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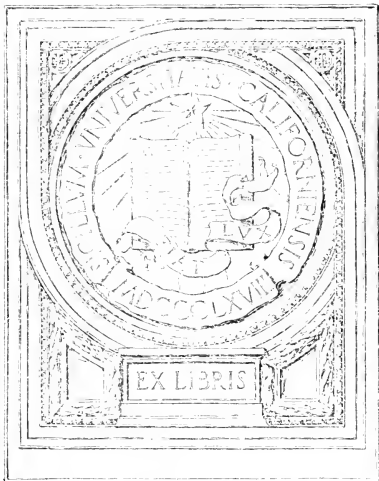
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ANNOTATED LIST

OF THE

BIRDS OF ONEIDA COUNTY, N. Y.,

AND ITS IMMEDIATE VICINITY.

BY WM. L. RALPH, M. D., AND EGBERT BAGG.

[From the Transactions of the Oneida Historical Society, Vol. III, page 101: 1886.]

C. Hart Merriam —

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UTICA, N. Y.
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1886.

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ANNOTATED LIST OF
THE BIRDS OF ONEIDA COUNTY, NEW YORK,
AND OF ITS IMMEDIATE VICINITY.

[Read before the Society April 26, 1886.]

WITH THE ADDITION OF OBSERVATIONS MADE DURING THE BREEDING SEASON
OF 1886.

BY WILLIAM L. RALPH, M. D., AND
EGBERT BAGG,
Associate Member A. O. U.

2-21-47
I.S.

The location of the County of Oneida is of first importance when considering its Bird Fauna. Almost in the centre of the State of New York, of irregular outline, approaching in shape a heart, with one lobe resting on Oneida Lake, the other in the great northern wilderness, and the point far down toward the head-waters of the Susquehanna, it is on the very edge of the great island which ages ago rose above the continental sea in northern New York; and from the Eozoic in the northeast corner, a line drawn in a southerly direction across the County, cuts outcroppings of almost all the rocks, through the Lower Silurian, the Upper Silurian, and as far as the Portage and Chemung Groups in the Devonian.

It is traversed from east to west by a broad and fertile valley, containing the head-waters of the Mohawk and of Wood Creek, and between them the old "carry" of the early boatmen; the summit between the Hudson and the Great Lakes. From this valley the ground rises into gentle hills in both directions, only to fall away again to the sources of the Black River on the north and of the Chenango and the Unadilla on the south. Thus the County contains the sources of rivers flowing to all four points of the compass. The Black river to the north, the Oneida to the west; both finding their way through the St. Lawrence to the Atlantic. The Mohawk to the east, and the Chenango and Unadilla to the south; the former through the Hudson, and the latter through the Susquehanna, reaching the same destination.

The rain fall, though we are unable to give the figures, is large, and the temperature is not only low in average, but is extremely

variable, especially in winter; changes of sixty degrees Fahrenheit within twenty-four hours occurring in almost every season.

In a general way, the climate may be said to be favorable to a heavy growth of timber, and in fact of all vegetation; but with the exception of the northern part of the County, the soil is cultivated so completely that but little of the native forest remains. With such location, topography and climate, we should naturally expect to find the fauna "Canadian" rather than "Alleghanian," especially when we observe in our woods the absence of the tulip and the chestnut, common in the same parallel of latitude a short distance west of us; and we miss the whistle of "Bob White," and the mournful call of the "Common Dove," which are not uncommon sounds a comparatively few miles away.

Instead, our woods are largely made up of maple, beech and conifers, and we find breeding within our limits, such strictly Canadian birds as the Golden-eye Duck, the White-throated Sparrow, the Canadian Fly-catching Warbler, the Winter Wren, and both the Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes. The list, however, shows some birds far removed from "Canadian," and perhaps further investigation in the southern part of the County might add more.

We beg to acknowledge our obligations to C. Hart Merriam, M. D., of the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy, U. S. Department of Agriculture, who kindly reviewed the list while in the rough, and made several valuable additions; to Messrs. A. L. Brainard, of Oneida, and A. Ames Howlett, of Syracuse, for information regarding the occurrence of birds at Oneida Lake; and to several others, who are properly credited in the appropriate places.

The list is not put forth as complete. It is the work of several years, but there are many parts of the County which we have scarcely visited.

We have included quite a number of birds for which we have no positive Oneida County record, having found them in the neighboring counties, and having no doubt of their occurrence in this. In all such cases we give the location of the record, and to cover such extra-limital records we have called this paper "A List of the Birds of Oneida County and its Immediate Vicinity." Only those birds are given as breeding, for which we have positive records, though it may fairly be assumed that all those given as "summer residents" nest.

We submit the list to our bird-loving friends, for what it is worth, only adding in conclusion, that every item of which we have not personal knowledge, is so given, with our authority; and that our principal effort has been, not to make the list as large as possible, but to make it positively accurate.

WILLIAM L. RALPH, M. D.,
 EGBERT BAGG.

UTICA, N. Y., September 1st, 1886.

LIST.

1. *Colymbus holbœllii* (REINH.) 2.
Holbœll's Grebe.

A female, taken out of a flock of five or six, on the Mohawk in 1867.

2. *Colymbus auritus* LINN. 3.
Horned Grebe.

A not uncommon migrant. "Common in Lewis, Herkimer and Hamilton Counties, in fall migrations."—(*Merriam.*)

3. *Podilymbus podiceps* (LINN.) 6.
Pied-billed Grebe.

Not uncommon. See *Galinula galeata*.

4. *Urinator imber* (GUNN.) 7.
Loon.

Common at Oneida Lake. One taken near Utica. Common summer resident in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties. Breeds.

5. *Stercorarius parasiticus* (LINN.). 37.

Parasitic Jaeger.

A young specimen of this bird was taken August 22, 1886, on Joe's Lake, Herkimer County, by Mr. W. P. Shepard. The bird was seen to alight on the lake, and apparently exhausted with a long journey, allowed itself to be approached in a boat and killed with a paddle.

6. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* COUES. 51a.

American Herring Gull.

Occurs occasionally throughout the County. A common migrant at Oneida Lake. Common summer resident in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties; breeding occasionally at Joe's Lake; and almost always up to a few years ago, on Canachagala Lake, in large numbers; and for many years on the West Canada Lakes.

7. *Larus philadelphia* (ORD). 60.

Bonaparte's Gull.

A common migrant at Oneida Lake, where the local name is "Black head gull." Eight of these birds out of a flock of about fifty were killed on the Utica Water Works Reservoir in 1879.

8. *Sterna hirundo* LINN. 70.

Common Tern.

Of rare occurrence on Oneida Lake. In the spring of 1885 one was killed at Upper South Bay by Mr. Henry Loftic, who has the bird mounted and preserved. Mr. George D. Chapin of the same place, also reports the bird as seen, being very tame, and following the boat for quite a long time.

9. *Sterna antillarum* (LESS.). 74.

Least Tern.

Mr. F. J. Davis killed a bird of this species on the "Capron Pond," so called, in town of New Hartford, a few years ago.

10. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis* (GMEL.) 77.

Black Tern.

Several observed in the fall of 1885 at Oneida Lake, by Mr. A. A. Howlett, of Syracuse; though he did not secure them, he is familiar with the species, and thinks there can be no mistake. As they have been killed on Onondaga Lake there is no reasonable doubt of this identification.

11. *Phalacrocorax carbo* (LINN.) 119.

Cormorant.

One killed at Oneida Lake, was mounted by A. L. Brainard, of Oneida. The Rathbun-Fowler List, published at Auburn, records one killed at "Upper South Bay," Oneida Lake, by Mr. Edward H. Mann, of Syracuse, N. Y., which is mounted and preserved in the rooms of the Onondaga Sportsmen's Club of that city.

12. *Merganser americanus* (CASS.) 129.

American Merganser.

A not uncommon migrant.

13. *Merganser serrator* (LINN.) 130.

Red-breasted Merganser.

"A common summer resident throughout the Adirondacks. Much more abundant than the Sheldrake."—(*Merriam.*)

14. *Lophodytes cucullatus* (LINN.) 131.

Hooded Merganser.

A common migrant.

15. *Anas boschas* LINN. 132.

Mallard.

A common migrant.

16. *Anas obscura* GMEL. 133.

Black Duck.

A common migrant. Common summer resident in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties, breeding more plentifully than any other Duck.

17. *Anas strepera* LINN. 135.

Gadwall.

Two killed April, 1884, and one October, 1885, at Oneida Lake, by Mr. A. A. Howlett, of Syracuse, and several killed at the same place by Mr. N. Wood, of Brewerton.

18. *Anas americana* GMEL. 137.

Baldpate.

"A not uncommon migrant."—(*Howlett.*)

19. *Anas carolinensis* GMELIN. 139.

Green-winged Teal.

A common migrant.

20. *Anas discors* LINN. 140.

Blue-winged Teal.

A common migrant. A few probably breed, as quite young birds are occasionally shot.

21. *Spatula clypeata* (LINN.). 142.

Shoveller.

One shot and another seen near Utica, April 19th, 1884. Two killed September, 1879, at Oneida Lake, by Mr. A. A. Howlett.

22. *Dafla acuta* (LINN.). 143.

Pintail.

A common migrant.

23. *Aix sponsa* (LINN.). 144.

Wood Duck.

A common migrant. "A few remain to breed near Oneida Lake."—(*Brainard.*)

24. *Aythya americana* (EYT.). 146.

Redhead.

A migrant at Oneida Lake. A female shot near Utica.

25. *Aythya vallisneria* (WILS.). 147.

Canvas-back.

A. L. Brainard, of Oneida, has mounted one specimen killed at the Lake.

26. *Aythya marila nearctica* STEJN. 148.

American Scaup Duck.

A common migrant.

27. *Aythya affinis* (Eyt.). 149.

Lesser Scaup Duck.

Migrant; more common than the preceding.

28. *Glaucionetta clangula americana* (BONAP.). 151.

American Golden-eye.

A common migrant. Summer resident in Hamilton County. Broods of young birds were seen in June, 1878 and 1879.

29. *Charitonetta albeola* (LINN.) 153.

Buffle-head.

A common migrant.

30. *Clangula hyemalis* (LINN.) 154.

Old-squaw.

A rare migrant. One taken at Utica October 27th, 1881.

31. *Somateria spectabilis* (LINN.) 162.

King Eider.

"A rare migrant. Several have been killed on Oneida Lake."
(*Brainard.*)

32. *Oidemia americana* SW. & RICH. 163.

American Scoter.

Occurs occasionally. "Shot at Lyons Falls and in the Adirondacks."—(*Merriam.*)

33. *Oidemia deglandi* BONAP. 165.

White-winged Scoter.

Two taken at Utica in the fall of 1881. Common at Oneida Lake.

34. *Oidemia perspicillata* (LINN.) 166.

Surf Scoter.

A specimen of this bird in the possession of Mr. A. L. Brainard, of Oneida, was killed at the lake in the fall of 1884.

35. *Erismatura rubida* (WILS.) 167.

Ruddy Duck.

"Rather common migrant at Oneida Lake."—(*Brainard and Howlett.*)

36. *Branta canadensis* (LINN.) 172.

Canada Goose.

A common migrant.

37. *Olor columbianus* (ORD.) 180.

Whistling Swan.

DeKay, in the Natural History of New York, Part II, says: "In the uninhabited regions of Herkimer and Hamilton Counties, in this State, this species, as I was informed by trustworthy hunters, remains during the whole year, where it must necessarily breed. The outlet of Lake Paskungameh, or Tupper's Lake, was specified as a spot to which they were particularly attached." Several swans, undoubtedly this species, have been killed on Oneida Lake.

38. *Botaurus lentiginosus* (MONTAG.) 190.

American Bittern.

A common summer resident.

39. *Ardea herodias* LINN. 194.

Great Blue Heron.

A common summer resident. "Breeds near the western end of Oneida Lake."—(*Northrup in Ornithologist and Oölogist, Vol. X, Page 11.*)

40. *Ardea egretta* GMEL.

196.

American Egert.

A specimen of this handsome bird, a straggler from the South, was taken by Mr. A. H. Eysaman, of Eatonville, N. Y., in the spring of 1882, in the town of Herkimer, Herkimer County. He reports that there were six of these birds in a flock, and that they remained in the vicinity about a month, but only one was secured. The bird was mounted and preserved. Messrs. J. P. & F. J. Davis, taxidermists, of Utica, mounted a specimen several years ago, which was killed in the town of Deerfield, on the river flats.

41. *Ardea virescens* LINN.

201.

Green Heron.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

42. *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius* (BODD.).

202.

Black-crowned Night Heron.

A young female shot near Utica, August 12th, 1878. Mr. A. L. Brainard, of Oneida, also had a young bird brought to him to mount.

43. *Grus mexicana* (MÜLL.).

206.

Sandhill Crane.

Messrs. J. P. & F. J. Davis, taxidermists, Utica, mounted for a Mr. Catwell, of New York Mills, a specimen of this bird, which was taken in that village in the year 1873.

44. *Rallus virginianus* LINN.

212.

Virginia Rail.

Not uncommon.

45. *Porzana carolina* (LINN.). 214.

Sora.

A summer resident. Breeds. More common during migrations.

46. *Porzana noveboracensis* (GMEL.). 215.

Yellow Rail.

One taken near Utica October 3d, 1883.

47. *Gallinula galeata* (LICHT.). 219.

Florida Gallinule.

Two have been taken near Utica. Occasional at Oneida Lake. Very common on the marshes of the Seneca River, where they are called "Water chickens," and where they breed in great numbers. June 4th, 1879, a nest was found containing four eggs. June 5th, at eleven A. M., it contained six eggs. The same day at five P. M., there were nine eggs, when the female, or one of them, was killed. The same month an old bird, followed by a brood of young, was observed leaving her nest, which on examination was found to contain one egg of this species and two of the *Podilymbus podiceps*, all with chicks peeping in them. It was impossible to distinguish which of the two species the old bird was; but from these observations it seems positive that this bird not only shares its nest with its own species, but sometimes with the Grebe also.

48. *Fulica americana* GMEL. 221.

American Coot.

One taken at Utica. "Common at Oneida Lake."—(*Brainard.*)

49. *Phalaropus lobatus* (LINN.). 223.

Northern Phalarope.

Early in the spring of 1881, a specimen of this bird was taken in the town of Westmoreland, in this odd manner. It was first

observed swimming about like a duck, in a little pond made by the melting snow and the spring rain, and catching insects which were swimming on the surface of the water. The bird being a strange one to the gentleman who observed it, it was watched closely for some time, but as there was no means at hand to capture it, the gentleman finally went about his work, which was near at hand, till his attention was again attracted by the loud outcries of the bird; and on hastening to the pond he found that the bird had been kindly captured for him by a large bullfrog, which was trying to swallow it. He killed the frog and secured the bird, which shortly died from the rough treatment it had received. It was then presented to Mrs. M. T. Brown, of Hecla, who mounted it herself and preserved it.

50. *Phalaropus tricolor* (VIEILL.) 224.

Wilson's Phalarope.

A specimen of this bird was shot near the eastern end of Oneida Lake, October 6th, 1883, by Mr. Morgan K. Barnum, of Syracuse. When first observed the bird was swimming upon the surface of the Lake.

51. *Philohela minor* (GMEL.) 228.

American Woodcock.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

52. *Gallinago delicata* (ORD.) 230.

Wilson's Snipe.

A common migrant; not so abundant as formerly.

53. *Macrorhamphus griseus* (GMEL.) 231.

Dowitcher.

Two birds of this species were shot near the eastern end of Oneida Lake, September 22d, 1883, by Mr. Morgan K. Barnum of

Syracuse. The same day he is confident he saw a flock of this snipe, containing, as well as he could judge, about fifteen. The two killed were single birds. Two shot at Oneida Lake, in 1880, by Mr. A. A. Howlett, of Syracuse.

54. *Tringa maculata* VIEILL. 239.
Pectoral Sandpiper.

Quite common at times during migrations.

55. *Tringa fuscicollis* VIEILL. 240.
White-rumped Sandpiper.

Three taken at Utica, October 27th, 1881.

56. *Tringa minutilla* VIEILL. 242.
Least Sandpiper.

Several taken at Utica in the fall of 1881.

57. *Tringa alpina pacifica* (COUES). 243a.
Red-backed Sandpiper.

One taken at Utica, October 27th, 1881. Several at Oneida Lake, October 5th, 1881.

58. *Ereunetes pusillus* (LINN.). 246.
Sempalmated Sandpiper.

Common at Oneida Lake during migrations.

59. *Calidris arenaria* (LINN.). 248.
Sanderling.
Common at Oneida Lake during migrations.
60. *Totanus melanoleucus* (GMEL.). 254.
Greater Yellow-legs.
Not uncommon during migrations.
61. *Totanus flavipes* (GMEL.). 255.
Yellow-legs.
A common migrant.
62. *Totanus solitarius* (WILS.). 256.
Solitary Sandpiper.
A common migrant; remaining till quite late in the spring. A pair taken May 15th, 1874.
63. *Bartramia longicauda* (BECHST.). 261.
Bartramian Sandpiper.
A rather common summer resident. Breeds.
64. *Actitis macularia* (LINN.). 263.
Spotted Sandpiper.
A common summer resident. Breeds.

65. *Numenius longirostris* WILS. 264.

Long-billed Curlew.

Mr. A. A. Howlett, of Syracuse, reports, that October 5th, 1880, at Oneida Lake, a flock passed near enough to give him a shot, and though he did not secure any, he is positive of their identification, being familiar with them and with the other curlews.

66. *Charadrius squatarola* (LINN.). 270.

Black-billed Plover.

Three taken at Oneida Lake in September, 1879, by Mr. A. A. Howlett, of Syracuse.

67. *Charadrius dominicus* MÜLL. 272.

American Golden Plover.

A common migrant at Oneida Lake.

68. *Ægialitis vocifera* (LINN.). 273.

Killdeer.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

69. *Ægialitis semipalmata* BONAP. 274

Semipalmated Plover.

Common on Oneida Lake during migrations.

70. *Ægialitis wilsonia* (ORD). 280.

Wilson's Plover.

One shot near Upper South Bay, Oneida Lake, in 1880, by Mr. A. A. Howlett, of Syracuse.

71. *Arenaria interpres* (LINN.) 283.

Turnstone.

One of this species in the possession of Mr. Maxon, of Oneida, was killed at Verona several years ago.

72. *Dendragapus canadensis* (LINN.) 298.

Canada Grouse.

Messrs. J. P. & F. J. Davis, taxidermists, Utica, mounted a pair of these birds killed in the town of Greig, Lewis County.

73. *Bonasa umbellus* (LINN.) 300.

Ruffed Grouse.

A common resident. Breeds.

74. *Lagopus lagopus* (LINN.) 301.

Willow Ptarmigan.

"Mr. Romeyn B. Hough has a specimen of this species that was killed in the town of Watson, on the eastern border of Lewis County, May 22d, 1876."—(*Merriam. Preliminary List of the Birds of the Adirondack Region.*)

75. *Ectopistes migratorius* (LINN.) 315.

Passenger Pigeon.

A common migrant till within a few years, but is now less common than formerly. Breeds in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties.

- 76.
- Zenaidura macroura*
- (LINN.).

316.

Mourning Dove.

Messrs. J. P. & F. J. Davis, taxidermists, of Utica, report that they mounted a specimen of this bird, some time ago, which was killed in Herkimer County.

- 77.
- Cathartes aura*
- . (LINN.).

325.

Turkey Vulture.

In May, 1879, Mr. Lavello J. Groves, of Westmoreland, shot a bird of this species in that Town, and had it mounted and preserved. When first seen the bird was in company with three others, in a small grove. (*Recorded, Auk. Vol. II, page 109.*)

- 78.
- Circus hudsonius*
- (LINN.).

331.

Marsh Hawk.

A few seen every year. The birds have been seen on Frankfort Hill during breeding season, and a farmer residing there, reports that while mowing, his machine cut off the heads of two young hawks in a nest on the ground. These could have been nothing but this species.

- 79.
- Accipiter velox*
- (WILS.).

332.

Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Seen occasionally. Breeds. A nest taken on Frankfort Hill a few years ago. Two young birds shot September 18th, 1879.

- 80.
- Accipiter cooperi*
- (BONAP.).

333.

Cooper's Hawk.

Quite common in some parts of the County. Breeds.

81. *Accipiter atricapillus* (WILS.) 334.

American Goshawk.

A specimen of this bird was shot by the late George H. Ferris, on the Deerfield Hills some years ago. He was hunting grouse in the thick brush and wearing a fur cap, when the hawk, undoubtedly mistaking this head covering for some small animal, swooped upon it; but discovered its mistake before striking, and swerving to one side, passed close to Mr. Ferris' head, and rising among the trees, immediately lit, and was shot from its perch. The bird was mounted and preserved.

82. *Buteo borealis* (GMEL.) 337.

Red-tailed Hawk.

Common. Breeds.

83. *Buteo lineatus* (GMEL.) 339.

Red-shouldered Hawk.

By far the most common of our Hawks. Breeding plentifully.

84. *Buteo latissimus* (WILS.) 343.

Broad-winged Hawk.

Not common. Breeds. Nest taken April 24th, 1883, by Dr. Langworthy, of New Hartford, in that Town.

85. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis* (GMEL.) 347a.

American Rough-legged Hawk.

Not uncommon spring and fall.

86. *Aquila chrysaëtos* (LINN.). 349.
Golden Eagle.

A fine specimen of this magnificent bird was shot near Frankfort, Herkimer County, October 23d, 1885.

87. *Haliaëtus leucocephalus* (LINN.). 352.
Bald Eagle.

A common resident on Oneida Lake.

88. *Falco columbarius* LINN. 357.
Pigeon Hawk.

Messrs. J. P. & F. J. Davis, taxidermists, Utica, state that they have had several birds of this species to mount during spring and fall.

89. *Falco sparverius* LINN. 360.
American Sparrow Hawk.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

90. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis* (GMEL.). 364.
American Osprey.

Not uncommon.

91. *Asio wilsonianus* (LESS.). 366.
American Long-eared Owl.

A common resident. Breeds.

92. *Asio accipitrinus* (PALL.). 367.

Short-eared Owl.

Not uncommon spring and fall. A few taken near Utica every year.

93. *Syrnium nebulosum* (FORST.). 368.

Barred Owl.

A not uncommon resident. One flew against a gentleman in one of the streets of the closely built part of this city, grasping his clothes with its claws, was struck down with his fist and killed with a stone. This may have been a wounded bird which had escaped from confinement, but even if that were the case, the object of the attack, if it can be so called, is a mystery.

94. *Ulula cinerea* (GMEL.). 370.

Great Gray Owl.

“A rare straggler from the North.”—(*Merriam.*)

Messrs. J. P. & F. J. Davis, taxidermists, Utica, mounted a specimen of this owl, killed in the town of Marcy, in February, 1875.

95. *Nyctala acadica* (GMEL.). 372.

Saw-whet Owl.

This interesting little owl is not very uncommon in some parts of the County. In the neighborhood of Holland Patent, seven or eight individuals have been under careful surveillance this spring (1886). The result of a good deal of hard work in exceedingly unpleasant weather, has been the finding of four nests. The first was found March 12th, at which time it contained nothing; was visited again March 25th—still empty. But on April 5th it contained six eggs. Being left till the seventh, the complement was found to be seven eggs. It was situated in high and dry woods of hardwood timber, with a few hemlocks, about five rods from the

open field, in a deserted woodpecker's hole in a dead maple stub, twenty-two feet from the ground. This hole had been left by the original woodpeckers at least two seasons, for in 1885 it contained a nest of flying squirrels. The entrance was round, and about two inches in diameter, just such a size that the head of the bird exactly filled it, so that as she looked out, she presented very much the appearance of an owl's face fastened against the side of the stub. The hole was a foot deep, and eight inches in diameter at the bottom. There was no nest except small chips of rotten wood and a few owl's feathers. The bird would not leave the nest till she was threatened with the hand several times, and then flew into the nearest tree (a small hemlock), and sat there without moving during all the time that her visitors remained, (about three-quarters of an hour), and no sooner was the stub left, than she flew back again. The eggs were pure white, nearly the same size at each end, and averaged 1.16×0.97 inches. They were variously advanced in incubation, though of course none were very far along. The consistency of the albumen was particularly viscid, and the yolk small and light colored.

The second nest was found near Holland Patent, April 21st, 1886, in a woodpecker's hole in a stub, forty feet from the ground, contained five young, and one egg just on the point of hatching.

The third nest was found the same day about half a mile below Trenton Falls, near the West Canada Creek, in an old woodpecker's hole in a stub, twenty feet from the ground. The hole was nine inches deep, and nine inches across inside, lined with a few feathers, birch leaves and chips. It contained seven eggs, nearly hatched, measuring $.97 \times 1.18$, $.98 \times 1.18$, $.98 \times 1.24$, $.98 \times 1.24$, $.98 \times 1.25$, $.99 \times 1.21$, 1.00×1.23 . The bird was taken alive from the nest.

The fourth nest was found April 30th, 1886, about one mile north of Gang Mills, Herkimer County, in a deserted woodpecker's hole in a stub, fifty feet from the ground, in a swamp, and contained seven eggs on the point of hatching.

96. *Megascops asio* (LINN.).

373.

Screech Owl.

Not uncommon. Breeds.

97. *Bubo virginianus* (GMEL.). 375.

Great Horned Owl.

Not uncommon. Breeds.

98. *Nyctea nyctea* (LINN.). 376.

Snowy Owl.

A not uncommon winter visitant.

99. *Surnia ulula caparoch* (MÜLL.). 377a.

American Hawk Owl.

Messrs. J. P. & F. J. Davis, of Utica, have in their possession a mounted specimen of this owl, which was killed at Clark's Mills in the winter of 1885.

100. *Coccyzus americanus* (LINN.). 387.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

A rare summer resident. Breeds. Nest taken in New Hartford, July, 1884, by Dr. Langworthy, of that Town.

101. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (WILS.). 388.

Black-billed Cuckoo.

A common summer resident. Breeds. This species shows its relationship to its more famous European cousin by occasionally depositing an egg in the nest of some other bird. This has been recorded by several observers in different parts of the country, and we have one record for this County. On July 10th, 1874, a nest of the Cedar Bird (*Ampelis cedrorum*) was taken in New Hartford which contained four eggs of the owner and one of this parasite. The nest was deserted, and apparently had been for some time; nor could it be discovered that incubation had commenced; certainly it had not in the Cuckoo's egg. (*Recorded, Bulletin Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. II, page 110.*)

102. *Ceryle alcyon* (LINN.). 390.
Belted Kingfisher.
A common summer resident. Breeds.
103. *Dryobates villosus* (LINN.). 393.
Hairy Woodpecker.
A rather common resident. Breeds.
104. *Dryobates pubescens* (LINN.). 394.
Downy Woodpecker.
A common resident. Breeds.
105. *Picoides arcticus* (SWAINS.). 400.
Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker.
Common in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties. "Eggs taken,"
—(Merriam.)
106. *Picoides americanus* BREHM. 401.
American Three-toed Woodpecker.
A not uncommon resident in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties.
107. *Sphyrapicus varius* (LINN.). 402.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.
A common summer resident. Breeds.

108. *Ceophlœus pileatus* (LINN.). 405.
Pileated Woodpecker.

Rather rare in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties, but more common than formerly. Young bird shot August 17th, 1884.

109. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (LINN.). 406.
Red-headed Woodpecker.

A common summer resident. Breeds. A nest taken within the limits of the City of Utica.

110. *Melanerpes carolinus* (LINN.). 409.
Red-bellied Woodpecker.

"A rare straggler."—(*Merriam.*)

111. *Colaptes auratus* (LINN.). 412.
Flicker.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

112. *Antrostomus vociferus* (WILS.). 417.
Whip-poor-will.

Mr. J. P. Davis, of Utica, killed one of these birds in the northern part of the town of Russia, Herkimer County, and trustworthy residents of the same town, state that they are not uncommon there.

113. *Chordeiles virginianus* (GMEL.). 420.
Nighthawk.

A common summer resident.

114. *Chætura pelagica* (LINN.). 423.
Chimney Swift.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

115. *Trochilus colubris* LINN. 428.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

116. *Tyrannus tyrannus* (LINN.). 444.
Kingbird.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

117. *Myiarchus crinitus* (LINN.). 452.
Crested Flycatcher.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

118. *Sayornis phœbe* (LATH.). 456.
Phœbe.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

119. *Contopus borealis* (SWAINS.). 459.
Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Occurs during migrations. "Breeds in Herkimer, Hamilton and Eastern Lewis Counties."—(*Merriam.*)

120. *Contopus virens* (LINN.). 461.
Wood Pewee.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

121. *Empidonax flaviventris* BAIRD. 463.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

A not common summer resident. Breeds. Nest and eggs taken at North Lake Reservoir, Herkimer County, June 24th, 1885. Eggs nearly hatched. Nest composed of fine grass, roots, leaf-bud scales of deciduous trees, and inner bark; lined with grass and fine black hair-like roots. It was sunk in a mossy bank, in the edge of thick, heavy timber. Measured: outside diameter, 3.50 inches; inside diameter, 2.50 inches; depth about 1.50 inches. The eggs were so far advanced as to make it impossible to save them, and therefore no measurements can be given.

122. *Empidonax pusillus traillii* (AUD.). 466a.

Traill's Flycatcher.

A not uncommon summer resident. Breeds.

123. *Empidonax minimus* BAIRD. 467.

Least Flycatcher.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

124. *Otocoris alpestris praticola* HENSH. 474b.

Prairie Horned Lark.

Common in spring. Breeds. Mr. Fred. Davis took a nest in 1878. This bird has become comparatively common within a few years. In 1877 one was considered quite a rarity, since which time they have become more abundant yearly, until now they appear in the early spring in large flocks. One observed in March, 1885, numbered fifty, and was feeding on the seeds of weeds which rose above the snow, within the limits of the city of Utica.

125. *Cyanocitta cristata* (LINN.). 477.

Blue Jay.

A common resident. Breeds.

126. *Perisoreus canadensis* (LINN.). 484.

Canada Jay.

A common resident in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties. Young birds in the dark plumage, shot June 24th, 1880. They are very familiar and amusing about the camps in the Adirondacks, where they have various names, mostly significant of their sociable and bold character, as "Whiskey Jack," "Meat Hawk," "Moose Bird," &c.

127. *Corvus corax sinuatus* (WAGL.). 486.

American Raven.

A common resident in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties, and in fact throughout the Adirondack region.

128. *Corvus americanus* AUD. 488.

American Crow.

Common all the year round. Breeds.

129. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (LINN.). 494.

Bobolink.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds. A nest taken some years ago contained four eggs, pale bluish gray, with a few blackish marks and scratches around the larger end. The bird was taken with the nest, and the eggs are still preserved.

130. *Molothrus ater* (BODD.). 495.

Cowbird.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

131. *Agelaius phoeniceus* (LINN.). 498.

Red-winged Blackbird.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

132. *Sturnella magna* (LINN.). 501.

Meadowlark.

A common summer resident. Breeds. Some remain till very late in the fall, often till quite winter weather.

133. *Icterus galbula* (LINN.). 507.

Baltimore Oriole.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

134. *Scolecophagus carolinus* (MÜLL.). 509.

Rusty Blackbird.

Several taken in the County. Breeds. Two nests taken May 7th and 20th, 1886, four miles north of Wilmurt P. O., Herkimer County, N. Y. They were placed five feet from the ground, in spruce saplings, in open marsh, beside a pond, in the heavy timber; composed of hemlock twigs and grass, and lined with fine grasses, (some of which were green.) Eggs were four, pale green, faintly marked, as compared with others of the same family, with different shades of purplish brown, but not streaked. They measured 1.03 x .72, 1.03 x .74, 1.05 x .72, 1.06 x .74.

135. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus* (RIDGW.). 511b.

Bronzed Grackle.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

136. *Pinicola enucleator* (LINN.) 515.

Pine Grosbeak.

Winter visitor. Not very common.

137. *Carpodacus purpureus* (GMEL.) 517.

Purple Finch.

A common summer resident. Breeds. Sometimes winters.

138. *Loxia curvirostra minor* (BREHM.) 521.

American Crossbill.

Seen occasionally in winter. Quite common as far south as Holland Patent during some summers. Very common in summer in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties, where they come in flocks around the hunters' camps and gather the crumbs literally from under the table.

139. *Loxia leucoptera* GMEL. 522.

White-winged Crossbill.

A winter visitor, but much less common than the preceding.

140. *Acanthis linaria* (LINN.) 528.

Redpoll.

A rare winter visitor.

141. *Acanthis linaria rostrata* (COUES.) 528b.

Greater Redpoll.

Taken at Locust Grove, Lewis County, by C. H. Merriam, M. D.

142. *Spinus tristis* (LINN.). 529.
American Goldfinch.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds. Occasionally winters.

143. *Spinus pinus* (WILS.). 533.
Pine Siskin.

Seen occasionally during migrations. "Sometimes breeds in great numbers along the outskirts of the Adirondaeks."—(*Merriam.*)

144. *Plectrophenax nivalis* (LINN.). 534.
Snowflake.

A common winter visitor.

145. *Pyrgita domestica* CUV. ***.
House Sparrow.

A common resident. Breeds; raising several broods of six young each in a season. The few which appeared here some years ago (coming from those introduced into New York), have increased to the hordes which now overrun the city, and have extended into the country about. They have driven our native insectivorous birds from their homes in our gardens, and have filled their places so effectually that there is no prospect of their ever returning, till the sparrows have been exterminated, or at the very least largely reduced in numbers. The sparrows have been able to do this, partly at least, by the assistance of mistaken lovers of birds, who have built them houses and spread food for their use. Thus directly encouraging a bird, undoubtedly injurious, and indirectly assailing the birds which are beneficial. That the public has gradually come to see its mistake there is no doubt, and the hope of the lovers of our native birds is, that deprived of protection and assistance, these foreign pirates may find it more difficult to maintain themselves in the future, and that when the public is fully educated on the subject, some strong measures may be taken to destroy them.

146. *Pooecætes gramineus* (GMEL.). 540.
Vesper Sparrow.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

147. *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna* (WILS.). 542a.
Savanna sparrow.

A not uncommon summer resident. Breeds.

148. *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni* ALLEN. 549a.
Nelson's Sparrow.

A specimen of this rare sparrow was shot near Utica, October 12th 1883.

149. *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (FORST.). 554.
White-crowned Sparrow.

A not uncommon migrant.

150. *Zonotrichia albicollis* (GMEL.). 558.
White-throated Sparrow.

A common migrant. A few remain during the summer. Breeds. Nest and five eggs, somewhat advanced, taken June 16th, 1886, in Steuben.

151. *Spizella monticola* (GMEL.). 559.
Tree Sparrow.

A very common migrant.

152. *Spizella socialis* (WILS.) 560.
Chipping Sparrow.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

153. *Spizella pusilla* (WILS.) 563.
Field Sparrow.

A summer resident. Breeds.

154. *Junco hyemalis* (LINN.) 567.
Slate-colored Junco.

A very common migrant. Common summer resident in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties. Breeds. A nest taken June 28th, 1880, contained two perfectly fresh eggs and two nearly hatched.

155. *Melospiza fasciata* (GMEL.) 581.
Song Sparrow.

A very abundant summer resident. Breeds. Generally one of the first arrivals in the spring, often preceding the robin and the bluebird.

156. *Melospiza lincolni* (AUD.) 583.
Lincoln's Sparrow.

A rather rare migrant. Summer resident in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties, where it breeds. On the 13th of June, 1878, a nest of this species was taken on the banks of a little pond dignified with the name of "Moose Lake," and situated in Hamilton County, about twenty miles northeast of Wilmurt P. O., Herkimer County. The nest was placed on the ground where it was almost spongy with water, about two rods from the pond, and about the same distance from the edge of the forest. It was not under the protection of any bush or stone, but was quite well

concealed by some last year's grasses. It was composed entirely of dry grasses, both inside and out, the lining being neatly made of the finer spears; and contained three eggs, a few days advanced in incubation. These measured .74 x .56 inches. The ground was a pale greenish, covered with spots and blotches of different shades of reddish brown. On one of them the spots were so numerous as to become confluent and almost conceal the ground-color, while on another they were much smaller, so that the greenish white of the ground-color was the predominant tint, except at the large end, where the spots became larger and more confluent, as indeed they did on all three.—(*Recorded, Bulletin Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. III, page 198.*)

June 16th, 1881, another nest of this species was taken on "Otter Lake" or pond, about half a mile from the locality of the first. The nest was situated almost exactly like the other, in wet spongy ground on the edge of the pond; not under any bush or weed but quite well concealed by last year's grasses. Diameter, outside, 3.75 inches; inside, 2 inches; depth, outside, 2.25 inches; inside, 1.75 inches. It was composed of fine grass loosely put together, and set down nearly level with the moss. The eggs, which were four, slightly advanced in incubation, were exactly like those taken in 1878, except that the spots of reddish brown were rather larger and more marked.—(*Recorded, Bulletin Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. VI, page 246.*)

In both cases the bird was taken, positively identified and preserved.

157. *Melospiza georgiana* (LATH.) 584.

Swamp Sparrow.

A not uncommon summer resident. Breeds.

158. *Passerella iliaca* (MERR.) 585.

Fox Sparrow.

A not common migrant.

159. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (LINN.). 587.
Towhee.

One was taken in New Hartford October 20th, 1881.

160. *Habia ludoviciana* (LINN.). 595.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

161. *Passerina cyanea* (LINN.). 598.
Indigo Bunting.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

162. *Piranga erythromelas* VIEILL. 608.
Scarlet Tanager.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

163. *Progne subis* (LINN.). 611.
Purple Martin.

A not uncommon summer resident. Breeds.

164. *Petrochelidon lunifrons* (SAY). 612.
Cliff Swallow.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

165. *Chelidon erythrogaster* (BODD.). 613.
Barn Swallow.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

166. *Tachycineta bicolor* (VIEILL.). 614.

Tree Swallow.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

167. *Clivicola riparia* (LINN.). 616.

Bank Swallow.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

168. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (AUD.). 617.

Rough-winged Swallow.

Several pairs nested in the abutments of the bridge across the West Canada Creek at Trenton Falls, in 1886. One nest which was examined June 19th, contained young.

169. *Ampelis garrulus* LINN. 618.

Bohemian Waxwing.

Messrs. J. P. & F. J. Davis report that they have killed them in the neighborhood of Utica during several different winters; the former having killed thirty-two within the limits of the city in one season.

170. *Ampelis cedrorum* (VIEILL.). 619.

Cedar Waxwing.

A common summer resident. Breeds. Often seen during winter feeding on Mountain Ash berries in the yards of the city. (See *coccyzus erythrophthalmus*.)

171. *Lanius borealis* VIEILL. 621.

Northern Shrike.

A not uncommon winter visitor.

172. *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides* (SWAINS.) 622a.

White-rumped Shrike.

A not uncommon summer resident. Breeds.

173. *Vireo olivaceus* (LINN.) 624.

Red-eyed Vireo.

☞ A common summer resident. Breeds.

174. *Vireo philadelphicus* (CASS.) 626.

Philadelphia Vireo.

One taken September 14th, 1880, and others seen at the same time.

175. *Vireo gilvus* (VIEILL.) 627.

Warbling Vireo.

A common summer resident. Breeds. Nests taken May 27th and June 12th, 1886, at Holland Patent and Trenton Falls, were near the tops of high maple shade trees in villages.

176. *Vireo flavifrons* VIEILL. 628.

Yellow-throated Vireo.

A not uncommon summer resident. Breeds. Nest taken May 24th, 1886, in the Village of Holland Patent, in maple shade tree, about 20 feet above the sidewalk.

177. *Vireo solitarius* (WILS.) 629.

Blue-headed Vireo.

Seen occasionally. Taken September 26th, 1879, and September 23d, 1880.

178. *Mniotilta varia* (LINN.). 636.

Black and White Warbler.

A not uncommon summer resident.

179. *Helminthophila ruficapilla* (WILS.). 645.

Nashville Warbler.

Not uncommon during migrations, and occasionally breeds near Holland Patent.

180. *Helminthophila celata* (SAY). 646.

Orange-crowned Warbler.

Rare. One taken September 16th, 1880.

181. *Helminthophila peregrina* (WILS.). 647.

Tennessee Warbler.

"Not rare during spring migrations."—(*Merriam.*) One taken September 30th, 1879.

182. *Compsothlypis americana* (LINN.). 648.

Parula Warbler.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

183. *Dendroica tigrina* (GMEL.). 650.

Cape May Warbler.

A rare migrant. One taken at Holland Patent some years ago, by Mr. William Fowler, of that place, and several taken in the spring of 1884 and of 1885, at Fish Creek², by Mr. A. L. Brainard, of Oneida.

- 184.
- Dendroica aestiva*
- (GMEL.). 652.

Yellow Warbler.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

- 185.
- Dendroica caerulescens*
- (GMEL.). 654.

Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Not uncommon during migrations. A quite local summer resident in northern part of the County. Breeds. In addition to the nest recorded in the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. 5, page 233, three nests have been taken, May 29th and June 14th, 1886, near Holland Patent. They were all placed in maple bushes, from nine inches to two feet from the ground, in heavy timber grown up with maple brush. They were loose structures, placed in an upright fork, and composed in all three cases of strips of rotten wood held together and lined with fine black roots, and in one case further secured with strips of the inner bark of deciduous trees, and measured, outside diameter, from three to three and a half inches; inside diameter, from one and three-quarters to two and a quarter inches; outside depth, three and three-quarters to five inches; inside depth, one and a half inches. The two sets of eggs which seemed normal, consisted of four eggs each, one set, pinkish, quite heavily marked and blotched with dark brownish pink, especially at the larger end, and a few fine marks and scratches of a darker color; rather blunt at the small end, and large for the bird, measuring .75 x .54, .72 x .55, .76 x .54, .72 x .52 inches. The other set was white, rather sparsely marked with lilac and brown spots and dots, heaviest at the large end. In shape and general appearance resembling a Redstart's, and measured .66 x .50, .64 x .51, .66 x .51, 64 x .51.

- 186.
- Dendroica coronata*
- (LINN.). 655.

Myrtle Warbler.

An abundant spring and fall migrant. "Breeds plentifully in the Adirondacks."—(*Merriam.*)

- 187.
- Dendroica maculosa*
- (GMEL.). 657.

Magnolia Warbler.

Quite common during migrations. A few remain to breed in the northern part of the County.

Of five nests found, four were placed in evergreens, from six to fifteen feet from the ground, in swampy woods. The fifth nest, taken July 1st, 1886, half a mile north of Wilmurt P. O., Herkimer County, was placed in a thick deciduous bush, underneath an evergreen, in a clump of small branches, two and a half feet from the ground, in a beaver meadow on the outer edge of the thick woods. It measured, outside diameter, three and a half inches; inside diameter, two and one-eighth inches; outside depth, one and three-quarters inches; inside, seven-eighths of an inch. Composed of dry hemlock twigs, lined with fine, black, hair-like roots. The four eggs which it contained were white, spotted and blotched with lilac and brown, heaviest at the larger end, and measured, .67 x .50, .67 x .50, .66 x .50, .66 x .50 inches.

- 188.
- Dendroica pensylvanica*
- (LINN.). 659.

Chestnut-side Warbler.

A rather common summer resident. Breeds.

- 189.
- Dendroica castanea*
- (WILS.). 660.

Bay-breasted Warbler.

Several shot in the spring of 1880.

A full-plumaged female was taken in Hamilton County, August 6th, 1886, by Messrs. W. P. Shepard and Robt. J. Hughes.

- 190.
- Dendroica striata*
- (FORST.). 661.

Black-poll Warbler.

Very common during some migrations.

- 191.
- Dendroica blackburniæ*
- (GMEL.). 662.

Blackburnian Warbler.

A not uncommon migrant. A few remain during the summer in the vicinity of Holland Patent.

- 192.
- Dendroica virens*
- (GMEL.). 667.

Black-throated Green Warbler.

A quite common migrant. Not uncommon summer resident. Breeds. Nests taken June 4th and 26th, 1886. Both were placed on a horizontal branch of a hemlock, about twenty feet from the ground, in a little clump of branches, but riding the horizontal limb; one on the edge of a heavy swamp, and the other in a swampy place in a large piece of very heavy timber. The nests were beautifully constructed, strong, compact and deep. The outer sides about perpendicular, measuring, outside depth, 2.25 to 2.50 inches; inside, 1.50 inches; outside diameter, 3 to 3.50 inches; inside, 1.75 to 2 inches; composed of green moss, birch bark, spider web, feathers, fine dry twigs of the hemlock, lined with fine strips of bark and hair. The eggs were rather a pointed oval; one set of three; white with a pinkish shade, marked with fine spots of darker pink, seeming to show through, and quite strongly marked over these with scattering blotches of light reddish brown with much darker edges. They measured, .65 x .54, .64 x .52, .64 x .52. The other set of two eggs were white, strongly blotched, especially at the larger end, with different shades of brown and lilac, and measured .70 x .53, .70 x .51 inches.

- 193.
- Dendroica vigorsii*
- (AUD.). 671.

Pine Warbler.

"Mr. Dayan (at Lyons Falls) took a full-plumaged male *D. pinus* at Lyonsdale, Lewis County, May 8th, 1877."—(*Merriam, Preliminary List of the Birds of the Adirondack Region.*)

- 194.
- Dendroica palmarum*
- (GMEL.). 672.

Palm Warbler.

"Occurs during migrations."—(*Merriam.*)

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195. *Seiurus aurocapillus* (LINN.). 674.
Oven-bird.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

196. *Seiurus noveboracensis* (GMEL.). 675.
Water-Thrush.

Seen occasionally both during migrations, and during the breeding season.

197. *Geothlypis agilis* (WILS.). 678.
Connecticut Warbler.

One taken September 18th, 1880, and one September 8th, 1881.

198. *Geothlypis philadelphia* (WILS.). 679.
Mourning Warbler.

Not common. Most often seen during breeding season.

199. *Geothlypis trichas* (LINN.). 681.
Maryland Yellow-throat.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

200. *Sylvania pusilla* (WILS.). 685.
Wilson's Warbler.

Seen occasionally during migrations.

201. *Sylvania canadensis* (LINN.). 686.

Canadian Warbler.

Very common during some migrations. A common summer resident in the northern part of the County. Breeds quite commonly in the northern part of the County. Quite a number of nests found, were all on the ground, except one taken June 26th, 1884, near Holland Patent, which was placed about 18 inches above the ground, in a cavity in the top of a slanting stump, which was so covered with vegetation as to entirely conceal the nest, which was composed of fine grass, hair-like roots and a few pine leaves. The eggs were four in number, white, showing rosy before blowing, covered with small spots of different shades of brown, thicker at the larger end, and measured .69 x .53, .67 x .53, .67 x .53, .67 x .55, inches.

202. *Setophaga ruticilla* (LINN.). 687.

American Redstart.

A common summer resident. Breeds.

203. *Anthus pensilvanicus* (LATH.). 697.

American Pipit.

Not uncommon during migrations.

204. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis* (LINN.). 704.

Catbird.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

205. *Harporhynchus rufus* (LINN.). 705.

Brown Thrasher.

Seen occasionally. Breeds. Two nests were taken some years ago in Deerfield, about two miles north of the Mohawk river.

206. *Troglodytes aëdon* VIEILL. 721.

House Wren.

A summer resident; not nearly so common as formerly. Breeds.

207. *Troglodytes hiemalis* VIEILL. 722.

Winter Wren.

Not uncommon. Breeds. A female taken at Utica, May 17th, 1879, contained an egg fully developed except the shell, which was still soft. During the summer of 1885 thirteen nests were found near Holland Patent, and the birds were watched while building twelve of them, and not one of these was occupied. The thirteenth nest contained six eggs when found. One of these nests, which was built but not occupied in 1885, was occupied during 1886, and a brood of young raised in it. A nest taken July 16th, 1885, (undoubtedly a second laying, as a nest was found with young in May,) two miles north of Holland Patent, was placed under the roots of a fallen tree, in a small cavity in the roots, about two feet above the ground, composed of moss, hemlock twigs, roots and pieces of rotten wood, and lined, first with fine grass and then with grouse feathers and horse hair; a compact mass of material, filling the cavity, and containing in its centre a cosy nest, to which entrance was obtained by a small round opening in the side. The eggs, six in number, were white, rather evenly marked with small spots and dots of reddish brown, and measured, .67 x .50, .67 x .49, .65 x .49, .67 x .50, .63 x .47, inches.

208. *Cistothorus stellaris* (LICHT.) 724.

Short-billed Marsh Wren.

“Mr. Romeyn B. Hough shot two females of this wren, October 27th, 1877, in the town of New Bremen, in Lewis County, and writes me that he is ‘confident that they breed there every year.’”—(Merriam. *Preliminary List of the Birds of the Adirondack Region.*)

- 209.
- Cistothorus palustris*
- (WILS.) 725.

Long-billed Marsh Wren.

One taken at Utica, September 23d, 1880. This bird is very common and breeds plentifully on the marshes of the Seneca River, where we have observed it. Its peculiar habit of building several nests for every one occupied, has been noted by others; and while we kept no accurate record, our experience is that the number of unoccupied nests is at least six or eight for every occupied one. It would seem probable, from the notes above, that this strange custom is also practiced by its sprightly little cousin, the Winter Wren.

- 210.
- Certhia familiaris americana*
- (BONAP.) 736.

Brown Creeper.

A not uncommon migrant. Seen on several occasions in the vicinity of Holland Patent during the breeding season. A summer resident in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties. Breeds. A nest was taken by C. F. Carpenter, C. E., in Hamilton County, about twenty miles northeast of Wilmurt P. O., Herkimer County, N. Y., July 28th, 1875. The nest was in a heavy forest, concealed behind a piece of bark which had been partly torn loose from the side of a spruce tree, about six feet from the ground, but which still remained attached to the tree by the upper end.

Mr. Carpenter describes the nest as "made of soft downy materials, including feathers and such soft materials as you will find in a squirrel's nest. The whole bulk not larger than your fist." It contained three young birds with down only in tufts upon them, and two addled eggs, white, thinly marked with fine reddish dots or spots, and measuring respectively .60 x .47, and .59 x .47 inches. Such situation, under a loose piece of bark, is the usual if not the invariable one for the nest of this species, as all nests found have been so placed.—(*Recorded, Bulletin Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. VI. page 183.*)

- 211.
- Sitta carolinensis*
- LATH. 727.

White-breasted Nuthatch.

A common resident. Breeds.

212. *Sitta canadensis* LINN.

728.

Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Seen occasionally throughout the County during migrations, and in the northern part during the breeding season. Breeds. Nest taken May 14th, 1886, at Trenton Falls, contained five eggs, nearly hatched. The hole was four inches deep and fifty feet from the ground, in the dead top of an ash, in a swamp. There were quantities of gum about the hole and running down the tree. The nest was composed of strips of bark, a little moss and a few feathers. The eggs closely resembled those of the white breasted, except in size, averaging .62 x .47 inches.

213. *Parus atricapillus* LINN.

735.

Chickadee.

Abundant summer and winter. Breeds. This is the most common of our winter birds, but we are unwilling even to hazard an opinion as to whether the birds of winter are the same ones which are with us in summer, or are migrants from further north.

214. *Parus hudsonicus* FORST.

740.

Hudsonian Chickadee.

Dr. Merriam has found this species breeding in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties, where it is very local.

215. *Regulus satrapa* LIGHT.

748.

Golden-crowned Kinglet.

A common migrant.

216. *Regulus calendula* (LINN.).

749.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

A common migrant.

217. *Turdus mustelinus* GMEL. 755.

Wood Thrush.

A quite common summer resident. Breeds.

218. *Turdus fuscescens* STEPH. 756.

Wilson's Thrush.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds.

219. *Turdus aliciae* BAIRD. 757.

Gray-cheeked Thrush.

"Common migrant."—(*Merriam.*)

220. *Turdus aliciae bicknelli* (RIDGW.). 757a.

Bicknell's Thrush.

"In my cabinet is a specimen of this recently described thrush, which I shot in Lewis County * * * * May 24, 1873. It is a male of the preceding year * * *"—(*Merriam. Preliminary List of the Birds of the Adirondack Region.*)

221. *Turdus ustulatus swainsonii* (CAB.). 758a.

Olive-backed Thrush.

A not uncommon migrant. An abundant summer resident in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties. Breeds. Nest taken June 13th, 1876, between Deer and Otter Lakes, about twenty miles northeast of Wilmurt P. O., Herkimer County; was built about seven feet from the ground in a small spruce, and lined entirely with black fibrous roots, resembling horsehair. The eggs were four, .83 x .65 inches, green, spotted with reddish.

222. *Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii* (CAB). 759b.

Hermit Thrush.

A quite common summer resident in northern part of the County. Breeds. Very common during migrations.

223. *Merula migratoria* (LINN.). 761.

American Robin.

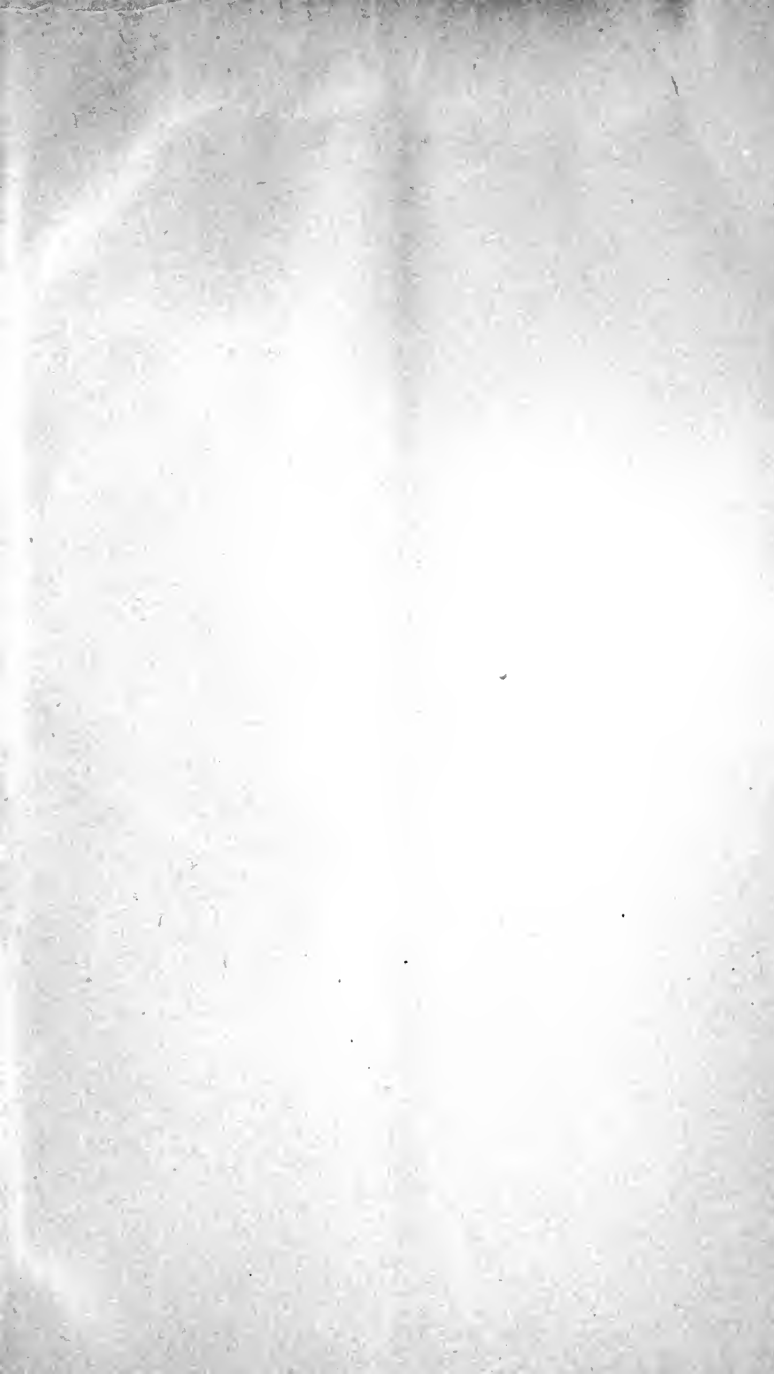
A very abundant summer resident. Breeds. Some are seen almost every winter.

224. *Sialia sialis* (LINN.). 766.

Bluebird.

An abundant summer resident. Breeds. A nest taken containing four *pure white* eggs.





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