birds of Eastern North America." The descriptions are from specimens in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge and the Museum of the Boston Society of Natural History. The illustrations are from photographs taken expressly for the book by George Curtiss. I am greatly indebted to Herbert K. Job for reading the manuscript and for valuable information concerning the habits and notes of the birds.

INTRODUCTION

THE orders of birds considered in this little book are altogether too much neglected by the average bird-lover. That it is easier to study a Robin than a Loon is a poor reason for knowing only the former, a confession of weakness or of lack of enthusiasm. True, many of these birds are shy and comparatively scarce; yet they can be found and mastered by those determined to know them. Every wild, wooded section has its hawks and owls. On the open seacoast, during the periods of migration, many kinds of shore birds still occur. In marshes and swamps the retiring rails and herons feed. Ducks, grebes and loons resort to ponds, rivers and along the ocean shore. By the latter, gulls, terns and various other curious birds may be seen in their seasons.

This study will involve more effort than watching warblers in the

garden shrubbery, but it is more exciting, to say the least, and it is well worth while to aspire to be an all-round ornithologist, as one cannot be who knows only the small land birds. The harder the quest, the keener the joy of attainment. With all my heart do I wish success in this delightful and sometimes strenuous pursuit to every bird-lover who reads these words.

HERBERT K. JOB.

KENT, CONN., March 21, 1906.



PODICIPIDÆ: GREBES.

IN the water the Grebes look like small ducks. Their plumage is smooth and glossy like satin; their heads small and necks long. They are marvellous divers and can swim long distances with only the bill above water, they will gently sink under the water and appear again some distance away.

2. *Colymbus holbœllii*

HOLBELL'S GREBE. 19 inches

Adult. In spring. Above, head glossy black; back blackish; wing-patch white. Below, throat and cheeks grayish; neck red; breast white with reddish markings. In winter and **Immature.** Above blackish; wing-patch white. Below, throat and cheeks white; breast varying from reddish brown to whitish. Also called *Red-necked Grebe*. The least common of the Grebes.

Breeds. North of New England. A common spring and fall migrant, and along the coast a winter visitor.

3. *Colymbus auritus*

HORNED GREBE. 13.50 inches

Adult. In spring. Above, top of head black, with tufts of yellowish brown feathers standing out from each side like horns; back blackish; *wing-patch white*. Below, throat reddish brown; breast white. In winter and **Immature.** Above, head and back blackish, no tufts on head; *wing-patch white*. Below, throat and cheeks silvery white; neck dusky; breast white. When migrating in the spring and fall it is found on inland rivers and ponds and the open sea.

Breeds. A few in northern Maine. A common winter visitor along the coast from October to May.

6. Podilymbus podiceps

PIED=BILLED GREBE. 13.50 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, head and back grayish brown. Below, *throat black*; sides of head gray; *neck and breast yellowish brown*; belly white; bill whitish with black band. In fall and **Im-mature.** Similar but throat is white and bill lacks the black band. Also called *Hell-diver*, *Dipper* and *Dabchick*. Found on ponds and rivers, also on pools by the seacoast but seldom on the open sea.

Nest. A mass of grass, weeds and mud loosely attached to some surrounding vegetation.

Breeds. In northern, rarely in southern New England. A common spring and fall migrant.

GAVIIDÆ: LOONS

7. *Gavia imber*

COMMON LOON. 32 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, head and neck black, a ring of white streaks around the neck; back black, spotted with white. Below, breast and belly white. In winter and **Immature.** Above, brown *not* spotted with white. Below, throat, breast and belly white. Also called *Great Northern Diver*. About as large as a goose; an expert diver and can swim long distances under water.

Note. Wild and quavering.

Nest. On the ground, near the water's edge, or on a floating pile of rushes.

Breeds. On inland waters of northern portion. A common migrant throughout in spring and fall, and common winter visitor along the coast from June to September.

11. *Gavia lumme*

RED-THROATED LOON. 25 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, head and neck dark gray, back of neck black streaked with white; back brownish spotted with white. Below, throat chestnut; breast and belly white. In winter and

Immature. Above, back brownish, speckled with white; throat white instead of chestnut. Also called *Red-throated Diver*. A smaller bird than the preceding; habits and notes similar.

Breeds. North of New England. A common spring and fall migrant, and not uncommon winter visitor along the coast and occasionally on inland waters.

ALCIDÆ: AUKS, MURRES AND PUFFINS

13. *Fratercula arctica*

PUFFIN. 13 inches

Adult. In summer. Above blackish. Below, sides of head grayish; breast white. A black band all around neck; bill red and deep like a parrot's; feet red. In winter and **Immature.** The sides of the head are dark gray and the bill smaller. Called *Sea Parrot* by the fishermen. They dive and swim under water, are rather tame and look like small ducks with very short necks.

Note. "A hoarse grunting."

Nest. "On rocky islands, in burrows or in crevices of rock."

Breeds. On Maine coast and northward. A winter visitor on the open sea, along the coast south to Chatham.



27. *Cepphus grylle*

BLACK GUILLEMOT. 13 inches

Adult. In summer. Above and below black, with *white patch on wings*; bill black; feet red. In winter. Above and below white, more or less marked with black on back; wings black with *white patch*; bill black; feet red. Also called *Sea Pigeon*. They dive and swim under water.

Note. "A subdued, shrill whistle."

Nest. "In fissures, or under rocks."

Breeds. On rocky coasts from Maine northward. A winter visitor along the coast south to Chatham.

31. *Uria lomvia*

BRÜNNICH'S MURRE. 16.50 inches

Adult. In winter. Above, head and back black, narrow white line across wing. Below white; bill rather *long* and *stout*. It dives and swims under water.

Breeds. Far north. Winter visitor along the coast.

32. *Alca torda*

RAZOR-BILLED AUK. 16.50 inches

In plumage and habits similar to Brünnich's Murre, distinguished from it by a *deep, thick bill*, and when on the water by its *upturned tail*

34. Alle alle

DOVEKIE. 8 inches

Adult. In winter. Above black with white markings. Below white; bill short and black. A tiny ocean bird, often seen about steamers and fishing vessels, sometimes they are blown inland by storm. It flies low over the water, dives and swims under water. Also known as *Ice-bird* and *Little Auk*.

Breeds. In Iceland and Greenland. A winter visitor along the coast.



STERCORARIIDÆ: JAEGER

36. *Stercorarius pomarinus*: **POMARINE JAEGER**. 22 inches

The largest and most common of the group.

37. *Stercorarius parasiticus*: **PARASITIC JAEGER**. 17 inches

38. *Stercorarius longicaudus*: **LONG-TAILED JAEGER**. 21 in.

The rarest of the group, its central tail-feathers extend some six inches beyond the others.

Adult. Plumage varies in different birds, above from blackish to sooty brown, below from white to dark sooty brown, often barred brown and white. The middle tail-feathers are longest in all the species; they look and act like hawks, and are called *Jiddy Hawks* by the fishermen. They steal their food from the gulls and terns.

Breeds. Far north. Migrants along the coast from July to November.

LARIDÆ: GULLS AND TERNS

Male and **Female** alike in all the species ; they breed in colonies. Gulls are plumper and stouter than terns and generally larger ; gulls have rounded, terns forked tails ; gulls fly with their bills pointed forwards, terns with their bills pointed downwards. In the breeding plumage the top of the head is black in the terns. The **Immature** of all the gulls have a black tip to the tail. Gulls alight on the surface of the water and pick up their food ; both rest and feed on the beaches and sand bars, often in large flocks. The gulls commonly seen on our coast in winter are the Kittiwake, Great Black-backed and Herring ; the Ring-billed is a rare migrant ; Bonaparte's is a common spring and fall migrant ; the Laughing is a summer resident. The terns are summer residents, excepting the Black, which is a fall migrant.

40. *Rissa tridactyla*

KITTIWAKE. 16 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, head white; back gray; long quill feathers tipped with black; tail white. Below, white; *bill yellow; feet black.* In winter. Similar, but back is darker gray and there is a blackish spot back of the eyes. **Immature.**

Similar to winter adult but bill is black; feet yellowish. An ocean bird, not common in the harbors or on the shore unless driven in by a storm. Is much smaller than the Herring Gull. Called *Winter Gull* by the fishermen.

Note. "*Kit-ti-wake, Kit-ti-wake.*"

Breeds. On rocky cliffs north of New England. A winter visitor, October to March.



47. *Larus marinus*

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL. 29 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, head white; back and upper surface of wings blackish; long quill feathers black tipped with white; tail white. Below, white; bill yellow; feet pink. In winter. Similar but head streaked with brown. **Immature.** White, thickly mottled with brown, darker on the back and wings. The largest and handsomest of the common gulls.

Note. "A harsh, whistling *leow*."

Breeds. North of New England. A rather common winter visitor along the coast and in the harbors from September to April.

51. *Larus argentatus*

HERRING GULL. 24 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, head white; back gray; long quill feathers black, spotted and tipped with white; tail white. Below white; *bill yellow; feet pink.* In winter. Similar but streaked about the head with brownish. **Immature.** Whole body brownish; tail and long quill feathers tipped with black; bill black at tip. In winter it is the common gull of our harbors, a few remain through the summer on the Massachusetts coast.

Note. A whistled *ka, ka, ka, ka.*

Nest. On the ground or in trees, usually on a lonely island.

Breeds. In Maine on the coast and large inland waters. An abundant visitor from September to May in the harbors, on the beaches and large inland waters of southern New England.

54. *Larus delawarensis*

RING-BILLED GULL. 18.50 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, head white; back gray; long quill feathers black, spotted and tipped with white; tail white. Below, white; *bill yellow with black band*; feet yellow. In winter. Similar but head white streaked with brown. **Immature.** Whole body brownish; tip of tail blackish; bill blackish. Associates with the Herring Gull and difficult to distinguish from it except by its smaller size; not as small as a Kittiwake.

Breeds. North of New England. A common winter visitor on the southern, and a migrant along the northern coast.

58. *Larus atricilla*

LAUGHING GULL. 16.50 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, whole head black like a hood; back gray; tail white; long quill feathers black. Below, throat black; breast white; *bill and feet reddish*. In late summer and winter. Similar, but head white streaked with brown. **Immature.** Whole body brownish; tail tipped with black. Also called *Black-headed Gull*. **Nest.** On the ground.

Breeds. Local summer resident, colonies at Muskeget and Metinic Green Island.



60. *Larus philadelphia*
BONAPARTE'S GULL. 14 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, whole head black, like a hood, back light gray ; long quill feathers *white, tipped with black*; tail white ; below, breast white ; bill black ; feet red. In fall and winter and

Immature. Similar, but black hood is changed to white and there is a blackish spot back of eye ; immature has a black band across the tip of tail. Our smallest gull and the tamest. Associates with the terns.

Breeds. North of New England. A common spring and fall migrant ; and a winter visitor on Long Island Sound.

64. *Sterna caspia*

CASPIAN TERN. 21 inches

Plumage similar to the Common and Arctic terns, distinguished from them by its larger size, which is nearly that of the Herring Gull and its bright red bill; it is our largest tern.

Note. "A loud squeak."

Breeds. "Not an uncommon transient visitor" along the coast in August and September.

70. *Sterna hirundo*

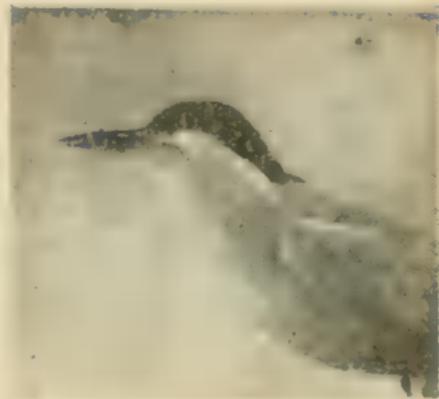
COMMON TERN. 15 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, top of head black ; back light gray ; tail white. Below, whitish ; *bill red, tipped with black* ; feet red. Adult in fall and winter and **Immature.** Similar, but top of head black mixed with white. Below white ; bill black. Also known as *Mackerel Gull*, *Sea Swallow* and *Wilson's Tern*. The most abundant of the terns.

Note. “*Kip, kip, tee-arr.*”

Nest. A frail nest of grass, or a hollow in the ground.

Breeds. On Muskeget and northward, abundantly on the Maine coast. Common migrant along the coast and occasionally on inland waters, in May, August and September.



71. *Sterna paradisæa*

ARCTIC TERN. 15.50 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, top of head black ; back light gray ; tail white. Below, light gray ; bill and feet red. Adult in fall. Similar but top of head white, mixed with black. Below white.

Immature. Similar to fall adult but tip of bill is blackish. Distinguished from the Common Tern by its *coral red bill*, darker breast and longer tail.

Breeds. "Common summer resident on Maine coast."

72. *Sterna dougalli*.

ROSEATE TERN. 15 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, top of head black ; back light gray ; tail white. Below, white, tinged with rose in life ; *bill black*, reddish at base ; feet reddish. Adult in fall and **Immature.** Similar but top of head mixed with black.

Breeds. Rare summer resident on southern coast.

74. *Sterna antillarum*

LEAST TERN. 9 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, forehead white enclosed by a black line reaching from the eyes to the bill; top of head black; back light gray. Below white; *bill yellow, tipped with black*; feet yellow. In fall and winter, similar but head white; back dark gray. **Immature.** Like fall adult but back mottled with brown; bill blackish. The smallest of the terns, only about two inches larger than a barn swallow.

Note. “*Yip, yip, yip, yip.*”

Nest. A hollow in the sand

Breeds. Local summer resident on southern New England coast from May to September.



77. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*

BLACK TERN. 10 inches

Adult. In summer. Above, head black ; back slate color. Below, black ; bill black. In fall and winter and **Immature.** Above, head blackish ; back gray. Below, forehead and breast white. An abundant bird of the marshes of the middle West. A small bird only a little larger than the Least Tern.

Breeds. "From Kansas northward." Irregular migrant along the New England coast in late summer and fall.

PROCELLARIIDÆ : SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS

Ocean wanderers, common in summer off the New England coast some miles from land; the Shearwaters are rather large birds, about the size of a small Herring Gull; they are to be seen flying about the boat with their wings set at right angles with their body, not curved downwards like the gulls. The Petrels are tiny birds, seen at the stern following the wake of the boat, they look like white-rumped swallows; they are often called *Stormy Petrels* and *Mother Carey's Chickens*, but *Procellaria pelagica*, a smaller species inhabiting the east side of the Atlantic, is the true Stormy Petrel. The males and females are alike.

88. *Puffinus borealis*

CORY'S SHEARWATER. 21 inches

Above light brown. Below white. Bill yellow. The rarest of the group.

89. *Puffinus gravis*

GREATER SHEARWATER. 20 inches

Above dark brown. Below white. Bill black. The most common; called the *White Haglet* by the fishermen.

94. *Puffinus fuliginosus*

SOOTY SHEARWATER. 17 inches

Above blackish. Below paler. Seems like a black bird and is called the *Black Haglet* by the fishermen.

Breeds. In February on the islands of the South Atlantic, and comes north to spend its winter.

106. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

LEACH'S PETREL. 8 inches

Above and below blackish; base of tail white; *tail forked*; long wings and legs; webs of toes black.

Breeds. On the islands of the Maine coast and northward. Spring and fall migrant off the coast.

109. *Oceanites oceanicus*

WILSON'S PETREL. 7 inches

Above and below blackish; base of tail white; *tail square*; long wings and legs; webs of toes yellow.

Breeds. In February on the islands of the South Atlantic, comes north to spend its winter. Common off the New England coast in summer.



SULIDÆ : GANNETS

117. *Sula bassana*

GANNET. 35 inches

Adult. Entire plumage white, except the ends of the long quill feathers which are black; bare skin at base of bill yellow; tail long and pointed; bill long. **Immature.** Brownish, lighter below a white band across the tail. Large, pure white birds, larger than the Black-backed Gull; they may be seen some distance off shore hunting for fish; they are powerful divers, plunging into the water from a height of seventy-five to a hundred feet; they fly with neck stretched out, singly or in small flocks.

Breeds. North of New England. Visitor off the coast, April to June, September to December. Some winter off Long Island.

PHALACROCORACIDÆ: CORMORANTS

Large birds, looking like geese as they fly in small flocks along the coast with necks outstretched and slowly flapping wings. On the water they might be mistaken for Loons. When perching they sit upright, with neck curved and sometimes wings outspread. They dive for their food and swim under water. A common name for them is *Shag*. The males and females are alike. They breed north of New England.

119. *Phalacrocorax carbo*

COMMON CORMORANT. 36 inches

Plumage similar to the Double-crested, distinguished from it by its larger size and white throat. A rare visitor in fall and winter along the coast, a few winter on Cormorant Rock, R. I.

120. *Phalacrocorax dilophus*

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. 30 inches

In spring, entire plumage black; a tuft of hairy feathers on each side of the head; bare skin of the throat yellow; bill long and hooked. In late summer and fall it lacks the tufts of feathers on the head.

A common migrant along the coast in spring and fall. Much commoner than the preceding.

The Phalaropus castro

COMMON CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Book-crested, distinguished from its ally
by a white patch on the throat. A large species in fall and winter
at or common on the coast of California.

180, *Phalacrocorax carbo*

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax auritus*

black; a tuft of hair feathers on each
side of the throat; bill long and
late season and fall looks the color of feathers on

rest along the coast in spring and fall. Much
the preceding.

ANATIDÆ: DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS

Geese are usually seen flying high overhead in V-shaped flocks led by an old gander at the apex ; they are larger than ducks and never dive when feeding.

The Ducks are divided into three groups : *Mergansers*, which dive for their food, wear conspicuous crests and have narrow, toothed bills ; *Sea Ducks*, which dive for their food and have large, broad bills ; *River* and *Pond Ducks*, which do not dive, but dip their body when feeding. Many of the ducks have a bright patch on the wing, called the *speculum*. The females are generally smaller than the males and less conspicuously marked.

MERGINÆ: MERGANSERS

129. Merganser americanus

AMERICAN MERGANSER. 25 inches

Male. Above, whole head greenish black, short, bushy crest; broad collar white; back black; wings white with black bar and black edge. Below, breast and sides white; bill red tipped with black; feet red. **Female.** Above, head reddish brown with small crest; back gray; wings black with white patch. Below white with brownish markings on breast; bill reddish; feet orange. Also called *Goosander* and *Pond Shelldrake*.

Nest. In trees near water.

Breeds. In northern portion. A common migrant and not uncommon winter visitor in open streams and ponds from October to April.

130. Merganser serrator

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. 22 inches

Male. Above, whole head greenish black with long broken crest; broad collar white; back black; wing white with two black bars and black edge. Below, breast reddish; belly and sides white; long bill and feet red.

Female and Immature. Whole head reddish brown with small crest; back gray; wings black with white patch. Below, throat white; breast grayish white; bill and feet reddish brown. Also called *Shelldrake*.

Nest. On the ground near water, usually under a bush.

Breeds. In Maine and northward. An abundant migrant and winter visitor along the coast.

131. *Lophodytes cucullatus*

HOODED MERGANSER. 18 inches

Male. Above, whole head black, with large crest like a hood white, edged with black; back black, with long white feathers, wing-patch white. Below, breast white, running up in two points to the back; sides reddish brown; bill black; feet yellowish brown.

Female. Above, head reddish brown, crest small; back brown; wing-patch white; sides grayish. Below, white. **Immature**

Male. Similar to female but crest whitish with brown edge. Found on ponds and rivers.

Nest. In hole of a tree near water.

Breeds. Northern portion. An uncommon migrant in March, April, October and November.

ANATINÆ: RIVER AND POND DUCKS

132. *Anas boschas*

MALLARD. 23 inches

Male. Above, whole head and neck iridescent green; *narrow* collar white; back brown shading to black on lower back; feathers under tail black; wings gray; speculum purple bordered by black and white. Below, breast chestnut; belly and sides gray, barred with fine black lines; bill yellow; feet reddish. **Female** and **Immature.** Whole plumage brown, mottled with yellowish, much lighter below; speculum like male; bill greenish; feet yellowish. The ancestor of our domestic duck. The female and immature resemble the Black Duck, but are lighter colored.

Breeds. North of New England. Rare migrant in March, April and September and October. A few winter off the coast.

133. *Anas obscura*

BLACK DUCK. 22 inches

Adult. Whole plumage dark brown, with fine yellowish markings, neck and breast much lighter colored, throat yellowish; speculum purple, edged with black; wings lined with gray; bill greenish; feet reddish.

Nest. On the ground, near water, in a swamp or bog.

Breeds. Throughout New England; a common migrant in March, April and August to December; they remain all winter on the coast and where there is open water.

133*a*. *Anas obscura rubripes*

RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK. 25 inches

Distinguished by its larger size, yellow bill, and bright red legs. A migrant and winter visitor.

Breeds. North of New England.

1881 - 21 notes

found with the following marks:
brown all over
with gray bill green

contains of

and a common subject in
they contain all water of
where there is open water

1881. Anna's Ostrich

1881 - 21 notes
bill yellow bill and bright red legs

137. *Mareca americana*

BALDPATE. 19 inches

Male. Above, *forehead and crown white*; back of head black and white mottled; large greenish patch back of eye extending backwards; back gray finely barred with black, long black feathers edged with white extend from middle of back; speculum metallic green, bordered with black; large wing-patch white. Below, neck black and white mottled; breast and sides pale reddish; belly white; bill and feet lead color. **Female and Immature.** Whole head black and white mottled; back brown and yellowish mottled; speculum black. Below, neck black and white mottled; breast and sides pale reddish; belly white; bill and feet brown. **Breeds.** North of New England. A rare migrant along the coast in April, September and October.

139. *Nettion carolinensis*

GREEN=WINGED TEAL. 14.50 inches

Male. Above, whole head chestnut; metallic green stripe from eye ending in a black tuft of feathers on back of neck; back and sides squirrel gray; a white stripe in front of bend of wing; speculum bright green, edged with brown and black. Below, chin black; breast pinkish with round black spots; belly white; bill black; feet brown.

Female and Immature. Whole plumage yellowish and brown, mottled, much lighter below; speculum bright green, edged with chestnut, black and white; bill and feet brown. Both of the Teal may be recognized by their small size.

Breeds. In northeastern Maine. Migrant in April, September and October, more common in the spring.

140. *Querquedula discors*

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. 16 inches

Male. Above, crown black; broad crescent on side of head white; rest of head slate color; back brown mottled with white; light blue patch on wing separated from the bronze green speculum by white.

Below, breast pinkish with round black spots; bill black; feet yellow. **Female and Imma-**

ture. *No white crescent on side of head;* whole plumage brown and white mottled, much lighter below; blue wing-patch as in male; bill and feet greenish.

Breeds. Rarely in northeastern Maine. Rather common fall migrant, August to October, very rare in spring.



143. *Dafila acuta*

PINTAIL. 28 inches

Male. Above, head brown; back of neck, black, bordered by white stripe which extends up from breast; back gray with fine black lines; long black feathers edged with white, extend from the middle back over the wings; speculum bronze, edged with cinnamon and white; long, middle tail-feathers black. Below, throat brown; breast *white*; bill and feet lead color.

Female. Whole plumage mottled brown, lighter below; no long tail-feathers; bill and feet like male.

Immature. Like female excepting the young male has speculum like adult male. Known by its long, slender neck and long tail-feathers, which are cocked up as it swims.

Breeds. A frequent migrant in October and April.

144. *Aix sponsa*

WOOD DUCK. 18.50 inches

Male. Above, top of head iridescent green, long crest purple and white; sides of head black; back bluish bronze. Below, throat and stripes extending up the sides of the head

white; breast reddish brown flecked with white; a white and black stripe at bend of wing; sides yellowish brown; bill dark; feet yellowish.

Female. Above bronze brown; eye-ring and spot behind eye white. Below, throat white; breast brown and white mottled.

Nests. In hole in tree, near water.

Breeds. A local summer resident; March to November.



FULIGULINÆ: BAY AND SEA DUCKS

146. *Aythya americana*

REDHEAD. 19 inches

Male. Head and neck reddish brown; upper back black; wings and lower back squirrel gray; tail black. Below, breast black; belly white; bill lead color tipped with black; feet dark. **Female.** Chin white, rest of plumage light yellowish brown, darker on back and top of head. Similarly marked to the very rare Canvas-back. **Breeds.** North of New England. A rare migrant in October, November and April.

148. **Aythya marila**

SCAUP DUCK. 19 inches

Male. Above, whole head black with greenish reflections; back mostly white with wavy black lines; speculum white; stripe on wing white; tail black. Below, breast black; belly and sides white; bill and feet bluish gray. **Female.** Above, *feathers at base of bill white*, rest of head brown; back brown and white; speculum and wing stripe white. Below, grayish; bill and feet bluish gray. Also called *Widgeon* and *Bluebill*. Is found on both fresh and salt water.

Breeds. North of New England. A common migrant and winter visitor.

149. *Aythya affinis*

LESSER SCAUP DUCK. 16 inches

Similar to the preceding species, distinguished by its smaller size and purple instead of greenish reflections on the head. Called *Little Bluebill*. Found on the coast and on inland ponds and rivers.

Breeds. North of New England. A common migrant in April, October and November.

151. *Clangula clangula americana*

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE. 20 inches

Male. Above, head greenish black, *spot near eye white*; broad collar white; back black; much white on wing. Below, breast and sides white; bill black. **Female.** Above,

whole head reddish brown, *no white spot*; white collar; back grayish brown; much white on wing. Below, breast grayish brown; bill yellowish. Also called *Whistler*.

Nest. In hollow tree.

Breeds. Northern Maine. Abundant winter visitor on the coast, coming into the rivers and harbors; to be seen on the Charles near Harvard Bridge from November to April.



153. *Charitonetta albeola*

BUFFLE-HEAD. 14.50 inches

Male. Above, head puffy on sides, iridescent black with large white patch across the back reaching forward to eyes; broad collar around neck white; middle of back black; short tail black. Below, white; bill black; feet pink. **Female.** Above, brown; white patch on side of head and on wing. Below, throat brown; breast white; bill and feet brown. Also called *Dipper* and *Butterball*; known by its small size and bushy head; an expert diver.

Nest. In hollow trees.

Breeds. Sparingly in northeastern Maine. A migrant in October, November and April; uncommon winter visitor.

154. *Harelda hyemalis*

OLD-SQUAW. 21 inches

Male. In winter. Above, *head and neck white* with patch of brown on side; back brown with two large white patches; tail with two long middle feathers black, short outer ones white. Below, breast brown; bill black, barred with orange. **Female and Immature.**

In winter. Above, head and neck white, with brownish markings; back brown, *no long tail-feathers*. Below white. Male in late spring, head and neck blackish, patch on side of head gray; back dark reddish brown. Also called *Long-tailed Duck*.

Note. A noisy chattering.

Breeds. North of New England. Abundant winter visitor on the coast; November to April.



160. *Somateria dresseri*

AMERICAN EIDER. 23 inches

Male. Above, top of head black, divided in the back by a white stripe ; sides of head, neck and upper back white, tinged with green ; lower back, wings and tail black. Below neck and breast white ; belly black ; bill and feet greenish. **Female and Immature.** Above, brown, streaked with black. Below, yellowish streaked with brown. Also known as *Sea Duck* and *Black and White Coot*. An expert diver.

Breeds. On islands off the coast of Maine and northward. A winter visitor October to April ; common off Chatham and Nantucket.

1892

NO. 201

AMERICAN BIRDS

Above of head black divided in the back by a white
 stripe. Bill and feet greenish. Irides brown. Tarsus
 and claws black. Tail black. Length 10.5. Alar
 extent 18.5. Culmen 1.5. Tarsus 1.5. Middle toe
 with claw 2.5. Weight 15.

of the count of males and females. A
 visit to the nest on April 10, 1892, showed
 the following results:

1. One male and one female.

163. *Oidemia americana*

AMERICAN SCOTER. 19 inches

Male. *Whole plumage black; bill black, orange yellow at base; feet brown.* **Female and Immature.** Whole plumage brown, whitish on sides of head and breast; bill and feet black. The least common of the Scoters; all three are expert divers, and in protected waters come well in shore; they are often found together.

Also known as *Coot*.

Breeds. North of New England. A common spring and fall migrant, and some winter.

165. *Oidemia deglandi*

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. 22 inches

Male. Whole plumage black, excepting a *spot below the eye* and *patch on wing which are white*; bill orange, black at base; feet reddish. **Female and Immature.** Whole plumage brown, excepting two whitish spots on each side of head below eye, and a white patch on wing; bill black; feet brown.

Breeds. North of New England. An abundant spring and fall migrant and winter visitor along the coast, and occasionally on large inland waters. Adult males begin to arrive late in August; in spring they linger into May.

166. *Oidemia perspicillata*

SURF SCOTER. 20 inches

Male. Whole plumage black, excepting a *patch on forehead* and on *back of neck, which are white*; bill orange yellow; feet reddish. **Female and Immature.**

Whole plumage brown, darker on top of head and whitish below; two whitish spots on each side of head. Distinguished by the white patches on head and neck and the brilliant bill.

Breeds. North of New England. An abundant migrant and winter visitor along the coast; arrival and departure same as preceding.



167. *Erismatura jamaicensis*

RUDDY DUCK. 15 inches

Male in spring. Above, top of head black; back chestnut; tail black, short and upturned. Below, chin and *sides of head white*; neck chestnut; breast white, mottled with chestnut; bill and feet black. In winter, **Female** and **Immature**. Above, brown; sides of head whitish. Below, silvery gray, tinged and mottled with darker shades and with chestnut on the breast. Recognized by its short, stiff and upturned tail; an expert diver and will sink and swim under water like a grebe.

Breeds. Sparingly in eastern New England; migrant inland and along the coast in spring and from September to December.

ANSERINÆ : GEESE

172. *Branta canadensis*

CANADA GOOSE. 38 inches

Adult. Head and neck black ; a broad band of white, like a bib around chin and sides of head ; back brown ; long quill feathers black ; tail black, white at base. Below whitish ; bill and feet black. The common wild goose. The wedge-shaped flocks are signs in the sky of the approach and departure of winter.

Note. “ *Honk, honk, honk.*”

Breeds. North of New England. A common migrant in March, April and November and December.

173. *Branta bernicla*

BRANT. 26 inches

Adult. Above, head and neck black, white streaks like a broken necklace on sides of neck ; back and wings dark brown ; tail black, white at base. Below, neck and breast black ; belly white, mottled with brown.

Large flocks are seen in spring at Chatham and other places along the coast feeding on the eelgrass. They fly in a long wavy line. In the fall they seldom stop, but keep well out to sea.

Note. “*Ronk, ronk, ronk.*”

Breeds. Within the Arctic circle. Migrant in March, April and October and November.

ARDEIDÆ: HERONS AND BITTERNS

Large birds, slow and stealthy in movement, they either stand motionless with their head drawn in between their shoulders, or with long, careful steps move along the shore watching for their food of fish and reptiles. They feed in meadows and marshes and on the edges of ponds and rivers. In flight they are noticeable by their large size and dark plumage, their large, round wings, short tails and outstretched legs.

190. *Botaurus lentiginosus*

AMERICAN BITTERN. 28 inches

Adult. Above, top of head deep chestnut, back reddish brown streaked with yellowish ; sides of head with *black and yellow stripe*. Below, chin white ; breast yellowish streaked with brown ; long bill yellow ; legs greenish yellow. Found in both fresh and salt water marshes ; it has a habit of standing rigid with bill pointing upward, and may be mistaken for a dead stick. Also known as *Stake Driver*.

Note. A gulping, guttural "*unk'-a-chunk'*," *unk'-a-chunk'*."

Nest. In reedy bogs on the ground.

Breeds. Summer resident, May to November.

191. *Ardetta exilis*

LEAST BITTERN. 13 inches

Male. Top of head and back glossy black; sides of head and neck yellowish brown; lower half of wing yellowish edged with reddish brown. Below, whitish; black patch each side of breast; bill light yellow; legs greenish yellow. **Female.** Similar, but brown above. Below, yellowish streaked with brown. **Immature.** Like male but breast lightly streaked with black. Habits similar to the American Bittern.

Note. "A few dovelike cooing notes."

Nest. In reedy meadows, on or near the ground.

Breeds. Local summer resident of southern New England, more common near the coast. May to September.

LEAST

12 inches

black; sides of head and
lower part of yellow
black; whitish; black; whitish;
greenish yellow; whitish;
yellowish; black

travelling during the
the year, or
resident of southern New England, more
east. May to September.

194. *Ardea herodias*

GREAT BLUE HERON. 45 inches

Adult. Above, centre of crown white, sides of crown and long crest black; back and tail bluish gray; long quill feathers black. Below, throat white; neck brownish, streaked with black and white; long bill yellow; very long legs black. **Immature.** Whole crown black; back brownish. Frequents the edges of inland ponds and rivers, the marshes and mud flats at the beach.

Note. "*Quawk.*"

Nest. In swamps, in tall trees.

Breeds. In northern portion. Migrant in April, May and August to December.

GREAT BLUE HERON. 48 inches

long. ... neck and tail bluish gray; long dull leather black; ... the head with black and white; ... egg black. Immature. Whole brown ... the edges of inland ponds and ... the marshes and low lands of the land.

Nest. "Quail."
Nest. In swamp, in tall trees.
Migrates in northern section. Migrant in April, May and to December.

201. *Butorides virescens*

GREEN HERON. 17 inches

Adult. Above, top of head and back dark glossy green, bluish on wings, neck reddish. Below, neck and breast reddish brown; throat and line down neck white; bill and legs greenish yellow. **Immature.** Similar, but breast white streaked with reddish brown. Frequents edges of rivers, ponds and salt marshes; when alarmed it flies off heavily to a tree-top or skulks into some shrubbery.

Note. "A short, abrupt *skeow*."

Nest. Near water, in low trees or bushes.

Breeds. Throughout. May to October.



202. *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. 24 inches

Adult. Above, forehead white, crown and back black, two or three long, white plumes extend from the back of the crown; wings and tail bluish gray. Below white; bill black; legs yellow. **Immature.**

Above light brown, streaked and spotted with white. Below whitish, streaked with brown. The plumage of the young is so different that they are often mistaken for another species.

Note. "*Quawk.*"

Nest. In large colonies, in trees near water.

Breeds. Local summer resident. April till late fall.



RALLIDÆ: RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS

212. *Rallus virginianus*

VIRGINIA RAIL. 9 inches

Adult. Above, streaked, dark brown and olive; sides of head gray, line from eye to bill white; wings reddish brown; short tail held erect, white underneath; bill reddish, long and curved. Below, breast rich chestnut brown; flanks black, barred with white.

Immature. Similar but throat whitish; breast blackish. Found in open fresh water marshes secreting itself in the reeds and grasses, runs and looks like a tiny hen. **Note.** "*Cut, cutta, cutta.*"

Nest. On the ground in a meadow or bog.

Breeds. Throughout, commonly in southern and central part. April to October.

214. *Porzana carolina*

SORA. 8.50 inches

Adult. Above, feathers at base of bill black; head brown with black stripe; back brown streaked with black and white; sides of head and line over eye grayish; short tail held erect, yellowish beneath. Below, throat and middle of breast black; flanks black, barred with white; *bill short and yellow.* **Immature.** Similar, but throat white. Also called *Carolina Rail*; more common than the Virginia; found in wet fresh-water marshes, skulking and crouching through the grass. **Note.** A whistled "*ker-wee, ker-wee, ker-wee,*" and a "*kuk, kuk, kuk.*" **Nest.** Of grass, on ground in meadows or bogs. **Breeds.** Common summer resident. April to October.



219. Gallinula galeata

FLORIDA GALLINULE. 13 inches

Adult. Above, head and neck black; back brown. Below, breast slate color; flanks black, white barred; short tail held erect, white underneath; *bill bright red, extending on the forehead like a shield,* yellowish at tip; legs greenish yellow. **Immature.** Similar, but bill brownish; breast and flanks whitish. Called *Red-billed Mud Hen.*

Nest. Of flags and weeds in fresh-water marshes.

Breeds. A rare summer resident of southern New England. May to October.

221. *Fulica americana*

AMERICAN COOT. 15 inches

Adult. Above, slate gray; head blackish; wing edged with white. Below, light gray; short tail held erect, white underneath; *bill whitish*; feet greenish. **Immature.** Similar but lighter below. Dives like a duck and might be mistaken for a small one, but bobs its head when it swims. Found in marshes and slow running streams. Also called *Mud Hen*.

Note. "A harsh grunting or grating."

Nest. On the ground, near water.

Breeds. North of New England. A migrant in April, September and October, rare in spring.

American Coot

AMERICAN COOT. 12 inches

... slate gray; head black. ...
... light gray; short bill bold erect, white underneath.
... greenish. Immature. Similar but lighter below.
... and tight, be mistaken for a small one, but does
... it swans. Found in marshes and slow running

... called that then.

... ground.

... the ground near water.

... of New England. A migrant. April, September

... in spring.

• PHALAROPODIDÆ: PHALAROPES

These tiny, ocean birds are the "sandpipers of the sea." They are to be seen in flocks well off shore resting or feeding on the water or a bunch of seaweed, or skimming over the waves. They seldom come to land unless driven in by storm. The female is more brightly colored than the male and is said to conduct the courtship. The Northern is the commoner species and is oftener seen in shore, it is a trifle the smaller. They are called *Sea Geese* by the fishermen.

Breeds. Both species on coast and islands north of New England. Migrant off shore in May, August to October.

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... of about ... on the
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...
... and ... of New York
... August to October

222. *Crymophilus fulicarius*

RED PHALAROPE. 8.12 inches

Adult in summer. Above, black and yellowish brown streaked; wings black barred with white; rump chestnut. Below, throat gray; breast chestnut. In winter. Above forehead white, back gray; wings black barred with white. Below, neck and breast white.

223. *Phalaropus lobatus*

NORTHERN PHALAROPE. 7.75 inches

Female in summer. Above, dark gray with deep chestnut markings on neck; wings blackish with white bar. Below throat white; breast gray with reddish tinge; belly white. **Male** similar but duller colors. Male and female in winter similar to Red Phalarope in winter.

822. *Cynophila laticornis*

RED PHALAROPE. 2.12 inches

Male. Above, black and yellowish brown streaked; black barred with white; rump chestnut. Below, throat chestnut. In winter, above iridescent white, back wings black barred with white. Below, neck and breast

823. *Platyrhinus lobatus*

NORTHERN PHALAROPE. 2.28 inches

Summer. Above, dark gray with deep cinnamon mark; wings blackish with bar. Below, throat white; with reddish tinge; belly white. Male similar but male and female of winter similar to Red

page
front
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111

SCOLOPACIDÆ: SNIPES, SANDPIPERS, ETC.

The Snipes and Sandpipers are brownish, or brownish gray birds, much striped and spotted, and harmonize so well with their surroundings that they are not easily detected unless they move. The Snipes have long bills; they are summer residents, inhabiting fresh-water marshes. The Sandpipers have long bills and legs; the Solitary and Spotted are summer residents, found on the shores of rivers and ponds, and at the seashore, the others are visitors on our coast in May, late July, August and September, the Knot, Pectoral, White-rumped, Red-backed, Sanderling and Greater Yellow-legs often remain through October. The Purple is a winter visitor.

228. *Philohela minor*

WOODCOCK. 11 inches

Adult. Above, forehead and sides of head gray with black stripes; back grayish brown, mottled and blotched with yellowish. Below, throat white; breast and flanks pale chestnut; large flat head; eye large; *bill long*; legs short. Found in bushy swamps; feeds at night; during the breeding season, in March and April, it performs an interesting flight song.

Note. "*Peent, peent.*" **Nest.** On the ground, in alder swamp or moist woodland.

Breeds. Throughout. Becoming rare. Arrives in March, leaves in November.



230. Gallinago delicata .

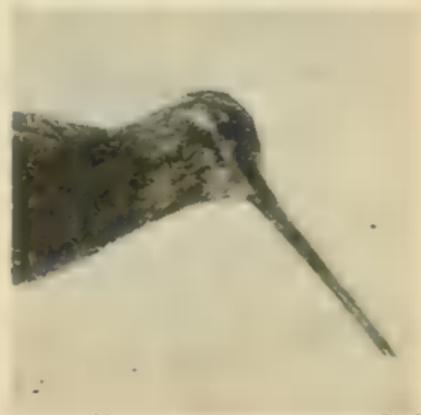
WILSON'S SNIPE. 11.25 inches

Adult. Above, head striped with black and gray; back black and reddish brown, mottled and striped with whitish; tail light red barred with black. Below, throat white; breast brown finely mottled with black; sides barred black and white; belly white; *long bill*. Found in fresh-water marshes. When disturbed it rises with a "*harsh scaipe*." Called *Jack Snipe*.

Note. "*Scaipe*."

Nest. In the grass of a meadow.

Breeds. Occasionally in northern New England. Migrant in April and September and October.



231. **Macrorhamphus griseus**

DOWITCHER. 10.50 inches

Adult. In spring. Above black and yellowish, mottled; rump and tail white, barred with black; below light reddish spotted with black; long bill; long legs. Adult in fall. Above gray. Below white, grayish on breast. **Immature.** Above black mottled with reddish brown; rump and tail white. Below light reddish, faintly speckled with brown. Known also as *Red-breasted Snipe*. Found in flocks on marshes and mud flats; flies in small flocks, and often associates with other species.

Breeds. Far north. Migrant along the coast in May, July to September.

233. *Micropalama himantopus*

STILT SANDPIPER. 8.25 inches

Adult. In spring. Above black, mottled with gray and yellowish; tail nearly white. Below yellowish, streaked and barred with brownish; bill black; long legs greenish yellow. In fall. The back is ashy gray, the breast white streaked with gray. **Immature.** Similar to adult but darker above and has a yellower tinge. Resembles the Summer Yellow legs but is a much smaller bird.

Note. “*Tweet, tweet.*”

Breeds. Far north. A very rare spring and rare fall migrant on New England coast, in late July, August and early September. More common on Long Island.

234. **Tringa canutus**

KNOT. 10.50 inches

Adult. In spring. Above gray, mottled with black and reddish brown. Below, sides of head and breast cinnamon; legs greenish yellow. In fall. Above gray, darker on head; rump and base of tail white barred with black. Below cinnamon variegated with white. **Immature.** Above like fall adult. Below white, dusky on breast. Also known as *Blue Plover* and *Red breasted Plover*. It is a short, stocky bird frequenting the beaches and mud flats.

Note. "A low, mellow *wheep, wheep.*"

Breeds. Far north. A migrant on the coast in May and July to October.

235. *Arquatella maritima*

PURPLE SANDPIPER. 9 inches

Adult. In winter. Above dark bluish gray. Below, throat white, breast brownish gray; belly white; wing linings white; short yellowish legs. A plump bird, found chiefly on rocky islets off shore, usually seen alone or only two or three. Called *Winter Snipe*.

Note. "A pleasant twitter."

Breeds. Far north. A winter visitor to New England from October to March, common on the Maine coast.

239. *Actodromas maculata*

PECTORAL SANDPIPER. 9 inches

Adult. In spring. Above gray mottled with black, reddish tinged; *rump and base of tail black.* Below, throat and belly white, breast mottled brown and white; bill and feet yellowish. In fall. Similar but lacking the reddish tinge. **Immature.** Similar to adult, but breast with deep yellowish tinge. Also known as *Grass Snipe* and *Krieker*. The male is much larger than the female; it might be mistaken for another species. Found in the marshes and about the little pools back from the beach.

Note. "A rough, sharp *kriek-kriek.*"

Breeds. Far north. A rare spring migrant in May, common August to October.

240. Actodromas fuscicollis

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. 7.50 inches

Adult. In spring. Above brownish gray, mottled with black, reddish tinged; *base of tail white*. Below white streaked with brown. In fall. Above brownish gray. Below, streaks on breast indistinct. **Immature.** Similar to spring adult, but back more reddish, and breast plain grayish. Also known as *Bonaparte's Sandpiper*. Found on beaches and mud flats in company with other sandpipers.

Note. A sharp *tseet, tseet*.

Breeds. Far north. Rare migrant in May, rather common from July to October, most abundant in September.

242. *Actodromas minutilla*

LEAST SANDPIPER. 6 inches

Adult. Above reddish brown, mottled with black; rump black. Below white, finely streaked with brown on breast; bill black; legs greenish yellow. **Female and Immature.** Similar but lighter colored. The smallest of the shore birds, looks like a sparrow with long legs and bill; is a little smaller and darker than the Semipalmated with which it is often found. Also called *Peep* and *Ox-eye*.

Note. A soft, weak whistle, *Peep, peep*.

Breeds. Far north. A common migrant in May, July to September.



242. *Actodromas minutilla*

LEAST SANDPIPER. 6 inches

Above reddish brown mottled with black; run black
with, finely streaked with brown on breast; bill black;
greatest yellow. Female and immature similar but lighter
red. The smallest of the shore birds, looks
like a sparrow with long legs and bill; in a
mild winter and darker than the semipalmated
with a listless tone. Also

Note: A soft whistle *wee, wee,*
at night. Common migrant in
July to September

243a. *Pelidna alpina sakhalina*

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER. 8 inches

Adult. In spring. Above reddish brown, mottled with black and white, head lighter colored. Below white, finely streaked with black, belly black; *long black bill slightly curved*. In fall. Above gray. Below, throat white; breast grayish. **Immature.** Above black with reddish streaks and markings. Below yellowish, breast streaked with black. Also known as *American Dunlin*. Frequents the outer beaches and rocky points in company with Sanderling and other beach birds.

Breeds. Far north. Rare migrant in May, common September to November.

246. *Ereunetes pusillus*

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER. 6.30 inches

Adult. In spring. Above brownish gray, mottled with black; *rump black*. Below white finely streaked with brown on breast; legs and bill black. In fall. Above gray. Below plain white. A little larger and lighter colored than the Least Sandpiper with which it associates; both are known as *Peep*. Found on beaches and mud flats, sometimes on the marshes.

Note. *Peep, peep.*

Breeds. Far north. Migrant on coast in May, and July to September.

248. *Calidris arenaria*

SANDERLING. 8 inches

Adult. In spring. Above mottled black and gray with reddish tinge; rump brown; *line of white spots on wing showing in flight.* Below, breast cinnamon faintly spotted with brown; belly white. In fall. Above mottled gray and black. Below white.

Note. A pleasant twitter.

Breeds. Far north. A common migrant in May and July to October.



254. *Totanus melanoleucus*
GREATER YELLOW-LEGS. 14 inches

Adult. In spring. Above dark brown speckled with white; *rump white*. Below white, streaked and spotted with gray; *long bill, black; long legs, bright yellow*. In fall and **Immature.** Above light gray spotted with white. Below white, faintly streaked with gray. Also known as *Winter Yellow-legs*. Tall birds of the salt marshes and flats; on the wing their white rumps and yellow legs are conspicuous, when they alight they teeter their bodies.

Note. Three or four whistled notes, *when, when, when*.

Breeds. Far north. Common migrant on the coast in April, May, and July to October.

255. Totanus flavipes

LESSER YELLOW=LEGS. 10.75 inches

Plumage and habits similar to the Greater Yellow-legs, distinguished by its smaller size. This species goes north by way of the Mississippi Valley. Also known as *Summer Yellow-legs*.

Note. " *Wheu*, single or double, seldom three or four as in case of Greater Yellow-legs."

Breeds. North of New England. A common fall migrant from July to September.

256. *Helodromas solitarius*

SOLITARY SANDPIPER. 8.50 inches

Adult. In spring. Above olive brown, finely speckled with white; head streaked with white; tail white barred with black. Below white, streaked on neck with brownish. In fall. Plumage darker and less speckled. A graceful bird found on the edges of ponds and streams inland. It runs lightly and bobs its head when it stops; *no white line of spots on wing showing in flight.*

Note. *Peet, peet, peet-weet.*

Nest. Said to appropriate old nests of land birds in trees.

Breeds. North of New England. A migrant in May, July to September.

258. *Symphemia semipalmata*

WILLET. 15 inches

Adult. In spring. Above brownish gray, mottled with black; wing blackish with *large white patch*; base of tail white. Below white, mottled with brown; bill and legs dark. In fall. Above light gray, not mottled; wing with white patch. Below plain white. Large, *light colored* birds, recognized by the white wing-patch which shows in flight, and when they stretch their wings as they alight. Frequents both fresh and salt water marshes.

Note. "A whistled *pil-willet*, also a continuous *yip, yip, yip* when disturbed."

Breeds. Rarely in New England. An uncommon migrant in May, and August and September.

261. *Bartramia longicauda*

BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER. 12 inches

Adult. Above streaked, black and yellowish brown; wings brown, *no conspicuous white line; rump black*; long tail, barred black and white. Below, breast and sides yellowish, streaked with black; belly white; bill yellow with black tip; *long legs*. The plumage is alike in spring and fall birds. Also known as *Upland Plover* and *Field Plover*. Frequents dry fields, ploughed land and grassy slopes, feeding on insects.

Note. "A pure sweet whistle."

Nest. In dry fields.

Breeds. Locally in New England. A rare migrant along the coast in May, August and September.

263. *Actitis macularia*

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. 7.50 inches

Adult. Above grayish brown, faintly spotted with black; a *row of white spots on wing, showing in flight*; outer tail-feathers barred with white. Below white spotted with black. **Immature.** Above

grayish brown. Below grayish white, without spots. Frequents the borders of rivers and ponds, sea beaches and marshes; bobs and teeters constantly. Sometimes called *Teeter-tail*.

Note. *Peet, peet, peet-weet.*

Nest. On the ground, near water, sometimes back in a field.

Breeds. Common summer resident throughout. May to October.



265. *Numenius hudsonicus*
HUDSONIAN CURLEW.

17 inches

Adult. Above brown, speckled with white, top of head with conspicuous brown and white bands. Below yellowish, finely streaked with brown; *long legs* and *long curved bill*, black. Frequents the marshes, sand dunes and pastures back from the sea; feeds on insects and berries.

Note. "A shrill, clear whistle of two notes."

Breeds. Far north. Scarce migrant along the coast in May, and August and September.



CHARADRIIDÆ: PLOVERS

Small, stocky birds with long wings and short necks ; distinguished from the sandpipers by their much shorter and stouter bills. All have a habit of standing still after a short run, like a robin. All but the Black-bellied bob their heads when standing. The Killdeer and Piping breed in New England, all the others far north. The males and females are alike.

270. *Squatarola squatarola*
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. 11 inches

Adult. In spring. Above, forehead white; back black and white mottled; wing-patch white; tail white, barred with black. Below, sides of head, throat and breast black, bordered with white; axillars, (feathers under the wing, showing in flight) black. In fall and **Immature.** Above brown speckled with white and yellowish. Below white with black markings. Bill and feet dark. Also known as *Beetle-head*. Found on the beaches and mud flats in flocks with other shore birds or alone. **Note.** "Loud, sweet whistle of two or three notes."

Breeds. Far north. Migrant in May and July to November.



272. *Charadrius dominicus*

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. 10.50 inches

Adult. In spring. Above blackish speckled with yellow and white; forehead, line over eye and sides of breast white. Below black. In fall. Above as in spring, but duller. Below white streaked on breast with brown. **Immature.** Above brownish spotted with white, rump yellow. Below grayish. Frequents pastures, ploughed fields and marshes near the coast, feeding on insects; it runs rapidly and bobs its head when standing.

Note. "*Whit, wheet-wheet-whit.*"

Breeds. Far north. Rare fall migrant, usually going inland in spring and out to sea in fall.

273. *Oxyechus vociferus*

KILLDEER. 10.50 inches

Adult. Above brown; forehead and stripe over eye white; line above bill and under eye black; ring around neck white; *rump* and *base of tail cinnamon*; tail rounded, outer feathers white, dark band across end. Below, throat white; *two bands on breast black*; belly white; bill black. Frequents pastures, ploughed fields and marshes. It bobs when standing.

Note. "A shrill *kill-dee*."

Nest. On the ground, in dry pasture land.

Breeds. Rare and locally along the coast. More common in spring and fall migrations and in southern New England.



274. *Ægialitis semipalmata*
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. 7 inches

Adult. Above olive brown; forehead white; line over bill and under eye black; stripe across front of crown and between eyes black; ring around neck white. Below throat white; *band across breast black*; belly white; bill yellow with black tip; legs yellow. Is found on ocean beaches and mud flats; it runs prettily, and bobs its head when standing. It looks like a little Killdeer, but there is only one band across the breast. Known also as *Ring-neck*.

Note. A sweet, plaintive call of two syllables.

Breeds. Far north. Common migrant along the coast in May, late July to October.



277. *Ægialitis meloda*

PIPING PLOVER. 7 inches

Adult. Above gray; forehead white; line across front of crown between the eyes black; white ring around neck, then a black ring *broken* on the breast; rump white; tail tipped with black. Below white excepting the broken black ring on breast; short yellow bill, tipped with black; yellow legs. Looks like a snow-bird running about the beach; bobs its head when it stops. **Note.** "Two sweet, plaintive whistles, *pi-pee'*."

Nest. A hollow in the sand.

Breeds. Locally on the coast. A rather common migrant in April and May, August and September.



APHRIZIDÆ: TURNSTONES

283. 1. *Arenaria morinella*

RUDDY TURNSTONE. 9.50 inches

Adult. Above head grayish white; back variegated reddish brown and black, patches of white on back and wings showing in flight; tail *white at base*, a black band across end, tipped with white. Below *breast* and line around eye *black*; belly white; bill black; feet red. **Immature.** Similar but much duller colors, lacks the reddish tint. Frequents outer beaches and rocky coves; it is rather solitary; feeds on insects and worms which it finds under stones. Also called *Calico-bird*.

Note. "A dry, trilling whistle."

Breeds. Far north. Migrant during May, August and September.



TETRAONIDÆ: GROUSE, BOB-WHITE

289. *Colinus virginianus*

BOB-WHITE. 10 inches

Male. Above variegated reddish brown, black and white; black crown feathers erectile; tail gray. Below, *throat white*, bordered by black band; breast speckled, black and white. **Female.** Similar but more reddish on breast. Called *Partridge* in the South, *Quail* in the North and West. In the fall they flock and frequent grainfields and swamps. They roost on the ground in a circle, tail to tail, their heads pointing outwards.

Note. A whistled "*Oh, Bob-white,*" and call note "*quoi-hee,*" like a guinea hen.

Nest. On the ground, in hayfields and scrub pastures.

Breeds. Resident in southern New England, rare north of Massachusetts.



298. *Canachites canadensis canace*

CANADIAN SPRUCE GROUSE. 15 inches

Male. Above barred with black and gray; tail black, broad and rounded tipped with reddish. Below, throat and breast black, sides and lower breast variegated white, gray and black. A red comb over the eye. **Female.** Above and below barred and variegated with black, gray and yellowish; legs feathered. Locally called *Black Grouse* and *Spruce Partridge*. Inhabits the heavy, coniferous forests of northern New England. Feeds on berries, leaves and spruce buds.

Note. Drumming with the wings.

Breeds. Resident in northern New England.

300. *Bonasa umbellus*

RUFFED GROUSE. 17 inches

Male. Above reddish, variegated with dark brown and yellowish; crown feathers erectile; ruff of silky black feathers on each side of neck; tail gray, broad and rounded, dark band near tip. Below yellowish, barred with brownish; legs feathered. **Female.** Smaller, neck ruff much smaller. Feeds on insects, berries, leaves and buds. Also called *Partridge*.

Note. Clucks like a brooding hen when disturbed with its young, also the drumming of the male.

Nest. On the ground in swampy woods.

Breeds. Resident throughout New England.

300a. *Bonasa umbellus togata*
CANADIAN RUFFED GROUSE

The northern sub-species. It is grayer above and more distinctly barred below.

COLUMBIDÆ: PIGEONS

316. *Zenaidura macroura*

MOURNING DOVE. 12 inches

Male. Above, head bluish gray, with a black spot on side; neck iridescent; black spots on wings; back brownish; tail long and tapering, outer feathers black tipped with white. Below pinkish brown. **Female** and **Immature.** Duller colors, the young do not have the black spot on side of head. Also called *Carolina Dove*; it might be mistaken for a cuckoo or a pigeon; feeds on grain and weed seeds. **Note.** *Coo-oo, coo, coo, coo.*

Nest. Built loosely of sticks, low in a tree, sometimes on the ground.

Breeds. Locally in southern New England, especially on Cape Cod. April to October.

FALCONIDÆ: HAWKS AND EAGLES

Unfortunately all the members of this family are generally condemned, but the Sparrow, Broad-winged, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks, the Osprey and Bald Eagle should be protected. The females are larger than the males. The first figure is the approximate length of the male, the second of the female. **Immature** birds are usually darker and have more mottled plumage. The Red-shouldered is the common large hawk in eastern New England; the Red-tailed is more common in the western part; the Marsh is the most common along the coast and in the southern part. All the hawks are more abundant in spring and fall when migrating.

331. *Circus hudsonius*

MARSH HAWK. 19 and 22 inches

Male. Above bluish gray; *rump white*; *long tail*, with brown bands showing from below, tipped with white. Below whitish, faintly marked with brown. **Female and Immature.** Above brown; *rump white*; tail and wings barred with brown. Below whitish, heavily streaked with brown. Common in meadows and open fields; feeds on insects, mice and snakes.

Note. "Ordinarily a silent bird, but when the nest is approached a harsh, loud, repeated *cac, cac, cac* is uttered."

Nest. On ground, loosely built, in bushy swamps and wet pastures.

Breeds. Throughout New England. Common in southern part, occasionally remains through the winter.

332. Accipiter velox

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. 11.25 and 13.50 inches

Adult. Above grayish brown; *wings broad and rounded; long, square tail* with dark bands and white tip. Below white, barred with reddish brown. **Immature.** Above brown. Below white, streaked with brown. Resembles a small Cooper's Hawk. This destructive little creature feeds largely on chickens and small birds; it has a nervous, swift flight, keeps low over the trees, and is very bold in its attacks. Locally called *Little Blue Darter* and *But Hawk*.

Note. "A sharp, shrill *cac, cac, cac*, similar to the Cooper's cry, but in a higher key."

Nest. Of sticks, high in evergreen, in the woods.

Breeds. Rather commonly in New England. and fall migrant.



A common spring

333. *Accipiter cooperii*.

COOPER'S HAWK. 15.50 and 19 inches

Adult. Above brownish gray, head darker; long tail rounded, with dark bands and white tip. Below white, barred with reddish brown; bill and feet yellow. **Immature.** Above brown, streaked with white. Below white streaked with brown. Also called *Chicken Hawk*. A daring thief of the farmyard; feeds on poultry, birds and mammals.

Note. "A continued *ka, ka, ka*, like a frightened hen."

Nest. In high tree, in the woods.

Breeds. Common resident in southern portion, rare north of Massachusetts. A few remain through the winter.

334. *Accipiter atricapillus*

AMERICAN GOSHAWK. 22 and 24 inches

Adult. Above *bluish gray*, head darker, white line from the eye to back of neck ; tail with dark bands and white tip. Below finely mottled and streaked gray and white. **Immature.** Above dark brown, streaked and spotted with white. Below white, streaked and spotted with brown. The adult bird may always be known by its bluish gray back and chinchilla breast. Locally called *Blue Hen Hawk* and *Partridge Hawk*. A bold robber.

Nest. In the woods.

Breeds. In northern New England. Irregular winter visitor in southern portion, some winters they occur in numbers.

337. *Buteo borealis*

RED-TAILED HAWK. 20 and 23 inches

Adult. Above dark brown; *tail reddish brown* with white tip, narrow black band near the end, and silver white underneath. Below white, streaked with brown. **Immature.** Similar but tail brown with many black bars, silver white beneath. Heavier built than the Red-shouldered and distinguished by red tail. Feeds largely on mice and small mammals. More common in wild, hilly country.

Note. "A husky, squealing *wee, wee, wee.*"

Nest. Very large, of sticks in tall trees, usually in dry woods, often on hillsides.

Breeds. Locally throughout. Permanent resident in southern portion.

339. *Buteo lineatus*

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. 18.30 and 20.35 inches

Adult. Above dark brown, *shoulder reddish brown*; wings and tail barred with white, lighter underneath. Below *reddish brown*, streaked and barred with white. Lighter built than Red-tailed, distinguished by reddish breast and shoulders. This and the Red-tailed are the common *Hen Hawk* of the farmers. Feeds on mice, snakes and mammals. Perches in exposed situations, soars and flies in circles.

Note. “*Kee-a, kee-a*, like a blue jay.”

Nest. Large, of sticks, near trunk and high in tree in the woods, often in swampy woods.

Breeds. Throughout. Winters and is common in southern portion, especially near the coast.

343. *Buteo platypterus*

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. 14 and 17 inches

Adult. Above dark brown; tail barred brown and white, much lighter underneath. Below reddish brown, barred and streaked with white. **Immature.** Above dark brown, mottled with white; tail faintly barred. Below white, streaked with dark brown. A bird of wild, wooded country; flies in large, unbroken circles; is quiet and sluggish, sometimes seems very tame.

Note. "A high, shrill, prolonged *chee-e-e-e*, like a wood pewee."

Nest. Usually in a rude old nest of a hawk, squirrel or crow, well up a tree in the woods.

Breeds. Throughout in wooded regions. Common in northern portion.

347a. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*

AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. 21.50 and 22.50 ins.

Adult. Above brown and white streaked; tail brown at end, *white at base*, sometimes barred. Below white, streaked with brown; legs feathered. **Immature.** Similar, but broad, brown band on belly. Sometimes the plumage is brown or black, which has given it the name of *Black Hawk*. It frequents grasslands; feeds on mice, snakes and insects; watches for its prey from an exposed perch.

Breeds. A rare migrant, or winter visitor from the north.

352. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

BALD EAGLE. 33 and 35.50 inches

Adult. After the third year, above dark brown; head, *neck and tail white*. Below brown. Second and third year brown, mixed with whitish, and the size is larger than when the bird is older. First year black above, sometimes spotted with white below. *Legs not feathered*. Also called *American Eagle* and *Bird of Washington*. Usually found near water; feeds on fish. The only other eagle in the United States is the Golden Eagle, which is very rare in New England.

Note. "A weird, wild cry."

Nest. In trees or on cliffs.

Breeds. Rarely and locally, near coast or inland waters.

356. *Falco peregrinus anatum*

DUCK HAWK. 16 and 19 inches

Adult. Above bluish gray, head black; tail with narrow black bars. Below whitish, belly and under sides of wings barred with black; black patches on throat. **Immature.** Above brownish gray; black patches on throat. Below reddish, striped with brown. This bold, mountain bird is the representative of the European Peregrine Falcon; it is usually found near water; feeds on poultry, song and water birds, also small mammals.

Note. "A loud, wild cry."

Nest. Usually on a cliff.

Breeds. Locally and rarely, on mountain cliffs. Spring and fall migrant along rivers and on the coast.

357. *Falco columbarius*

PIGEON HAWK. 10 and 13 inches

Male. Above *bluish gray*; tail barred with black, tipped with white. Below white, streaked with black. **Female and Immature.** Above grayish brown. Below white, streaked with brown; tail indistinctly barred. This little migrant resembles a pigeon; is usually seen in open land, perched in a solitary tree watching for its prey of small birds and insects.

Breeds. Rather common spring and fall migrant.

360. *Falco sparverius*

AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK. 9.50 and 10.75 inches

Male. Above *reddish brown* spotted with black; crown grayish blue with a large reddish brown spot; long, narrow wings, grayish blue, tipped with black; tail *reddish* with broad black band, and tipped with white, outer feathers white barred with black. Below whitish, spotted with black on sides; black patches on cheeks and sides of throat. **Female and Immature.** Similar, but the reddish brown back is uniformly barred with black and the breast streaked with brown. Perches in an exposed situation overlooking a stretch of land to watch for its prey; has a habit of hovering over a suspected victim before pouncing upon it. **Note.** "*Killy, killy, killy.*"

Nest. In hole in tree, in open land, on a farm.

Breeds. Locally throughout. Common spring and fall migrant.



364. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*

AMERICAN OSPREY. 23.10 inches

Male. Above dark brown, head white striped with brown, broad stripe from eye to back of neck. Below *white*; bill black. **Female.** Similar, but breast spotted with brown. Also called *Fish Hawk*. It feeds on fish, plunging headlong from a great height into the water to seize its prey. A pair use the same nesting place a number of years.

Nest. Bulky, in solitary tree near large body of water.

Breeds. Throughout. More common near the coast.



BUBONIDÆ: HORNED AND HOOT OWLS

Owls have soft, thick plumage, of peculiar structure rendering their flight noiseless; they have large heads, which they can turn in every direction without moving the body, and wide, staring eyes with enormous pupils. They feed on insects, birds and small mammals, swallowing their food whole and throwing up in small pellets the indigestible parts. They are early breeders, some species beginning to nest in February. Their weird cries, silent motions, wise faces and ear-tufts have given them a superstitious character. In Europe they are called the Dooms-day Birds.

366. *Asio wilsonianus*

AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL. 14.80 inches

Adult. Above dark brown mottled with white and buff. Below yellowish barred and streaked with brown; facial disk yellowish brown; *ear-tufts conspicuous*; feet and legs feathered; quiet, secretive birds of the wild woods.

Note. "Occasionally gives long hoots, and when disturbed yowls like a cat."

Nest. In a tree, usually in pine or hemlock woods or a cedar swamp.

Breeds. Scarce permanent resident, commoner during migrations.

367. *Asio accipitrinus*

SHORT-EARED OWL. 15 inches

Adult. Above yellowish, heavily streaked with brown; wings and tail barred and spotted with brown, outer tail-feathers white. Below yellowish, finely streaked with brown; facial disk whitish, black around eye; *ear-tufts inconspicuous*; feet and legs feathered. Also called *Marsh Owl* and *Meadow Owl*. Frequents meadows and beaches. Often flies in the daytime: its favorite food is mice.

Note. "A tremulous squeak, and when disturbed from nest, *cac, cac, cac*, like a Marsh Hawk."

Nest. On ground, usually in a marsh.

Breeds. Rarely in New England. Migrant along the coast.

368. *Syrnium varium*

BARRED OWL. 20 inches

Adult. Above brown barred with white. Below whitish barred with brown, streaked on belly; facial disk gray; *no ear-tufts*; bill yellow; feet and legs feathered. Found in wild, thick woods and swamps; also called *Hoot Owl*. It hunts at night, feeding on small birds, snakes and mammals.

Note. "A deep, guttural *whoo'-whoo'*, repeatedly uttered. Sometimes responds when its cries are imitated."

Nest. In a hollow tree or in an old hawk's nest.

Breeds. Throughout, in isolated woods.

372. *Cryptoglaux acadica*

SAW-WHET OWL. 8 inches

Adult. Above brown, wings and tail barred and spotted with white. Below white, heavily striped and marked with reddish brown; facial disk brownish; *no ear-tufts*; feet and legs feathered. It spends the day perched on a bough in the thick woods or in a hole in a tree; soon after dark it hunts for its food of mice and insects. It is also called *Acadian Owl*.

Note. "Like the whetting of a saw, also a moaning cry."

Nest. Often in an old flicker's hole.

Breeds. Sparingly in southern New England, more common in northern part.



Adult. Above brown, with and tail barred and spotted with
 white. Below white, heavily spotted and marked with reddish
 brown; lateral disk brownish; on the right
 left and legs feathered. It spends the day
 hidden on a log. The thick woods in
 a hole in a tree, soon after dark it
 the its food of mice and insects. It is also
 called "Whet" and
 Note. "Like the whetling of saw, also
 a meaning 'cry'."
 Nest. Built in an old shrike's hole.
 New

373. **Megascops asio**

SCREECH OWL. 10 inches

Adult. Two color phases. Above either gray, or bright reddish brown, streaked with black. Below white, heavily streaked and marked with black; facial disk grayish; *ear-tufts conspicuous*; feet and legs feathered. It feeds on mice and insects.

Note. "A prolonged, tremulous hoot, also occasionally a high keyed hooting."

Nest. In hole in tree, often an old apple tree.

Breeds. Throughout, more common in cultivated regions.



375. *Bubo virginianus*
GREAT HORNED OWL. 22 inches

Adult. Above yellowish, mottled with black. Below, *throat white*; breast and belly yellowish, barred and mottled with black; facial disk yellowish; *ear-tufts conspicuous*; feet and legs feathered. Savage birds, living in wild swamps and woodlands; they feed on poultry, birds, mammals and insects. Also called *Cat Owl*.

Note. "Usually a mellow three syllabled hoot, like the baying of a distant hound."

Nest. Often an old hawk's, generally a Red-tailed, sometimes in hollow tree, rarely among rocks on the ground.

Breeds. A permanent resident.

376. *Nyctea nyctea*

SNOWY OWL. 24 inches

Male. Above white, barred with brown. Below throat and feet pure white; breast faintly streaked with brown; facial disk white; *no ear-tufts*; feet and legs feathered. **Female.** Similar but more heavily barred. This arctic bird hunts by day, and perches in exposed situations. When food is scarce in the north it migrates southward, more commonly along the coast.

Note. "A loud and repeated *krau-au*."

Breeds. Far north. Irregular winter visitor.

377. *Surnia ulula caparoch*
AMERICAN HAWK OWL. 15 inches

Adult. Above brown, head spotted with white; wings and *long tail* barred with white. Below white, streaked and barred with brown; facial disk whitish circled with black; *no ear-tufts*. This species has the silent flight of an owl but the speed of a hawk. It hunts by day as well as at night, and watches for its prey on an exposed perch. Also called *Day Owl*.

Breeds. North of New England. Winters in northern New England, very rare in Massachusetts.

This little book is intended especially for field use. The following books are recommended for further information :

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NEW ENGLAND AND EASTERN NEW YORK. Ralph Hoffmann. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. \$1.50 net.

HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA. F. M. Chapman. D. Appleton & Co. \$3.00.

BIRDS OF ESSEX COUNTY, MASS. Dr. C. W. Townsend. \$2.50 net.

AMONG THE WATER-FOWL. Herbert K. Job. Doubleday, Page & Co. \$1.35 net.

WILD WINGS. Herbert K. Job. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$3.00 net.

THE WATER-FOWL FAMILY. Leonard C. Sanford and others. Macmillan Co. \$2.00 net.

INDEX

Auk, Little	13	Curlew, Hudsonian	88
" Razor-billed	12	Dab-chick	7
Baldpate	39	Darter, Little Blue	102
Bittern, American	58	Dipper	7, 48
" Least	59	Diver, Great Northern	8
Bluebill	45	" Red-throated	9
" Little	46	" Hell	7
Bob-white	96	Dove, Mourning	99
Brant	56	" Carolina	99
Buffle-head	48	Dovekie	13
Butterball.	48	Dowitcher	72
Calico-bird.	95	Ducks, Geese, Swans	33
Coot	51	" Bay and Sea	44
" American	66	" River and Pond	37
" Black and White	50	Duck, American Eider	50
Cormorants	31	" " Golden-eye	47
Cormorant, Common	32	" Black	38
" Double-crested	32	" " Red-legged	38

INDEX. — Continued.

Duck, Canvas-back	44	Guillemot, Black	11
“ Scaup	45	Gulls and Terns.	15
“ Lesser Scaup	46	Gull, Black-headed	20
Duck, Wood	43	“ Bonaparte’s	21
Dunlin, American	79	“ Great Black-backed	17
Eagle, “	109	“ Herring	18
“ Bald	109	“ Laughing	20
Gallinule, Florida	65	“ Mackerel	23
Gannet	30	“ Ring-billed.	19
Goose, Canada	55	“ Winter	16
Goshawk, American	104	Haglet, Black	28
Goosander	34	“ White	28
Grebes	5	Hawks and Eagles	100
“ Holbœll’s	5	Hawk, American Rough-legged ..	108
“ Horned	6	“ “ Sparrow	112
“ Pied-billed	7	“ Bird	102
“ Red-necked	5	“ Black	108
Grouse, Canadian Spruce	97	“ Blue Hen	104
“ “ Ruffed	98	“ Broad-winged	107

INDEX. — Continued.

Hawk, Chicken	103	Jaeger, Pomarine.....	14
“ Cooper’s	103	Killdeer	92
“ Duck	110	Kittiwake.....	16
“ Fish.....	113	Knot	74
“ Hen	106	Krieker	76
“ Jiddy.....	14	Little Blue Darter .	102
“ Marsh	101	Loon, Common	8
“ Partridge	104	“ Red-throated	9
“ Pigeon.....	111	Mallard.....	37
“ Red-shouldered	106	Merganser, American.....	34
“ Red-tailed.....	105	“ Hooded....	36
“ Sharp-shinned	102	“ Red-breasted	35
Hérons and Bitterns.....	57	Mother Carey’s Chickens.....	27
Heron, Black-crowned Night.....	62	Murre, Brünnich’s.....	12
“ Great Blue.....	60	Mud Hen.....	66
“ Green.....	61	“ “ Red-billed.....	65
Ice-bird	13	Osprey, American	113
Jaeger, Long-tailed.....	14	Old-Squaw	49
“ Parasitic.....	14	Owl, Acadian	118

INDEX. — Continued.

Owl, American Hawk.....	122	Phalarope, Red.	68
“ “ Long-eared	115	Pin-tail.....	42
“ Barred.....	117	Plovers.. ..	89
“ Cat.	120	Plover, American Golden.....	91
“ Day.....	122	“ Blue.....	74
“ Great Horned.....	120	“ Black-bellied.....	90
Owls, Horned and Hoot	114	“ Field	86
Owl, Saw-whet	118	“ Piping.....	94
“ Screech	119	“ Red-breasted.....	74
“ Short-eared.....	116	“ Semipalmated.....	93
“ Snowy	121	“ Upland	86
Ox-eye	78	Quail	96
Partridge	98	Quawk.....	62
Peep.....	78, 80	Rail, Carolina.....	64
Petrel, Leach's.....	29	“ Virginia.....	63
“ Stormy	27	Red-head.....	44
“ Wilson's	29	Ring-neck.....	93
Phalaropes	67	Sanderling.....	81
Phalarope, Northern.....	68	Sandpiper, Bartramian.....	86

INDEX. — Continued.

Sandpiper, Bonaparte's	77	Shearwaters and Petrels.....	27
“ Least	78	Shearwater, Corey's.....	28
“ Pectoral.....	76	“ Greater	28
“ Purple.....	75	“ Sooty	28
“ Red-backed	79	Sheldrake	35
“ Semipalmated.....	80	Snipes, Sandpipers	69
“ Stilt	73	Snipe, Grass.....	76
“ Solitary.....	84	“ Jack	71
“ Spotted	87	“ Red-breasted	72
“ White-rumped	77	“ Wilson's	71
Scoter, American.....	51	“ Winter.....	75
“ Surf	53	Sora.....	64
“ White-winged	52	Teal, Blue-winged.....	41
Sea Geese	67	“ Green-winged	40
“ Parrot	10	Tern, Arctic.....	24
“ Pigeon.....	11	“ Black	26
“ Swallow	23	“ Caspian.....	22
“ Duck.....	50	“ Common	23
Shag	31	“ Least	25

INDEX.—Concluded.

Tern, Roseate.....	24	Woodcock	70
“ Wilson’s.....	23	Yellow legs, Greater... ..	82
Turnstone, Ruddy.....	95	“ Lesser.....	83
Widgeon	45	“ Summer	83
Whistler	47	“ Winter.....	82
Willet	85		











