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Department of the Interior:

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM.

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**BULLETIN**

OF THE

**UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.**

**No. 26.**

AVIFAUNA COLUMBIANA: BEING A LIST OF BIRDS ASCERTAINED TO  
INHABIT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WITH THE TIMES OF  
ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF SUCH AS ARE NON-RESI-  
DENTS, AND BRIEF NOTICES OF HABITS, ETC.

**THE SECOND EDITION,**

REVISED TO DATE, AND ENTIRELY REWRITTEN.

BY

**ELLIOTT COUES, M. D., Ph. D.,**

*Professor of Anatomy in the National Medical College, etc.,*

AND

**D. WEBSTER PRENTISS, A. M., M. D.,**

*Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the National Medical College, etc.*



WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1883.



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PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

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WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1883.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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This work is the thirty-second of a series of papers intended to illustrate the collections of natural history and ethnology belonging to the United States, and constituting the National Museum, of which the Smithsonian Institution was placed in charge by the act of Congress of August 10, 1846.

It has been prepared at the request of the Institution, and printed by authority of the honorable Secretary of the Interior.

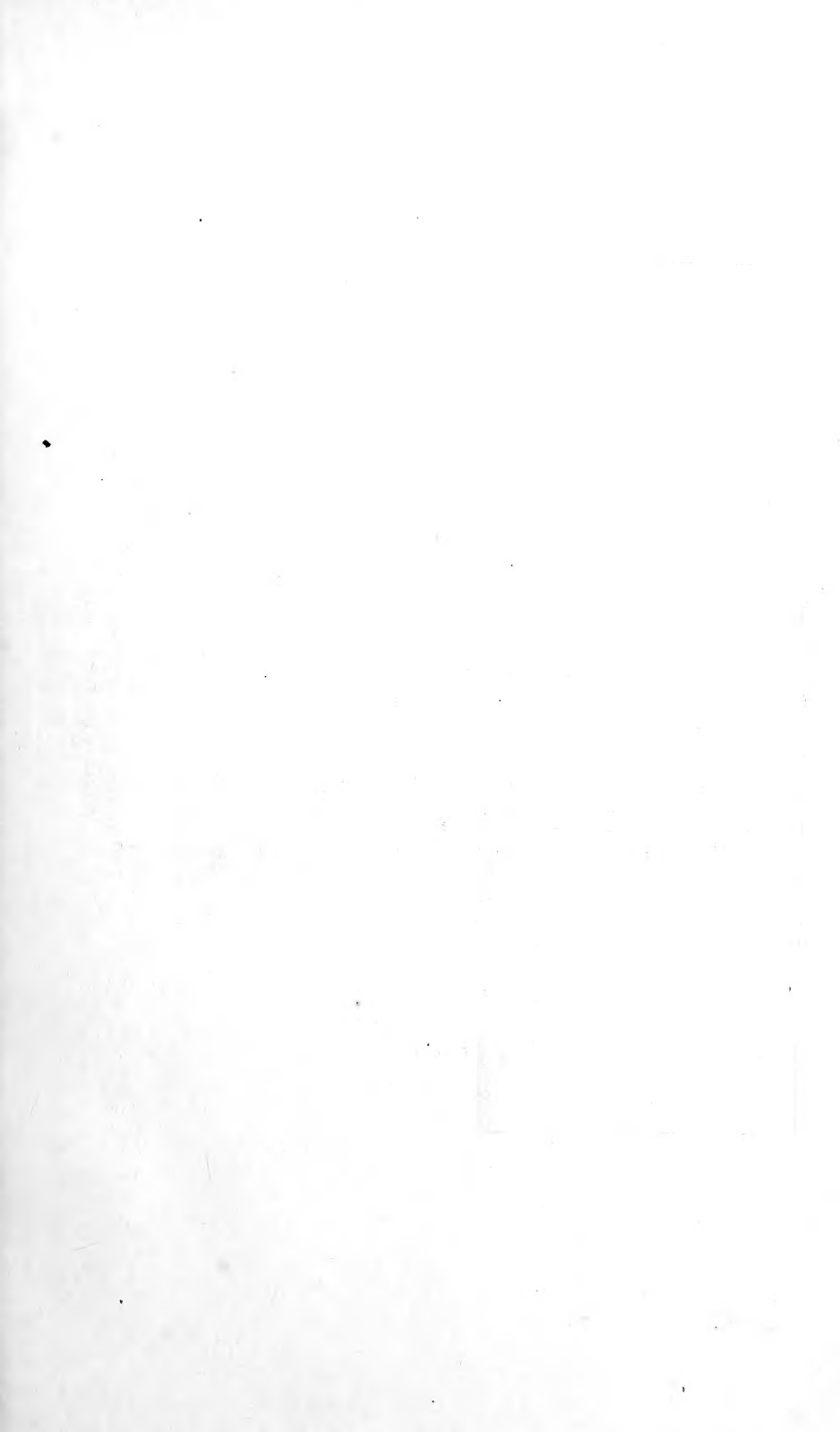
SPENCER F. BAIRD,

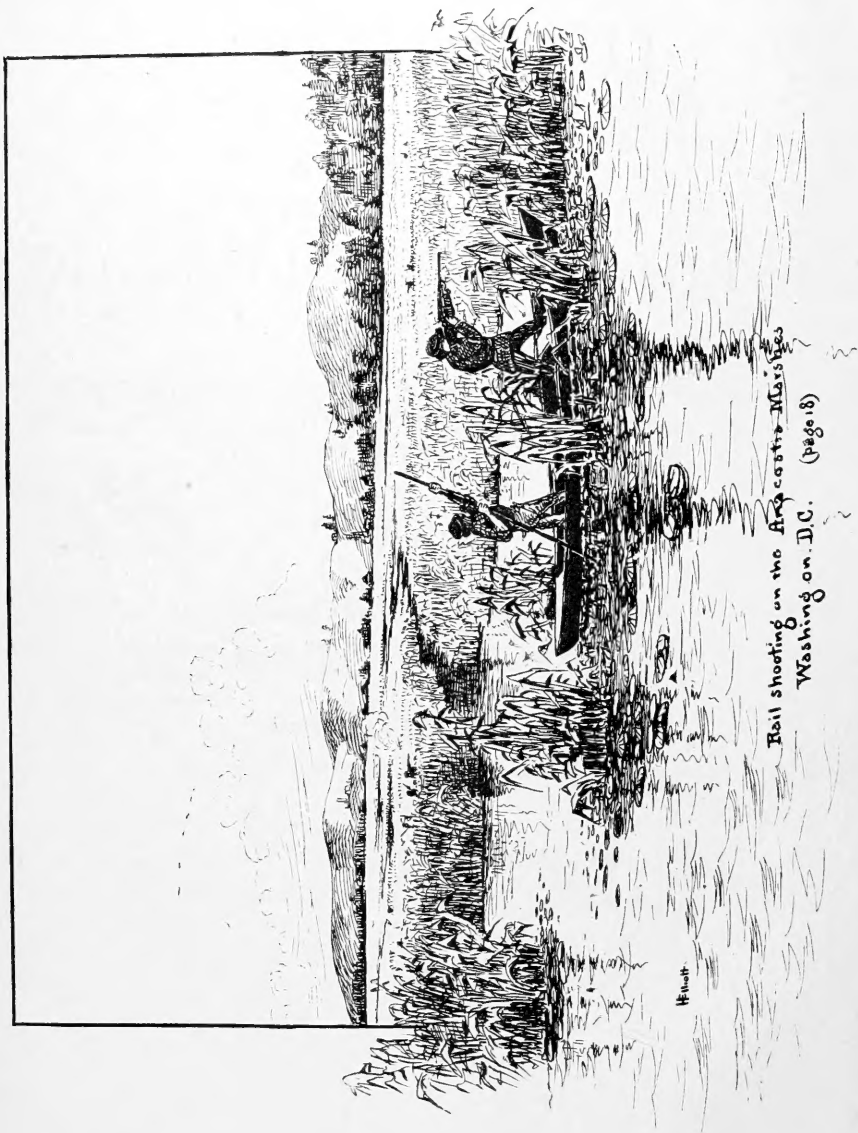
*Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.*

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

*Washington, June 1st, 1883.*







Bill shooting on the Argosia-Massachusetts  
Washing on D.C. (page 18)

H. H. H.

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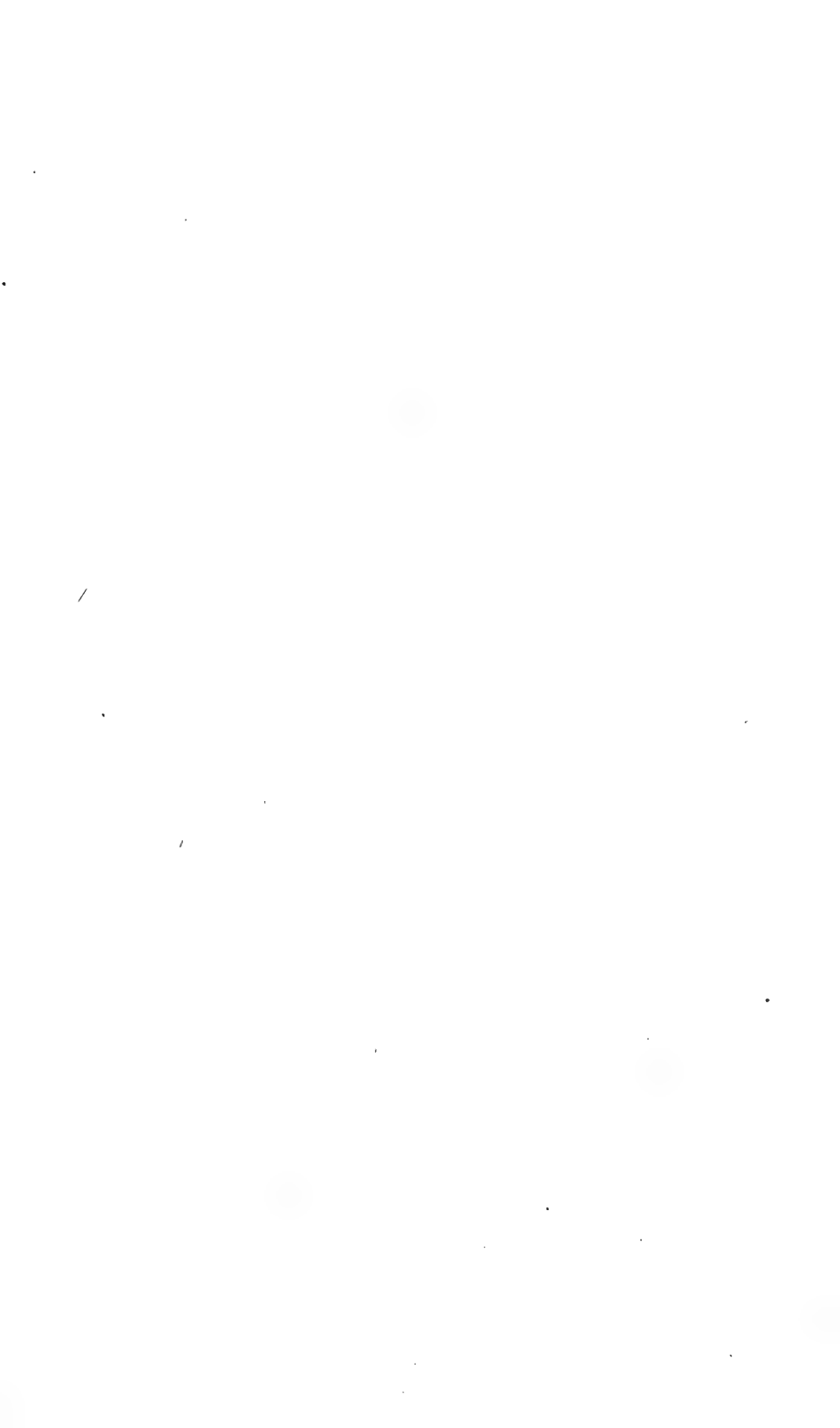
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# AVIFAUNA COLUMBIANA:

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## I.—LITERATURE OF THE SUBJECT.

The authors of the "Avifauna Columbiana," while classmates in college at the Columbian University and still mere boys, became enthusiastic on the subject of Ornithology, as boys often do. They were constantly together, devoting all their spare time, which might not have been better employed, to the practical study of birds in the woods and fields. Large collections were made; careful and copious notes were taken of times of appearance and disappearance of birds, their relative abundance, resorts, food, song, nidification, and other habits. These observations became in a few years of some positive value.

This was chiefly during the years 1858–1862, both inclusive. Soon after the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion, both authors, having meanwhile graduated in medicine, entered the Army as medical officers. One of them soon afterward settled in the practice of his profession in Washington; the other led for many years the vagabond life of an Army surgeon; and the exigencies of their respective avocations long prevented each from paying any further attention to the subject which had brightened their college days and cemented a life-long friendship.

Meanwhile, however, at the suggestion and through the kind attentions of Professor Baird, their early experiences in Ornithology resulted in a "List of the Birds of the District of Columbia," etc., which was published in 1862 in the Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1861, pp. 399–421. After the lapse of nearly a quarter of a century

they may be permitted to refer to that production with some little pride, as to one which has stood the test of time better than boys' work generally does. The original "List" was necessarily brief, owing to the fact that the limitations imposed by law upon the size of the volume in which it was printed prevented any extended presentation of their observations. They had on hand, or in head, material which, had circumstances been entirely favorable, it would have been well to publish, but which is little likely to be recovered now that time has softened the outlines of original observations, and wrought what were fresh and clean-cut then into the shadowy shapes of far-away pleasant perspective.

In preparing the present article as one of a series in which, following the lead of Prof. Lester F. Ward's admirable *Flora*, it is proposed to set forth the Fauna of the District, the authors have in effect simply made a second edition of their "List," as stated in the title. There has been found little to correct, because the original "List" contained scarcely anything erroneous; and not much to add, of the authors' own knowledge, because they have paid little attention to the subject during the intervening years. They have, however, entirely recast the article; embodied the additions to the list made meanwhile by others; extended their remarks on the habits of birds in many cases; included a more elaborate notice of the Topography of the District with reference to the local distribution of the birds; and added the Game Laws now in force in the District. They have also noted, as far as their knowledge enabled them to do so, the changes in the Avifauna resulting from the growth of a great city. Twenty or twenty-five years ago, with a population of about 60,000, the National Capital was a mud-puddle in winter, a dust-heap in summer, a cow-pen and pig-sty all the year round; there was good snipe-shooting within the city limits, and the country all about was as primitive as the most enthusiastic naturalist could desire. But with the assistance of Mr. Alexander Shepherd, who ought to have a statue, we have changed all that; Washington has grown up to 180,000, and become "citified" into quite a respectable establishment; the suburban wilderness has been reclaimed from Nature and largely given over to Art; while Ornithology has long been more assiduously and successfully pursued within than without the walls of the Smithsonian Institution. Besides all this, we have the Sparrows now.

The original "List" represented probably the first attempt at any formal enumeration of the Birds of the District of Columbia—perhaps the first local Fauna. At any rate, no earlier thing of the kind has come to our knowledge. A little book entitled "Washington Described," which had been published just previously by Philp & Solomons, contained cursory notices of the natural history of the District, prepared anonymously by several of the resident naturalists; and among these was a slight sketch of the Ornithology by one of the present writers.

Botany had been much more cultivated, by members of the old Botanical Club, which preceded the Potomac-side Naturalists' Club; the



result of their labors forming the groundwork of Ward's Flora, already mentioned. As a matter of fact, the present authors had little to go upon beyond the records of a very few rare specimens which had been taken from time to time and were preserved in the Smithsonian collection; though Mr. C. Drexler was then the taxidermist of the Institution, and a diligent and successful collector, whose results were within their reach; while the markets occasionally afforded him and them specimens that might not otherwise have been noted.

The "List" presented a summary of 44 permanent residents; 44 winter residents; 59 summer residents; 54 regular visitants, or migrants neither summering nor wintering with us; and 25 accidental visitants, or stragglers, making a total of 226. There were also indicated 15 "probabilities," not, however, enumerated.

On reviewing the subject, the authors find that only one species (*Podiceps cristatus*, inserted by mistake) is to be eliminated. This leaves a list of 225 species as the basis of the present article. Before noticing the accessions to the list since 1862, however, the authors should refer to Mr. Jouy's Catalogue of 1877.

Though there have been meanwhile various detached notices of Washington Birds in the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and elsewhere, by the present and other authors, Mr. Jouy's is the only complete list which has since appeared. This was published in May, 1877, in Vol. ii, No. 11, of "Field and Forest,"† pp. 191-193, entitled: "Catalogue of the Birds of the District of Columbia." It was immediately reprinted, together with some remarks we offered on the same occasion, in a few separate copies entitled: "Catalogue of the Birds of the District of Columbia, Prepared by Pierre Louis Jouy, with Remarks on the Birds of the District, by Drs. Coues and Prentiss." (1877. 8vo. Washington. pp. 1-11.) This was simply a list of names, without annotation; the stragglers indicated by an asterisk, the additions to the old Coues and Prentiss List printed in italics. Mr. Jouy subtracted 1 species (*Parus atricapillus*—wrongly, as now appears), and added 15, namely:

1. *Geothlypis philadelphia*.\*
2. *Vireo noveboracensis*.
3. *Passer domesticus*.
4. *Loxia americana*.\*
5. *Loxia leucoptera*.\*
6. *Quiscalus purpureus æneus*.

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†A monthly periodical conducted through two volumes by Mr. Charles R. Dodge. It was ostensibly and virtually the organ of the Potomac-side Naturalists' Club, which was galvanized into some sort of re-existence after having been long defunct. But as an organization this Club was anachronistic, and, therefore, unable to survive. Our present flourishing Biological Society has in one sense been evolved from the old Club; but is more properly to be considered in the light of a special creation of the times than an evolution from what preceded.

7. *Tyrannus verticalis*.
8. *Aluco flammeus pratincola*.
9. *Ægialites semipalmatus*.\*
10. *Gallinula galeata*.
11. *Spatula clypeata*.
12. *Mareca penelope*.
13. *Bernicla brenta*.
14. *Sterna forsteri*.\*
15. *Oceanites oceanicus*.

These 15 accessions raised the total from the 226 of the Coles and Prentiss List to 240, Mr. Jouy having discarded one (*Parus atricapillus*).

Of these 15, the 5 marked with the asterisk were indicated by us in 1862 as of probable occurrence.

We have to announce the following 8 accessions, making a total of 23 additions:

1. *Thryothorus bewicki*.
2. *Lanius ludovicianus*.
3. *Chondestes grammicus*.
4. *Anmodromus caudacutus*.
5. *Falco peregrinus*.
6. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*.
7. *Macrorhamphus griseus*.
8. *Rallus longirostris crepitans*.

A single species is to be subtracted (*Podiceps cristatus*), leaving—

Tenable species of 1862.....	225
Added in 1877 .....	15
Added in 1883 .....	8
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>248</b>

## II.—LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The District of Columbia lies just below the 39th parallel of latitude, and on the Washington meridian of longitude. It is on the Potomac River, 100 miles from its mouth, at the head of tide-water, and is between the States of Maryland and Virginia.

Formerly it was 10 miles square, occupying a portion of both States, on either side of the Potomac River, thus making an area of 100 square miles.

Of this area 64 square miles were in Maryland and 36 in Virginia, including the city of Alexandria. In 1846, by act of Congress, the Virginia portion of the District was retroceded to that State, so that there remains since that date only that portion within the limits of Maryland, containing 64 square miles of territory.

Although the area of this territory is comparatively small, it presents a sufficient variety of scenery to attract almost every species of bird incident to the latitude and longitude.

For convenience of description we will divide the District of Columbia into three regions, namely: 1. The Potomac River region; 2. The Anacostia River region; and, 3. Rock Creek region.

### 1. *THE POTOMAC RIVER REGION.*

The Potomac River coming down from the northwest makes a long sweeping curve towards the east from the "Little Falls," passing around Georgetown and Washington to the Arsenal Point, a distance of eight miles, when it again makes a sharp turn to the south, passing Alexandria.

The tide reaches to the foot of the "Little Falls," just within the District line to the northwest. Here the river is confined in a narrow gorge scarcely 100 feet across—a swift running torrent—bounded on the southwest (Virginia side) by high, precipitous, rocky cliffs, and on the northeast by a rocky river-bottom half a mile wide, reaching to the cliffs on the Maryland side, which correspond in height with, but are not so rugged as, those of the Virginia side. Along the base of the northern cliffs runs the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

This river-bottom extends along the river toward the city for about a mile and a half below the Little Falls, gradually becoming narrower until it terminates at Edes's Mill.

When the river is high this space is flooded, and in times of great freshets the whole river-bed is converted into a raging, roaring torrent. In the great freshet of November 26, 1877, the water rose until it entered the canal, and was within 15 feet of the floor of the Chain Bridge, which is 89 feet above the bed of the stream, and 47 feet above mean

low-water mark. During the freshet of February 12, 1881, the water reached at its highest flood the top of the fifth course of stone, about 12 feet below the floor of the bridge.\*

This bridge spans the river from cliff to cliff, and is an elegant iron structure, built upon strong buttresses of stone. It derives its name from the fact that the old, original bridge was suspended on chains.

When the river subsides after a flood, pools of water are left standing here and there over the surface of the low land, around which have grown up several species of swamp willow, together with grasses and shrubby bushes. In these pools are abundance of small fishes, which furnish food for King-fishers and Green Herons. In this locality many species of birds are found, chief among which may be mentioned the Woodcock (*Philohela minor*), the Spotted Sandpiper (*Tringoides macularius*), the King-fisher (*Ceryle alcyon*), Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), and the Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas*); while on the cliffs of the Maryland side large colonies of Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon lunifrons*) and Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) breed. In this locality also the Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) has been found breeding.

At the head of the Little Falls, about half a mile above Chain Bridge, a dam has been constructed as a feeder to the canal. This creates an extensive lake of smooth water, extending from High Island, at the head of the rapids, up the river for a mile and a half, and has an average width of half a mile. Here are found during the winter season many species of Ducks, and in the summer the beautiful Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) breeds in the neighboring forests. Over its surface during the summer are continually skimming the various species of Swallows. At the upper end of this broad expanse of water are found the beautiful timbered islets appropriately named, by Prof. Lester F. Ward, † Box Elder, Sugar Maple, and Larkspur Islands, where many of the timid wood-birds breed in undisturbed retirement.

"High Island" lies at the junction of the feeder-dam and the feeder (of the canal), which latter converts it into an island. It is a huge, towering rock, covering several acres.

Professor Ward eulogizes this locality, botanically, by the remark that the flora of High Island "is by far the most exuberant of all within the knowledge of botanists." We regret that the same cannot be said of fauna. As far as birds are concerned, it is decidedly common place, only a few of the summer residents breeding there, and many localities found more profitable during the spring and fall migration.

The cliffs on both sides of the river extend from the Little Falls to the Aqueduct Bridge, at Georgetown. On the Maryland side they are some-

\* This information is kindly furnished by Col. A. F. Rockwell, U. S. A., officer in charge of public buildings and grounds.

† Gaide to the Flora of the District of Columbia, Bull. 22, U. S. Nat. Mus., 1881, pp. 22, 23.

what rolling, and in many places are cultivated. Above the Chain Bridge the hillside is wooded, while along the base, between the canal and the hill, there are low, swampy places, grown over with small trees, briars, and tangled undergrowth, in which Woodcock can always be found at the right season. Between the Chain Bridge and the first lock of the canal is a large stone quarry, worked in the face of the cliff, near the top of which a colony of Rough-winged Swallows have their home. Along those portions of the cliffs remaining wooded a few of the wood-birds still may be seen, but the rapidly increasing population is driving them out.

The cliffs upon the Virginia shore are quite different from those just considered, in being rugged, very precipitous, heavily wooded, and abounding in tangled undergrowth. A number of beautiful miniature glens exist, formed by spring branches and storm water, cutting their way through the rocks to the river. The face of the cliff has a northern exposure, and hence is more deeply shaded than the hills on the opposite side.

The locality is a favored one for breeding of the Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthus vermivorus*), Oven Bird (*Siurus auricapillus*), Wood Thrush (*Turdus mustelinus*), and the Woodcock (*Philohela minor*). Here also may be found much more abundantly than for comfort the copper-head snake (*Ancistrodon contortrix*), as many startled picnic parties can testify.

Coming back down the Potomac, the river continues narrow from the foot of the Little Falls to Edes's Mill, where it widens out considerably and continues to increase in width until the Aqueduct Bridge is reached, where it is half a mile wide.

This portion of the river, about four and a half miles long, although of no special interest ornithologically, is remarkable for the large numbers of fish which are captured in the spring of the year when they run up the river to breed. Many fishermen make a living during the months of May and June by catching shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) and herring (*Pomolobus vernalis*, *P. astivalis*) with dip-nets in the deep, rapid current, fishing from the rocks or standing in the stern of a boat fastened to the shore. Great numbers of white perch (*Morone americana*) are also taken by anglers, who line the shore during this season.

The Potomac River widens out rapidly from Edes's Mill, one and a half miles below the Little Falls, where it is 100 yards, to the Aqueduct Bridge, where it is half a mile in width. This presents a beautiful sheet of quiet water, so thoroughly utilized by the boat clubs and rowing parties that few water-birds have opportunity to alight.

Along the shores the only birds seen are an occasional Spotted Sandpiper, King-fisher, or Swamp Sparrow.

The Aqueduct Bridge (so called because of carrying the Alexandria Canal across the Potomac at this point) crosses the river at the upper end of Georgetown. At its southern extremity is the little village of

Rosslyn. Just below the bridge is Analostan Island, which lies opposite the shipping wharves of Georgetown for nearly their whole extent, about half a mile. The island has a width of about 300 yards, and is now used as summer resort and picnic ground. It is separated from the Virginia shore by what is called "Little River," but which was formerly the main channel of the Potomac. Some thirty-five or forty years ago a causeway was built across this channel to the Virginia shore, thus cutting off the flow of water in this direction and forcing the current around in front of Georgetown. This little dam joining Analostan Island to the main-land proved, in the history of subsequent events, to have been a cause of very great mischief to the Washington river front. It was and is a great advantage to the shipping interest of Georgetown by forcing the main channel down in front of the wharves. In an ornithological sense, it is of interest as having been instrumental—in connection with the causeway in the middle of the river at the "Long Bridge"—in developing immense tide-water marshes of wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*).

The Long Bridge is one mile and a quarter long and crosses the river in front of the city of Washington at the foot of Fourteenth street. Between the Washington and Virginia channels of the river the bridge consists of half a mile of earth causeway, impeding to this extent the current of the river. The distance between the lower end of Analostan Island and the Long Bridge is about one mile and a half, the river widening from half a mile to a mile and a quarter. When the main current of the river swept through the channel behind Analostan Island it was deflected at its lower end towards the east, and a large proportion of the water was carried across to the Washington side, making a channel along the entire Washington front of sufficient depth for vessels of light draft. (See map of Potomac River region.)

A glance at the map will show the effect of closing this channel and diverting the current to the north side above the island. When it reaches the lower end of the island the entire current enters the Virginia channel, and the Washington channel is as effectually barred as though dammed. Immediately the spaces marked by the dotted lines began to fill up from alluvial deposits, and now they are marshes of wild rice, marsh grass, wanquapins, etc., which afford feeding grounds for vast numbers of Reed-birds (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), Rail (*Porzana carolina* and *Rallus virginianus*), Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*), etc.

We have referred more in detail to the formation of these marshes than we otherwise would because they have another and more important significance than the ornithological one—one which, although not connected directly with the subject of this paper, still is of sufficient general interest to deserve a passing notice. We refer to the increased production of malarial diseases in the adjacent portion of Washington City as a result of these marshes. The subject has also an indirect in-

terest from an ornithological point of view, for in a few years, perhaps at the time this sketch is being read, these marshes will all be reclaimed and their present *locus* occupied by a beautiful park diversified by picturesque lakelets, bridges, and groves of ornamental trees; and the places which now afford feeding grounds to myriads of marsh birds, already mentioned, will know them no more forever.

The first steps towards reclaiming the "Potomac Flats" have already been taken in Congress (1882), and before many years the whole area between Easby's wharf and Greenleaf's Point and the present north river shore, embracing an area of about 1,000 acres, will have been added to the city limits of Washington. This is a consummation the more devoutly to be wished for, for another reason than danger from "malaria," one which we have not heretofore seen urged, namely, the danger from "yellow fever." The yellow-fever germ is not indigenous to this locality, but that we are not exempt from the liability to the disease in the summer season is evidenced by the ravages which it has occasioned in past years in the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Philadelphia, and New York. There is reason to believe that the germ of contagion of this disease is not perfected in the human body, but requires certain conditions outside the body for its development into the virulent form which works such deadly consequences to the human race. These conditions are found best fulfilled in maritime ports during the hot season, where the tide ebbs and flows, alternately exposing accumulated sewer-filth to the rays of a summer sun, and again flooding it, twice each twenty-four hours. This is exactly the state of things with the "Potomac Flats." Sewer deposits are caught by the vegetation of the marshes, stirred up constantly by the tides, and for a portion of each day exposed to the sun and air. What the result might be were the yellow-fever germs once to get a fair start in so favorite a soil is terrible to contemplate.

Coming back to our birds from this digression, we observe that this portion of the river, lying between Analoatan Island and Greenleaf's Point and extending southward from Greenleaf's Point towards Alexandria, furnishes feeding-waters to large numbers of Ducks, which may be found especially abundant in the months of February and March, just previous to their spring migration. At this period many are shot for the market by gunners, and sportsmen can have fair sport on occasions in shooting from floats located above or below Long Bridge.

Roche's Inlet and the "Four-Mile Run" are favorite feeding-places, where a judiciously placed "blind" and decoys will afford at times good shooting. Four-Mile Run is situated on the Virginia side of the river, about half way between Long Bridge and Alexandria. The Alexandria Canal crosses it at the point where it empties into the river, which it does through two culverts under the canal, through which the tide pours in a strong current during its ebb and flow. Behind the canal embankment, the run expands into quite a large marsh of reeds, wild rice, and marsh grass, which gives refuge to Summer Duck, Teal, Rail, etc., while

along its border are several fine Woodcock brakes. In the high banks in the vicinity are also colonies of the Bank Swallow (*Cotile riparia*).

On the Virginia side of the river, about half way between Analoetan Island and the Long Bridge, a small stream, known as "Gravelly Run," empties. This stream continues around in a southern direction, and again connects with the Potomac below the Long Bridge by a cove called "Roche's Inlet," or "Roche's Run". The land lying between this stream and the river is known as Alexander's Island, and the *single house* at the southern terminus of the Long Bridge by the high-sounding title of "Jackson City."

Gravelly Run receives and discharges the tides, and its borders for its entire length constitute a swamp of tangled weeds, shrubs, and small trees. It is a favorite resort for Green and Blue-winged Teal, Summer Duck, Green Heron, Wilson's Snipe, Woodcock, as well as the common marsh birds, Rail, Reed-birds, and Red-shouldered Blackbirds. Here also are found several "Woodcock brakes," which yield sport in July to such as enjoy the steam bath of a midsummer's Woodcock shoot in the close and tangled recesses of thick cover.

## 2. EASTERN BRANCH (ANACOSTIA RIVER) REGION.

At the mouth of the Eastern Branch, on the north side, is Greenleaf's Point, on which the United States Arsenal is located, and on the south side is Giesboro; the distance between the two being about half a mile.

From the mouth to the Anacostia Bridge, a distance of a mile and a half, the narrow and tortuous channel runs close to the northern bank, passing in front of the Washington Navy-Yard. The remainder of the river bed consists of "flats" of aquatic grass, the water not being sufficiently shallow to give root to the wild rice. The river, however, is gradually filling up, and the time is not far distant when here also we shall have an extensive tide-water marsh of zizania, saw-grass, etc. Above the Anacostia Bridge to the railroad bridge (Baltimore and Potomac), a distance of three-fourths of a mile, the character of the river is the same. This portion of the Anacostia River has but little interest ornithologically. A few Coots (*Fulica americana*), Dippers (*Podilymbus podicipes*), and Butter Balls (*Clangula albeola*) may be seen, but the location is too public for any abundance of water birds.

Above the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Bridge, however, the character of the stream changes, and becomes of more interest to the ornithologist. The "flats" of the stream become sufficiently shallow to meet the conditions necessary for the growth of the wild rice, and for three miles above the railroad bridge the channel winds tortuously between extensive marshes composed of wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*), saw-grass (*Polygonum arifolium* and *Polygonum sagitatum*), wanquapins (*Nelumbium luteum*), lily-pads (*Nuphar advena*), and several species of marsh grasses.



The extent of these tide-water marshes has very greatly increased during the past twenty years (since the former paper was published), and they are steadily encroaching upon the channel. Fifty years ago there was sufficient depth of water in the Anacostia River to float ocean-going vessels up to Bladensburg, the head of tide-water, six miles above its confluence with the Potomac. Since that period the stream has been gradually filling up, until now it is navigable only to sand scows.

The marshes have an average width of one-third of a mile, and are about three miles long. Benning's Bridge crosses the Anacostia River about two miles above the Navy-Yard Bridge and three miles below Bladensburg, and is the headquarters for marsh shooting. Here skiffs can always be hired, and, if notice be given, pushers also can be obtained.

The marshes are intersected at intervals by streams called by the euphonious name of "guts," which are from 3 to 6 feet in depth, and 10 to 20 feet wide. The larger of these are the continuations of rivulets which empty into the river, and by them the tide overflows and ebbs from the marshes. Along the edges of the river and of the "guts," never entirely uncovered at low tide, grow the lily-pads (*Nuphar advena*) and wanquapins (*Nelumbium luteum*). In these marshes the Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris*) breeds abundantly.

Emptying into the river just below Benning's Bridge, on the west side, is a large branch known as "Turtle Gut." It is the outlet of a small stream coming in at what are known as "Mayhew's Meadows," a grass marsh on the west side, a short distance below the bridge. This meadow is a well-known feeding ground for the Jack Snipe (*Gallinago wilsoni*) in the spring of the year.

Twenty years ago the outlet of Turtle Run expanded into a broad, shallow bay, with Mayhew's Meadows on the west and a wild-rice marsh on the east. In this bay grew patches of wild rice, wanquapins, and lily-pads, and it was a favorite resort for ducks. At this date, however (1882), this space has been entirely converted into a wild-rice marsh, and "Turtle Gut" is nearly obliterated.

Above Benning's Bridge about a quarter of a mile the river marsh widens out into a bay on the east side. Here we find another large gut, known as Succabel's Gut, also a favorite resort for Ducks. On the shore at this point is an excellent "Woodcock brake." On the west side of the river the marshes, intersected by numerous guts, extend unbroken for one and a half miles to a bold bluff, which reaches down to the water's edge at a point near the Reform School.

Opposite this bluff, a little up stream, comes in Piney Run, quite a large, winding gut; and half a mile still farther up the Beaver Dam Run empties. At Beaver Dam is situated a good wild-rice marsh, known as McCormick's Marsh, while between this and Piney Run Gut the marsh is grown up with buttonwoods and alders, making good cover and feeding ground for Woodcock and King Rail (*Rallus elegans*).

On shore, along the edge of Beaver Dam Run, at McCormick's, is a

large, typical Woodcock brake, marshy ground occasionally overflowed by high tides, grown up with saplings, briars, vines, etc., making splendid cover and feeding ground. Here the sportsman, with a good dog, can always make a bag, if industrious and not afraid of mud.

This whole region along the edges of the river abounds with Woodcock, which in the twilight may be heard coming in to feed by the score. Above McCormick's the marshes grow narrower and shallower, until they cease just below Bladensburg, which is one mile up the river from McCormick's.

The marshes as they become higher above low tide also change in character; the growth of wild rice ceases, and its place is taken by rank grass and stunted bushes, which afford a refuge for many birds, from which they cannot be dislodged. There is a bend in the river just above McCormick's, where the channel widens out, in which during spring great numbers of Ducks congregate.

During the fall migrations these marshes afford refuge and food for innumerable hosts of Rail, Reed-birds, and Red-winged Blackbirds, which attract scores of "gunners," so that during the early days of September this locality reminds one of the firing of a skirmish line preceding a great battle. The crack of fowling-pieces is incessant from early morn to twilight. All classes in society are represented, from the gentleman sportsman with his pusher and favorite breech-loader, hunting Rail, to the ragged contraband with the cheap, old-fashioned, single-barreled muzzle-loader, or old style army musket, "wading" the marshes from knee to waist deep, to whom all flesh is game, who takes in principally Blackbirds and Reed-birds, and is particularly happy when he can surprise an unsophisticated Rail on the side of a "gut." The professional or market gunner is also well represented, and during the early days of the season reaps a good harvest. It is a common thing on the first day of the season for one gunner to secure from twelve to twenty dozen Carolina Rail and as many Reed-birds. These birds are protected by law until September 1.

It is rather a comical sight to witness the gathering of the clans at Benning's Bridge on the 1st day of September, preparatory to the slaughter of the innocents. As the light begins to appear in the east a motley line of sportsmen may be seen sitting upon the rail of the bridge waiting for sufficient light to see to shoot, dressed in all manner of costumes, and armed with all sorts of blunderbusses; some who have had the means and forethought to engage a skiff and pusher are off in style with the tide, others go in couples in skiffs and push each other, while the rabble, who constitute the great majority, take to the marshes and wade.

#### RAIL SHOOTING ON THE ANACOSTIA RIVER MARSHES.

Rail shooting in the fall of the year affords sport to many who are fond of the gun, although to the true sportsman it is rather tame amusement. The flight of the bird is so sluggish that it requires but

indifferent marksmanship to bring it down, as a rule; still, sometimes when the birds are wild, before they become heavy with fat, it is not such an easy matter to bring them to bag. In the talk among Rail shooters it is the regular thing to ask, "Have you missed a bird to-day?" And it is looked upon as somewhat of a disgrace if the reply is in the affirmative. Nevertheless, we venture the assertion that few ever go on the marsh for a day's Rail shooting without missing not one only but several birds in the course of the day. Then, too, finding the bird after it is shot is not a simple matter, and very many are thus lost after being undoubtedly killed. The reeds of the wild rice grow to a height of from 4 to 6 feet, and though usually broken down sufficiently to give a clear view, they present so uniform an appearance that when a bird drops it disappears in the foliage, and if the eye be taken off the spot without "marking," the chances are greatly against its being found. "Marking" and gathering in the birds belong to the duties of the pusher, and that he should do these things well is fully as necessary to a successful day as that he should be able to propel the boat, or that the sportsman should be a good shot.

The mode of "marking" a shot bird is to fix in the mind something about the place where it falls which differs from its surroundings—a very tall reed, a broken stem, a wanquapin leaf, etc.—anything, however slight (and it is wonderful how slight a mark will suffice for an experienced pusher), that will serve to identify the place. The importance of this appears still greater when it is remembered that the pusher must always wait after a shot for the sportsman to reload, and frequently it will happen that before he reaches the spot where the first bird fell, six or eight more birds will be flushed and killed, each of which must be marked in like manner. It is not an uncommon thing to have as many as ten or a dozen birds down in the reeds and water before one has been picked up.

If any interested reader wishes to get a good day's Rail shooting in the District of Columbia, let him make his arrangements to try it upon the 1st day of September. On this day the law protecting the birds expires; up to this time they have not been disturbed, and are consequently very abundant upon the open marshes. Wait for one week and it will be as difficult to secure one dozen birds as it is on September 1 to bag ten dozen. The boat and pusher must be engaged a week or two before the appointed time. This can be done either at the eastern end of Benning's Bridge or at the Lower (Navy-Yard) Bridge. The former is preferable, for it is immediately surrounded by marshes, and no time is lost. The boat which is used in Rail shooting is of peculiar construction, and especially adapted to forcing a way through the tangled reeds. In local vernacular it is a "skiff," and is a ticklish-looking affair for two men to navigate in *standing up*. And indeed it is a ticklish affair, as the greenhorn will be likely to learn in his first attempt at Rail shooting. The craft is usually about 16 feet long by 3 feet wide across the

widest part, above. It is pointed at both ends, each end being covered over for about 2 feet. At the stern this affords a seat to the paddler, while at the bow it forms a locker for the reception of the game. The one seat is about the junction of the anterior and middle third of the length. The hull is constructed of three planks, one for the bottom and one each for the sides. The side planks are cut upon a pattern, so that when put together the bottom curves upwards towards each end very much after the manner of the ocean fisherman's dory. The advantage of this shape becomes immediately apparent when upon the marsh; the skiff is thus enabled to ride over the reeds and grass instead of plunging into the tangled masses.

Within a year or two, skiffs have been introduced made of galvanized iron instead of wood. They have the advantage of being lighter, and also of being perfectly smooth, thereby causing less friction in passing through the reeds. The metallic skiff is always ready to be put into the water, being unaffected by exposure to the sun and air, whereas a wooden boat that has been out of the water for several days will always leak when first used subsequently. Wooden boats get water-logged and become heavier, while the metal ones are unchanged, and they last a long time. The cost of such a galvanized iron skiff as is here described is about \$25.

We give a drawing of one belonging to William Wagner, of Washington, D. C., said to be the "best skiff on the marsh."

It is of galvanized iron, strengthened by iron ribs (knees), with a bead-like flange of the same material all around the side at the top. It has water-tight compartments at both ends, which would float it in case of an upset. It weighs about 100 pounds and costs about \$25. The following are the measurements:

	Feet.	Inches.
Length over all .....	16	0
Width over all, widest part .....	3	0
Width on bottom, widest part .....	2	1
Depth at ends .....	0	11½
Depth at middle .....	0	10
From bow to seat .....	6	3
Width of seat .....	1	0

Air-tight compartments at each end 23 inches long.

These skiffs, although very "precarious" to the uninitiated, are quite seaworthy in the hands of a skillful boatman, and are used also on the river for duck-shooting.

In getting into one of these little crafts for the first time the sensation is one of insecurity, and the feeling is well expressed by the phrase in common use, that "You must part your hair in the middle" to avoid an upset.

The sportsman gets in first and sits upon the middle seat, with his guns and ammunition in front of him. He should have two guns and



### EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

*Galvanized-iron hunting skiff, property of William Wagner, Washington, D. C.\**

No. 1.—Double paddle.

No. 2.—Single paddle.

No. 3.—“Creeping” paddle for use entirely under water in creeping on ducks.

No. 4.—“Pushing pole” for propelling the boat over the marsh in rail shooting.

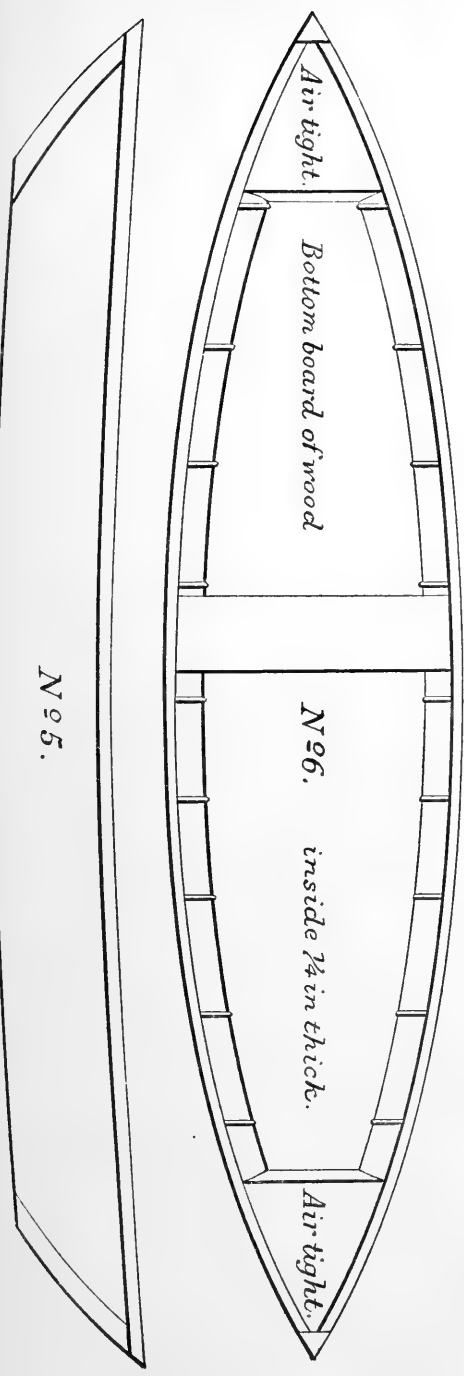
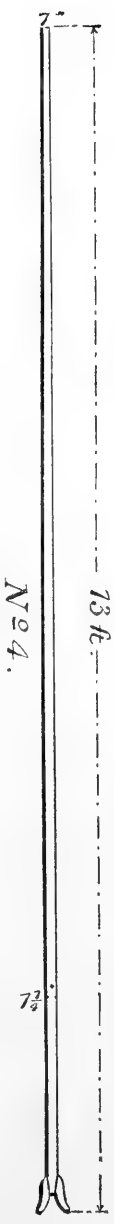
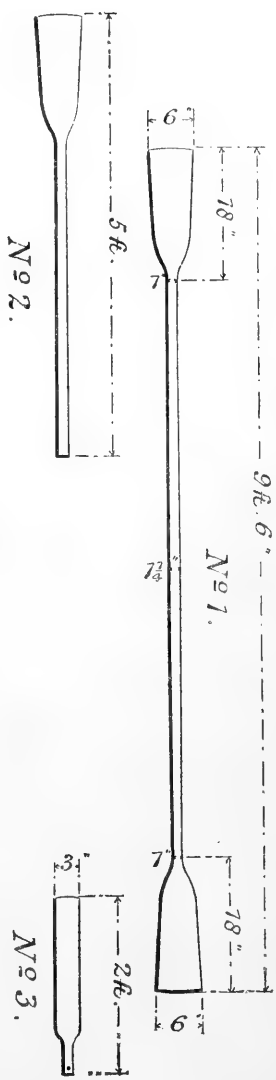
No. 5.—Profile view of skiff, showing the degree of “sheer” at each end.

No. 6.—Bird’s-eye view of skiff.

For further particulars see page 20.

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\* The authors are indebted to Mr. Geo. H. Miller, of Washington, D. C., for the drawings and dimensions given in this plate.







not less than 300 loaded shells; two guns, to change when one becomes too hot to handle. Shells should be loaded with 2 drachms of powder and three-quarters of an ounce of No. 10 shot. Some use  $2\frac{1}{2}$  drachms of powder and one ounce No. 10 shot.

Having taken his position, the pusher shoves off and paddles over the channel to the marsh opposite. Entering the marsh both must stand, the sportsman in front, his left foot forward and right foot behind the seat, steadying himself as best he can. He soon becomes accustomed to the motion of the boat, which, if the pusher be a good one, is moderately steady, being propelled along at the rate of about 2 miles an hour. If propelled too slowly, the birds will run out of the way without flushing, and if too fast, they will dive and wait for the boat to pass. The pusher propels the skiff by means of a pole 16 feet in length, with a crotch at the distal end to prevent it from sinking in the mud.

By skillful use the boat is kept moving almost at a uniform rate, except where very thick masses of tangled reed are met, when all the strength and skill is taxed in getting through, and the sportsman must take care that he is not by a sudden lurch precipitated overboard.

On the marsh the little craft is much steadier than in open water, because supported by the undergrowth, and a tumble overboard results only in a disagreeable wetting, the water being but 2 or 3 feet deep.

The time of day for entering the marsh varies with the tide. The water is usually deep enough one hour and a half before the flood tide, and the shooting continues one and a half hours after, making about three hours' shooting for an average tide. The highest tides occur when the wind has been from the east or southeast for twenty-four hours and when the moon is in conjunction with the sun.

When the birds have not been much disturbed they will be found feeding all over the marsh; and as the centers are more easily accessible to the boat these are first gone over, and as many birds secured as possible. This drives them to such shelter as they can find in thick patches of tall reeds and tangled saw-grass and wanquapins usually found along the edges of the river and of the guts. These covers must then be beaten as the tide begins to fall. The boat is run along the edges and the reeds beaten with a pole, by which means many birds are frightened into taking flight and secured.

So they go, gliding through the marsh, and the birds begin to rise. Now both the pusher and shooter have all they can attend to. Birds rise in front, to the right, to the left, behind; the greenhorn becomes excited, confused; doesn't know which to shoot at; fires almost at random; misses oftener than he hits; swears at his gun, at his shells, at the unfortunate pusher, at everything but himself, who alone is at fault, and not unlikely tumbles overboard. If he is of the right mettle, however, he soon settles down to work, deliberately picks his bird each time, and then there is but little more missing.

Sometimes birds will get up behind him and out of the range of his

vision. The pusher cries "Mark," when he wheels and fires. Nox has the pusher a sinecure; he advances, stops for loading, goes forward, backwards, zigzagging, retrieving the game; and so it continues until the retreating tide forces the skiff from the marsh.

Rail shooting is often termed "tame sport," and so it is as far as mere skill in shooting is concerned when compared with Quail shooting. But, after all, it is certainly exciting and enjoyable, especially to the city sportsman, to whom an all-day tramp after Quail is very likely to prove exhausting or even painful.

Here there is no fatigue, no long tramp in the hot sun, only the labor of standing and balancing one's self in the quivering canoe, twisting to the right or left or backward to get a shot, while the position of the legs must remain unchanged; one experiences the excitement of constant shooting; birds are almost always on the wing; and, withal, the shooting lasts but three hours, not long enough for one to become satiated.

Since the great increase in the size of these marshes, the Rail shooting is much better than it was twenty years ago.\*

The Carolina Rails when feeding upon the wild rice become very fat and acquire a delicious flavor, for which they are much prized by epicures. Their flesh is soft, however, and they readily become tainted if the day is hot.

Thus far the description of the Eastern Branch region has been confined to the river and its marshes. The borders of the river are deserving of a few words. These we extend to take in the east bank of the Potomac from the District line opposite Alexandria to the mouth of the Anacostia River at Giesboro. This portion of the District is not deserving of any extended notice. The banks of the river are nearly level for some distance back, and then gradually rise to the terrace of hills upon which the Government Insane Asylum stands.

In the way of birds nothing peculiar is found. Along the river bank a few King-fishers and Sandpipers and a colony of Bank Swallows; farther back some favorable spots for Woodcock and Snipe, and in the woodland the usual woodland birds.

Pursuing the eastern bank of the stream to the northward we find a range of hills extending from the Insane Asylum through Good Hope Hill to Benning's Bridge, a distance of three and a half miles. The approach from the river to this rising land is gradual over a distance of from half a mile to a mile, the intervening land being the most fertile in the District, and celebrated for the excellence of its market gardens. In this hilly region are found several tracts of wild woods undergrown with thickets of laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), in which the Ruffed Grouse, called "Pheasants" (*Bonasa umbella*), breed and are at home. Here

\* The most extensive wild-rice marshes found in the East are upon the Patuxent River, 18 miles southeast of Washington, where at several points boats and pushers may be obtained.

also among the old pines are found the Pine Creeping Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*).

Above Benning's Bridge, on the east side, the hills become broken, and from that point to Bladensburg we have a rolling, varied country, presenting the variety of cultivated fields, wooded hill-sides, interesting streams, copses, small marshes, etc.

On Beaver Dam Creek, about three-fourths of a mile east of McCormick's, is a wet meadow—a favorite feeding-ground of Wilson's Snipe in the spring—while adjacent is a dense marshy thicket, affording refuge and food for many Woodcock.

Beaver Dam Creek is named from the fact that a beaver dam formerly existed along its course, and its remains may still be seen. This region is also of interest to the anthropologist on account of the many relics of the aboriginal tribes found in the vicinity.

The western bank of the Anacostia River is of less interest than the eastern. From its mouth to the District almshouse, a distance of two miles, it is within the city limits, and more or less thickly built up. The city almshouse is immediately on the bank of the Anacostia River, just at the beginning of the zizania marshes, and adjoining it on the south is the Congressional Cemetery. North of the almshouse is Mayhew's Meadow, already mentioned as a favorite feeding-ground of Wilson's Snipe. From this point to the District line, near Bladensburg, the character of the country is varied between hillside and meadow and cultivated fields, and presents nothing of special interest.

### 3. ROCK CREEK REGION.

The Rock Creek region embraces the valley of Rock Creek from the point of its confluence with the Potomac River to the District line, a distance of five miles. Rock Creek is a small stream having a direction from north to south. It has a rapid current, and contains sufficient water to furnish good water-power to mills even at the driest season; while it is subject to sudden rises during storms, when it becomes a turbulent torrent. The stream has cut its way through the rocky hills which surround Washington on the north, producing many localities of picturesque scenery. In fact, the natural beauty of the scenery for the entire length of the creek, from the city limit to the District line, is seldom surpassed, and the selection of this region for a public park would be a most appropriate one, and we heartily join in the recommendation of Professor Ward to that end.\*

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\* In the Guide to the Flora of Washington and its Vicinity, Bulletin No. 22, 1881, U. S. National Museum, Professor Ward says: "The character of the surface along Rock Creek is most beautiful and picturesque, often rocky and hilly, with frequent deep ravines coming down into the usually narrow bottom through which it flows. The stream itself is full of most charming curves, and the whole region is an ideal

For the entire distance the stream is bordered by high hills, sometimes so precipitous as to afford precarious footing, sometimes sloping back gently, almost always well wooded, and in many places affording a tangled undergrowth of laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), which presents a beautiful appearance when in flower in the spring-time.

The sides of the valley are intersected at many points by ravines produced by the small streams flowing into the creek along its course. These ravines, amounting in many cases to beautifully shaded glens, add variety to the scenery, and afford favored retreats to many species of retiring wood-birds. In several places are stretches of level land found between the banks of the stream and the wooded hillsides, constituting fertile meadows. In fact, such is the beauty and variety of the scenery, that this region is the favorite collecting ground for the ornithologist for all species of birds except the water-birds and those inhabiting the open fields. Upon the hill-tops we have high open woods; in the ravines, cool shaded glens, with light undergrowth; in places also dense tangled undergrowth of laurel, and in other localities boggy swamps and brier patches. The character of the woods also varies, from oak, hickory, maple, etc., to pine groves and cedar patches, offering attractions to a great variety of birds.

In referring more in detail to the Rock Creek region, we find we are repeating much of the excellent description given by Prof. Lester F. Ward in his *Flora of the District of Columbia*.

For convenience of description he divides this region into six sections, which, for the sake of uniformity, we shall follow.

The portion of the creek between its confluence with the Potomac and the city boundary line on the north is not included in Professor Ward's description. This portion was the dividing line between the corporations of Washington and Georgetown before they were merged into one. It is spanned by four bridges—at K street, at Pennsylvania avenue, at M street, and at P street, the latter being at the northern extremity of the city limits. The southern portion of this part of the creek is deepened by a dam at its outlet to the river, whereby it is converted into a canal as a continuation of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which empties into Rock Creek just below the Pennsylvania avenue bridge. This portion of the creek being within the city limits presents nothing of interest to the ornithologist except that at the bend south of the P street bridge there is a row of willow trees in which in the spring may usually be found the Black-capped Flycatcher (*Myiodiocetes pusillus*).

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park. No one can see it without thinking how admirably it is adapted for a national park. Such a park might be made to extend from Oak Hill Cemetery to the Military Road opposite Brightwood, having a width of a mile to a mile and a half. Not only every botanist, but every lover of art and nature must sigh at the prospect, not far distant, of beholding this region devastated by the ax and the plow. The citizens of Washington should speedily unite and strenuously urge upon Congress the importance of early rescuing this ready-made national park from such an unfortunate fate."

At this point also is an old-fashioned "rope-walk" where as boys, twenty years ago, we obtained the raw flax which we used in mounting specimens.

This brings us to the first section of Professor Ward's division of the Rock Creek region, which extends from the P street bridge to Woodley Park.

The creek here makes a long curve. Following the stream against the current, we first go almost directly west, turning at the dam of Lyon's Mill to the north and northeast. On the north bank, just above the P street bridge, is "Kalorama," rendered historical in past years as the residence of Commodore Decatur, and used during the War of the Rebellion as the "Small Pox General Hospital." The surrounding hills are wooded with old forest trees. On the south bank, covering a steep, rocky ascent, is the beautiful and picturesque Oak Hill Cemetery. On the bank of the creek is Lyon's Mill, a short distance above which is the dam. The woods upon both sides are favorite resorts of the Wood Warblers, but collecting is forbidden. Along the shores of the creek are found Sandpipers, Marsh Sparrows, and Maryland Yellow Throats, while on the waters of the dam an occasional Duck or Dipper may be seen in the early morning.

Professor Ward's second division, the Woodley Park, extends from above Lyon's mill-dam to "Adams' Mill," now used as a tannery, a distance of about one mile. It presents extensive woods on both sides of the creek which are excellent collecting grounds. Upon the west side below the Woodley road bridge is a damp ravine in which one or two Woodcock may usually be found in the proper season.

Above the bridge, upon the west side, is perhaps the best collecting ground during the early spring in the District for Yellow-breasted Chats, Indigo Birds, Thrushes, Carolina Wrens, Worm-eating Warblers, and, a little later, of all the Wood Warblers. Here were taken in the spring of 1882 the Golden-winged Warbler (*Helminthophila chrysoptera*), Blue-winged Yellow Warbler (*H. pinus*), and the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*). The scenery varies from high, open woods to low young trees with dense undergrowth, rocky hillsides, and cool, shaded ravines.

The third section extends from "Adams' Mill" to the confluence of "Piney Branch" with Rock Creek, again a distance of about a mile, following the windings of the stream.

At the lower portion on the east bank is a stone quarry, to which a road leads down from the city. Above this quarry on the same side, for a distance of half a mile, is another excellent collecting ground for the spring migration. There are high, open woods, swampy hollows, cool dells, thickets, and brier patches—all that make life attractive to the retiring Wood Warblers. Here, in a little patch of pines, in May, 1882, in company with Mr. H. W. Henshaw, we collected some twenty Blackburnian Warblers (*Dendroica blackburnæ*), besides scores of other choice and rare specimens.

On the opposite side of the stream the land is low and rolling, giving a scattered growth of small pines, and cedars, where the Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) may be found without fail.

"Piney Branch" comes down between the hills from the northeast, and is wooded clear down to its rocky bed, presenting in many places a thick undergrowth. Along its course the collector may rely in the spring upon finding both species of Water Thrush (Large-billed, *Siurus motacilla*, and Small-billed, *Siurus naevius*).

The fourth section extends from Piney Branch to the mouth of Broad Branch, a little over one mile.

Although this portion apparently should be as favorable to the presence of birds as some others, presenting very similar surroundings, our experience has been discouraging; but few birds have usually been observed. This may, however, be explained by the fact that it is a favorite resort of numerous picnic parties.

Following the road up "Broad Branch"—which joins the creek half a mile above Pierce's Mill—we find some of the most beautiful scenery in the limits of the District. The stream has worn for itself a rocky bed along the base of the steep hills which rise to a height of 200 feet above it on the north, while upon the south side they slope back more gently. The scenery is as wild as though untouched by the hand of man, with the exception of the road, and it is hard to realize that one is within three miles of a city of 180,000 inhabitants.

Professor Ward's fifth section is from the Broad Branch to the Military Road. He says it is "perhaps the most interesting section of Rock Creek. On the left bank lie the once noted Crystal Springs, and though the buildings are removed, the springs remain unchanged. . . . On the right bank and above Blagden's Mill is a bold bluff in a short bend of the creek, forming a sort of promontory upon which there grows the *Gaultheria procumbens*, the wintergreen or checkerberry, this being its only known locality within our limits."\*

The sides of the stream are very rugged in places, with broken rocky walls, especially just opposite Blagden's Mill, where is the "Pulpit Rock," a flat-topped columnar rock which stands out over the creek at a height of 80 or 100 feet.

The sixth and last section, extending to the District line, presents nothing of special interest to the ornithologist.

We have thus, in describing in detail the three regions, namely, the Potomac River, the Anacostia River, and the Rock Creek, considered the portions of the District most interesting from the ornithologist's point of view.

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\* We would state that formerly the wintergreen could be found on the top of the hill on the east side of Rock Creek just below the stone quarry mentioned in speaking of the "second section." It grew under the laurel, but as we have not visited the locality for several years we cannot say if it is still to be found there.

The land which lies between these portions presents the usual characteristics of a farming country. The land is rolling, moderately thickly settled, and offers all the variety of cultivated fields, meadows, forests, and swamps which one would expect to find.

Many birds may be found that are not usually seen in the three sections described, such as the Yellow-winged Sparrow (*Coturniculus passerinus*), Bay-winged Bunting (*Poocetes gramineus*), which are abundant in the cultivated grass-fields, and the Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola helvetica*), found in upland meadows and old cow-pastures.

Many of the localities which we found to be good collecting grounds twenty years ago have so entirely changed their character that but few or no birds can be seen in their old haunts. Thus "Hawes' Woods," at the head of Ninth street, just north of the city, was a favorite resort of all the Wood Warblers. These woods have been cut down, and their place is now occupied by scattering houses. The old "Park Woods" still exists on the level north of the city, between Fourth and Seventh streets, but a portion of it is occupied as a beer garden, and another portion gives place to the Freedmen's Hospital, while all around are dwelling-houses.

### 3.—GENERAL CHARACTERS OF THE AVIFAUNA.

From the central situation of the District of Columbia, with regard to the northern and southern portions of the United States, together with the variety of surface which it presents, it would be expected to afford the rich and interesting avifauna which it has been found to possess. Although belonging to the Carolinian faunal area as defined by J. A. Allen, it seems to be, with regard to the migration and breeding of birds, somewhere about a natural dividing line between a northern and southern fauna, so that it is not easy to decide which takes precedence. We are therefore enabled to present a more extensive list of species inhabiting the District than has been determined for any other area of equally restricted extent in eastern North America, excepting a few peculiarly favored by conditions of physical geography.

Though the numbers of individual birds which are resident throughout the year, and of those which breed here, are considerable, they are few in comparison with the multitudes which regularly pass through on their vernal and autumnal migrations, remaining for a longer or shorter period each season. The spring arrivals, it will be remembered, not only include the migrants proper which neither summer nor winter with us, but also embrace all the breeders which do not remain during the colder portion of the year. It is on this account that for a month or so during the spring and fall—from about the 20th of April to the 20th of May, and from the 1st of September to the middle of October—the collector is so amply repaid for his pains, while at other periods ornithologizing is hardly worth the trouble, unless it be for particular species, or for the nests and eggs of the breeders. So numerous are individuals of most of the regular migrants that at the height of "the season" in spring we have collected, in a walk before breakfast, forty or fifty specimens of various species of Warblers, Thrushes, Flycatchers, Finches, and other *Passeres*. In instance of the number of species which pass through the District on their way north to breed, compared with those which remain with us during the summer, may be cited the Warblers. Of the twelve or thirteen *Dendroææ* found more or less abundantly in spring and fall, only three are known to breed here; and not one of the four *Helminthophila* is seen in summer. The same might be affirmed of other birds, as various Thrushes, Flycatchers, Finches, Sandpipers, etc.

Reference to the summary at the end of this treatise will show that the permanent residents (47), the winter visitants (46), and the regular spring and fall migrants (49), are practically the same in number, and about three-fourths as many as the summer visitants. The list of stragglers is at present the shortest one (40), but will doubtless in time about equal any one of the categories excepting that of the summer residents.

The list includes only those species, specimens of which have been actually obtained in the District or its very immediate vicinity. There



are quite a number, however, which are extremely rare, and by no means entitled to be considered as inhabitants of the District. Such may be divided into three classes: First, those which visit us in severe winters, being driven beyond their usual range by inclemency of the weather or scarcity of food; such as *Nyctea nivea*, *Astur atricapillus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Lanius borealis*, *Pinicola enucleator*, *Loxia americana*, *L. leucoptera*, *Ægiothus linarias*, *Plectrophanes nivalis*. Second, those which visit us in the latter part of summer, mostly the wandering young of species breeding farther south, as *Rhynchops nigra*, several species of *Ardeida*, and probably *Chamaepelia passerina*. In the third and more extensive class are to be ranged the stragglers proper; species observed for the most part but once, whose appearance is wholly fortuitous, depending upon no fixed habit of the bird. Thus, several species of Sea-Ducks (*Fuligulina*); three species of the pelagic family *Procellariida*, *Graculus dilophus*, *Tyrannus verticalis*, *Milvulus forficatus*?, *Chondestes grammicus*, the European *Mareca penelope*, have all been observed in the District or immediate vicinity. Such occurrences are always interesting, and should properly be enumerated in making up a list; but they take no part in the regular order of things.

The great mass of the birds which pass through the District in their spring migrations do not stop to breed before reaching, at least, the Alleghanian or Canadian fauna in regions north and east of us, in the latitude of New England and New York, or the same fauna farther south at higher elevations north and west of us in the Appalachian chain. Probably the majority go still farther north, to Labrador, the Hudson's Bay regions, and even Arctic America. Our regular winter visitants, as well as those which straggle at times from the north, do not, as a rule, breed anywhere in the United States. Some, however, like *Dendroæca aestiva*, breed anywhere, apparently independent of latitude. Our regular fall migrants for the most part pass on through the United States to winter in the West Indies and Central or even South America, though some linger through that season along the Gulf coast. The manner in which these extensive migrations are performed varies, doubtless, in different cases, and it is very difficult to understand how some of the weak, short-winged birds accomplish such immense distances. The manner is almost as much of a mystery as are the impelling, controlling, and guiding causes, none of which have ever been satisfactorily explained. Some birds appear to perform the long journey by continually flying from forest to forest, or from hedge to hedge; but, as a rule, birds mount directly high into the air, and continue an uninterrupted flight until hunger or weariness compels them to desist. This continuous kind of migration is performed by some species at night. Some of the small insectivorous birds have been observed just at daybreak to descend from a great height, and after remaining motionless for a while, as if to recuperate their energies, search diligently for food, and resume their flight toward evening. Any one who has lived in the woods

during the migratory season must have repeatedly heard the notes of passing birds high overhead, invisible in the darkness. The distance at which notes can be heard under these circumstances is surprising. We have distinctly heard the notes of the Bobolink, in the daytime, when the bird itself was beyond the range of vision. The loud honking of wild geese while migrating is well known.

A circumstance which has great influence upon the appearance of birds in the District, as a perturbing element in conditions otherwise natural, is the presence of a large city. The resulting modification in the number of species and of individuals and in their habits is much greater than formerly, now that the city has trebled its population within twenty or twenty-five years, and suburban residences beyond actual municipal limits have altered the face of the country very materially. The general result, as usual, has been the entire extirpation of a few species, and decided decrease in the numbers of many others. This is strikingly shown in the cases of Ducks and other water-fowl, and of game birds generally. The Chesapeake Bay and all its tributaries are specially adapted to the winter residence of water-fowl, and still would be a favorite resort did not the incessant persecution to which these birds are subjected force them to seek safer quarters in the bays and inlets of more southern shores. The same is true of various shy and solitary birds which have gradually retired, wholly or in greatest part with the clearing up of the forests, to more mountainous or other secluded and less accessible regions. The Wild Turkey has been practically exterminated, though still lingering near us; and so has doubtless the Sand-hill Crane. The Pileated Woodpecker is nearly in the same predicament, though still seen once in a while. The modification has no doubt been greater during the period between the two editions of our List than in all time previously, and we have been obliged to bear this constantly in mind in remodeling our notices of the species. Nevertheless, the pertinacity with which some birds hold their ground is surprising; the common Partridge, for example, being still found near the city, though so incessantly persecuted. A few birds appear to increase in numbers with the opening up of country, their insect fare, probably, being improved, and some of their natural enemies being restrained. Examples of change of habits consequent upon the settlement of the country are afforded by the Swallows, Swifts, and some other species. The Chimney Swift formerly bred in hollow trees, but now finds chimneys entirely eligible. The Barn Swallow now breeds entirely on the rafters and beams of out-houses; the Purple Martin gives preference to the boxes now everywhere placed for its convenience; the Cliff Swallow has abandoned its rocks for the eaves of houses. The Bluebird, House Wren, and Pewee Flycatcher are almost as domestic; we have the Chip-bird in the trellis, and even the Owl in the belfry.

A very disturbing element has been introduced since our List originally appeared; namely, the European Sparrow. Though nearly every

one—even among those who were instrumental in importing the pest—admits that we made a great blunder, all are slow to be persuaded of the enormity of the mischief these little creatures will work in the course of time. With this, however, we have here nothing to do; we only bring up the subject in connection with the decrease in the number and variety of our native singing birds in the city itself. This is a fact which probably every one has noticed, and which few pretend to deny any longer. It is *not* due to the building up of the city and the increase in the population, as some have supposed. The city is park and preserved nearly throughout, and full of shade and ornamental trees. The actual number of trees is vastly greater than it was in the cow-pasture days of the *ante bellum* epoch; and there is no reason why those birds which ordinarily inhabit cities should not be at least as numerous as ever, or rather more so, were they not driven away by the Sparrows. It would perhaps be more accurate to say, were they not crowded and elbowed out of the way; the impress made by the sturdy little foreign vulgarians upon the native population being effected rather by their numbers, their persistency, turbulence, and noisiness, than by their pugnacity or aggressiveness; though downright acts of hostility may be continually witnessed. In fine, there is not food and room enough for many other birds where Sparrows are numerous.

We should not close this slight sketch without special reference to the phenomenal season of 1882, in which the ordinary course of migratory events was interrupted in an unprecedented manner. We had, in fact, a "tidal wave" of birds during the second and third weeks in May. It stormed for ten days, up to about the middle of the month, and before the cold rain ceased there was such a gathering of birds in the city as had never been witnessed by the "oldest inhabitant." Many thousands of birds filled the streets and parks; so great was the number and so brilliant the assemblage that the newspapers took it up and published their notes and queries. To account for the unwonted apparition, some one started the story that a vessel, just arrived at a wharf in Georgetown from the West Indies, had brought a cargo of tropical birds which had in some manner escaped! And no wonder, when the city was swarming with Scarlet Tanagers, Golden Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Redstarts, Summer and other Warblers, all as strange to the average Washingtonian as the most brilliant exotic birds could be. Yet these lovely creatures are with us always for those who can see and feel.

In the back yard of a private residence—a space 20 by 40 feet, containing one peach tree and some grape vine—we counted six species at once; a Baltimore Oriole, a Canada Flycatcher, a Redstart, a Summer Yellow-bird, a Black-Throated Blue Warbler, and a Chestnut-sided Warbler. In the parks it was common to see a flock of six or eight Scarlet Tanagers in one tree. There were flocks of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the Smithsonian Grounds; these birds were shot by boys near the city, one little fellow killing six. The most remarkable sight we

witnessed ourselves was a great troop of a hundred or more Orchard Orioles in the Smithsonian Grounds, rambling with a few Baltimores over the new-mown grass like a flock of Blackbirds, while at the same moment, on turning the head, the black, white, and rose-color of the beautiful Grosbeak was seen contrasted with the green over head; Summer Warblers, Black-and-yellow Warblers, and Chestnut-sided Warblers were skipping together through the tender foliage; Hermit Thrushes were hiding in the evergreen shrubbery, and the ubiquitous Sparrows were chaffering and dickerer on every hand.

The rare birds were in due proportion more numerous than ever before. We have knowledge of nine Cape May Warblers taken this season. The Golden-winged, Blue-winged Yellow, and Nashville Warblers were all not uncommon. Several specimens of the Connecticut Warbler, never seen here before in the spring, and the rare Mourning Warbler, seldom known to have been captured in the District, were also taken.

The weather was unquestionably the cause of this apparition. Considering the country at large, it held the birds back; they could not make their usual headway against so protracted a storm; and even after it ceased here, there was a cold wave north of us which retarded their advance. It also seemed to have deflected the ordinary line of migration from the highway of the Appalachian chain to the lower-lying land between these mountains and the sea-coast. In a word, a broad stream of birds flowing northward was contracted between comparatively narrow banks and then obstructed in its course, the District happening to fall just in the main channel. This seems sufficient to account for the phenomenon. As to the multitudes of birds in the city itself—for we cannot imagine the whole country round about to have been equally overcharged—we must suppose them to have been driven in by cold and hunger. They acted for the most part as though chilled and starved, showing no more fear of man than the Sparrows themselves, and some that were shot being found greatly emaciated.

Evidence of the correctness of this view of the case will be found by consulting the weather charts for the period in mention. Paragraphs in relation to the weather as affecting birds appeared in various northern journals, though nothing like the "tidal wave" we witnessed here seems to have been elsewhere noted.

With these cursory remarks we proceed to the annotated list of the species which have been ascertained to occur in the District. Our observations, from which this paper has been prepared, extend over a period of about twenty-five years, during which such time as could properly be spared from other pursuits has been devoted to the study of birds. No species has been admitted which has not actually been taken in the District or its immediate vicinity. We indicate the probable occurrence of a few more, none of which, however, are included in the enumeration. The dates given for the arrivals and departures of the non-residents are in any case the mean of those recorded during successive years, since they

vary somewhat according to the speedy or tardy advance of the seasons. They may not in every instance be quite correct, for not to find a bird is at best but negative evidence of its absence. If, then, we say, for example, "arrives the middle of April and remains until the middle of September," we are to be understood to state that according to our observations the species in question is not ordinarily to be found before the first nor after the last of these dates. It is regretted that the accounts of some of the water-birds, notably the *Anatidæ*, are still incomplete with reference to the times of arrival and departure; but it is hoped that the very full particulars given of most of the land birds will in a measure condone this defect.

In the present edition the species are numbered 1 to 248 consecutively. With this numeration is retained in parenthesis that of the old List, for facility of cross-reference. The arrangement and nomenclature are altered entirely, being conformed to those of "the Coues Check List of North American Birds," etc.\* The number which each species bears in that List is also affixed in brackets.

## Order PASSERES : Passerine Birds.

### Suborder OSCINES : Singing Birds.

#### Family TURDIDÆ : Thrushes.

##### Subfamily TURDINÆ : Typical Thrushes.

#### 1. (48.) *Turdus migratorius* Linn. ROBIN.

A permanent resident, though probably not represented by the same individuals all the year round. A few breed, and a few remain during the winter; but the greater number pass through during the migrations, proceeding farther north for the summer, and farther south for the winter. It is most abundant during the months of March and

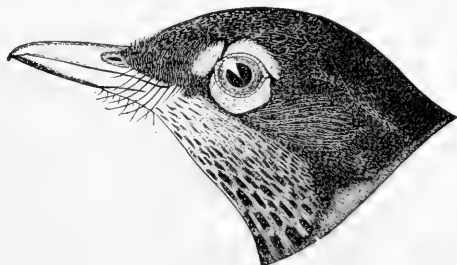


FIG. 1.—Head of Robin, nat. size.

\* The Coues Check List of North American Birds. Second Edition, Revised to Date, and entirely Rewritten, under Direction of the Author, with a Dictionary of the Etymology, Orthography, and Orthoepy of the Scientific Names, the Concordance of previous Lists, and a Catalogue of his Ornithological Publications. Boston. Estes and Lauriat. 1882. 1 vol., imp. 8vo, pp. 165.

November, and found in all localities. Many individuals nest in the parks in the city, as those about the White House and the Smithsonian Institution. In the fall, the berries of the sour gum (*Nyssa multiflora*) and poke (*Phytolacca decandra*) are their favorite food. Two or three broods are reared each season. The nest, constructed largely of mud, is placed usually upon the bough of a tree; the eggs are 4-6 in number, uniform greenish-blue. [1]

2. (13.) *Turdus mustelinus* Gm. WOOD THRUSH; "WOOD ROBIN."

A summer resident. Many breed here, but the greater number go farther north. Arrives last week in April; leaves last week in Octo-

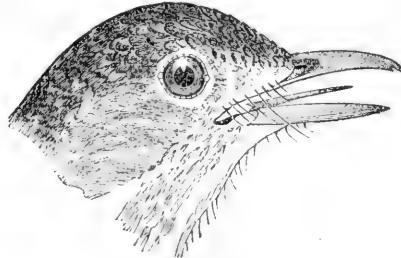


FIG. 2.—Head of Wood Thrush, nat. size.

ber. It is a shy and retiring species, frequenting thick woods and tangled undergrowth, such as the laurel brakes along Rock Creek and elsewhere. The nest, placed in a bush or sapling, differs from that of the Robin in having no mud in its composition; the eggs are similar, but smaller. [6]

3. (45.) *Turdus fuscescens* Steph. TAWNY THRUSH; WILSON'S THRUSH.

A spring and autumn visitant; rather uncommon, being the rarest of the Thrushes. It does not ordinarily arrive until the first week in May; it remains but a short time, and returns early in the fall. While with us it is a shy and solitary species, frequenting high open woods, but keeping near the ground. [7]

4. (44.) *Turdus unalascæ nanus* (Aud.) Coues. (*T. pallasi* of the original edition.) EASTERN HERMIT THRUSH.

A spring and autumn visitant; does not breed here. It arrives much the earliest of all the Thrushes, usually the third week in March; immediately becomes abundant, and is found until May. In the fall it returns the first week in October, and remains until the third or fourth week of that month—sometimes into November. Frequents chiefly open woods. [10]

5. (47.) *Turdus ustulatus alicie* (Bd.) Coues. (*T. alicie* of the original edition.)

A spring and autumn migrant; does not breed here. It is apparently as abundant as the Olive-back, more so than the Tawny; it is found in the same localities that the Olive-back frequents, and its times of arrival and departure are about the same. It is perhaps fonder of swampy

places. This interesting species was first shown to belong to the eastern Avifauna by ourselves (see Pr. Phila. Acad. Nat. Sci., Aug., 1861, p. 217). [12]

6. (46.) *Turdus ustulatus swainsoni* (Cab.) Coes. (*T. swainsoni* of the original edition.) EASTERN OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.

A spring and autumn migrant; does not breed here. The most abundant of the Thrushes, excepting perhaps the Hermit; we have seen them in considerable flocks in the fall. Arrives the second week in April, remains but a short time, and returns in the fall the second week in September, finally departing the second week of the following month. [13]

Subfamily MIMINÆ: Mocking Thrushes.

7. (100.) *Mimus polyglottus* (Linn.) Boie. MOCKING-BIRD.

A summer resident; rare. Arrives April 25; departs about the middle of September. This may be considered about the usual northern limit of the Mocking-bird, though it has occasionally been seen in New

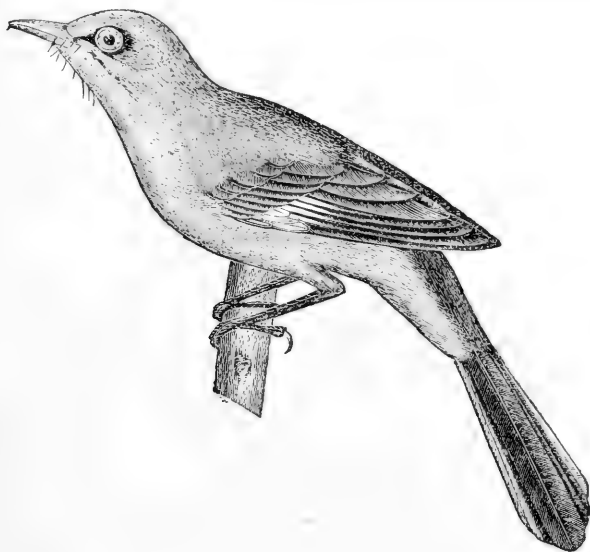


FIG. 3.—Mocking-bird.

England, and in the West up to 42°. It breeds abundantly in Southern Maryland, some 60 or 80 miles below Washington. Nest in a bush, bulky, of sticks, &c.; eggs speckled. [15]

8. (101.) *Mimus carolinensis* (Linn.) Gray. CAT-BIRD.

An extremely abundant summer resident; arriving the third week in April, remaining until about the middle of October. It is found in thickets and shrubbery, in all the briar-patches, along fences and brush-heaps; the nest is built in bushes, often in the heart of a smilax, and

is one of those most frequently found, as the birds are careless of its concealment, however vigilant and solicitous for its protection. The eggs are greenish-blue, without markings, like those of the Robin but smaller. Some pairs always nest in shrubbery in the parks and gardens within city limits. [16.]

9. (102.) *Harporhynchus rufus* (Linn.) Cab. BROWN THRUSH; THRASHER; "FRENCH MOCKING-BIRD;" "SANDY MOCKING-BIRD."

An abundant summer resident; arrives about the 20th of April, remaining until early in October. It frequents thickets, brushwood, and

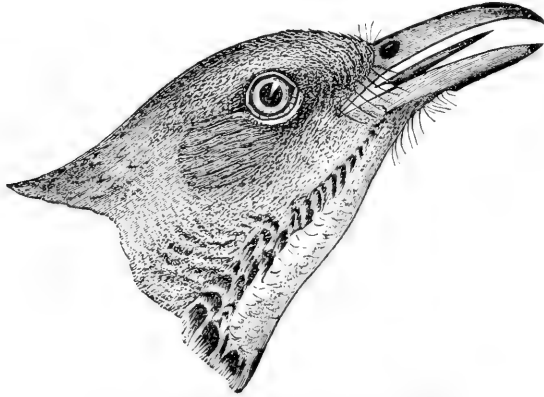


FIG. 4.—Head of Brown Thrush, nat. size.

undergrowth of other kinds, particularly along Rock Creek. The nest is usually placed in a low bush; the eggs are 4-6 in number, speckled. This is one of our finest songsters, having like the Cat-bird considerable powers of mimicry as well as its proper song. [17]

Subfamily SAXICOLINÆ: Blue-birds.

10. (49.) *Sialia sialis* (Linn.) Haldem. BLUE-BIRD.

A very abundant and permanent resident. It disappears in severe winter weather, but is found on warm sunny days during that season, and becomes extremely numerous at the first blush of spring. It nests plentifully within city limits as well as in the surrounding country, building in holes in trees and fences as well as in the boxes set up for its accommodation; the eggs are 4-6, pale bluish, unmarked. [27]

Subfamily REGULINÆ: Kinglets.

11. (50.) *Regulus calendula* (L.) Licht. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.

A very abundant spring and autumn migrant; does not breed here, and has never been observed in winter. In spring, appears from April 1 to May 10; in the fall, during the whole month of October and first few days in November; more numerous at this season than during the spring migration. It is generally distributed in woodland, but is found less frequently in high, open woods than in orchards, thickets, copses,



and especially cedar patches. It comes into full song and feather before it leaves in the spring. The vernal migration always includes a number of individuals of both sexes without the ruby crown. [33]

**12.** (51.) *Regulus satrapa* Licht. GOLDEN-CRESTED KINGLET.

A winter resident, abundant from October 1 to the latter part of April; does not breed here. It is a familiar and heedless little bird, whose general habits are much the same as those of the Ruby-crown. It is generally distributed, but thick pine woods are a favorite resort. [34]

Subfamily POLIOPTILINÆ: Gnatcatchers.

**13.** (110.) *Polioptila cœrulea* (Linn.) ScL. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.

A summer resident; still common, but less so than formerly. We used to see it in tall trees anywhere about the skirts of the city, but it appears to have retired to the surrounding woodland, where it breeds sometimes at great heights. It is an early arrival, usually by the first week in April, before the trees are fairly out, and remains until the latter part of September. It is one of the most restless of birds, almost incessantly in motion, and in spring continually uttering its thin, shrill notes as it darts about the tree-tops. [36]

Family PARIDÆ: Titmice.

**14.** (111.) *Lophophanes bicolor* (Linn.) Bp. TUFTED TITMOUSE.

A permanent resident, and extremely abundant, especially in the fall, when individuals which have bred farther north are here for the winter or passing south. In this and many other cases of birds which appear to be sedentary, from the fact that they are always to be found, it is not to be presumed that they are represented by the same individuals all the year round. Almost all birds of the northern hemisphere are migratory, and therefore only "permanently resident" in those localities which are within the limits of their migration both ways. The Tufted Titmouse is found in all localities in the District, occasionally within city limits. It is generally seen in small flocks or mixed company, and nests in holes of trees, stumps, and fences, laying numerous white speckled eggs. It is a noisy, petulant, and heedless little bird, possessing also much courage in self-defense, or in protecting its nest. [40]

**15.** (112.) *Parus atricapillus* Linn. BLACK-CAPPED TITMOUSE; COMMON CHICKADEE.

In the original edition, we gave this species as a winter resident, and correctly so, though the name has recently been expunged from the list by Mr. Jouy (Cat. B. of D. C., 1877). Mr. R. Ridgway distinguishes it specifically from *P. carolinensis*, and he informs us, as we presume he did Mr. Jouy, that all our Tits are of the latter species. But, aside from any question of specific distinction, it seems that Tits from Baltimore are admitted to be *P. atricapillus*, and it is unlikely that forty miles

divides the two species in such complete manner. It seems that after all the two boys may have been right in stating, as they did with hesitation in 1862, that *P. carolinensis* is the ordinary summer Tit; and that specimens indistinguishable from ordinary *atricapillus* occur in winter.



FIG. 5.—Black-capped Titmouse.

Mr. William Palmer considers the latter to be rare, his specimens having all been taken in very severe winter weather. His first specimen was shot at Arlington, December 25th, 1878, and others were secured by him at Falls Church, January 2d, 1879. Mr. Henry Marshall has taken it at Laurel, Md. [44]

**16.** (113.) *Parus carolinensis* Aud. CAROLINA TITMOUSE.

A summer resident; abundant. (See remarks under preceding species. Owing to the close resemblance between these two species, we have not been able to ascertain their times of arrival and departure.) [47]

Family SITTIDÆ: Nuthatches.

**17.** (108.) *Sitta carolinensis* Gm. CAROLINA NUTHATCH; WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH.

A very abundant permanent resident; especially numerous in the fall. Frequents high open woods; nests in holes. [57]



FIG. 6.—Head of Canada Nuthatch, nat. size.

**18.** (109.) *Sitta canadensis* Linn. CANADA NUTHATCH; RED-BELLIED NUTHATCH.

A winter resident, not common. Arrives early in October, and remains until May, frequenting high open woods, especially of pine. [59]

*S. pusilla* occurs as far north as the Great Dismal Swamp in Virginia, but has never been seen in the District.

Family CERTHIIDÆ: Creepers.

**19.** (107.) *Certhia familiaris* L. (*C. americana* of the original edition.) BROWN CREEPER.

Resident, abundant. Found chiefly in high open woods, occasionally on the ornamental trees of the parks of the city, as in the Smithsonian Grounds and elsewhere. It is certainly migratory, but the remarks made under head of *Lophophanes bicolor* apply here. [62]

Family TROGLODYTIDÆ: Wrens.

**20.** (103.) *Thryothorus ludovicianus* (Linn.) Bp. GREAT CAROLINA WREN.

A permanent resident; not abundant at any season, but most so during the summer. It breeds in thick shrubbery of ravines and hillsides,

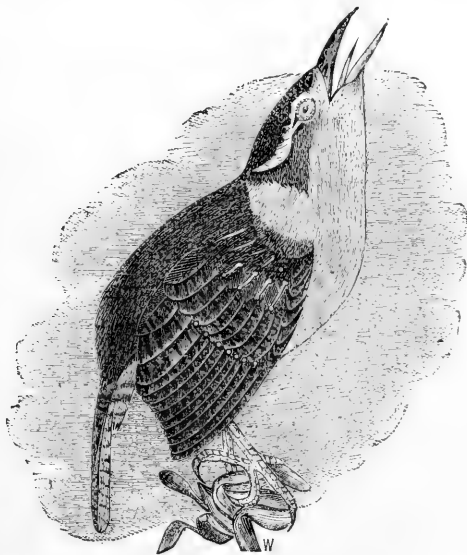


FIG. 7.—Great Carolina Wren.

sometimes in gardens, occasionally in the city itself. One year, at least, there was a pair in Mr. Corcoran's grounds on H street, near Sixteenth. The bird is very shy and retiring at most seasons, its rich rolling notes being heard oftener than the performer himself is seen. [68]

**21.** (—.) *Thryothorus bewicki* (Aud.) Bp. BEWICK'S WREN.

Not in the original edition. Very rare, perhaps only casual. Observed but once, by Mr. William Palmer, at Arlington, April 10, 1882. The

specimen is now in the United States National Museum, No. 86218, as noted by Mr. Ridgway in the Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club, vii, 1882, p. 253. [71]

**22.** (105.) *Troglodytes domesticus* (Bartr.) Coues. (*T. aëdon* of the original edition.) HOUSE WREN.

A very abundant summer resident, arriving April 15, leaving October 20. It breeds in holes anywhere about dwelling-houses, and in the heart of the city as often as elsewhere, any garden-patch or bit of shrubbery sufficing to tempt the familiar little creature to a summer residence. Formerly very common in the city. Now rarely seen. [74]

**23.** (106.) *Anorthura troglodytes hiemalis* (Wils.) Coues. WINTER WREN.

Winter resident; rather uncommon. Arrives first week in October, about the time the Snow-birds come, or a few days earlier, and remains

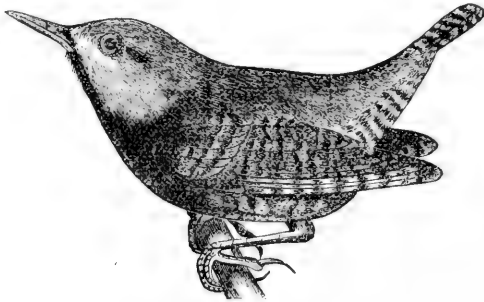


FIG. 8.—Winter Wren.

until the latter part of April. It frequents thick briar patches in dark woods, the rocks and gullies about ravines, and along the banks of creeks, where it threads its way like a mouse and is not easy to find. It is uncommon enough to be something of a prize to the collector, and we have never heard its song, as it leaves before the sexual impulse stimulates it to music. [76]

**24.** (104.) *Telmatodytes palustris* (Bartr.) Cab. LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN.

A summer resident. Arrives the third week in April, and remains until early in October. This Wren is extremely abundant, but only in certain localities, chiefly the marshes bordering the Potomac and Anacostia, where the stretches of wild oats (*Zizania aquatica*) furnish a congenial home. Hundreds of the large globular nests, affixed to the swaying reeds, used to be found in the bit of marsh bordering the Lee estate, and thence toward the Virginia end of Long Bridge. The eggs are remarkably dark-colored, being so heavily marked with chocolate-brown as to be almost uniformly of that color. [79]

The Short-billed Marsh Wren, *Cistothorus stellaris*, though we have not been able to detect it, is doubtless to be found sparingly here, the District being entirely within its ordinary known range. We do not know, however, that it has ever been actually taken or seen here.

## Family ALAUDIDÆ: Larks.

- 25.** (114.) *Eremophila alpestris* (Linn.) Boie. (*E. cornuta* of the original edition.)  
HORNED LARK; SHORE LARK.

A winter resident. Arrives November 1 and remains until April. It exclusively inhabits bare, level meadows and open commons, always in flocks of greater or less extent. Before the city extended northward to the boundary line (when there was scarcely a house north of N street in the vicinity of Fourteenth) we used to find the Shore Larks plentifully on the commons we crossed in going to and from college. [82]

## Family MOTACILLIDÆ: Wagtails.

## Subfamily ANTHINÆ: Titlarks.

- 26.** (52.) *Anthus ludovicianus* (Gm.) Licht. TITLARK; "SKYLARK."

A winter resident; abundant. This species makes its appearance towards the end of October, and remains until April, being always found in restless, straggling flocks, usually of considerable extent, roaming in desultory fashion over the open commons, bare meadows, and plowed fields, much such places that the *Eremophila* frequents. It also has a habit of alighting on the roofs of sheds and houses. We have seen it exposed for sale in large bunches in the markets. [89]

## Family SYLVICOLIDÆ: Warblers.

- 27.** (53.) *Mniotilta varia* (Linn.) Vieill. BLACK-AND-WHITE CREEPER; "SAPSUCKER."

A very common summer resident, but more abundant in spring and fall, during the migrations, as the greater number go farther north to



FIG. 9.—Head of Black-and-white Creeper, nat. size.

breed. It arrives the first week in April, and is extremely numerous until May. It is generally found in high open woods, scrambling nimbly about the trunks and larger branches of the trees.

In the original edition we stated that the species breeds in holes in trees. This is a mistake. The nest is built on or near the ground. [91]

- 28.** (54.) *Parula americana* (Linn.) Bp. BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER.

This exquisite little bird is a spring and autumn migrant, extremely abundant from April 25 until May 15. Perhaps a few breed with us, as we have found them the first week in August, some time before the Warbler migration sets in. In the autumn the Yellow-back is abundant from

August 25 to the second week in October. At any season it inhabits high open woods, and is usually seen in the tops of the trees or at the ends of the branches, scrambling, skipping, and fluttering with incessant activity on the tufts of leaves and blossoms. One which we procured was a partial albino, singularly variegated with pure white in patches amidst its normal markings. [93]

**29.** (55.) *Protonotaria citrea* (Bodd.) Bd. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.

Extremely rare; apparently only an accidental visitor. It ought, however, to be regularly found here, even if rarely, as it goes north to New England. We have not learned of more than one occurrence, that of an individual seen by ourselves in a swampy briar patch, May 2, 1861. [95]

**30.** (60.) *Helmintherus vermivorus* (Gm.) Bp. WORM-EATING WARBLER.

A rather uncommon summer resident, breeding sparingly. We used to shoot it at any time during the summer, particularly in the wooded ravines along Rock Creek, and did not consider it rare, though we doubtless often overlooked it, owing to its close general resemblance to *Siu-rus auricapillus*, which was extremely abundant in the same places. It is slow and sedate in its movements, and is often seen rambling over



FIG. 10.—Head of Worm-eating Warbler, nat. size.

the ground, whence, when disturbed, it flies to some low branch of a tree, much after the manner of the species just named. Of late years several nests have been taken, one that we know of by Mr. Jouy, and another by Mr. Palmer, the taxidermist of the Smithsonian. The bird arrives the first week in May, and remains until the third week in September. [96]

**31.** (62.) *Helminthophila pinus* (Linn.) Bd. BLUE-WINGED YELLOW WARBLER.

Spring and autumn migrant; very rare. Found on wooded hillsides and in tangled thickets. [98]

**32.** (61.) *Helminthophila chrysoptera* (Linn.) Bd. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.

Spring and autumn migrant. Found in the tops of large trees in open woods; may be recognized from its habit of hanging head and back downward, when the golden wing-bars become prominent. [102]

**33.** (63.) *Helminthophila ruficapilla* (Wils.) Bd. NASHVILLE WARBLER.

Spring and autumn migrant; rare. It was, however, not uncommon in the spring of 1882. [106]

**34.** (64.) *Helminthophila peregrina* (Wils.) Cab. TENNESSEE WARBLER.

Spring and autumn migrant; very rare. Mr. William Palmer informs us of one he shot at Arlington, September 28, 1882. [109]

Our observations warrant the belief that the *Helminthophila* are rare birds here. Only these four species have ever been found, and the data with regard to their times of arrival and departure remain to be ascertained, as they did twenty years ago. Doubtless all four actually occur each season, but they are all local prizes, not to be had every year. Several specimens of *pinus*, *chrysoptera*, and *ruficapilla* were taken in May of "the great '82."

**35.** (76.) *Dendroeca æstiva* (Gm.) Bd. SUMMER WARBLER; YELLOW WARBLER.

A summer resident; very abundant. It breeds in numbers in the city, placing the nest in the forks of twigs in garden, orchard, and ornamental trees. It is scarcely to be found in high open woods with the other *Dendroeca*, being almost as domestic in its tastes as a House Wren. It arrives April 25, and the city is soon enlivened with its blithe, familiar notes, reiterated at frequent intervals as the golden little body flutters through the opening shade trees of the streets and parks. The greater number pass on in May, returning in September, during which month all leave for the south. [111]

**36.** (68.) *Dendroeca virens* (Gm.) Bd. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.

Spring and autumn migrant; does not breed here. In spring, May 1 to 20; in fall, September 7 to October 2. Abundant during these periods in high open woods. [112]

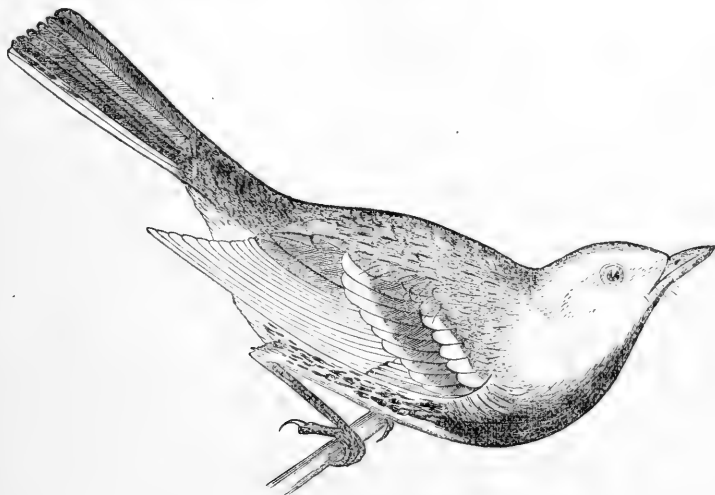


FIG. 11.—Black-throated Green Warbler, nat. size.

**73.** (69.) *Dendroeca cœrulescens* (Linn.) Bd. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.

Spring and autumn migrant, like the preceding, and during the same periods; rather less numerous, and perhaps oftener seen in thickets. [117]

*D. cœrulea*, the Cœrulean Warbler, undoubtedly occurs, and will be found in the course of time; but we have never known it to be seen here.

**38.** (70.) *Dendroeca coronata* (Linn.) Gray. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.

A winter resident; extremely abundant, especially during the spring migrations, when the numbers which pass the winter are recruited by arrivals from the South, before all go off together. They arrive from the North the first or second week in October, and do not disappear until the second week in the following May. They are songless whilst with us, having only a simple chirping note, but just before they leave they

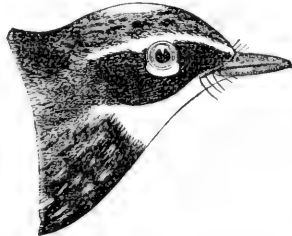


FIG. 12.—Head of Yellow-rumped Warbler, nat. size.

acquire their complete wedding dress, having moulted in April. The process seems to be protracted during the whole of that month, when most individuals shot are found to be in patchy garb; spick-span specimens, however, are to be caught early in May, just before they leave. They are most numerous in April and October, least so in the depth of winter. They are to be found everywhere, but are fondest of hedges, copses, orchards, and cedar thickets, which they haunt in troops, accompanied by titmice and sparrows. A specimen was taken in spring of 1882, in which the throat patch had a decided yellow tinge to the new feathers, looking very much like an Audubon's Warbler. [119]

**39.** (71.) *Dendroeca blackburnæ* (Gm.) Bd. BLACKBURN'S WARBLER.

A spring and autumn migrant; does not breed here. In spring, May 1 to the 20th; in fall, September 1 to the 25th. Common in high, open woods, with *virens*, *cærulescens*, *striata*, and others. Very lovely specimens of this Prometheus unbound are to be had just before their departure in spring. In 1882 they entered the city like the many other beautiful sylvan apparitions which graced that memorable season, and we saw them for several days flashing through the streets and parks. [121]

**40.** (75.) *Dendroeca striata* (Forst.) Bd. BLACK-POLL WARBLER.

An abundant spring and autumn migrant; none breed here. In spring,



FIG. 13.—Head of Black-poll Warbler, nat. size.

May 7 to June 1; in fall, September 1 to second week in October. Thus at both seasons the Black-poll arrives latest and stays longest of all the



strictly migratory Warblers. They are also the most numerous of all, particularly in the fall. High, open woodland, everywhere. In the spring when the Black-polls appear in force we may know that the collecting season for Warblers is about over. [122]

**41.** (72.) *Dendroæca castanea* (Wils.) Bd. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.

Spring and autumn migrant; none breed here. In spring, May 1 to 20; in fall, during the whole month of September, and more numerous than at the other season, for in spring they are not to be entirely depended upon. They are usually to be found in high, open woodland, but sometimes in mixed young timber, laurel brakes, &c. [123]

**42.** (74.) *Dendroæca pennsylvanica* (Linn.) Bd. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.

An abundant spring and autumn migrant; does not breed here. In spring, from May 1 to the 25th; in fall, September 1 to the 20th.

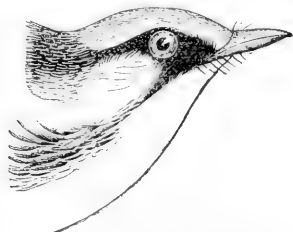


FIG. 14.—Head of Chestnut-sided Warbler, nat. size.

Found in high, open woods. In 1882 the little creatures showed their snowy bosoms and pretty chestnut lacings on the streets. [124]

**43.** (77.) *Dendroæca maculosa* (Gm.) Bd. BLACK-AND-YELLOW WARBLER; MAGNOLIA WARBLER.

An abundant spring and autumn migrant; does not breed here. Arrives first week in May, and remains through the third; reappears by the

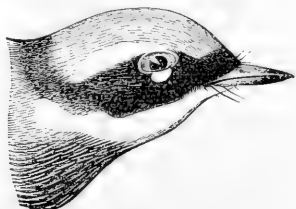


FIG. 15.—Head of Magnolia Warbler, nat. size.

first of September, and does not depart till the second week in October. This is another of the beautiful birds which graced the fancy ball we had in '82. [125]

**44.** (78.) *Dendroæca tigrina* (Gm.) Bd. CAPE MAY WARBLER.

Extremely rare; a migrant only, with times of arrival and departure doubtless not peculiar. We obtained a single specimen September 12, 1859; in what was then "Hawes' woods," now opposite the Schützenfest Park on Seventh street. This remained a unique occurrence till 1882, when Cape May came to Washington. We saw none actually in the

streets, it is true, but they were comparatively plentiful about the city, no fewer than *nine specimens* having been taken to our knowledge during the second and third weeks in May. Some of these were in the finest feather we ever saw. We can give no directions for finding Cape Mays, except that they are birds of the high, open woodland, like most of the genus *Dendrœca*. Besides being so rare, they are shy, and not likely to be secured except through careful searching. . . . . [126]

**45.** (80.) *Dendrœca discolor* (Wils.) Bd. PRAIRIE WARBLER.

This is chiefly a spring and autumn migrant, being most numerous during those periods, but some breed here. It is one of the earlier arrivals, about the 20th of April; its disappearance we have failed to note. It frequents almost exclusively patches of cedar and pine trees, in sterile, sandy fields, particularly old fields growing up to scrub pines, where it can almost certainly be predicted. Many such are found on the hillsides bordering Rock Creek, and there the peculiar-mannered little bird with the singular chirring notes will always be found in due season. [127]

**46.** (79.) *Dendrœca dominica* (Linn.) Bd. (*D. superciliosa* of the original edition.)  
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER.

This is a southern species, of rare and casual occurrence with us. We have learned of but two instances—a specimen having been obtained in 1842, which is still preserved in the Smithsonian, and another shot at Arlington September 7, 1881, by Mr. William Palmer. This is now No. 84858 of the United States National Museum, as noted by Mr. Ridgway in the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, vii, 1882, p. 253. Mr. Palmer also informs us that he found the bird “abundant” at Cherry-stone, on the eastern shore of Virginia, in July, 1881. [129]

**47.** (81.) *Dendrœca palmarum* (Gm.) Bd. YELLOW RED-POLL WARBLER.

A spring and autumn migrant, rather rare; does not breed with us. It arrives in spring, about the 1st of May, and returns tardily in the fall—not until late in September, departing again not before the middle of October, when all the other Warblers excepting the Yellow-rumps have taken leave of us. Its habits are peculiar, in comparison with its congeners; for it is something of a ground Warbler, like species of *Oporornis*, and in its manners reminds one somewhat of a Titlark. It frequents old corn and buckwheat fields, hedge-rows, and road-sides, often associating with Yellow-rumps, Titmice and various sparrows. [132, 133]

Specimens from this locality are supposed to be referable to Mr. Ridgway’s var. *hypochrysea*; but one in the National Museum, shot May 18, 1881, by Mr. Lewis McCormick, is said to be *typical palmarum*.

**48.** (73.) *Dendrœca pinus* (Bartr.) Bd. PINE-CREEPING WARBLER.

A summer resident; in this respect only matched in the genus by *astiva* and *discolor*. Arrives early in March and remains until October. It is not very common and breeds but sparingly. It is to be found in high, open woods, particularly pines. [134]

Of the species of *Dendroica* known to occur in North America, fourteen have been found in the District. There has been no addition to the list since 1862. Not one of the fourteen is a permanent resident. Only three breed here (*astiva*, *discolor*, *pinus*); only one is found in winter (*coronata*); there are nine spring and autumn migrants, of which seven (*virens*, *caerulescens*, *blackburnæ*, *castanea*, *pennsylvanica*, *striata*, *maculosa*) do not differ materially in numbers, habits, resorts, or periods of migration. One (*palmarum*) differs notably in these particulars; one (*tigrina*) is extremely rare; one (*dominica*) is merely a straggler. There is at least one more to come into the list (*caerulea*).

49. (65.) *Siurus auricapillus* (Linn.) Sw. GOLDEN-CROWNED THRUSH; OVEN-BIRD.

An extremely abundant summer resident. It arrives April 12, and for about two weeks keeps perfectly silent, hiding in the thickets and laurel brakes (*Kalmia latifolia*), until the spur of the sexual exaltation is felt. About the 1st of May its loud, harsh, monotonous notes fill the woods, greatly to the annoyance of the collector who searches with his senses all on the alert for rarer and more retiring species. To atone for this, however, a little later still in the season, the bird breaks forth in a song of exquisite pathos and extraordinary power. It is found any-



FIG. 16.—Head of Golden-crowned Thrush, nat. size.

where in woodland, but particularly where high timber shadows thick undergrowth. The ravines and hillsides along Rock Creek, where the forests tower over the brakes, fairly resound with the accelerated chant of the Golden-crown during the latter part of April and early in May. It is not at all aquatic, but is fond of rambling over the ground and rustling among the fallen leaves for insects. When disturbed, it takes a short flight to the nearest convenient bough, where it sits motionless, watching the intruder. The nest is built on the ground, more or less arched over, and contains white, spotted eggs. [135]

50. (66.) *Siurus nævius* Bodd. Coues. (*S. noveboracensis* of the original edition.) WATER WAGTAIL; SMALL-BILLED WATER THRUSH.

Quite common during the migrations. It also appears to breed here sparingly, as we have found it in July. Arrives in spring, according to our observations, about May 1, but so secretive and retiring a species may easily elude observation, and we should not be surprised to know that it comes along much earlier than we have ever known it to do. It is eminently aquatic; swampy thickets, marshes, and gloomy woods interspersed with puddles are favorite resorts. We have sometimes found it in such places associated with *Rhyacophilus solitarius*. [136]

**51.** (67.) *Siurus motacilla* (Vieill.) Bp. (*S. Indocianus* of the original edition.)  
LARGE-BILLED WATER THRUSH.

This bird, generally considered so rare, we have found to be not at all uncommon at certain seasons in particular localities. From the 20th of April to the 10th of May it may always be procured by an acute collector in the dense laurel brakes which border the banks and fill the ravines leading into Rock Creek and Piney Branch. We have found it as early as April 10, and we think we have seen it in June. If the latter observation be correct, it would prove it to breed here, as undoubtedly it does. We have not detected it in the fall. It is usually very shy, when disturbed darting at once into the most impenetrable brakes, but we have sometimes seen it quite the reverse, and once shot a pair, one after the other, as they sat in full view before us, unconcernedly wagging their tails. We have nearly always found it in pairs, even so early as April 28. The usual note is a sparrow-like chirp, resembling the sound made when two pebbles are struck together; but there is also a loud and most melodious song, the beauty of which first drew our attention to this attractive bird. [138]

**52.** (57.) *Oporornis agilis* (Wils.) Bd. CONNECTICUT WARBLER.

Rather uncommon in the fall during the month of October. It is extremely rare in the spring, and we have ourselves never seen it at that season excepting in 1882, when several specimens were taken. Mr. E. W. Nelson secured one in the District that year the 30th of May. In May, 1879, one was taken at Falls Church by Mr. L. McCormick, as we are informed by Mr. Palmer. In the fall of the year it is comparatively easy to obtain. We cannot give the exact dates of its arrival and departure. It frequents low thickets in swampy places and also old buckwheat and cornfields, searching for food among the rank, dry weeds of autumn, not unlike the *Dendroica palmarum*. [139]

**53.** (58.) *Oporornis formosa* (Wils.) Bd. KENTUCKY WARBLER.

Rare summer resident, a few breeding with us; but its times of arrival and departure we have not ascertained. It is a quiet but not shy bird,

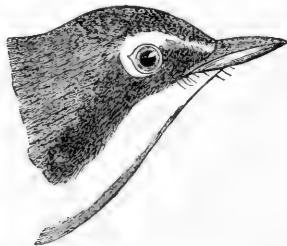


FIG. 17.—Head of Kentucky Warbler, nat. size.

found chiefly in low woods where the undergrowth is thickest, the ravines leading into Rock Creek, and similar sequestered resorts. Mr. H. W. Henshaw has found it nesting on Rock Creek, and Mr. William Palmer has secured three specimens, one on the Virginia side of the

river about half a mile above Aqueduct Bridge, August 19, 1877, and the others near Spring Vale, Fairfax County, Virginia, May 14 and 15, 1878. [140]

**54.** (56.) *Geothlypis trichas* (Linn.) Cab. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.

A very abundant summer resident, breeding plentifully in all suitable localities. It arrives April 25, becoming suddenly very numerous, the males in full song. During the pairing and breeding season the ener-

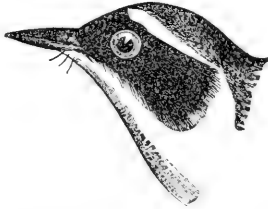


FIG. 18.—Head of Maryland Yellow-throat, nat. size.

getic *whit-itee, whit-itee*, may be heard from almost any patch of briars or reeds, especially in swampy localities. The bird is never seen in high open woods, and seldom even in orchards and hedge-rows, but frequently in the tracts of *Zizania aquatica*, associated with the Marsh Wrens. The nest is built on the ground and artfully concealed; the eggs are white, speckled. The bird remains until October, and sometimes during a part of that month. [141]

**55.** (—.) *Geothlypis philadelphia* (Wils.) Bd. MOURNING WARBLER.

Not in the original edition, no specimen having been seen up to that date. One was observed by Mr. L. E. Chittenden in the spring of 1862, confirming the remark we had made that the species was “undoubtedly an inhabitant of the District.” This discovery remained in our MS. until published by Mr. Jouy in 1877. Nothing further was heard of the rare straggler for nearly twenty years. Mr. William Palmer saw it for the first time in May, 1877, when he was unable to secure the individual. He, however, shot one on the 19th of August, 1877, about half a mile above Aqueduct Bridge. He observed two, one of which was shot at Laurel in May, 1878, and has still another shot at Falls Church, May 19, 1879. In the phenomenal season of 1882, in May, one was shot by ourselves in the undergrowth of a wooded hillside on Rock Creek, and another was seen in the same place, but not obtained, by Mr. H. W. Henshaw. These several individuals are the only ones we have heard of in the District. [142]

**56.** (59.) *Icteria virens* (Linn.) Bd. YELLOW-BREADED CHAT.

This singular bird abounds in brushwood and shrubbery during the summer—more precisely, from the last week in April until the second or third week in September. The thickest and most obdurate briar patches suit it best. There, effectually screened from observation, it delights in the exercise of its extraordinary vocal powers, and is such an accomplished ventriloquist that one never knows where the bird

making the strange sounds is secreted. It is also wary and vigilant, shifting its post on the least alarm, and adding to the perplexity of the collector who would possess himself of the brilliant green and golden trophy. Not less peculiar and exaggerated than its vocal efforts are the aerial evolutions it performs during the mating season. When this



FIG. 19.—Head of Yellow-breasted Chat, nat. size.

is over its extravagant antics cease, and the Chat becomes a much more orderly member of the feathered fraternity. We presume he would never behave as he does if the females had no hand in the matter; they appear to be the cause of all the disturbance. The nest is placed on a low bush, built chiefly of twigs and grasses; the eggs are 4 or 5, white, spotted, and blotched with reddish-brown. At the height of the breeding season the chrome-yellow of the throat is sometimes intensified in patches of red, a thing which also happens occasionally to the Prothonotary Warbler. [144]

**57.** (82.) *Myiodioides mitratus* (Gm.) Aud. HOODED FLYCATCHING WARBLER.

A rare spring and autumn migrant; perhaps also a summer visitant. It is, however, little more than a straggler, and one concerning which

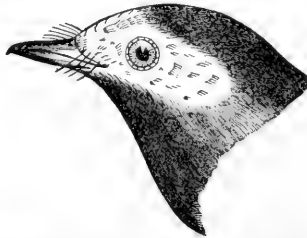


FIG. 20.—Head of Hooded Flycatching Warbler, nat. size.

we have scarcely any information to offer. In the spring of 1882 one was seen by Prof. Baird in the yard of his residence. [146]

**58.** (83.) *Myiodioides pusillus* (Wils.) Bp. GREEN BLACK-CAPPED FLYCATCHING WARBLER.

A spring and autumn migrant. "A few may breed" was said in



FIG. 21.—Head of Green Black-capped Flycatching Warbler, nat. size.

the original edition, but as yet we have no confirmation of this probably

erroneous surmise. It has been found chiefly among young willows along the banks of streams, as Rock Creek and its tributaries. [147]

**59.** (84.) *Myiodioides canadensis* (Linn.) Aud. CANADA FLYCATCHING WARBLER.

An abundant spring and autumn migrant, frequenting high open woods, where it keeps mostly among the lower branches of the trees,

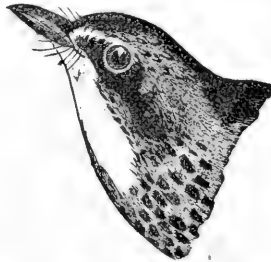


FIG. 22. —Head of Canada Flycatching Warbler, nat. size.

and also the more open undergrowth of marshy places. Arrives the last week in April, and remains about two weeks; returns the first week in September, and stays until the fourth. [149]

**60.** (85.) *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linn.) Sw. REDSTART.

This fiery little fellow, whose flaming colors reflect the ardor within, is chiefly a spring and autumn migrant, but very few individuals remaining during the summer to breed. It is extremely abundant in the spring, from April 25 to May 20, and no less so in the fall, from September 1 to the 20th of that month, in all woodland and wooded swampy places. The ordinary note is not unlike that of the Summer Warbler, but the actions and whole appearance are unmistakable. Its most characteristic actions are those of running sideways along small twigs, and incessant expanding of the tail. The spring migrations embrace males in a garb resembling that of the female; others in a patchy transition state to the perfected colors, and others, again, which have completed their toilet. [152]

#### Family TANAGRIDÆ: Tanagers.

**61.** (86.) *Pyranga rubra* (Linn.) Vieill. SCARLET TANAGER.

This brilliant creature is chiefly a spring and autumn migrant, but a few breed here. The spring passage is from the 1st to the last week of May; the autumnal, from the 1st to the 3d week of September. It is found in high, open woodland, and is quite common in the months named. In 1882 it came into the city with numberless other strange guests, which the people took to be exotic birds, and made a beautiful display; for example, a flock of Scarlet Tanagers was seen in one tree in the Smithsonian Grounds, making almost a tropical scene, with hundreds of Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Redstarts, and Warblers scarcely less gay. [154]

**62.** (87.) *Pyranga æstiva* (Linn.) Vieill. SUMMER TANAGER; SUMMER RED-BIRD.

A resident during the season to which the bird is dedicated, but not

abundant. The genus and family are essentially tropical, *Pyrranga* being the only North American form, and the present species being more restricted in its range than *P. rubra*. It does not arrive until May, and leaves about the third week in September. Its resorts are high, open woods, especially those containing much undergrowth. The nest is a shallow, flat structure, saddled upon a horizontal bough; the eggs are spotted. [155]

Family HIRUNDINIDÆ: Swallows.

**63.** (88.) *Hirundo erythrogastra horreorum* (Bart.) Coues. BARN SWALLOW.

An abundant summer resident; rather less so than formerly, there being more houses and fewer barns in the immediate vicinity of the city.

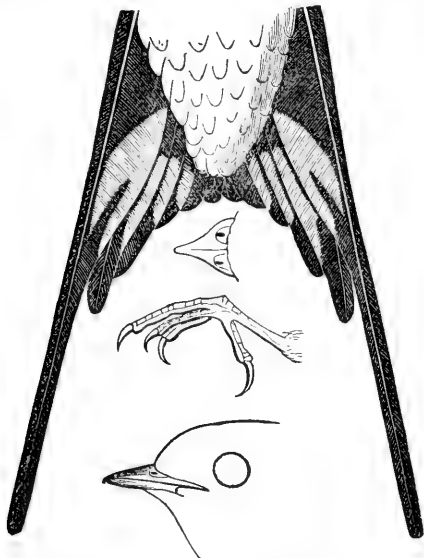


FIG. 23.—Details of form of Barn Swallow.

Arrives March 25 (on an average) and remains until September 12, or a little later, varying different seasons with the weather. [159]

**64.** (90.) *Iridoprocne bicolor* (Vieill.) Coues. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW.

A common summer resident, but less abundant than the Barn Swallow. Arrives the first week in April and remains until September 12, or thereabouts, according to the weather. [160]

**65.** (89.) *Petrochelidon lunifrons* (Say.) Cab. CLIFF OR EAVES SWALLOW.

A summer resident, but not nearly so abundant as the Barn Swallow, owing to lack of suitable breeding places. Arrives last week in April and remains until September 12, or thereabouts. [162]

**66.** (91.) *Cotile riparia* (Linn.) Boie. BANK SWALLOW.

A summer resident; very abundant. It is the most numerous of the Swallows, particularly in the fall, just before its departure, when flocks



of thousands are to be seen. There are many exposures along the river and elsewhere which afford eligible nesting sites to colonies of Bank Swallows. It usually arrives late, perhaps not till the second week in May, and departs about the middle of September. On the 23d of August, 1859, an albino was shot by Mr. Louis D. Coues, and the specimen is still preserved in the Smithsonian. [163]

**67.** (92.) *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (Aud.) Bd. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.

A summer resident, but not common. Still it may always be found along the Potomac in the neighborhood of Little Falls, where it breeds on the cliffs. Arrives the third week in April and departs about the middle of September. [164]

**68.** (93.) *Progne subis* (Linn.) Bd. (*P. purpurea* of the original edition.) PURPLE MARTIN.

A summer resident; common. Arrives the 1st of May and leaves early in September. Many still breed in the city, about the public buildings, nesting in the capitals of the columns, especially of the General Post-Office. But they have had a hard fight for it with the English Sparrows, and though able to hold their own when once engaged, they are so much harried and worried that their numbers have sensibly diminished since the introduction of the pests. [165]

#### Family AMPELIDÆ: Chatterers.

**69.** (94.) *Ampelis cedrorum* (Vieill.) Bd. CEDAR-BIRD; CEDAR WAXWING; "CEDAR-LARK."

Resident all the year round, and abundant, particularly in the fall. These birds are highly gregarious, being almost always seen in compact flocks. They breed the latest of all our summer residents, being



FIG. 24.—Head of Cedar-bird, nat. size.

observed to flock as late as the first week in June. They are less frequently observed during the breeding than at other seasons. In the fall, when they grow very fat, they are frequently offered for sale in the markets. [167]

## Family VIREONIDÆ: Greenlets.

**70.** (96.) *Vireo olivaceus* (Linn.) Vieill. RED-EYED GREENLET.

A summer resident, and decidedly the most abundant of all the woodland birds during that season. It is found in every piece of high, open woods from the 15th of April to the 20th of September, and is one of the most industrious and persevering of songsters, whose voice not even the noon of the dog-days can still. [170]

*Vireo philadelphicus*, the Brotherly-love Greenlet, is undoubtedly a rare inhabitant of the District, liable to turn up any spring or fall.

**71.** (97.) *Vireo gilvus* (Vieill.) Bp. WARBLING GREENLET.

A common summer resident, arriving April 20 and remaining until September 20. It frequents orchards, gardens, and parks, sometimes swampy copses, but was specially abundant in the city, breeding in the tall sycamores and poplars, before the irritating English Sparrows diminished the numbers of the gentle, silvery-tongued creatures. [174]

**72.** (99.) *Vireo flavifrons* Vieill. YELLOW-THROATED GREENLET.

A summer resident, abundant in high, open woods. Arrives April 25; remains until September 25. The hanging basket in which the Greenlet cradles its hopes is one of the most beautiful of the pensile structures which birds of this family fabricate, being elegantly stuccoed with lichens, like a Gnat-catcher's or Humming-bird's. [176]

**73.** (98.) *Vireo solitarius* Vieill. BLUE-HEADED GREENLET.

This is much the rarest of the Greenlets; we have seldom observed it, and only during the migration; but some individuals doubtless breed with us. Arrives in the spring, April 25, and is sometimes found until October 20. It is a woodland species, like the Red-eyed and Yellow-throated. In the spring of 1882, like most other migrants, it was more numerous than usual. [177]

**74.** (—.) *Vireo noveboracensis* (Gm.) Bp. WHITE-EYED GREENLET.

By a pure oversight this species was omitted from the original edition of this catalogue, for we were perfectly familiar with the energetic, obtrusive little inhabitant of the shrubbery, where it resides in large numbers during the summer. It arrives late in April, and leaves the latter part of September. It has had hard work to get properly represented; we remember looking for it when the proofs of Mr. Jouy's list were submitted to our inspection, and making sure that it went in. [181]

## Family LANIIDÆ: Shrikes.

**75.** (95.) *Lanius borealis* Vieill. GREAT NORTHERN SHRIKE, or BUTCHER BIRD.

Very rare, and scarcely to be seen except in severe winter weather. We have only known of two or three specimens procured in the District, which appears to be about the southern limit of the species. [186]

**76.** (—.) *Lanius ludovicianus* Linn. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.**

Not in the original edition. Rare or casual, but has several times been observed, and probably belongs to the category of permanent residents. Mr. William Palmer informs us that he obtained a specimen about the 6th of October, 1880, and that the Loggerhead has also been procured by Mr. Henry Marshall, at Laurel, Md. Mr. Ridgway has lately published the following note on the occurrence of the species in the District: "Several specimens of this irregularly distributed, and everywhere more or less local, species have within the last few years been taken in the vicinity of Washington, and are now in the collection of the National Museum. Most if not all of them were taken in winter." (Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, vii, 1882, p. 253.) [187]

## Family FRINGILLIDÆ: Finches, &amp;c.

**77.** (—.) *Passer domesticus* (Linn.) Koch. **PHILIP SPARROW; ENGLISH SPARROW; EUROPEAN SPARROW; TRAMP; PARASITE; HOODLUM.**

This nuisance was introduced some years after our list appeared; and so far from there being any prospect of its abatement it has increased each year. There is said to be a remedy for every ill under the sun, but none has been found as yet for this one, notwithstanding the ceaseless complaints and protests that we hear from all sides. The rowdy little *gamins* squeak and fight and do worse all through the city, to the annoyance and disgust of nearly all persons. In the aggregate the suffering they entail upon invalids and those prostrated by sickness is immeasurable. Washington harbors and encourages a select assortment of noise-nuisances—the black newspaper imps who screech every one deaf on Sunday morning; the fresh-fish fiends, the berry brutes, the soap-fat scoundrels, and the o' clo' devils; the milk mercenaries with their detonating gongs; but all these have their exits as well as their entrances; the Sparrows alone are tireless, ubiquitous, sempiternal. They begin just about the time one of the authors of this treatise generally goes to bed and tries to go to sleep—towards daybreak—and keep it up till their voices swell in a diapason of horror with those of the other unspeakable wretches above alluded to. They breed during the greater part of the year—breed at a year old—keep breeding—breed numberlessly. In place of many sweet songsters which used to grace and enliven our streets, we have these animated manure machines, as almost every house-owner in the city knows to his cost. Whatever may be said to the contrary notwithstanding, the Sparrows, besides persecuting the human species, do molest, harass, drive off, and otherwise maltreat and forcibly evict and attempt to destroy various kinds of native birds, which are thereby deprived of certain inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness after their own fashion. To offset all this what have we? Nothing, absolutely nothing. [192]

- 78.** (115.) *Pinicola enucleator* (Linn.) Vieille. (*P. canadensis* of the original edition.)  
PINE GROSBEEK.

An extremely rare and probably only accidental visitor in severe winters. [190]



FIG. 25.—Pine Grosbeak.

- 79.** (116.) *Carpodacus purpureus* (Gm.) Gray. PURPLE FINCH.

A winter visitant, very abundant at that season, and highly gregarious. It arrives from the North early in October, and remains until May; stragglers may indeed be seen during most of that month, but the majority of the birds depart as soon as the leaves are fully expanded

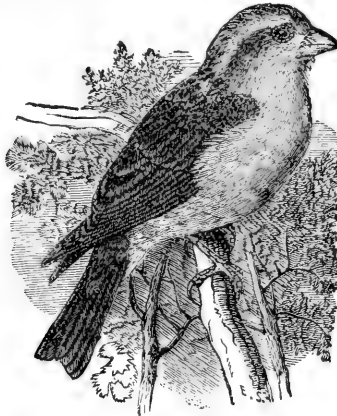


FIG. 26.—Purple Finch.

and the buds and blossoms upon which they delight to feed are no longer to be secured. They frequent high, open woods, the shade trees along roadsides, the fruit trees of orchards, and come into full song before their departure. [194]

- 80.** (—.) *Loxia leucoptera* Gm. WHITE-WINGED CROSS-BILL; and

**81.** (—.) *Loxia curvirostra americana* (Wils.) Coues. AMERICAN RED CROSS-BILL.

We said of these species in the original edition that both undoubtedly sometimes make their appearance in severe winters, though we had not been able to ascertain the fact with certainty. It has since been established, and both the Cross-bills have been introduced as stragglers in Mr.

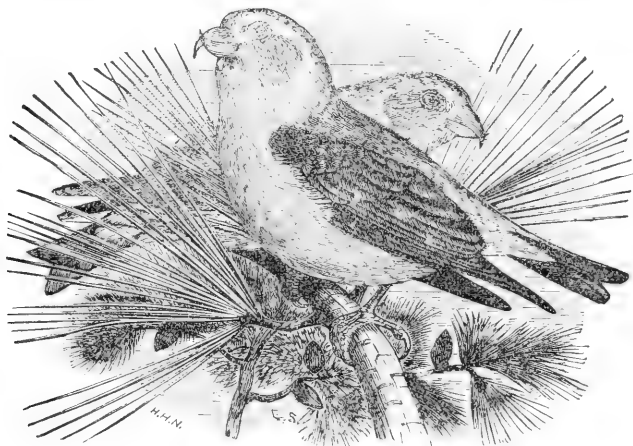


FIG. 27.—American Red Cross-bill.

Joy's catalogue. Mr. William Palmer states in a note addressed to us: "Early in December, 1874, I saw a flock of about 20 Red Cross-bills in a pine tree on the bank of the canal in Alexandria County, Virginia, and about two weeks later I shot one, a female, out of a flock of five. I have myself never seen the White-winged Cross-bill here, but Mr. Henry

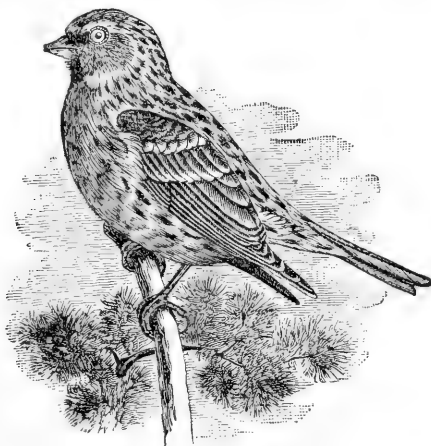


FIG. 28.—Common Red-poll.

Marshall has specimens which he shot at Laurel, Md., about eight years ago, probably 1874, since which time he has seen none." [198, 199]

**82.** (119.) *Ægiothus linaria* (Linn.) Cab. COMMON RED-POLL.

A rare and irregular, perhaps only accidental, visitor in severe win-

ters, when it appears in restless, roving flocks of greater or less extent. [207]

**83.** (118.) *Chrysomitris pinus* (Bartr.) Bp. AMERICAN SISKIN; PINE LINNET.

A winter resident, rather uncommon. It is always in flocks with us, and frequently associated with Goldfinches. Its period of arrival from

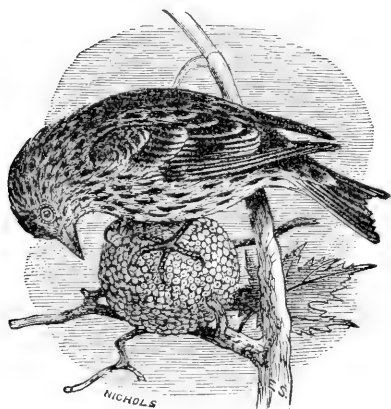


FIG. 29.—Pine Linnet.

the North is uncertain, depending much upon the weather; it usually remains until May. [212]

**84.** (117.) *Astragalinus tristis* (Linn.) Cab. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH; YELLOW-BIRD; THISTLE-BIRD; "BRIER-BIRD."

A permanent resident, formerly exceedingly abundant, and still common, though sensibly diminished in numbers. This appears to be owing in part to the reclamation of large tracts formerly waste and full of rank weeds, partly to the multiplication of the English Sparrows. Gold-



FIG. 30.—American Goldfinch.

finches formerly bred all through the city, in the poplars and maples shading the streets, where none are seen now. They are gregarious out of the breeding season, collecting in large flocks about the 25th of

September, and continuing so until May; the period of flocking coinciding very nearly with that during which birds are in the dull, "flaxen" attire. [213]

**85.** (120.) *Plectrophanes nivalis* (Linn.) Meyer. SNOW BUNTING; SNOW FLAKE.

A rare winter visitant in the depth of winter, wholly irregular and uncertain. [219]

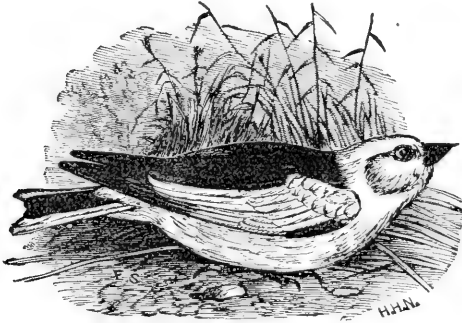


FIG. 31.—Snow Bunting.

*P. lapponicus* may also visit us occasionally under the same circumstances, but, if so, the fact remains to be determined, as it did in 1862.

**86.** (121.) *Passerculus sandvicensis savana* (Wils.) Ridg. SAVANNA SPARROW.

Chiefly a spring and autumn migrant; none breed here, but a few doubtless winter in secluded situations. It is very numerous on low, moist meadows and watery savannas from March 15 to the first week

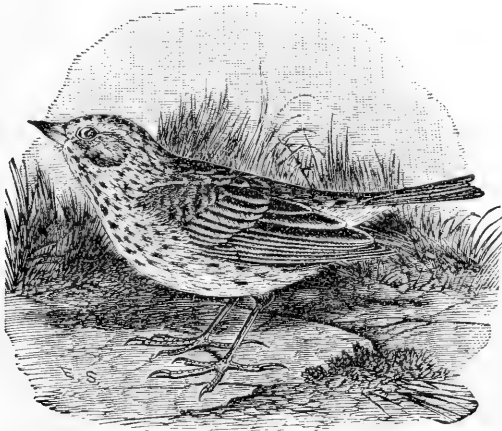


FIG. 32.—Savanna Sparrow.

in May, and from October 10 to November 10. It is a shy and retiring species, keeping on the ground or among low, thick bushes, in companies sometimes of considerable size. It comes into full song before it departs in the spring. There is a wide range of individual and seasonal variation in size and color. [227]

**87.** (122.) *Poœcetes gramineus* (*Gm.*) *Bd.* GRASS FINCH; BAY-WINGED BUNTING.

Resident all the year; very numerous in spring and autumn, during the migrations, less so in summer and winter, as the greater number of individuals go farther north and farther south at the seasons named. It is to be found in high, dry fields, along roadsides and hedgerows, usually in small flocks, readily identified by the white feathers which show on each

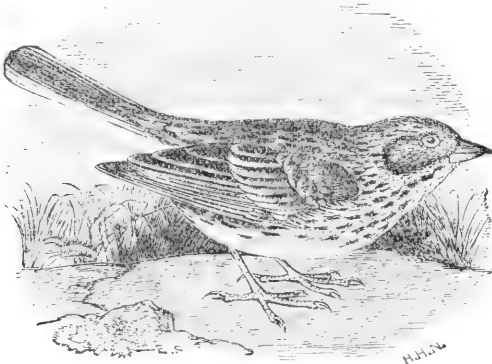


FIG. 33.—Grass Finch.

side of the tail as the bird flies. Besides the ordinary chirping note, it has a sweet and tender song during the breeding season, especially just at sun-down; whence the poetical name of "Vesper-bird." The nest is placed on the ground, so sunken that its brim is flush with the surface; the eggs are heavily spotted. [232]

**88.** (123.) *Coturniculus passerinus* (*Wils.*) *Bp.* YELLOW-WINGED SPARROW; GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.

A summer resident, abundant in old weedy fields and seedy meadows,



FIG. 34.—Yellow-winged Sparrow.

where it keeps closely concealed in the rank herbage, and is, therefore, not easily discovered. Its ordinary flight is very brief, rapid, and des-



ultory; its song a singular chirruping, like the stridulation of some insect. It arrives April 25, and remains until the 25th of October. The nest is sunken in the ground, and contains four or five pure white eggs speckled with brownish-red. [234]

**89.** (124.) *Coturniculus henslowi* (*Aud.*) *Bp.* HENSLOW'S BUNTING.

A summer resident, common in certain localities, but apparently not generally distributed through the District. In the original edition we marked this species as "exceedingly rare," but a single specimen having up to that time been known to us to have been procured. Of late years, however, it has been frequently found by Mr. Jouy, Mr. Ridgway, and others, both in fields about Old Soldiers' Home and Rock Creek Church, and across the river, in Virginia, in the vicinity of Falls Church. The nest and eggs have been found by Mr. Jouy, who has published a notice of them. (*Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club*, vi, 1881, p. 57.) [236]

**90.** (—.) *Ammodramus caudacutus* (*Wils.*) *Sw.* SHARP-TAILED FINCH.

Not in the original edition; rare and casual. Shortly after our list was published, Mr. C. Drexler took a specimen of this species, which is now in the United States National Museum, No. 25905, September, 1862. (See *Ridgway, Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club*, vii, 1882, p. 253.) [240]

**91.** (133.) *Melospiza palustris* (*Bartr.*) *Bd.* SWAMP SPARROW.

Chiefly a spring and autumn migrant, though a few probably winter with the Song Sparrows in secluded places; doubtless none breed with



FIG. 35.—Swamp Sparrow.

us. It is one of the most retiring of all the sparrows, seldom coming under the observation of any but the most diligent and practiced ob-

servers. We have not observed it in spring before the last week in April, nor in the fall before the second week in October; but it comes and goes so slyly that it is very likely to be overlooked. It appears to be more numerous in the fall than at the opposite season. [243]

*Melospiza lincolni*, in all probability, is an inhabitant of the District, though we had never found it in 1862; nor has it since been seen here by others to our knowledge.

**92.** (131.) *Melospiza fasciata* (Gm.) Scott. (*M. melodia* of the original edition.)  
SONG SPARROW.

A permanent resident, extremely abundant, particularly in winter, at which season it is our commonest sparrow. During the inclement season it gathers in companies which seclude themselves in the shelter of intricate shrubbery, particularly in marshes and along the banks of the

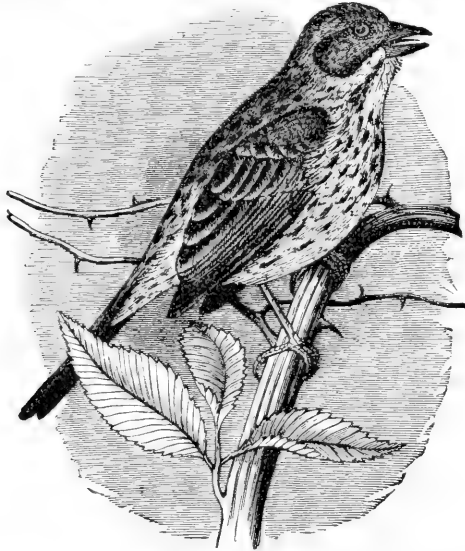


FIG. 36.—Song Sparrow.

river and lesser streams. An occasional stave is heard from the melodious creatures even under these circumstances; and with the earliest breath of spring the rich and tender voices are heard in full song. This is one of the birds which holds its own best against the foreign Sparrows. It still breeds in numbers in the parks and private shrubberies throughout the city—in the Smithsonian Grounds, for instance—where a Song Sparrow seldom fails to salute us cheerily as we pass to and from our daily desk. [244]

**93.** (127.) *Junco hiemalis* (Linn.) ScL. SNOW-BIRD.

A winter resident. It arrives with the first cold snap, generally the 10th or 12th of October; soon becomes very numerous, and so continues until the 15th of April following. The main body of the birds then departs for the North or for the mountains to the west of us. It goes in

flocks all the while it is with us, and comes into full song just before it leaves. In pleasant weather it retires to the woods, and keeps close in the shrubbery of thickets and ravines; but snow-storms send it trooping to our door-steps, even in the heart of the city. We still see it in

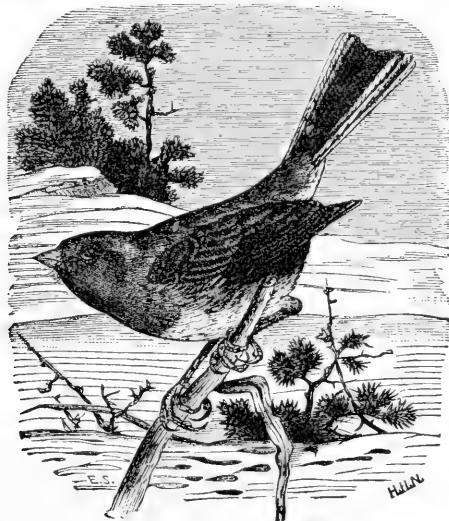


FIG. 37.—Snow-bird.

the bits of ground about our K and N street houses, in the honeysuckle and wistaria vines, the climbing rose-bushes over the back porch, and the hibiscus shrub.

Many who suppose the Snow-bird to belong to the high north are surprised at the suddenness with which it appears and disappears according to the weather, wondering how it can accomplish the supposed long journey so quickly. But the bird breeds anywhere in what is known as the "Canadian Faunal Province," which, only coming down to sea level in the latitude of Middle New England, stretches south along the Appalachian chains to the Carolinas, and even Georgia. We have ourselves found the nest of the Snow bird *south* of the latitude of Washington, among the higher mountains of Virginia. Under these circumstances, it is, of course, only a matter of a day or two for the birds to visit us from their summer homes, and to retire on occasion to their mountain fastnesses. [261]

**91.** (128.) *Spizella monticola* (Gm.) Bd. TREE SPARROW.

With the exception of *Melospiza fasciata*, this is our most abundant winter Sparrow. It comes late from the North, usually not till the 1st of November, and is off, returning in the spring, about the 1st of April. It is a hardy, cheery little bird, enduring great cold without inconvenience, and singing its merry stave under the most dreary surroundings. It is almost always seen in flocks haunting the heart of the briar-patches and other most impenetrable shrubbery. In former years, when the "slashes"

were in existence as a large marshy tract, north of N street, between Fourteenth and Twenty-first, now entirely built up, the birds could always be found in the thick bushes, between the dates above named. [268]

**95.** (129.) *Spizella domestica* (Bartr.) Coues. (*S. socialis* of the original edition.)  
CHIPPING SPARROW; CHIP-BIRD.

A summer resident, abundant, and half-domesticated, like the House Wren; breeds in orchards, gardens, shrubbery, and vines about houses,

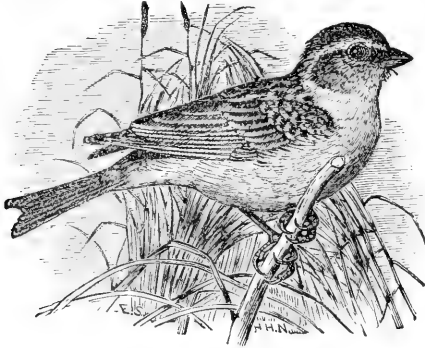


FIG. 38.—Chipping Sparrow.

&c.; but a favorite site for the pretty hair-lined nest is the heart of a cedar-bush. Chippy comes betimes, usually the second week in March, and remains until October 10, when the Snow-birds usually make their appearance. [269]

**96.** (130.) *Spizella agrestis* (Bartr.) Coues. FIELD SPARROW. (*S. pusilla* of the original edition.)

Resident all the year round. This humble inhabitant of the bramble and briar is especially abundant in the spring time, less so in summer and autumn; and in the winter, when probably most individuals move south, is only found occasionally in secluded situations, such as shelter the Song Sparrows and the Tree Sparrows. Its sweet, simple song is occasionally heard in the fall, and very frequently during the spring months. The nest is placed in some low, isolated bush, briar, or weed-patch, in the field, quite close to the ground. One individual which we procured was a partial albino, patched here and there with pure white in the midst of normal coloration. [271]

**97.** (126.) *Zonotrichia albicollis* (Gm) Bp. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.

This large and handsome species is chiefly a spring and autumn migrant, but numbers spend the winter with us in sheltered places. It arrives early in October, and is extremely abundant during that month; then, after the winter decrease, it becomes very numerous again the 1st of April, and so continues until May 12, when it departs for its northern summer home. It is mostly gregarious while here, frequenting briar-patches, shrubbery, hedges, road-sides, and the like during the fall and winter, but as spring advances it is often seen in open woods

upon the ground. Its well-known limpid song, which has given it the name of the "Peabody-bird" in some sections, is heard both in spring and fall, but especially during the former season. The White-throat is

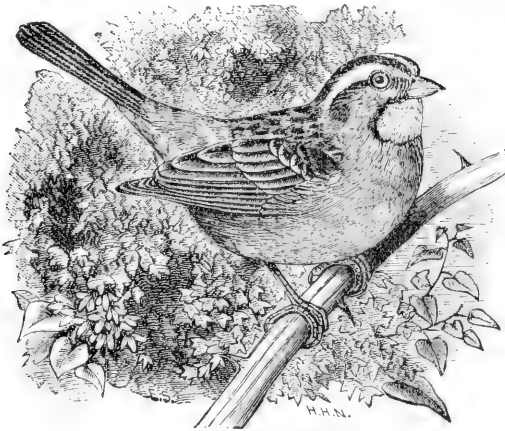


FIG. 39.—White-throated Sparrow.

still to be seen, at periods of its greatest abundance, in the shrubbery of the city, particularly in the Smithsonian Grounds. [275]

**98.** (125.) *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (Forst.) Sw. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.

A winter resident, usually rare, occasionally quite plentiful, as, for example, in the spring of 1861, when we took many specimens in beautiful attire. It remains until the second week in May, when it moves

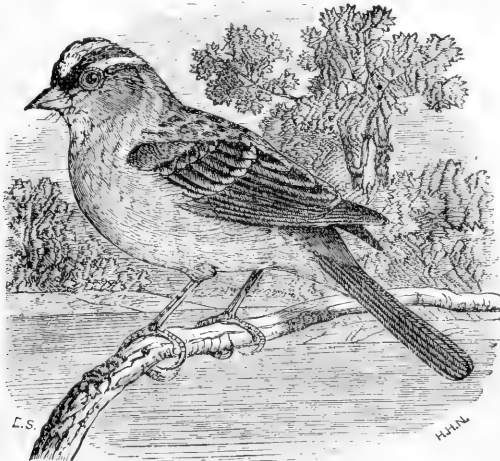


FIG. 40.—White-crowned Sparrow.

off at the same time that the White-throats do. The time of arrival in the fall we never noted, but we presume it to be coincident with that of the White-throats. The resorts and habits of the two species are much the same. [276]

**99.** (—.) *Chondestes grammicus* (Say) Jp. LARK FINCH.

Not in the original edition; a straggler from the West, wholly beyond its normal range. An individual was observed in the Smithsonian Grounds by Mr. R. Ridgway, in the summer of 1877, and the same or another was also seen about the same time. Mr. Roberts shot a specimen on the Virginia side of Long Bridge, at Fort Runyon, August 25, 1877.

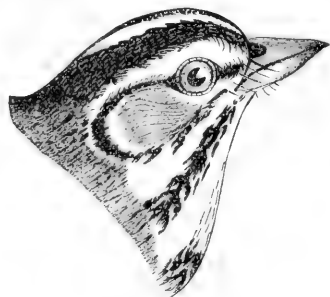


FIG. 41.—Head of Lark Finch, nat. size.

Mr. Roberts was in company with Mr. Jouy at the time, and this is the specimen upon the strength of which the species was entered in the Jouy catalogue. It is still in Mr. Roberts' possession. There appears to have been an eastward irruption of Lark Finches that year, other individuals having been taken elsewhere in the Atlantic States. [281]

**100.** (133.) *Passerella iliaca* (Merr.) Sw. FOX SPARROW.

Chiefly a spring and autumn migrant, though some spend the winter in sheltered localities; none breed here. It is abundant from November 1 to the 30th, and from March 1 to the 31st, but may be seen up to

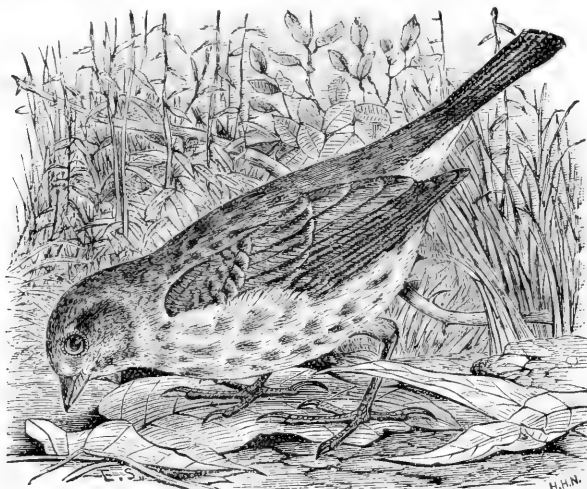


FIG. 42.—Fox Sparrow.

the middle of April. It is eminently gregarious, inhabiting thickets and the densest briar patches and laurel brakes. Like the Towhee Bunting,

the Fox Sparrow spends much of its time on the ground, scratching and rustling among the dry leaves. It comes into full song just before it leaves, but at other times has only a slight chirp. [282]

**101.** (134.) *Spiza americana* (Gm.) Bp. BLACK-THROATED BUNTING.

A summer resident. This bird used to arrive regularly about the first of May, and leave toward the end of September, meanwhile being very abundant. We could always find it, for example, in the fields, orchards, and graveyards there formerly were along Fourteenth street between N street and Boundary. For several seasons one or more pairs bred

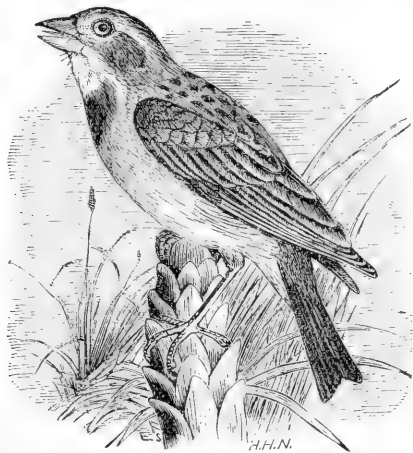


FIG. 43.—Black-throated Bunting.

regularly in the graveyard that occupied the second square south of the Boundary on the right hand going north, the *chip-chip-chee chee chee* of the males always saluting us as we passed to and from college. Now, however, the bird appears to have forsaken us, few if any having been heard of for the past few years. We can hardly account for this. The English Sparrows are scarcely numerous enough in the outskirts to have driven the Buntings away, nor need the building up of the city have caused them to retire from the whole District, as they appear to have done. Whatever the cause, it is one of the most notable changes in the bird-fauna of the immediate vicinity of the city. [287]

**102.** (135.) *Zamelodia ludoviciana* (Linn.) Coues. ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK.

A rare summer visitant, seen at irregular intervals, and not to be procured every season. Its periods of appearance and disappearance we never noted. It doubtless breeds here, as we have known it to be taken in July. It is found chiefly in high open woods, where there is much undergrowth. During the carnival of 1882 the Rose-breasts were conspicuously abundant, and many entered the city, where perhaps

none had ever been seen before. We observed several in the Smithsonian Grounds for a few days, with the Orioles and Tanagers. [289]

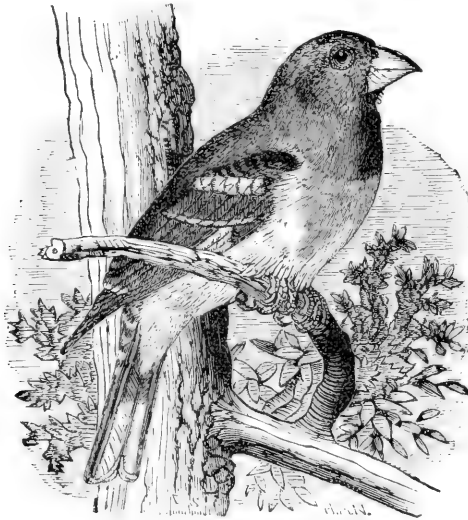


FIG. 44.—Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

**103.** (136.) *Guiraca cœrulea* (Linn.) Sw. BLUE GROSBEEK.

A summer resident, rather rare; arrives first week in May; departs about the middle of September. There used to be a bush clump on

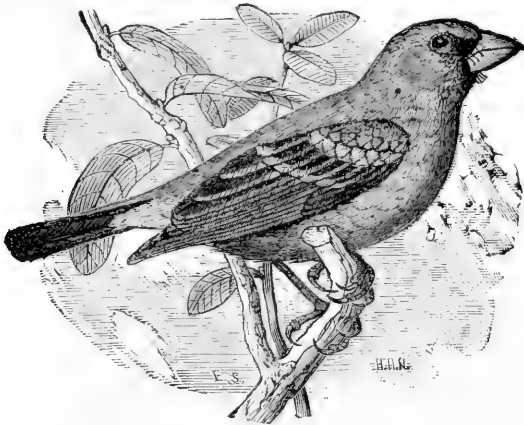


FIG. 45.—Blue Grosbeak.

Boundary street, near the terminus of Twelfth, where a pair nested for several seasons—we think likely the very birds that Mr. John Burroughs speaks of in one of his charming books. Again, we used to find it breeding in one of the fields just west of the Old Soldiers' Home. It nests in much the same bush-clumps that a Cardinal might select, but at other times is found in more exposed situations, as orchards, open woods, the shade of roadsides, &c. [291]



**104.** (135.) *Passerina cyanea* (Linn.) Gray. INDIGO-BIRD.

A common summer resident, arriving the 1st of May and remaining until the second week in September, about orchards, meadows, and the

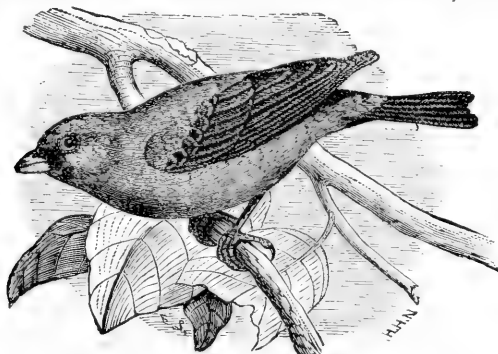


FIG. 46.—Indigo-bird.

edges of woods. It used to nest in the college grounds, and very likely does so still. [295]

**105.** (138.) *Cardinalis virginiana* Bp. CARDINAL GROSBEEK; VIRGINIA RED-BIRD.

Abundant all the year round, but it is shy and not easy to secure in the dense cover of the shrubbery which screens it from ordinary obser-

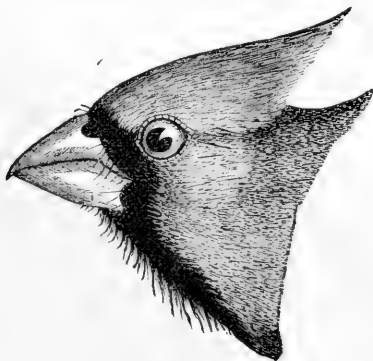


FIG. 47.—Head of Cardinal Grosbeak, nat. size.

vation. The undergrowth along the Potomac between Chain Bridge and Little Falls and the choked ravines of Rock Creek are still its favorite resorts. [298]

**106.** (139.) *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (Linn.) Vieill. TOWHEE BUNTING; "MARSH ROBIN."

Chiefly a spring and autumn migrant. A few breed with us, but none remain during the winter. It is abundant from April 25 to May 10, when most individuals pass north, and in the fall from the first to the third week in October. At the height of the seasons it seems partially gregarious, and it haunts at all times the thickest undergrowth along streams, the recesses of laurel brakes, and like sequestered spots, just

such as the Cardinal loves. Much of its time is spent upon the ground scratching among fallen leaves. Its local name hereabouts is "Marsh Robin," the other being seldom, if ever, heard. [301]

Family ICTERIDÆ: Blackbirds, &c.

107. (140.) *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (Linn.) Sw. BOBOLINK (in the spring); REED-BIRD (in the fall).

A spring and autumn migrant, abundant. In the former season, the flocks on their way northward throw themselves into the fields and meadows, making their "mad music" and attracting general attention by their turbulency from the 1st to the 15th of May. They could always be depended upon, early in May, in the fields along Fourteenth street beyond N; and, though these are now built up, College Hill still receives the guests at the same season as formerly. In the spring of 1882, estopped like the rest of the migrants from passing northward, they "banked up" in the city parks, particularly the grounds about the White House; and very likely some of the cranks and quidnuncs which

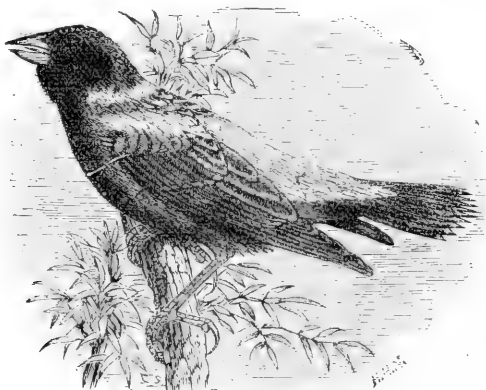


FIG. 48.—Bobolink.

abound at the National Capital drew political augury from the unwonted babel of song. At this season the tawny females are inconspicuous, but the black-and-buff males have for the most part nearly finished their vernal tailoring, which they accomplish by dyeing their old suits without losing a feather. The familiar "clink" of the Reed-bird begins to be heard over the tracts of wild oats along the river banks about the 20th of August, and from that time until October the restaurants are all supplied with "Reed-birds"—luscious morsels when genuine; but a great many Blackbirds and English Sparrows are devoured by accomplished gourmants, who nevertheless do not know the difference when the bill of fare is printed correctly and the charges are sufficiently exorbitant.

- 108.** (141.) *Molothrus ater* (Bodd.) Gray. (*M. pecoris* of the original edition.)  
COW-BIRD.

A summer resident; not very common. Arrives the second week in March; remains until October. It is probably less numerous, if not less generally distributed now than formerly, there being fewer cattle at

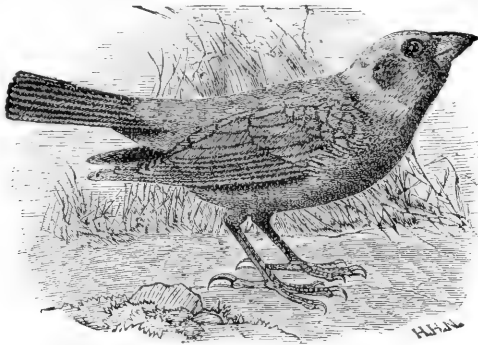


FIG. 49.—Cow-bird.

large in the immediate vicinity of the city than there used to be twenty-five years ago in the streets and open lots—when Franklin Square, for instance, now an elegant little park, was a good cattle pasture, before it was turned into a military camp. [313]

- 109.** (142.) *Agelæus phœniceus* (Linn.) Vieill. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.

Resident nearly all the year, but more abundant during the migrations than at other seasons, and especially in the fall. Numbers breed in the marshes adjoining the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. The Blackbirds

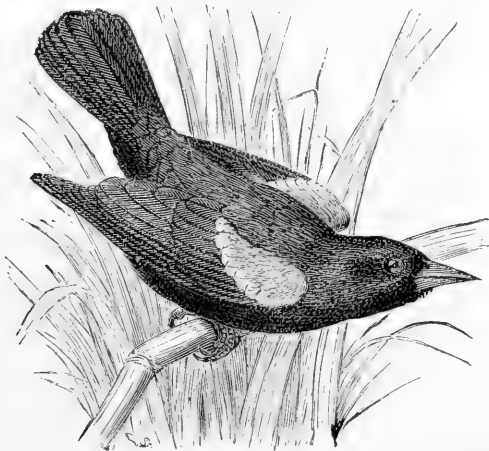


FIG. 50.—Red-winged Blackbird.

begin to flock over the tracts of *Zizania aquatica* and the neighboring cornfields the first week in August, and by the latter part of that month they become a dusky host. Probably few, if any, pass the whole winter here. Their arrival from the South in small flocks may be noted early

in March. The nest is a rude structure, placed in a bush or sapling, or clump of reeds or weeds, usually quite near the ground; the eggs are greenish, curiously limbed in zigzag with dark lines, as well as marked with various purplish-brown spots. [316]

**110.** (143.) *Sturnella magna* (Linn.) Sw. MEADOW LARK; FIELD LARK.

Resident all the year round, but less numerous in summer than at other seasons, as the greater number go farther north to breed. It inhabits exclusively fields and meadows, and has the habit of alighting on trees and fences surrounding the fields, as well as upon the ground.

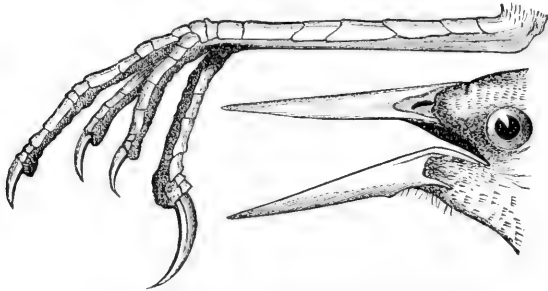


FIG. 51.—Bill and foot of Meadow Lark, nat. size.

In September it collects in flocks sometimes numbering hundreds of individuals, and is then shy and wary. It is considered "game" by youthful and other amateur sportsmen, and large numbers are destroyed for sport or for the table. The nest is a grassy ball upon the ground; the eggs are white, spotted with reddish. [320]

**111.** (145.) *Icterus spurius* (Linn.) Bp. ORCHARD ORIOLE.

A summer resident, not uncommon; arrives first week in May, and remains until the latter part of September, in high, open woods, orchards, parks, and meadows fringed with tall trees. Some always breed in the public grounds within the city. In the memorable spring of 1882, the Orchard Orioles were conspicuous beyond all the other birds for their numbers everywhere in the city. On the 15th of May, we saw in the Smithsonian Grounds a flock of at least a hundred, mixed with a few Baltimores, rambling over the ground in a new-mown grass plot—a very unwonted spectacle. Next after the political Bobolinks in the White House grounds, the Orchard Orioles probably attracted the most general attention. [324]

**112.** (144.) *Icterus galbula* (Linn.) Coues. (*I. baltimore* of the original edition.)  
BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

Chiefly a spring and autumn migrant, though many breed with us. They arrive the first week in May, and remain through the greater part of September. They frequent high, open woods, orchards, and parks,

and some usually swing their grassy hammocks with the Orchard Orioles in the shade trees of the public grounds in the city. [326]

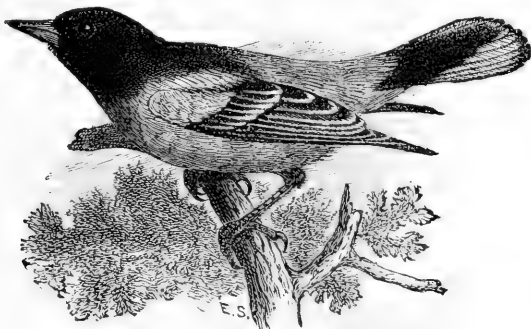


FIG. 52.—Baltimore Oriole.

**113.** (146.) *Scolecophagus ferrugineus* (Gm.) Sw. RUSTY GRACKLE.

An abundant winter resident. It arrives the third week in October, and remains until April, always in flocks, which frequent swampy localities, plowed fields, and other localities where food is abundant. The males are seldom, if ever, seen with us in full dress, this not being acquired till they reach their northern breeding grounds. [331]

**114.** (147.) *Quiscalus purpureus* (Bartr.) Licht. (*Q. versicolor* of the original edition.) CROW BLACKBIRD.

A summer resident; less abundant at that season than when flocking during the spring and fall migrations. We have not observed that any winter with us. These Blackbirds arrive in flocks about the 15th of March, and depart late in October. Soon after their advent, those that are to remain to breed begin their ludicrous courtships, which are a common spectacle in the Smithsonian Grounds, where several pairs usually nest in holes in the larger trees. [335]

**115.** (—.) *Quiscalus purpureus æneus* Ridg. BRONZED GRACKLE.

Not in the original edition; since described as a new variety by Mr. Ridgway. It occurs under the same circumstances as the last, the two forms, if they be really such, mixing freely together. In our remarks on the Jouy Catalogue we were indisposed to admit it, and we give it a place now with hesitation. Mr. Ridgway notes for us "several specimens seen," but considers it "rare." Mr. William Palmer notes one in his possession shot by Lewis McCormick at Falls Church, Va., and several obtained by Mr. Henry Marshall, at Laurel, Md. If we are not mistaken, we see the supposed species every spring in the Smithsonian Grounds. [336]

Family CORVIDÆ: Crows and Jays.

**116.** (148.) *Corvus frugivorus* Bartr. (*C. americanus* of the original edition.) COMMON CROW.

Resident all the year; found everywhere, and still abundant, particularly in winter; less so during the breeding season. Crows are not very noticeable during the summer, when scattered over the country to

nest in close woodland, but at other times no birds whatever are more frequently under observation. There is a famous "Crow roost" across the Potomac, some distance above the Chain Bridge, to which resort, during the greater part of the year, "the blackening train of Crows to their repose." Thousands of Crows from all parts of the country for many miles around go to and from the place daily. As it lies directly

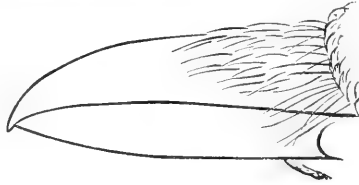


FIG. 53.—Bill of Crow. nat. size.

west of Washington, the consequence is that those beneath whose path the city lies are seen flying west in the evening and east in the morning. The latter flight occurs in the gray of the dawn, and of course is witnessed by few respectable persons, but the returning movement is conspicuous. It begins early in the afternoon and continues until dark. During all these hours a steady, ceaseless stream of the great black birds pours along—hundreds and thousands of them, not in flocks, but in a continuous train. On fair days they fly high and firmly; on windy days there is often much trouble, obliging the birds to tack and shift until they are sometimes so weary that they are forced to alight on the house-tops to gather strength to proceed. It happens that most of the strong winds, particularly the cold ones of February and March, come out of the west, thus directly opposing the progress of such birds as pass over the city. Such "roosts" are well known in various parts of the Eastern United States; but the impulse whose potency forces such long daily journeys upon the birds is a mystery as yet unexplained. Their scattering from the roost is of course in search of food, but the puzzle is why they should find it necessary to return every night when any other piece of woodland, one would suppose, should furnish equally eligible accommodations for the night. [340]

**117.** (149.) *Corvus maritimus* Bartr. (*C. ossifragus* of the original edition.) FISH CROW.

Resident all the year round; abundant, but less so than the foregoing. It is also less wary and suspicious, and more closely confined to the vicinity of the rivers. It is often confounded with the preceding; but some of the smallest and otherwise best-marked examples we have inspected have been those from this locality. [343]

NOTE.—In the Proceedings of the United States National Museum, 1880, p. 238, Mr. Ridgway records that a specimen of the European Rook, *Corvus frugilegus*, was seen by him in a maple tree on the grounds of the Agricultural Department in August, 1879. It was very tame, and flew laboriously, as if recently escaped from confinement. Nothing further has been learned of this estray.

**118.** (150.) *Cyanocitta cristata* (Linn.) Strickl. BLUE JAY; JAY-BIRD.

Resident all the year, and abundant, especially in the autumn and winter, when it is partially gregarious; found everywhere in woodland.

[349]

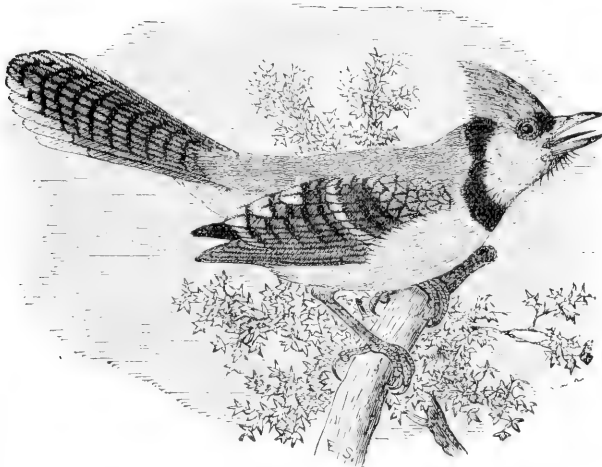


FIG. 54.—Blue Jay.

## Suborder CLAMATORES: Songless Passeres.

## Family TYRANNIDÆ: Flycatchers.

**119.** (34.) *Milvulus forficatus*? SWALLOW-TAILED FLYCATCHER.

A *Milvulus*, probably *M. forficatus*, is given in the original edition as



FIG. 55.—Swallow-tailed Flycatcher.

having been seen but not obtained by Mr. C. Drexler, May 6, 1861. We have never been satisfied of the accuracy of the information, even supposing veracity on the part of our informant; and in our remarks on Mr. Jouy's list we spoke as if inclined to drop the species from the list. But we have no more authority for so doing than for retaining it. So we make no alteration in a record which, unfortunately, must always remain dubious. This southwestern species has several times been taken straggling in the Atlantic States. There is preserved in alcohol in the United States National Museum, No. 85,934, a specimen taken in Norfolk, Va., January 2, 1882, by Mr. R. B. Taylor. Of this occurrence we are informed through the attentions of Mr. Ridgway. (See also Bull. Nuttall Club, viii, 1883, p. 59.) [367]

**120.** (35.) *Tyrannus carolinensis* (Linn.) Bd. KING BIRD; "BEE MARTIN."

A common summer resident, arriving the second week in April and remaining until late in September. Though it breeds here plentifully, it is not so abundant under those circumstances as during the migration, since the greater number pass farther north in the spring and return in the fall. [368]

**121.** (—) *Tyrannus verticalis* Say. ARKANSAW FLYCATCHER.

This is a western species added to the list in 1877 by Mr. Jouy, who found it in the flesh in market, September 30, 1874. In point of fact, it was not actually got in the District, but in some adjoining portion of Maryland. There is no doubt about the bird, as the specimen is preserved in the United States National Museum. (See Ann. Rep. Smiths. Inst. for 1874, 1875, p. 32, and Jouy's Catalogue, 1877, pp. 5 and 11 of the separate reprints from Field and Forest, vol. ii, 1877, pp. 154 and 178.) [370]

**122.** (36.) *Myiarchus crinitus* (Linn.) Cab. GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER.

A common summer resident, but more numerous during the migra-



FIG. 56.—Great Crested Flycatcher.



tions in spring and fall. It arrives the third week in April and remains until the third week in September. In the spring it becomes conspicuous through the vehement reiteration of its loud, harsh, and altogether peculiar notes, somewhat resembling the cry of the tree-frog, repeated for an hour at a time with intervals of a few minutes whilst the bird is upon its perch in the top of a tree. Unlike most flycatchers, it nests in holes, uses the slough of snakes in the construction of its nest, and lays very singularly-marked eggs. [373]

**123.** (37.) *Sayornis fusca* (Gm.) Ld. PEWIT FLYCATCHER; "PHEBE-BIRD;"  
"TOM-TIT."

A common summer resident, but more plentiful in spring and fall, since the greater number pass further north to breed. This is the *first* of the spring visitors, arriving before the Swallows and Bluebirds, about the 1st of March. It is very abundant for a month or six weeks, and again in the fall from the latter part of September until the third week

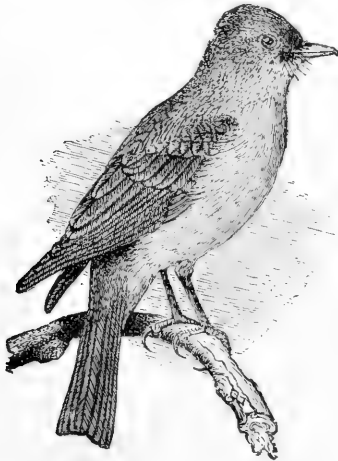


FIG. 57.—Pewit Flycatcher.

in October. It is not specially a woodland bird, like the *Contopus*, being often found out in weedy fields, by the roadsides, in ravines; and breeds in caves, about rocks, creeks, and bridges, as well as in out-houses. The very pretty nest, stuccoed with mosses, is affixed by the mud composing it to the side of some vertical support; the eggs are white, normally unmarked. [379]

**124.** (38.) *Contopus virens* (Linn.) Cab. WOOD PEWEE.

A summer resident, extremely abundant in all the woodland. It arrives the last week in April, becomes numerous in about two weeks, and remains until the third week in September. One can hardly enter a piece of woods without being saluted with its plaintive, droning notes; and some individuals regularly nest in the parks within city limits.

The nest, however, is not easily discovered, being a mossy saucer-like structure saddled so closely on the bough as to appear like a natural

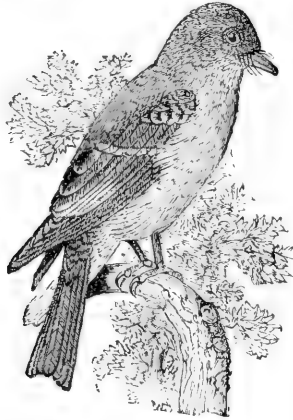


FIG. 58.—Wood Pewee.

exerescence. The eggs are three or four in number, creamy-white, speckled with reddish. [382]

**125.** (39.) *Empidonax acadicus* (Gm.) Bd. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.

A common summer resident; the most abundant of the *Empidonaces*, and the only one known to breed here. It arrives the last week in April, and leaves about September 25. The eggs closely resemble those of the Pewee, but the nest is placed partly pendant in a forked twig. [384]

**126.** (40.) *Empidonax trailli* (Aud.) Bd. TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER.

Rare; during the breeding season at any rate it is seldom if ever observed, and we do not think we satisfactorily identified it under those circumstances. It is, however, not so uncommon as our remarks in the original edition would indicate, as we did not sufficiently discriminate between it and some of its congeners. It is found in woodland, and its times of arrival and departure are probably the same as those of the next species. [385]

**127.** (41.) *Empidonax minimus* Bd. LEAST FLYCATCHER.

Spring and autumn migrant; does not breed here; rather common, most so during the vernal migration. It arrives the last week in April, and is seen for about two weeks; returns the third week in August, and remains until the third week in September. It is not a woodland bird, frequenting exclusively the margins of small streams, briar-patches, hedge-rows, and similar resorts. [387]

**128.** (42.) *Empidonax flaviventris* Bd. YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.

Spring and autumn migrant, rather rare. Having taken it July 28, we were led to suppose it might breed here, and so expressed ourselves in the original edition. But, with larger experience with this difficult

group, and especially since the breeding history of the four eastern species has been disentangled, we doubt the tenability of our former supposition, as we do also that *trailli* ever nests with us. The yellow-bellied Flycatcher arrives the first week in May, and we have seen it in the fall till the third week in September. It is found in the same situations as those frequented by *E. minimus*. [388]

## Order PICARLÆ: Non-Passerine Insectores.

### Suborder CYPSELIFORMES: Swift-like Birds.

#### Family CAPRIMULGIDÆ: Goatsuckers.

##### **129.** (31.) *Antrostomus vociferus* (Wils.) Bp. WHIPPOORWILL.

A rare summer resident. The proximity of a large city seems to keep these solitary birds away; they are common enough in more primitive country on any hand. They arrive the first week in May, and depart the third week in September. When startled from their retreat in the day time they rise rapidly and fly a short distance with a zigzag course, as if confused by the light. In former years we saw them in places, now built up, between Le Droit Park and the city limits. [397]

##### **130.** (32.) *Chordeiles popetue* (Vieill.) Bd. NIGHT-HAWK; "BULL-BAT."

Chiefly a spring and autumn migrant; but a few breed with us. They arrive about May 1, and remain until the first week in October. In the fall they are often very abundant, especially on cloudy afternoons, and are still to be seen coursing their airy evolutions over the city. In former times the commons north of N street, about where Iowa Circle now stands, was a great place of resort for the shooting of these birds, scores of gunners stationing themselves there to destroy any unlucky "bull-bat" which might fly low enough to be reached by shot. [399]

#### Family CYPSELIDÆ: Swifts.

##### **131.** (30.) *Chætura pelagica* (Linn.) Steph. CHIMNEY SWIFT.

A very abundant summer resident, arriving the second week in April, and remaining until towards the end of September. It does not ap-

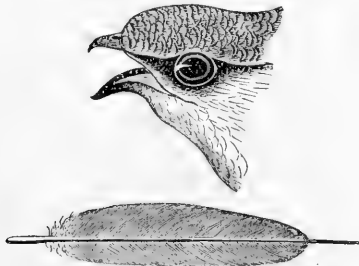


FIG. 59.—Head and tail-feather of Chimney Swift, nat. size.

pear to decrease in numbers, and may always be seen, between the dates given, dashing and fluttering over the houses in the city. Some

always breed in the chimneys of the Smithsonian, the White House, and other public buildings. There is an old residence in Georgetown the chimneys of which, one year at least, were used by hundreds if not thousands of the Swifts as a nightly resort; into which we have seen them streaming toward nightfall. [405]

Family TROCHILIDÆ: Humming-birds.

**132.** (29.) *Trochilus colubris* Linn. RUBY-THROATED HUMMING-BIRD.

A summer resident; the only member of the family found here. Some suppose there are different species of Humming-birds in the Eastern United States, but this is a mistake. The Ruby-throat is abundant, es-

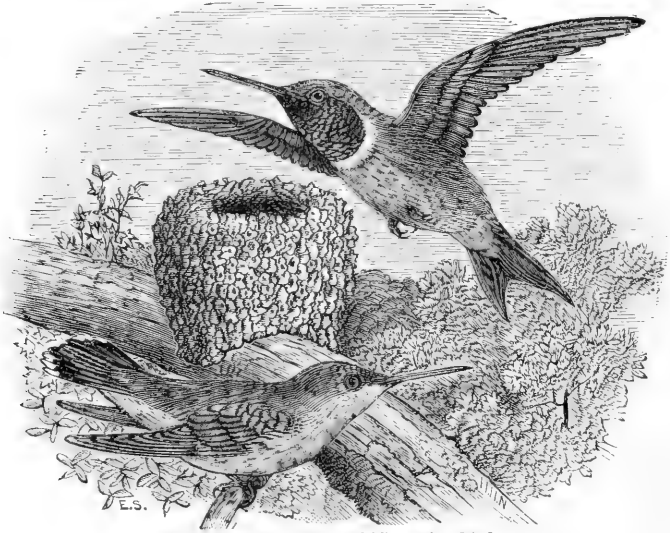


FIG. 60.—Ruby-throated Humming-bird.

pecially early in the fall. It arrives in spring about May 1, and remains until the first approach of cold weather. It is frequently seen in the parks and gardens of the city, and in the surrounding country in patches of wild flowers growing along the little streams. The catalpas in the White House Grounds attract large numbers when in bloom. [409]

Suborder CUCULIFORMES : Cuculiform Birds.

Family ALCEDINIDÆ: Kingfishers.

**133.** (33.) *Ceryle alcyon* (Linn.) Boie. BELTED KINGFISHER.

A summer resident, and still not uncommon along the rivers and Rock Creek. It is nearly permanent, only forced southward by the freezing of the waters; but its arrival, or, at any rate, its increase in numbers, may be noted late in March, and the opposite circumstances early in October. [423]

## Family CUCULIDÆ: Cuckoos.

- 134.** (21.) *Coccygus erythrophthalmus* (Wils.) Bd. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO;  
"RAIN CROW."

Less abundant than the succeeding species, but not at all rare. It is, like the other, a summer resident, arriving May 1 and departing late in September. It frequents woods and copses; its habits are much the same as those of the yellow-billed, but the note is not so harsh, and less prolonged. Both are known by the local name of "Rain Crow." [428]

- 135.** (20.) *Coccygus americanus* (Linn.) Bp. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO; "RAIN CROW."

A very abundant summer resident, and especially numerous in spring and fall, chiefly in high open woods. Arrives May 1 and departs late in September. It breeds here plentifully, placing its frail platform of twigs on the bough of a tree. Both species of Cuckoo are notable for their tardiness in completing the clutch of eggs, so that fresh eggs and others in different stages of incubation may be found in the same nest with young birds. They also occasionally slip an egg in other birds' nests; but the parasitic habit is not established, as it is in the cases of various Old World species of this family. [429]

## Suborder PICIFORMES: Woodpeckers.

## Family PICIDÆ: Woodpeckers.

- 136.** (25.) *Hylotomus pileatus* (Linn.) Bd. PILEATED WOODPECKER; "COCK OF THE WOODS;" "BLACK LOG-COCK."

This is one of the birds which retires most speedily with the opening of the country, being wild and wary, and delighting in the heaviest timber. It was rare in 1862, having already responded in this negative

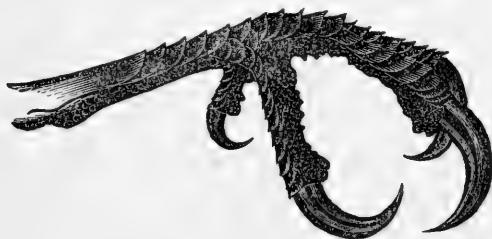


FIG. 61.—Foot of Pileated Woodpecker, nat. size.

manner to the encroachment of the city upon its favorite haunts. It is still, however, regularly exposed for sale in the market, being brought in from the surrounding country, though we should doubt that a single Pileated Woodpecker now resides in the immediate vicinity of the city. The only one we remember to have ever seen alive was in a piece of heavy timber known as "Gales' Woods;" but that was about 1857 or 1858. Mr. Shoemaker informs us that one was seen a year or two ago. Mr. Palmer states that he finds them every winter in market; that he saw

one in the fall of 1880 at Falls Church, and has three specimens, bought in market on the 9th of January, 1879, which had been shot in Maryland near the District line. [432]

**137.** (22.) *Picus villosus* Linn. HAIRY WOODPECKER.

A permanent resident, but rare, and becoming more so as the timber disappears. It was not at all common even twenty-five years ago. [438]

**138.** (23.) *Picus pubescens* (Linn.) DOWNY WOODPECKER.

A permanent resident; formerly very abundant indeed, and still common. Now and then one still appears in the orchards and gardens,



FIG. 62.—Head of Downy Woodpecker, nat. size.

where there are trees, within the city limits; and plenty of fruit trees riddled with the borings of the indefatigable "Sapsuckers" (as they are wrongly called) are still standing in our midst. [440]

**139.** (24.) *Sphyrapicus varius* (Linn.) Bd. YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER; "SAPSUCKER." (Properly so called.)

A permanent resident; abundant, particularly in the fall. Frequents

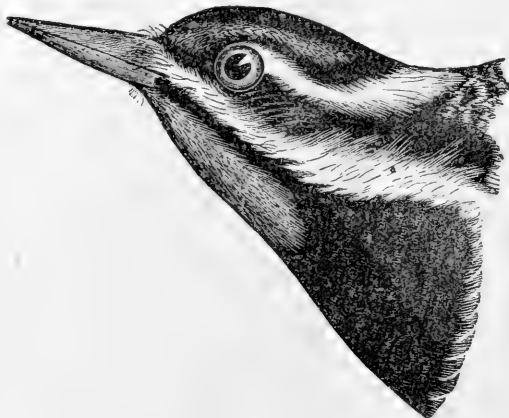


FIG. 63.—Head of Yellow-bellied Woodpecker.

chiefly high open woods, but often seen in thickets and tangle. It is fond of berries and other fruits, particularly those of the sour gum. [446]

**140.** (26.) *Centurus carolinus* (Linn.) Bp. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.

A permanent resident; rare, and apparently becoming more so. [450]

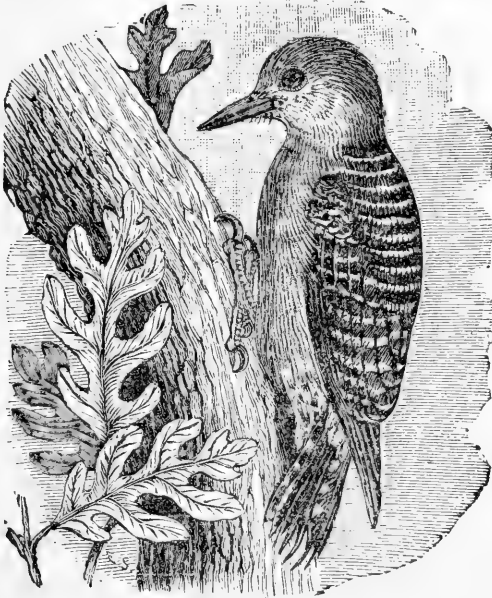


FIG. 64.—Red-bellied Woodpecker.

**141.** (27.) *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Linn.) Sw. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.

A summer resident in high open woods. This is still probably the most abundant species of the family, holding its own with perfect good

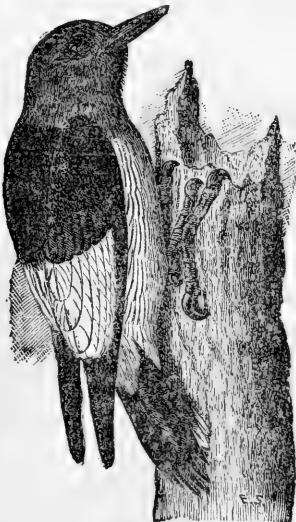


FIG. 65.—Red-headed Woodpecker.

nature and careless familiarity. It is the most decidedly migratory of all; though irregular and no more to be depended upon in its movements

than in any other of the actions which indicate its versatile disposition. It commonly arrives late in April, and remains until the middle of September; but it is too erratic to come under any rule. [453]

**142.** (23.) *Colaptes auratus* (Linn.) Sw. GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER.

A permanent resident; abundant, particularly in spring and fall, as there is an imperfect migration of the species. [457]

NOTE.—A West Indian Paroquet, *Conurus xanthogenys* Bp. was shot by us in a grove near Washington, in the spring of 1860. It was of course an escaped cage bird.

## Order RAPTORES: Birds of Prey.

### Suborder STRIGES: Nocturnal Birds of Prey.

#### Family ALUCONIDÆ: Barn Owls.

**143.** (—.) *Aluco flammeus pratincola* (Bp.) Coues. BARN OWL.

Not in the original edition, as we had not at that time observed it.



FIG. 65.—Foot of Barn Owl, nat. size.

Added to the list by Jouy, in 1877. It is occasionally seen or heard in the city, and is known to have nested in the Smithsonian towers. Resident. [461]

#### Family STRIGIDÆ: Owls.

**144.** (15.) *Bubo virginianus* (Gm.) Bp. GREAT HORNED OWL; "CAT OWL."

This large species has never been common, and has doubtless decreased in numbers of late years. It is sometimes found in market, having been taken in the vicinity, if not actually within the District. [462]

**145.** (14.) *Scops asio* (Linn.) Bp. SCREECH OWL; RED OWL; MOTTLED OWL.

This is the most abundant of the Owls, as well as the smallest species known to occur here, for *Nyctala acadica*, of probable occurrence, has not to our knowledge been detected in the District. The Scops owl breeds here, and is a permanent resident. Eggs and nestlings may always be found about Georgetown College in due season. [465]



**146.** (16.) *Asio wilsonianus* (*Less.*) *Coues.* LONG-EARED OWL.

More abundant than the Cat Owl, less so than the preceding species. It is seldom seen, however, as it passes the daytime in hollow trees, thick clumps of pines, and similar dusky resorts. Resident. [472]

**147.** (17.) *Asio accipitrinus* (*Pall.*) *Newt.* (*Brachyotus cassini* of the original edition.) SHORT-EARED OWL.

Resident; abundant. It has been taken in the streets of the city. [473]

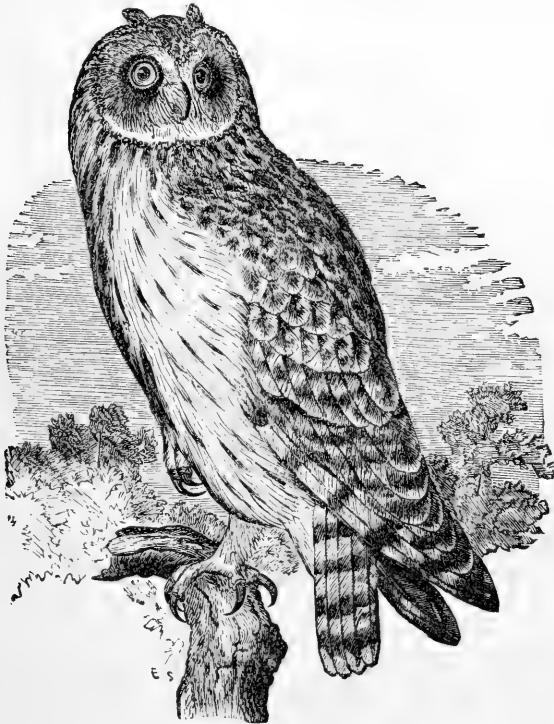


FIG. 67.—Short-eared Owl.

**148.** (18.) *Strix nebulosa* (*Forst.*) BARRED OWL.

Resident; rare, and seldom observed. In the day-time it is to be found chiefly in close cedar thickets, near farm-houses. [476]

**149.** (19.) *Nyctea scandiaca* (*Lin.*) *Newt.* SNOWY OWL.

A rare straggler, only occasionally visiting us in severe winter weather. It does not appear to ordinarily come south of Philadelphia, where it occurs probably every winter. [479]

## Suborder ACCIPITRES: Diurnal Birds of Prey.

## Family FALCONIDÆ: Hawks and Eagles.

**150.** (10.) *Circus cyaneus hudsonius* (Linn.) Coues. MARSH HAWK.

Resident. Abundant. This is one of the commonest Hawks, generally seen over the marshes along the rivers; formerly in the "slashes" and



FIG. 68.—Head of Marsh Hawk, nat. size.

other wet places in the northern part of the city. It is one of the species most frequently exposed for sale in the markets. [489]

The Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, is a wide ranging species, which may pay us a flying visit at any time.

**151.** (6.) *Accipiter fuscus* (Gm.) Bp. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.

Resident. Abundant. [494]

**152.** (5.) *Accipiter cooperi* Bp. COOPER'S HAWK; CHICKEN HAWK.

Resident. Abundant. [495]

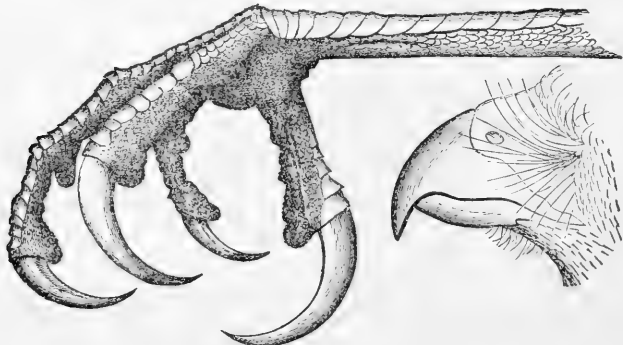


FIG. 69.—Bill and foot of Cooper's Hawk, nat. size.

**153. (4.) *Astur atricapillus* (Wils.) Bp. GOSHAWK.**

Very rare; only occasionally observed during the winter months.

[496]

**154. (—) *Falco peregrinus* Tunstall. PEREGRINE FALCON; DUCK HAWK.**

Very rare and only casual. We are informed by Mr. George Shoemaker that a Duck Hawk was seen upon the river in winter some years ago. On inquiring further into this case, Mr. William Palmer, who saw the bird, gave us the following account: As he was skating on the river just above Long Bridge, one morning in December, 1878, he observed a number of Ducks upon some open water, towards which a man was pushing a skiff over the ice. At his shot, a Duck which had been wounded rose and flew along a few feet over the ice. Mr. Palmer started in pursuit, but had not gone far before he observed a Duck Hawk flying along only about 20 yards overhead. Both man and hawk continued along in this manner for some 300 yards, when the wounded Duck fell upon the ice

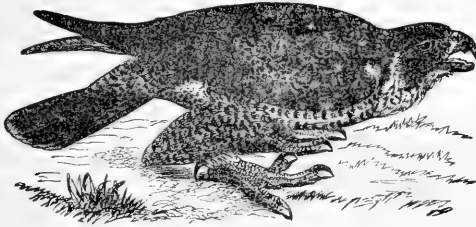


FIG. 70.—Peregrine Falcon.

and was secured, while the disappointed Hawk soared away. The Hawk was so near it could easily have been shot had Mr. Palmer had a gun, and the identification was perfectly satisfactory. Mr. Palmer adds, on the strength of information received from Mr. Jouy, that the Duck Hawk has been known to breed at Harper's Ferry, Va.

[503]

**155. (2.) *Falco columbarius* Linn. PIGEON HAWK.**

Rather rare, and seldom observed, but probably resident. Sometimes found in market, like others of the family.

[505]

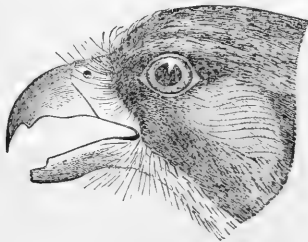


FIG. 71.—Head of Sparrow Hawk.

**156. (3.) *Falco sparverius* Linn. SPARROW HAWK.**

Resident. Abundant. It is known to have nested in the Smithsonian.

[508]

**157.** (7.) *Buteo borealis* (Gm.) Vieill. RED-TAILED BUZZARD; HEN HAWK.

Resident. Abundant, especially in the winter months. It is a wild and wary bird, generally seen solitary or in pairs, in open country, perched upon some large tree commanding a view of its preserves; sometimes noticed sailing or circling high over the city. [516]



FIG. 72.—Head of Hen Hawk, nat. size.

**158.** (8.) *Buteo lineatus* (Gm.) Jard. RED-SHOULDERED BUZZARD; "CHICKEN HAWK."

A common species, doubtless resident, but chiefly observed in winter, under the circumstances noted for the preceding species. [520]

**159.** (9.) *Buteo pennsylvanicus* (Wils.) Bp. BROAD-WINGED BUZZARD; "CHICKEN HAWK."

Rare; probably resident, but only occasionally observed. Specimens of this and the two preceding species may be found in the markets pretty regularly, especially during the winter months. Nos. 157 and 158 are the commonest of the large *Falconidae*. [524]

**160.** (—) *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis* (Gm.) Ridg. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.

Not in the original edition, as we had no positive authority for including it, though we were satisfied that so widely distributed a bird could not be an entire stranger to the District. One was lately seen here by the well-known ornithologist, Mr. H. W. Henshaw, under circumstances which left no doubt of the identification, although the bird was not secured.

Mr. Henshaw writes to us: "I saw the Rough-leg December 29, 1879, on the Virginia shore, just opposite the city, skirting the edge of a marsh, perhaps in search of wounded ducks. Probably with a view of getting

a better look at me, he swept in near enough to receive two charges of No. 8; whereupon, not relishing the warmth of his reception, he dropped his legs down in a most feeling manner and departed. The range was long for No. 8, but close enough to certify my identification of the bird (and doubtless his of me).” [525]

**161.** (11.) *Aquila chrysaëtus* (Linn.) Cuv. GOLDEN EAGLE.

Apparently not rare, for an Eagle, individuals being observed or taken nearly every winter. Two specimens from this locality are preserved in the Smithsonian. [532]

**162.** (12.) *Haliaëtus leucocephalus* (Linn.) Savig. BALD EAGLE; WHITE-HEADED EAGLE.

Resident, and not rare. It is frequently observed sailing over the

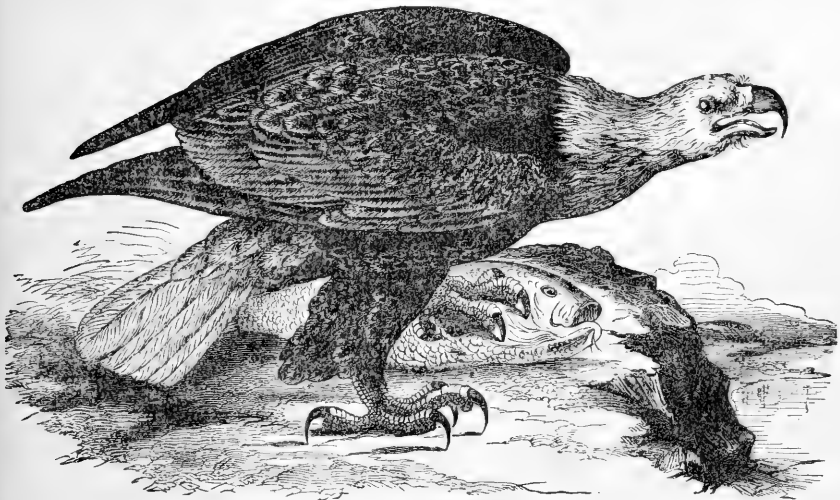


FIG. 73.—Bald Eagle.

river, or perched upon some stub or snag on the flats. We have not seldom seen it soaring over the city—the last time in May, 1882. [534]

Family PANDIONIDÆ: Fish Hawks.

**163.** (13.) *Pandion haliaëtus* (Linn.) Savig. FISH HAWK; OSPREY.

Common; migratory. We do not know of any nests within the District, but have seen them lower down the river; the species properly belongs to the category of summer residents. It is often seen sailing over the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, or perched upon the branches of dead trees overhanging their banks. Its migrations correspond to some extent with those of the fish upon which it feeds, and it consequently appears in spring about the time the fishing season begins.

[530]

## Suborder CATHARTIDES: American Vultures.

## Family CATHARTIDÆ: American Vultures.

**164.** (1.) *Cathartes aura* (Linn.) Ill. TURKEY BUZZARD.

A permanent resident, and still common, though less abundant than formerly, when the arrangements for the disposition of carrion were more primitive than they now are. The "slashes" in the northern part of the city, between Fourteenth and Twenty-first streets, were twenty years ago the place of deposit of dead horses and other animals, and in the same vicinity there were various dumping spots for the night-soil, which used to be carted about the streets in the most primitive manner. Such attractions, of course, held the carrion birds in large numbers. They are still to be seen any day sailing over the city.

The Turkey Buzzard will "play 'possum" on occasion. One day in 1859, when we were out shooting, we winged a Turkey Buzzard, which dropped at the shot, and as we approached was found standing under a laurel bush, with one wing hanging. Having disgorged the contents of his crop, which consisted of portions of some new-born pigs he had just devoured, without frightening off the enemy, he then drooped his head slowly and gradually fell over on one side, apparently dead. He was picked up in this *feinting* condition, supposed to be dead, thrust with difficulty into a game-bag, and carried home, a distance of two miles. He was then pulled out of the bag and thrown down in the back yard—all this while manifesting no sign of animation. But when we next saw him, a few minutes later, he was walking about the yard—not exactly "a-laughing," like Mother Hubbard's dog on the return of that dame, but still quite lively. On our approach he simulated death as before, and the trick was repeated again and again, until, finding that the deception no longer deceived, he screwed up his courage and tried different tactics, menacing and hissing somewhat like a goose when we approached. He was finally dispatched, however, by our joint efforts, and his musty hide and feathers deposited in our youth's museum.

Similar strategy on the part of the Turkey Buzzard in Arizona is noted in Dr. Coues' "Birds of the Northwest," p. 383. [537]

## Order COLUMBÆ: Columbine Birds.

## Suborder PERISTERÆ: Pigeons.

## Family COLUMBIDÆ: Pigeons.

**165.** (151.) *Ectopistes migratorius* (Linn.) Sw. PASSENGER PIGEON.

Makes its appearance in flocks at irregular intervals throughout the fall, winter, and spring months. We have shot specimens so young as

to permit the inference that they were hatched in the vicinity; but if so, it was probably an unusual occurrence. Pigeons are certainly rare

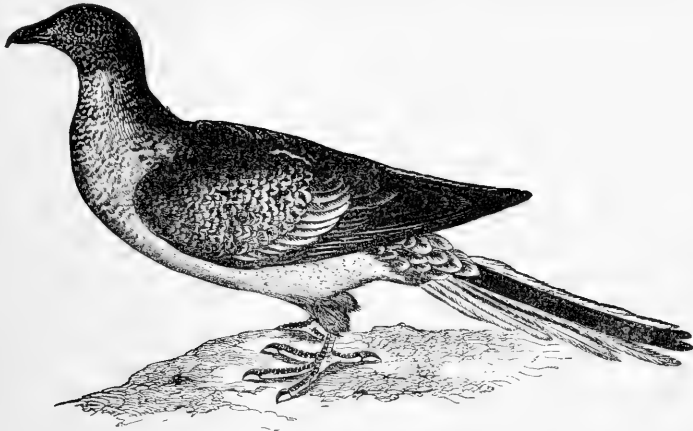


FIG. 74.—Passenger Pigeon.

and very irregular here now. The last large flight we remember took place in the fall more than twenty years ago—we think about 1858 or 1859. [543]

**166.** (152.) *Zenaidura carolinensis* (Linn.) Bp. CAROLINA TURTLE DOVE; MOURNING DOVE.

A permanent resident; not very abundant. Sometimes, however, the Doves collect in large flocks in the fall, when they frequent corn and buckwheat fields. The latter may always be relied upon to furnish Doves at that season. [544]

**167.** (153.) *Chamæpelia passerina* (Linn.) Sw. GROUND DOVE.

An entirely accidental visitor from the South in one known instance. The specimen is preserved in the Smithsonian. [547]

## Order GALLINÆ: Gallinaceous Birds.

### Suborder ALECTOROPODES: Fowl.

#### Family MELEAGRIDIDÆ: Turkeys.

**168.** (154.) *Meleagris gallipavo americana* (Bartr.) Coues. WILD TURKEY.

In the original edition we remarked of the Wild Turkey: "Regularly seen in the markets all through the winter, though not often found in the immediate vicinity of the city. Remains all the year in the neighboring districts."

In our "Remarks" upon Mr. Jouy's list we added, in 1877, speaking of birds to be subtracted from our list: "Another is *Meleagrus gallipavo*. It may have been proper to introduce the bird in 1861, but we doubt that a live Wild Turkey has been in the District or immediate vicinity for several years, though the birds are constantly brought from surrounding country to the city for sale."

Under these circumstances, it might seem proper to place the Turkey upon the "retired list." But on further investigation we have satisfied

ourselves of the propriety of retaining it among actual inhabitants of the District.

In a note addressed to us, Mr. William Palmer states: "Mr. Howard Abbott shot two Wild Turkeys in the winter of 1881-'82, near Falls Church, Va. Mr. Hardin, of Georgetown, told me that he had shot two the same winter between Georgetown and Tennallytown. I have also known of several others secured within sight of the city, and have myself found feathers when hunting in this vicinity."

Mr. George Shoemaker, of the Smithsonian, says in substance in a communication dated September 23, 1882: "A letter received from my friend Mr. Henry C. Wood, of Georgetown, gives some reliable information respecting Wild Turkeys in and near the District. He says he has seen them within the past six or seven years on the Virginia hills between the 'Dam' and 'Dead Run,' has frequently tracked them in the snow within these limits, and that their occurrence in the vicinity of Dead Run is known to every hunter who frequents that picturesque locality. Mr. Albert Thompson, a friend of Mr. Wood's and a skillful sportsman, appended to Mr. Wood's letter his corroboration of the statement that Wild Turkeys are to be found in the vicinity of Dead Run, where he has himself frequently seen them during the past few years. The 'Dam' referred to is the one just beyond High Island, certainly not more than half a mile above the District line. The whole range of hills on the Virginia side of the river, from Chain Bridge to and beyond Great Falls, is thickly wooded, and in places so extremely wild and rugged that I have seldom gone far above the Dam without seeing some Ruffed Grouse or hearing their 'drumming.' Mr. William C. Hazel, of Georgetown, is in the habit of pasturing his horses at a friend's farm on the Georgetown and Leesburg turnpike road, nine miles beyond Chain Bridge. He informs me that he has shot a number of Wild Turkeys in the woods between this farm and the river, where they could almost certainly be found at any season." [554]

Family TETRAONIDÆ: Grouse.

**169.** (155.) *Bonasa umbella*. (Linn.) Steph. RUFFED GROUSE; "PHEASANT."

Resident all the year round, but not common. They are always in

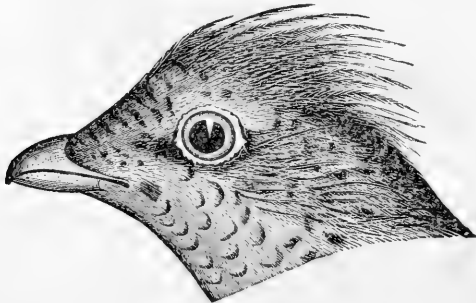


FIG. 75.—Head of Ruffed Grouse.

the market in season, but mostly come from beyond the limits of the District.



## Family PERDICIDÆ: Partridges.

**170.** (156.) *Ortyx virginiana* (Linn.) Bp. PARTRIDGE; "BOB WHITE."

Resident all the year round, and still not uncommon in the District and immediate vicinity during the fall and winter months. It is naturally one of the most domestic of birds, and, being very prolific, holds its own

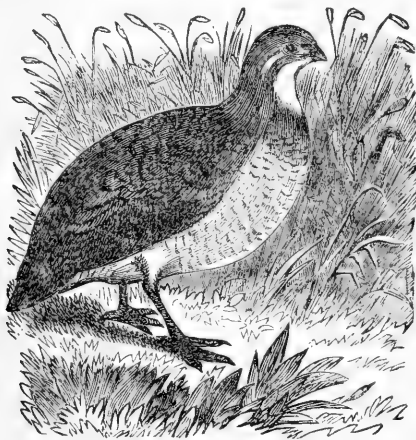


FIG. 76.—Partridge.

well, if not too hard pressed; the cultivation of the land being in fact rather a favoring circumstance than the reverse. During the proper season the markets are always plentifully supplied. [571]

## Order LIMICOLÆ: Shore Birds.

## Family CHARADRIIDÆ: Plovers.

**171.** (166.) *Charadrius dominicus* Müll. (*C. virginicus* of the original edition.)  
GOLDEN PLOVER.

A spring and autumn migrant. Passes quickly through in early spring; is more numerous and leisurely in the fall, during the latter

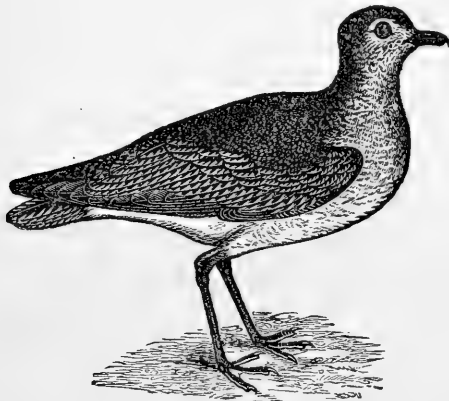


FIG. 77.—Golden Plover.

part of October and the whole of November, in old fields, plowed lands, and along the river flats. [581]

**172.** (167.) *Ægialites vociferus* (Linn.) Cass. KILDEER PLOVER.

Resident all the year round, or nearly so; most numerous in early

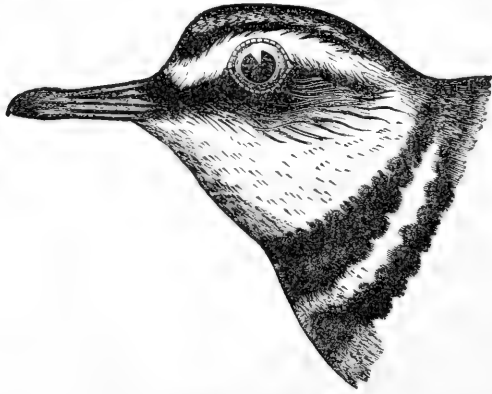


FIG. 78.—Head of Kildeer Plover.

spring and late autumn months, generally in small flocks, on commons, meadows, and plowed lands, as well as the Potomac flats. [584]

**173.** (—) *Ægialites semipalmatus* (Bp.) Cab. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER; "RING-NECK."

Not enumerated in the original edition, though there noted as "undoubtedly an inhabitant of the District"; since added to the list by Mr. Jouy, 1877. We have no details of the occurrence. One or two other species of the genus (*Æ. melodus*, *wilsonius*) may yet be seen here occasionally. [586]

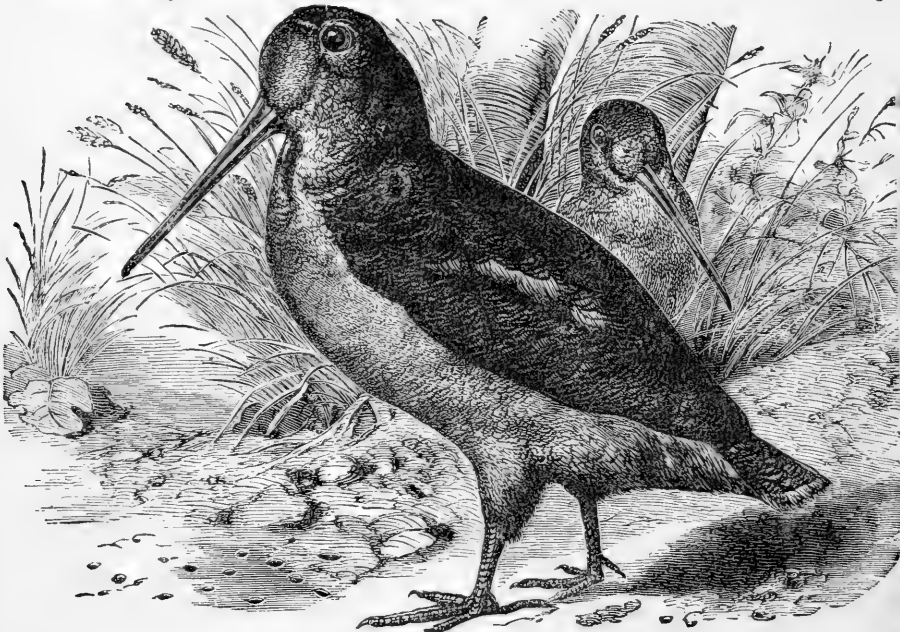


FIG. 79.—Woodcock.

## Family SCOLOPACIDÆ: Snipes.

**174.** (168.) *Philohela minor* (Gm.) Gray. WOODCOCK.

Resident; formerly common, now much less so. In other years we have enjoyed good Woodcock shooting in the low ground along the river in the vicinity of Little Falls. The birds are always in the markets and restaurants in season, but probably few of those exposed for sale are now shot inside the District limits. [605]

**175.** (169.) *Gallinago wilsoni* (Temm.) Boie. AMERICAN SNIPE; WILSON'S SNIPE; "JACK SNIPE" (a name also applied to *Actodromas maculata*).

A spring and autumn migrant, passing through in March or April, and again in September. Like other game birds of this and the pre-

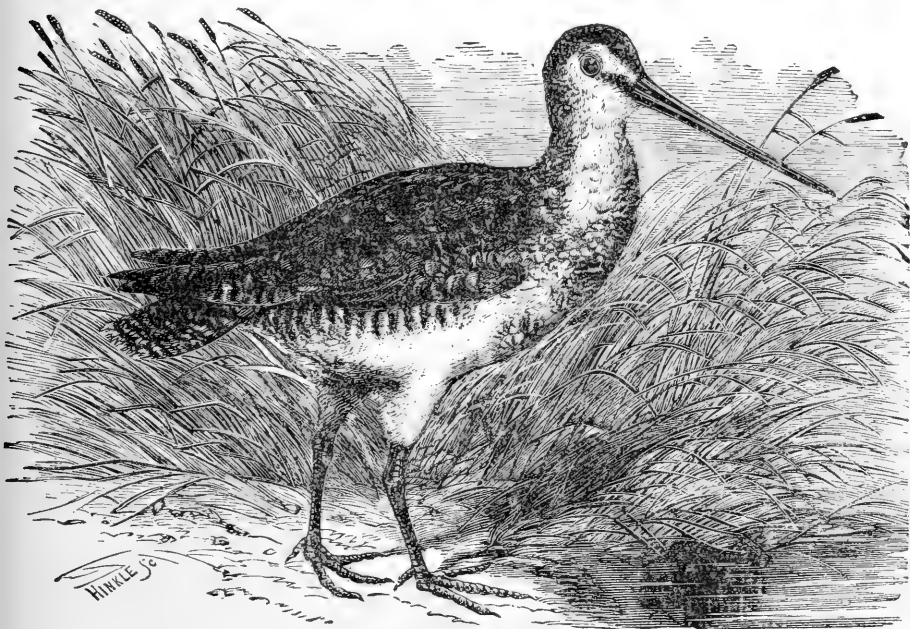


FIG. 80.—Snipe.

ceding families, which are pursued for sport or in the line of business, the Snipe has decreased in numbers with the trebling in population of a great city. We have had Snipe shooting in the "slashes" north of N and west of Fourteenth street, now almost entirely built up. [608]

**176.** (—.) *Macrorhamphus griseus* (Gm.) Leach. RED-BREASTED SNIPE. (Not in the original edition.)

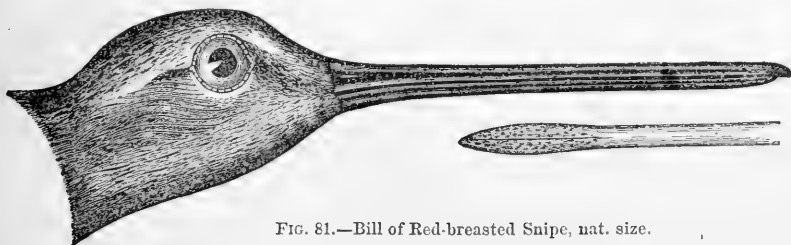


FIG. 81.—Bill of Red-breasted Snipe, nat. size.

In our "Remarks" on the Jouy catalogue we spoke of this species as "certainly" occurring, though at that time not yet detected. Mr. Roberts informs us that he took a specimen in September, 1879. [609]

*Micropalama himantopus* may very possibly be occasionally found.

**177.** (170.) *Actodromas maculata* (Vieill.) Coues. PECTORAL SANDPIPER; "GRASS SNIPE;" "JACK SNIPE."

A spring and autumn visitant, but rarely seen at the former season. It used to be not uncommon from September 25 to November, singly or in flocks, in low, moist, grassy meadows, the boggy parts of the commons in the northern part of the city, as well as in the marshes along the rivers. We remember shooting it at some brick-kiln ponds which existed for many years near the present site of Iowa Circle, where we should as soon expect to see a Dodo now. [616]

**178.** (171.) *Actodromas minutilla* (Vieill.) Coues. LEAST SANDPIPER.

A spring and autumn migrant. In spring, from May 1 to 15; in fall, from August 25 to October. Inhabits the same places as the Grass Snipe. [614]

**179.** (172.) *Ereunetes pusillus* (Linn.) Cass. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.

Rare, perhaps accidental, but occasionally met with in spring and fall, during the migrations, along the banks of the river. [612]

**180.** (173.) *Symphemia semipalmata* (Gm.) Hartl. SEMIPALMATED TATTLER; WILLET.

A spring and autumn visitant; rare. With reference to its distribution at large, the Willet should pertain rather to the category of sum-



FIG. 82.—Head of Willet, nat. size.

mer visitants, but we do not know that it has ever been taken in the District at that season. [632]

**181.** (174.) *Totanus melanoleucus* (Gm.) Vieill. GREATER TATTLER; "YELLOW-SHANKS."

A common spring and autumn migrant. In spring, from May 1 to the 15th; in fall, from the middle of September until November. Gen-

erally seen singly, or in small companies, along the river banks, in boggy meadows, and about the pools on the commons; sometimes within city limits. [633]

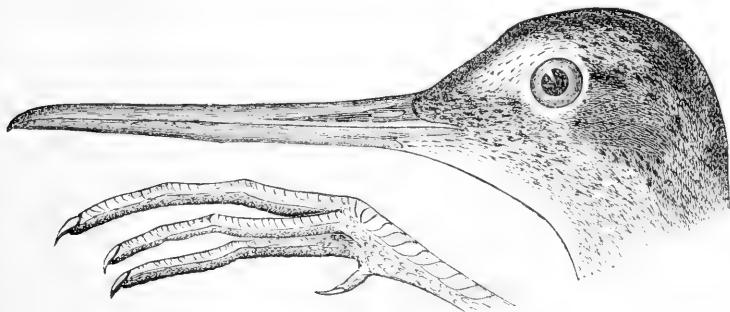


FIG. 83.—Head and foot of Greater Tattler.

**182.** (175.) *Totanus flavipes* (Gm.) Vieill. LESSER TATTLER; "YELLOW-SHANKS." With the preceding, under identical circumstances. [634]

**183.** (176.) *Rhyacophilus solitarius* (Wils.) Bp. SOLITARY SANDPIPER.

A spring and autumn migrant; abundant, especially during the vernal passage. In spring, from May 1 to the 15th; in the fall, from August 25 to the 15th of October. It is usually seen in small flocks at both seasons, and is easily taken, being gentle and unsuspecting. We always found them, during the periods indicated, in pools and ditches of the commons north of the city, and sometimes in rain-puddles in the



FIG. 84.—Bill of Solitary Sandpiper, nat. size.

woods. Occasionally, late in the summer, we took birds so young as to lead us to suppose they had been hatched in the vicinity. Of this, however, we have no assurance, the breeding of the Solitary Sandpiper being one of those things which are yet to be discovered.\* [637]

**184.** (177.) *Tringoides macularius* (Linn.) Gray. SPOTTED SANDPIPER; "PEET-WEET;" "TIP-UP;" "TEETER-TAIL;" "SAND-SNIPE."

A summer resident, very abundant, especially during the vernal migration, and the only member of the family known to breed in the District. It arrives the 20th of April and remains through the greater part of September. You will always see it winging along the banks of

\* While at Blacksburg, Va., in the western mountainous part of the State, late in May, 1883, Dr. Coles observed a pair of Solitary Sandpipers which seemed to have mated and settled for the summer; but he was obliged to leave without assuring himself that they bred there. The locality is one in which *Junco hiemalis* is known to breed.

the Potomac and winding the turns of Rock Creek. On occasion, as when fallen winged into the water, it swims and even dives to escape capture, with greater facility than would be expected to be possessed

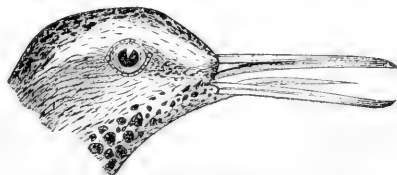


FIG. 85.—Bill of Spotted Sandpiper, nat. size.

by a member of this family. Its gentle “peet-weet” is one of the familiar sounds along all the river courses. [638]

**185.** (178.) *Bartramia longicauda* (Bechst.) Coues. (*Actiturus bartramius* of the original edition.) BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER; UPLAND PLOVER; GRASS PLOVER; FIELD PLOVER.

A summer resident; rare at that season, and not common even during the migrations. Found altogether in high, dry fields and plowed lands. [640]

**186** (179.) *Numenius longirostris* Wils. LONG-BILLED CURLEW.

A spring and autumn migrant, not uncommon, but remaining only for a brief period at either season. Observed in the fall about the middle of September, under circumstances similar to those noted in speaking of the Yellowshanks. [643]

There are several other waders of the Scolopacine and related families, which from their known distribution may be expected in the District. Such are other Curlews, the Great Marbled Godwit, and several Sandpipers. But we have warrant for the introduction of only those here enumerated.

## Order HERODIONES: Herodian Birds.

### Suborder HERODII: Herons.

#### Family ARDEIDÆ: True Herons.

**187.** (160.) *Ardea herodias* Linn. GREAT BLUE HERON; “BLUE CRANE.”

To be found at intervals during the late summer and early fall months along the river; but it is not common, and we know of no instance of its breeding here. [655]

**188.** (159.) *Herodias egretta* (Gm.) Gray. GREAT WHITE EGRET.

Occasionally seen along the river during late summer and early fall months, but rare and irregular. Specimens have been obtained. [658]

**189.** (158.) *Garzetta candidissima* (Gm.) Bp. LITTLE WHITE EGRET.

Not uncommon about the marshes of the Potomac toward the end of summer and early in the fall. [659]



FIG. 86.—Great Blue Heron.

**190.** (161.) *Florida cœrulea* (Linn.) Bd. LITTLE BLUE HERON.

Rare, and only casual toward the end of summer. Specimen obtained. Perhaps some of the small white Herons attributed to the preceding species have been the present one in its white alternative plumage.

[662]

**191.** (164.) *Butorides virescens* (Linn.) Bp. SMALL GREEN HERON; "FLY-UP-THE-CREEK;" "SCHYTEPOKE."

A summer resident, and the most abundant of its tribe; it may always be found during the summer along Rock Creek and about the marshes and estuaries of the Potomac. It used to nest at times in the "slashes," already often mentioned in this paper as within the city limits. It arrives the first of May and remains until the middle of September.

[663]

**192.** (165.) *Nyctiardea grisea nævia* (Bodd.) Allen. (*N. gardeni* of the original edition.) NIGHT HERON.

Rare; occasionally seen during the latter part of the summer. [664]

- 193.** (163.) *Botaurus mugitans* (Bartr.) Coues. (*B. lentiginosus* of the original edition.) BITTERN; STAKE-DRIVER; "INDIAN HEN."

Resident, and rather common. Found chiefly in the marshes of the

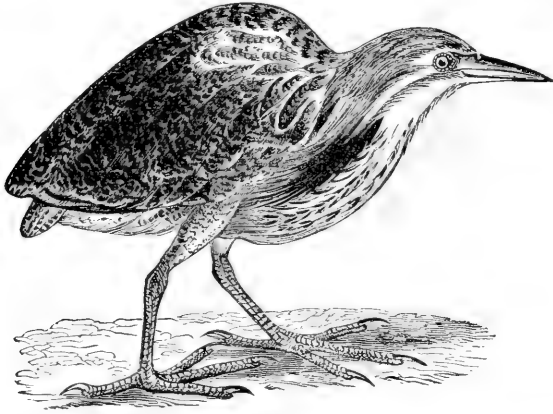


FIG. 87.—Bittern.

Potomac and Anacostia, and boggy estuaries leading to these rivers. It is the only Heron which passes the winter here. [666]

- 194.** (162.) *Ardetta exilis* (Gm.) Gray. LEAST BITTERN.

A summer resident, rather uncommon. Arrives early in May and departs in September. Found chiefly in the *Zizania aquatica* marshes.

There are no heronries in the District to our knowledge; and the Small Green Heron is the only abundant and generally distributed representative of the family *Ardeidæ*. [667]

## Order ALECTORIDES: Cranes and Rails.

### Suborder GRUIFORMES: Cranes.

#### Family GRUIDÆ: Cranes.

- 195.** (157.) *Grus pratensis* Bartr. (*G. canadensis* of the original edition.)

A specimen of this bird has been procured in the District. We doubt, however, that the bird has been seen here alive for the past quarter of a century, and it might properly be retired from the active list. [670]

### Suborder RALLIFORMES: Rails.

#### Family RALLIDÆ: Rails.

- 196.** (—.) *Rallus longirostris crepitans* (Gm.) Ridg. CLAPPER RAIL.

Not in the original edition. Has been observed but once, as we are informed both by Mr. Robert Ridgway and Mr. William Palmer. An



individual was shot in the marsh above Long Bridge by Mr. Frank Ford, September 8, 1882. The occurrence so far from salt water is very unusual. [673]

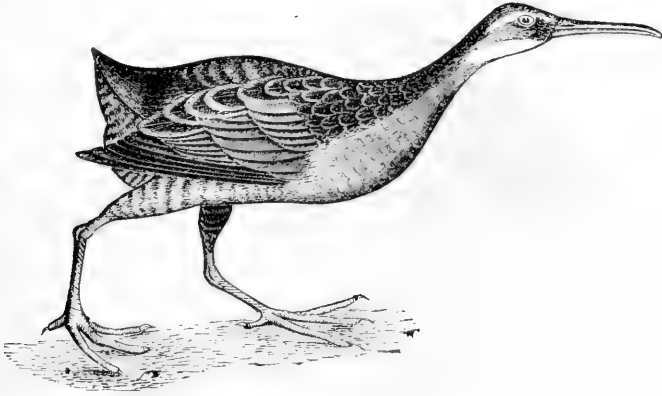


FIG. 88.—Clapper Rail.

**197.** (180.) *Rallus elegans* Aud. FRESH-WATER MARSH-BHEN; "KING RAIL;" "KING ORTOLAN."

A spring and autumn migrant, remaining but a short time at each season. It is chiefly observed early in the autumn, when the marshes are so incessantly ransacked by the gunners, but is never common. [676]

**198.** (181.) *Rallus virginianus* Linn. VIRGINIA RAIL; "KING ORTOLAN."

A spring and autumn migrant; very rarely observed at the former season, and not abundant at any time. Found at the same times and in the same places as the Sora. [677]

**199.** (182.) *Porzana carolina* (Linn.) Vieill. COMMON RAIL; SORA; "ORTOLAN."

A spring and autumn migrant. It is not ordinarily noticeable during the former season, but at the latter it is very numerous in the marshes



FIG. 89.—Sora.

along the rivers, affording great sport from the latter part of August or the beginning of September until the first frost. It is commonly called the "Ortolan," a name having no applicability whatever. A description of rail-shooting is given in the introduction, in the article on the Anacostia River Region. [679]

**200.** (183.) *Porzana jamaicensis* (Gm.) Cass. LITTLE BLACK RAIL.

Very rare, perhaps only casual, during the migration. An individual was seen by ourselves, but unluckily not secured, in September, 1861. One was taken two or three years ago, and is now in the Smithsonian. [68]

The Yellow Rail, *P. norboracensis*, is necessarily an inhabitant of the District, but during all these years we have never succeeded in establishing the fact, and are therefore obliged still to omit it.

**201.** (—.) *Gallinula galeata* (Licht.) Bp. FLORIDA GALLINULE.

Not in the original edition. According to our memoranda the Gallinule was first got here in the autumn of 1863, when a specimen, doubtless from the immediate vicinity, was bought in the market by Mr. C. Drexler. Others besides ourselves have since seen it in the District or vicinity. Mr. Palmer informs us it is occasionally found in the boats of the gunners who hunt for Rail in the fall. It was first added to the list by Mr. Jouy in 1877. In the spring of 1882 one flew into the city, became bewildered, and was captured alive by a boy whom we met carrying it over to the Smithsonian in expectation of a reward. [684]

**202.** (184.) *Fulica americana* Gm. COOT; "CROW DUCK."

A spring and autumn migrant; passing through early in the spring and returning in the fall, about the 1st of October. It is common at the latter season, and constantly exposed for sale in the market. [686]

## Order LAMELLIROSTRES.

### Suborder ANSERES: Anserine Birds.

#### Family ANATIDÆ: Geese, Ducks, &c.

**203.** (185.) *Cygnus columbianus* (Ord) Coues. AMERICAN SWAN.

A winter resident; not common. It is frequently exposed for sale in the market; but such individuals, and those which so commonly serve

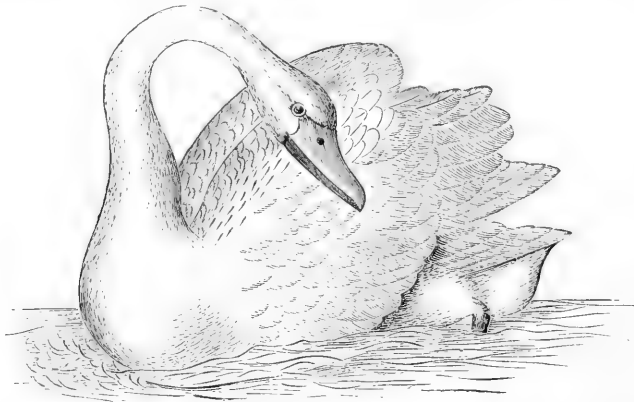


FIG. 90.—Swan.

as signs for restaurants during the winter, are probably mostly shot on the Chesapeake, or, at any rate, not in the District. [689]

**204.** (—.) *Bernicla brenta* (Pall.) Steph. BRANT GOOSE.

Not in the original edition. It has been added to the list by Mr.

Jouy, we presume upon proper grounds, and we therefore give it a place here, though we know nothing of the case. It is probably only known here by specimens brought to market. [700]

**205.** (186.) *Bernicla canadensis* (Linn.) Boie. WILD GOOSE.

Winter visitant, arriving in the fall on the approach of cold weather. Few probably now settle on the waters within the District, but it is no uncommon sight to see files of Geese flying over, and they are found in the markets and restaurants all through the winter. [702]

**206.** (187.) *Anas boscas* Linn. MALLARD.

Common winter resident. Mallards and Dusky Ducks are among the species most numerous and continuously found in the markets and restaurants. In these and similar cases, however, it must be remembered that the traffic in water-fowl is an extensive and important industry, great numbers of the edible kinds being shipped from the regular hunting-grounds of the Chesapeake and other places along the coast; so that the appearance of such birds in the markets is no proof that they visit us of their own free will. The District waters are altogether too near a great city to furnish eligible resorts for water-fowl. Scarcely any of them are now to be considered abundant within our actual limits, though the list here given is unquestionably represented regularly by more or fewer individuals (excepting the single straggler, *Mareca penelope*). [707]

**207.** (188.) *Anas obscura* Gm. DUSKY DUCK; "BLACK MALLARD."

With the preceding. See above. [708]

**208.** (189.) *Dafla acuta* (Linn.) Jen. PIN-TAIL; SPRIG-TAIL.

Common winter resident; arrives about the 1st of October. [710]

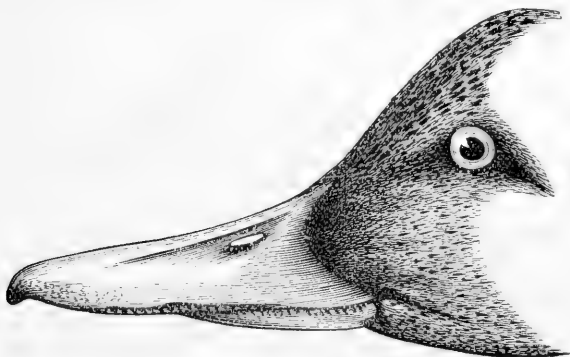


FIG. 91.—Head of female Sprigtail, nat. size.

**209.** (192.) *Chaulelasmus streperus* (Linn.) Gray. GRAY DUCK; GADWALL.

Common winter resident. [711]

**210.** (—.) *Mareca penelope* (Linn.) Selby. EUROPEAN WIDGEON.

According to our memoranda this European bird, only known in America as a straggler, was found in market by Mr. C. Drexler, in the

spring of 1863, about the same time he secured the Gallinule above mentioned. Mr. Jony placed it in the list in 1877. Mr. Ridgway informs us that this specimen, which is now in the United States National Museum, was from Alexandria, Va. [712]

**211.** (193.) *Mareca americana* (Gm.) Steph. AMERICAN WIDGEON.

A common winter resident; arrives about the 1st of October, and remains until some time in April. [713]

**212.** (190.) *Querquedula carolinensis* (Gm.) Steph. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.

An abundant winter resident. It arrives earlier than most of the Ducks—about the middle of September. [715]

**213.** (191.) *Querquedula discors* (Linn.) Steph. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.

One of the most abundant of the Ducks; a winter resident, but an early fall arrival, like the Green-winged Teal. [716]

**214.** (—.) *Spatula clypeata* (Linn.) Boie. SHOVELLER DUCK.

Wrongly omitted from the original edition. Winter resident. [718]

**215.** (194.) *Aix sponsa* (Linn.) Boie. SUMMER DUCK; WOOD DUCK.

Resident; seldom seen, however, except in winter, and at no time common. [719]



FIG. 92.—Wood Duck.

**216.** (195.) *Fuligula marila* (Linn.) Steph. GREATER BLACK-HEAD; SHUFFLER; RAFT DUCK; FLOCKING FOWL.

A winter resident; not very abundant, though often exposed for sale. [720]

**217.** (196.) *Fuligula affinis* Eyt. LESSER BLACK-HEAD.

A winter resident, like the preceding. [721]

**218.** (197.) *Fuligula collaris* (Donov.) Bp. RING-NECK DUCK.

A winter resident; rare. Arrives in the fall, about the last week in September. [722]

- 219.** (198.) *Fuligula ferina americana* (Egt.) Coues. AMERICAN RED-HEAD; "WASHINGTON CANVAS-BACK."

A winter resident; abundant. One of the commonest market Ducks, passing about half the time for the Canvas-back, and equally available for promoting Congressional legislation. [723]

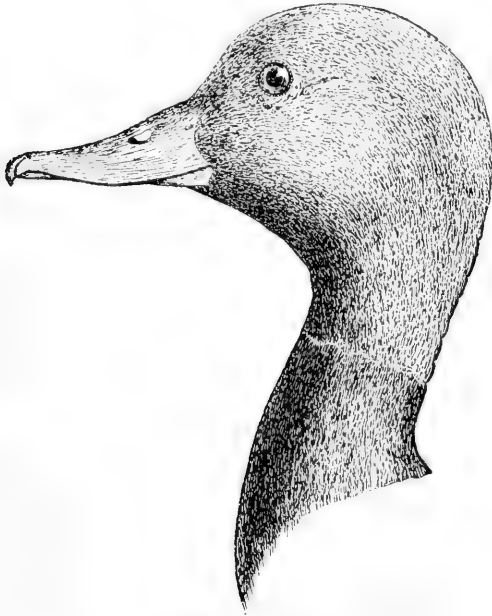


FIG. 93.—Red-head.

- 220.** (199.) *Fuligula vallisneria* (Wils.) Steph. CANVAS-BACK.

A winter resident. It would appear from the state of the market to be very abundant here; but most of the Canvas-backs found in the restaurants probably come by rail from the Chesapeake. [724]

- 221.** (200.) *Clangula glaucium* (Linn.) Brehm. (*Bucephala americana* of the original edition.)

A common winter resident. Little estimable for the table, but frequently seen in market. [725]

- 222.** (201.) *Clangula albeola* (Linn.) Steph. BUFFLE-HEAD; "BUTTER-BALL."

A common winter resident. Arrives in the fall, about the middle of September; leaves in spring, the second week in April. [727]

- 223.** (202.) *Harelda glacialis* (Linn.) Leach. LONG-TAILED DUCK; SOUTH-SOUTHERLY; OLD SQUAW.

- 224.** (205.) *Ædemia americana* Sw. AMERICAN SCOTER.

- 225.** (203.) *Ædemia fusca* (Linn.) Flem. (*Melanetta velvetina* of the original edition.) VELVET SCOTER.

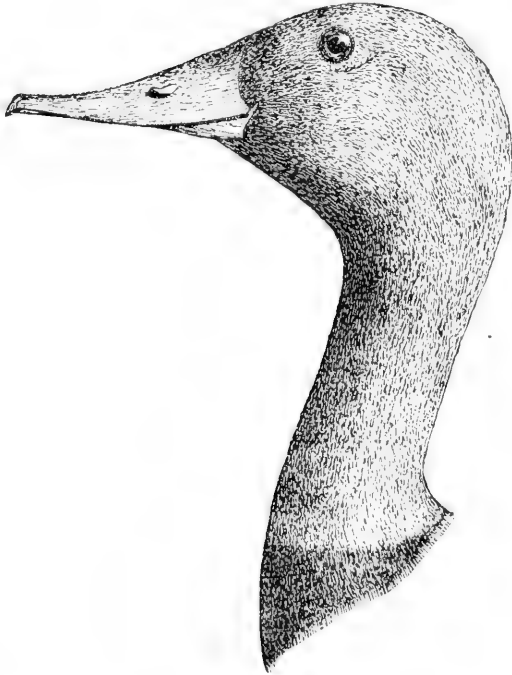


FIG. 94.—Canvas-back.

**226.** (204.) *Edemia perspicillata* (Linn.) Flem. SURF SCOTER.

These four Sea Ducks do not properly pertain to the fauna of the District, being marine species. They are all found, however, at the mouth

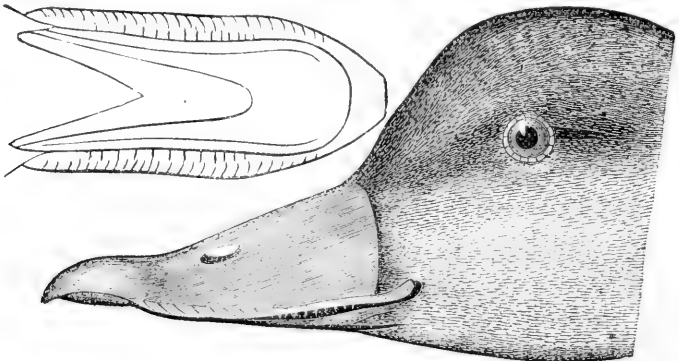


FIG. 95.—Head of female Velvet Scoter, nat. size.

of the Potomac, and regularly ascend the river as far as salt water reaches, though their appearance in District waters can only be rare and casual. They are all to be seen in the market in the winter. Mr. Palmer informs us of a specimen of the Velvet Scoter shot in this vicinity in November, 1880, and brought to the Smithsonian to be mounted.

Mr. B. Begloff brought to us for identification another specimen of the same species, which he had shot on Eastern Branch, near Benning's

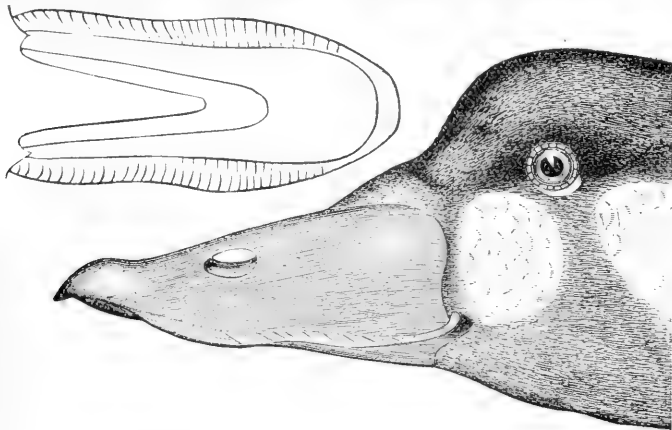


FIG. 96.—Head of young male Surf Scoter, nat. size.

Bridge, October 14, 1882. We have also inspected a mounted specimen of *Harelda glacialis* shot on the Potomac, near the city.

[728, 737, 738, 739]

**227.** (206.) *Erismatura rubida* (Wils.) Bp. RUDDY DUCK.

An abundant winter resident. Frequently exposed for sale in the market, though little esteemed for the table. [741]

**228.** (207.) *Mergus merganser* Linn. (*M. americanus* of the original edition.) GOOS-ANDER; FISH DUCK.

Winter resident; rare. [743]

**229.** (208.) *Mergus serrator* Linn. RED-BREADED MERGANSER; FISH DUCK.

Winter resident; not common, but more frequently observed than the preceding. [744]

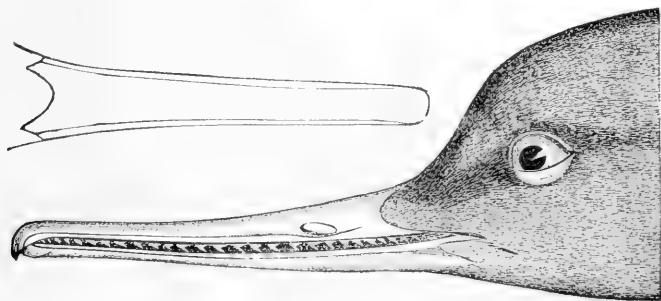


FIG. 97.—Head of Red-breasted Merganser, nat. size.

**230.** (209.) *Mergus cucullatus* Linn. HOODED MERGANSER.

Winter resident; rare.

[745]

## Order STEGANOPODES: Whole-webbed Birds.

Family PHALACROCORACIDÆ: Cormorants.

- 231.** (221.) *Phalacrocorax dilophus* (Sw.) Nutt. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.  
Once detected in the District, many years ago. [751]

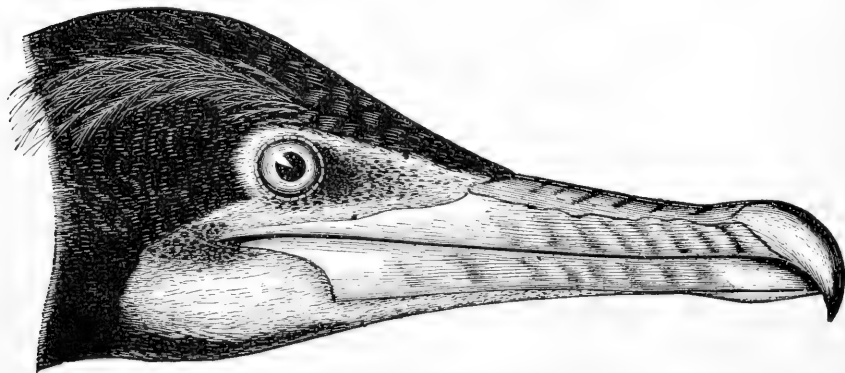


FIG. 98.—Head of Cormorant, nat. size.

## Order LONGIPENNES: Long-winged Birds.

Suborder GAVIÆ: Laridine Birds.

Family LARIDÆ: Gulls, Terns, &amp;c.

- 232.** (212.) *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* Coues. AMERICAN HERRING GULL;  
"SEA GULL."

Occasionally seen sailing over the river during the winter, but not numerous. [773]

- 233.** (213.) *Larus delawarensis* Ord. RING-BILLED GULL.

Seen over the river during the winter months, more frequently than the preceding. [778]

- 234.** (214.) *Chroicocephalus atricilla* (Linn.) Lawr. LAUGHING GULL.

A rare visitor, probably only a straggler, during the late summer and early autumn months. [786]

- 235.** (215.) *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* (Ord.) Lawr. BONAPARTE'S HOODED GULL.

Much more frequently seen than the preceding during the migrations, being comparatively common in August and September. [788]

- 236.** (216.) *Sterna anglica* Mont. (*S. aranea* of the original edition.) MARSH TERN.

Rare; only occasionally seen during the late summer and early fall months over the marshes bordering the rivers. [792]



- 237.** (217.) *Sterna hirundo* Linn. (*S. wilsoni* of the original edition.) COMMON TERN, or SEA SWALLOW.

An occasional visitor during the late summer and early fall months.

[797]

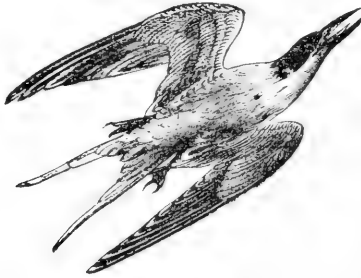


FIG. 99.—Tern.

- 238.** (—.) *Sterna forsteri* Nutt. FORSTER'S TERN.

In the original edition we indicated this species as one "undoubtedly to be found in the District." It has since been properly added to the list by Mr. Jouy, having been actually taken within our limits. [798]

- 239.** (218.) *Sterna superciliaris antillarum* (Less.) Coues. (*S. frenata* of the original edition.) LEAST TERN.

Not uncommon; frequently seen over the marshes of the rivers in August and September, and more seldom in the spring. [801]

- 240.** (219.) *Hydrochelidon lariformis* (Linn.) Coues. (*H. plumbea* of the original edition.) SHORT-TAILED TERN.

Less numerous than the preceding, but found under similar circumstances at the same seasons. [806]

- 241.** (220.) *Rhynchops nigra* Linn. BLACK SKIMMER.

A rare straggler, late in the summer or in the beginning of September. Individuals were once seen by ourselves on the Potomac, some distance below Washington, September 8, 1858, since which occasion we have heard nothing more of the bird. [809]

## Suborder TUBINARES: Tube-nosed Birds.

### Family PROCELLARIIDÆ: Petrels.

Birds of this pelagic family are all necessarily stragglers inland. Three have been known to occur in the District.

- 242.** (210.) *Cymochorea leucorrhœa* (Vieill.) Coues. LEACH'S PETREL.

Accidental straggler. Numbers were seen during a storm many years ago. [823]

**243.** (—.) *Oceanites oceanicus* (Kuhl) Coues. WILSON'S PETREL.

Not in the original edition. We find among our memoranda one to the effect that a specimen of this species was taken here many years ago, and was, at the time of writing, preserved in the Smithsonian. [828]

**244.** (211.) *Puffinus obscurus*? SHEARWATER.

A Shearwater, probably this species, has been detected in the District. [835]

## Order PYGOPODES: Rump-footed Birds.

### Family COLYMBIDÆ: Loons.

**245.** (222.) *Colymbus torquatus* Brinn. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER; LOON.

Rare; occasionally seen on the river during the winter. [840]

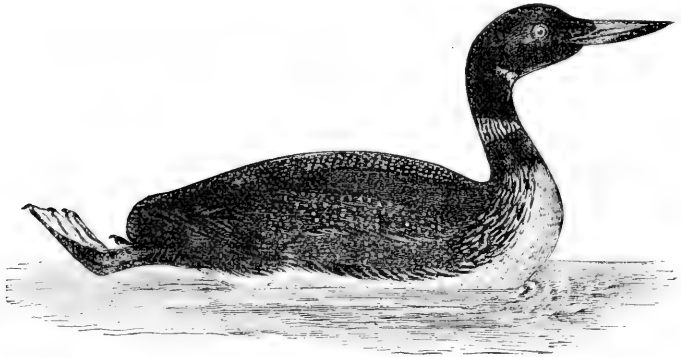


FIG. 100.—Loon.

### Family PODICIPEDIDÆ: Grebes.

**246.** (223.) *Podiceps griseigena holboelli* (Reinh.) Coues. AMERICAN RED-NECKED GREBE.

Not uncommon on the river during the winter months. [847]  
[Dele (224) *P. cristatus*, given in the original edition.]

**247.** (225.) *Podiceps cornutus* (Gm.) Lath. HORNED GREBE.

Common on the Potomac during the winter months. [848]

**248.** (226.) *Podilymbus podiceps* (Linn.) Lawr. PIED-BILLED GREBE; "DIPPER"; "WATER-WITCH;" "HELL-DIVER."

Abundant on the Potomac in winter, but we have not been able to ascertain with precision the times of arrival and departure of this species and of the three preceding ones. [852]

## V.—RECAPITULATION.

The birds included in the preceding catalogue are now presented in categories to show at a glance those which are permanent or summer or winter residents, and those which are regular or accidental visitants. It is somewhat difficult to make out such a recapitulation, from the fact that of some species undoubtedly to be classed as spring and autumn migrants, a few individuals breed or pass the winter; while, of those which regularly pass the summer or winter with us, many are more abundant in spring and fall. We have endeavored to place each species in the category to which it most naturally belongs, indicating also various irregularities in brief words.

The additions made to each category since 1862, and the few transfers from one to another category, are also indicated at the end of each list.

We also note, but do not enumerate, in Category F, some twenty-five species which we suppose, from what is known of their general distribution, will eventually be detected in the District.

## CATEGORY A.—PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

[Those known to breed are marked with the asterisk.]

1. *Turdus migratorius*.\* (Chiefly during the migration.)
2. *Sialia sialis*.\* (Scarcely in winter.)
3. *Lophophanes bicolor*.\*
4. *Sitta carolinensis*.\*
5. *Certhia americana*.\*
6. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*.\*
7. *Ampelis cedrorum*.\*
8. *Passer domesticus*.\* (Introduced since 1862.)
9. *Chrysomitris tristis*.\*
10. *Melospiza fasciata*.\*
11. *Spizella pusilla*.\*
12. *Cardinalis virginiana*.\*
13. *Agelaius phoeniceus*.\* (Scarcely in winter.)
14. *Sturnella magna*.\*
15. *Corvus frugivorus*.\*
16. *Corvus maritimus*.
17. *Cyanocitta cristata*.\*
18. *Hylotomus pileatus*. (Nearly extirpated.)
19. *Picus villosus*.
20. *Picus pubescens*.\*
21. *Sphyrapicus varius*.

22. *Centurus carolinus*.
23. *Colaptes auratus*.
24. *Aluco flammeus pratincola*.\*
25. *Bubo virginianus*.
26. *Scops asio*.\*
27. *Asio wilsonianus*.
28. *Asio accipitrinus*.
29. *Strix nebulosa*.
30. *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*.
31. *Falco columbarius*. (Rare, irregular.)
32. *Falco sparverius*.\*
33. *Accipiter cooperi*.
34. *Accipiter fuscus*.
35. *Buteo borealis*.
36. *Buteo lineatus*.
37. *Buteo pennsylvanicus*.
38. *Haliaëtus leucocephalus*.
39. *Cathartes aura*.
40. *Melagris gallinago americana*. (Almost extirpated.)
41. *Zenaidura carolinensis*.\*
42. *Bonasa umbella*.
43. *Ortyx virginiana*.\*
44. *Botaurus mugilans*.
45. *Egialites vociferus*.
46. *Philohela minor*.
47. *Aix sponsa*. (Rare.)

There were 44 species in this category in the original edition; three (*Passer domesticus*, *Aluco flammeus pratincola*, and *Falco columbarius*) have been added, making 47.

#### CATEGORY B.—WINTER RESIDENTS.

1. *Regulus satrapa*. (Chiefly spring and fall.)
2. *Parus atricapillus*.
3. *Sitta canadensis*.
4. *Anorthura troglodytes hiemalis*.
5. *Eremophila alpestris*.
6. *Anthus ludovicianus*.
7. *Dendræca coronata*.
8. *Lanius borealis*. (Rare.)
9. *Carpodacus purpureus*.
10. *Chrysomitris pinus*.
11. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*.
12. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. (Chiefly spring and fall.)
13. *Passerella iliaca*. (Chiefly spring and fall.)
14. *Junco hiemalis*,

15. *Spizella monticola*.
16. *Scolecophagus ferrugineus*.
17. *Aquila chrysaëtus*.
18. *Ectopistes migratorius*. (Irregular, perhaps resident.)
19. *Cygnus americanus*. (Rare.)
20. *Bernicla canadensis*.
21. *Bernicla brenta*. (Very rare, probably only casual.)
22. *Anas boscas*.
23. *Anas obscura*.
24. *Dafila acuta*.
25. *Chaulelasmus streperus*.
26. *Mareca americana*.
27. *Querquedula carolinensis*.
28. *Querquedula discors*.
29. *Spatula clypeata*.
30. *Fuligula marila*.
31. *Fuligula affinis*.
32. *Fuligula collaris*.
33. *Fuligula ferina americana*.
34. *Fuligula vallisneria*.
35. *Clangula glaucium*.
36. *Clangula albeola*.
37. *Erismatyris rubida*.
38. *Mergus americanus*.
39. *Mergus serrator*.
40. *Mergus cucullatus*.
41. *Larus smithsonianus*.
42. *Larus delawarensis*.
43. *Colymbus torquatus*.
44. *Podiceps griseigena holboelli*.
45. *Podiceps cornutus*.
46. *Podilymbus podiceps*.

There were 44 in this category in the original edition. Of these *Falco columbarius* has been transferred to the permanent residents, and *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* to the migrants, while *Podiceps cristatus* has been eliminated, leaving 41. There have been added five, namely, *Zonotrichia albicollis*, *Passerella iliaca*, *Bernicla brenta*, *Spatula clypeata*, and *Colymbus torquatus*, making 46.

#### CATEGORY C.—SUMMER VISITANTS.

[In most cases, known to breed here, with asterisk.]

1. *Turdus mustelinus*.\*
2. *Mimus polyglottus*.\* (Rare.)
3. *Mimus carolinensis*.\*
4. *Harporhynchus rufus*.\*

5. *Polioptila cærulea*.\*
6. *Parus carolinensis*.\*
7. *Troglodytes domesticus*.\*
8. *Cistothorus palustris*.\*
9. *Mniotilta varia*.\* (The greater number go farther north.)
10. *Helmintherus vermivorus*.\*
11. *Dendræca æstiva*.\*
12. *Dendræca discolor*.
13. *Dendræca pinus*.\*
14. *Siurus auricapillus*.\*
15. *Siurus naevius*. (The greater number go farther north.)
16. *Siurus motacilla*.\*
17. *Oporornis formosa*. (Very rare.)
18. *Geothlypis trichas*.\*
19. *Icteria viridis*.\*
20. *Pyrranga æstiva*.\*
21. *Hirundo erythrogastra horreorum*.\*
22. *Iridoprocne bicolor*.\*
23. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*.\*
24. *Cotile riparia*.\*
25. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*.\*
26. *Progne subis*.\*
27. *Vireo olivaceus*.\*
28. *Vireo flavifrons*.\*
29. *Vireo gilvus*.\*
30. *Vireo noveboracensis*.\*
31. *Poæcetes gramineus*.\*
32. *Coturniculus passerinus*.\*
33. *Coturniculus henslowi*.\*
34. *Spizella domestica*.\*
35. *Spiza americana*.\* (Now extremely rare or wanting.)
36. *Zamelodia ludoviciana*.
37. *Guiraca cærulea*.\*
38. *Passerina cyanea*.\*
39. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*.\* (The greater number go farther north.)
40. *Molothrus ater*.\*
41. *Icterus galbula*.\*
42. *Icterus spurius*.\*
43. *Quiscalus purpureus*.\*
44. *Quiscalus purpureus æneus*.\*
45. *Tyrannus carolinensis*.\* (The greater number go farther north.)
46. *Myiarchus crinitus*.\*
47. *Sayornis fusca*.\* (The greater number go farther north.)
48. *Contopus virens*.\*
49. *Eupidonax acadicus*.\*
50. *Chordeiles popetue*. (The greater number go farther north.)

51. *Chalcidura pelagica*.\*
52. *Antrostomus vociferus*.
53. *Trochilus colubris*.\*
54. *Ceryle alcyon*. (Probably some also winter.)
55. *Coccygus erythrophthalmus*. (The greater number go farther north.)
56. *Coccygus americanus*.\*
57. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.\*
58. *Pandion carolinensis*.
59. *Tringoides macularius*.\*
60. *Actiturus bartramius*. (Rare, rather a migrant.)
61. *Ardea herodias*. (Irregular.)
62. *Herodias egretta*. (Irregular.)
63. *Garzetta candidissima*. (Irregular.)
64. *Butorides virescens*.\*
65. *Nyctiardea grisea navia*. (Irregular.)
66. *Ardetta exilis*.

There were 59 in this category in the original edition, to which have been added seven—*Oporornis formosa*, *Vireo noveboracensis*, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, *Quiscalus purpureus*, *Q. p. æneus*, *Chordeiles popetue*, and *Ardetta exilis*, making 66.

#### CATEGORY D.—SPRING AND AUTUMN MIGRANTS ONLY.

1. *Turdus fuscescens*.
2. *Turdus unalasca nanus*. (Possibly some winter.)
3. *Turdus ustulatus aliciae*.
4. *Turdus ustulatus swainsoni*.
5. *Regulus calendula*. (Possibly some winter.)
6. *Parula americana*.
7. *Helminthophila pinus*.
8. *Helminthophila chrysoptera*.
9. *Helminthophila ruficapilla*.
10. *Helminthophila peregrina*.
11. *Dendræca virens*.
12. *Dendræca cærulescens*.
13. *Dendræca blackburnæ*.
14. *Dendræca striata*.
15. *Dendræca castanea*.
16. *Dendræca pennsylvanica*.
17. *Dendræca maculosa*.
18. *Dendræca tigrina*. (Rare.)
19. *Dendræca palmarum*.
20. *Oporornis agilis*.
21. *Geothlypis philadelphia*. (Very rare.)
22. *Myiodioctes mitratus*. (Possibly some summer.)
23. *Myiodioctes pusillus*.

24. *Myiiodioides canadensis*.
25. *Setophaga ruticilla*. (Possibly some summer.)
26. *Pyrrhuloxia rubra*. (Possibly some summer.)
27. *Vireo solitarius*. (Possibly some summer.)
28. *Passerculus sandwichensis savana*. (Probably some winter.)
29. *Melospiza palustris*. (Probably some winter.)
30. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.
31. *Empidonax traillii*.
32. *Empidonax minimus*.
33. *Empidonax flaviventris*.
34. *Charadrius dominicus*.
35. *Gallinago wilsoni*.
36. *Actodromas maculata*.
37. *Actodromas minutilla*.
38. *Symphemia semipalmata*. (Possibly some summer.)
39. *Totanus melanoleucus*.
40. *Totanus flavipes*.
41. *Rhyacophilus solitarius*.
42. *Numenius longirostris*.
43. *Kallus elegans*.
44. *Kallus virginianus*.
45. *Porzana carolina*.
46. *Fulica americana*. (Possibly some winter.)
47. *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*.
48. *Sterna supercilii antillarum*. (Irregular.)
49. *Hydrochelidon lariformis*. (Irregular.)

There were 54 species in this category in the original edition, of which 7 have been subtracted, *Oporornis formosa*, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, *Quiscalus purpureus*, *Chordeiles popetue*, and *Ardetta exilis* being carried to the summer list, and *Zonotrichia albicollis* and *Passerella iliaca* to the winter list, leaving 47, to which two have been added, *Geothlypis philadelphia* and *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*, making 49.

#### CATEGORY E—ACCIDENTAL OR VERY RARE VISITORS.

1. *Thryothorus bewicki*. In one known instance, April 10, 1882.
2. *Protonotaria citrea*. In one known instance, May 2, 1861.
3. *Dendroica dominica*. In two known instances, ———, 1842, and September 7, 1881.
4. *Lanius ludovicianus*. In several instances; irregular.
5. *Pinicola enucleator*. Irregular; from the north in severe winters.
6. *Loxia curvirostra americana*. Irregular; from the north in severe winters.
7. *Loxia leucoptera*. Irregular; from the north in severe winters.
8. *Ægiothus linaria*. Irregular; from the north in severe winters.
9. *Plectrophanes nivalis*. Irregular; from the north in severe winters.



10. *Ammodramus caudacutus*. In one known instance, September, 1862.
11. *Chondestes grammicus*. One or two instances, summer of 1877.
12. *Milvulus forficatus?* In one alleged instance, May 6, 1861.
13. *Tyrannus verticalis*. In one known instance, September 20, 1874.
14. *Nyctea scandiaca*. Irregular; from the north in severe winters.
15. *Falco peregrinus*. Casual; in one known instance, December, 1878.
16. *Astur atricapillus*. Irregular; from the north in severe winters.
17. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*. In one known instance, December 29, 1879.
18. *Chamæpelia passerina*. In one known instance, many years ago.
19. *Ægialites semipalmatus*. Casual, in migration.
20. *Macrorhamphus griseus*. Casual, in migration.
21. *Ereunetes pusillus*. Casual, in migration.
22. *Florida cærulea*. Occasional; from the south in late summer.
23. *Grus pratensis*. In one known instance. (Doubtless extirpated.)
24. *Rallus longirostris crepitans*. In one known instance, September 8, 1882.
25. *Porzana jamaicensis*. In one known instance, September, 1861.
26. *Gallinula galeata*. Occasional; chiefly in the fall.
27. *Mareca penelope*. In one instance, in market, from Alexandria, Va., spring of 1863.
28. *Harelda glacialis*. Casual, from salt water.
29. *Ædemia americana*. Casual, from salt water.
30. *Ædemia fusca*. Casual, from salt water.
31. *Ædemia perspicillata*. Casual, from salt water.
32. *Phalacrocorax dilophus*. In one instance, many years ago.
33. *Chroicocephalus atricilla*. Occasional, in summer.
34. *Sterna anglica*. Occasional, in migration.
35. *Sterna forsteri*. Occasional, in migration.
36. *Sterna hirundo*. Occasional, in migration.
37. *Rhynchops nigra*. In one known instance, September 8, 1858.
38. *Cymochorea leucorrhœa*. On one occasion, many years ago.
39. *Oceanites oceanicus*. In one known instance, many years ago.
40. *Puffinus obscurus?* In one known instance, many years ago.

There were 25 species in this category in the original edition, of which one (*Colymbus torquatus*) has been transferred to category B, and to which 16 species have been added. It is seen that of the total 23 species which have been found in the District since 1862, 16 are merely accidental or very rare visitors.

CATEGORY F.—SOME SPECIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIST WHICH ARE PROBABLY YET TO BE DETECTED IN THE DISTRICT.

*Cistothorus stellaris.*

*Dendroica cærulea.*

*Ampelis garrulus.*

*Vireo philadelphicus.*

*Plectrophanes lapponicus.*

*Melospiza lincolni.*

*Nyctala acadica.*

*Elanoïdes forficatus.*

*Squatarola helvetica.*

*Ægialites melodus* or *wilsonius.*

*Micropalama himantopus.*

*Actodromas bairdi* or *bonapartii*, and other Sandpipers.

*Limosa fedoa.*

*Numenius hudsonicus* or *borealis.*

*Recurvirostra americana.*

*Himantopus mexicanus.*

*Hæmatopus palliatus.*

*Strepsilas interpres.*

*Porzana noveboracensis.*

SUMMARY.

	Old list.	New list.
Category A. Permanent residents.....	44	47
Category B. Winter visitants.....	44	46
Category C. Summer visitants.....	59	66
Category D. Spring and autumn visitants.....	54	49
Category E. Accidental or very rare visitants.....	25	40
Total.....	226	248

[Anticipated, about 20 more.]

## VI.—GAME LAWS OF THE DISTRICT.

[PUBLIC—No. 99.]

AN ACT for the preservation of game and protection of birds in the District of Columbia.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That no person shall kill or expose for sale, or have in either his or her possession, either dead or alive, any partridge, otherwise quail, between the first day of February and the first day of November, under a penalty of five dollars for each bird so killed or in possession.

SEC. 2. That no person shall kill or expose for sale, or have in his or her possession, either dead or alive, any pheasant, otherwise ruffed grouse, between the first day of February and the first day of August, under a penalty of five dollars for each bird so killed or in possession.

SEC. 3. That no person shall kill or expose for sale, or have in his or her possession, either dead or alive, any woodcock, between the first day of February and the first day of July, under a penalty of five dollars for each bird so killed or in possession.

SEC. 4. That no person shall kill or expose for sale, or have in his or her possession, either dead or alive, any prairie chicken, otherwise pinnated grouse, between the first day of February and the first day of September, under a penalty of five dollars for each bird so killed or in possession.

SEC. 5. That no person shall kill or expose for sale, or have in his or her possession, either dead or alive, any snipe, or plover, between the first day of May and the first day of September, under a penalty of five dollars for each bird so killed or in possession.

SEC. 6. That no person shall kill or expose for sale, or have in his or her possession, either dead or alive, any wild duck, wild goose, or wild brant, between the first day of April and the first day of September, under a penalty of five dollars for each bird so killed or in possession.

SEC. 7. That no person shall kill or expose for sale, or have in his or her possession, either dead or alive, any water-rail, or ortolan, or reed-bird, or rice-bird, between the first day of February and the first day of September, under a penalty of two dollars for each bird so killed or in possession.

SEC. 8. That no person shall expose for sale or have in his or her possession, any deer-meat, or venison, between the first day of January and the fifteenth day of August, under a penalty of twenty cents for each and every pound of deer-meat so exposed for sale or had in possession.

SEC. 9. That no person shall kill or expose for sale, or have in his or her possession, dead, at any time any turkey-buzzard, wren, sparrow, blue-bird, humming-bird, blue jay, robin or migratory thrush, wood or song robin, martin, mocking-bird, swallow, oriole, red or cardinal bird, cat-bird, pewit, whip-poor-will, gold-finch, sap-sucker, hanging-bird, wood-pecker, crow black-bird, or any other insectivorous bird, save as herein provided, under a penalty of two dollars for each bird killed or in possession dead.

SEC. 10. That no person shall rob the nest of any wild bird of eggs or young, or destroy such nest, unless in the necessary prosecution of farming business, under a penalty of two dollars for each egg or bird so taken, and under a penalty of five dollars for each nest destroyed.

SEC. 11. That no person shall trap, net, or ensnare any wild bird or water-fowl, or have in possession any trap, net, or snare, with the intent to capture or kill any wild bird or water-fowl, under a penalty of five dollars for every bird or water-fowl so trapped, netted, or ensnared, and under a further penalty of twenty dollars for having in possession any such net, trap, or snare; and such net, trap, or snare shall be forfeited and destroyed.

SEC. 12. That no person shall at any time kill or shoot at any wild duck, wild goose, or wild brant with any other gun than such as are habitually raised at arm's length and fired from the shoulder, under a penalty of five dollars for each and every wild fowl so killed, and under the further penalty of twenty-five dollars for firing such gun at any wild fowl as aforesaid, or having said gun in possession.

SEC. 13. That no person shall kill or shoot at any bird or wild fowl in the night-time, under a penalty of twenty-five dollars for every bird or wild fowl so killed, and under the further penalty of ten dollars for shooting at any bird or wild fowl in the night-time as aforesaid.

SEC. 14. That persons in killing birds for scientific purposes, or in possession of them for breeding, shall be exempt from the operations of this act by proving affirmatively such purposes; and the possession shall in all cases be presumptive evidence of unlawful purpose.

SEC. 15. That any person who shall knowingly trespass on the lands of another for the purpose of shooting or hunting thereon, after due notice, or notice as provided for in the following section, by the owner or occupant of lands, shall be liable to such owner or occupant in exemplary damages to an amount not exceeding one hundred dollars, and shall also be liable to a fine of ten dollars for each and every trespass so committed. The possession of implements of shooting on such lands shall be presumptive evidence of the trespass.

SEC. 16. That the notice referred to in the preceding section shall be given by erecting and maintaining sign-boards at least eight by twelve inches in dimension, on the borders of the premises, and at least two such signs for every fifty acres; and any person who shall maliciously tear down or in any manner deface or injure any of such sign-boards

shall be liable to a penalty of not less than five dollars nor more than twenty-five dollars for each and every sign-board so torn down, defaced or injured.

SEC. 17. That there shall be no shooting, or having in possession in the open air the implements for shooting on the first day of the week, called Sunday; and any person violating the provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty of not more than twenty-five dollars nor less than ten dollars for each offense.

SEC. 18. That all acts or parts of acts now in force in the District of Columbia, inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Approved, June 15, 1878.



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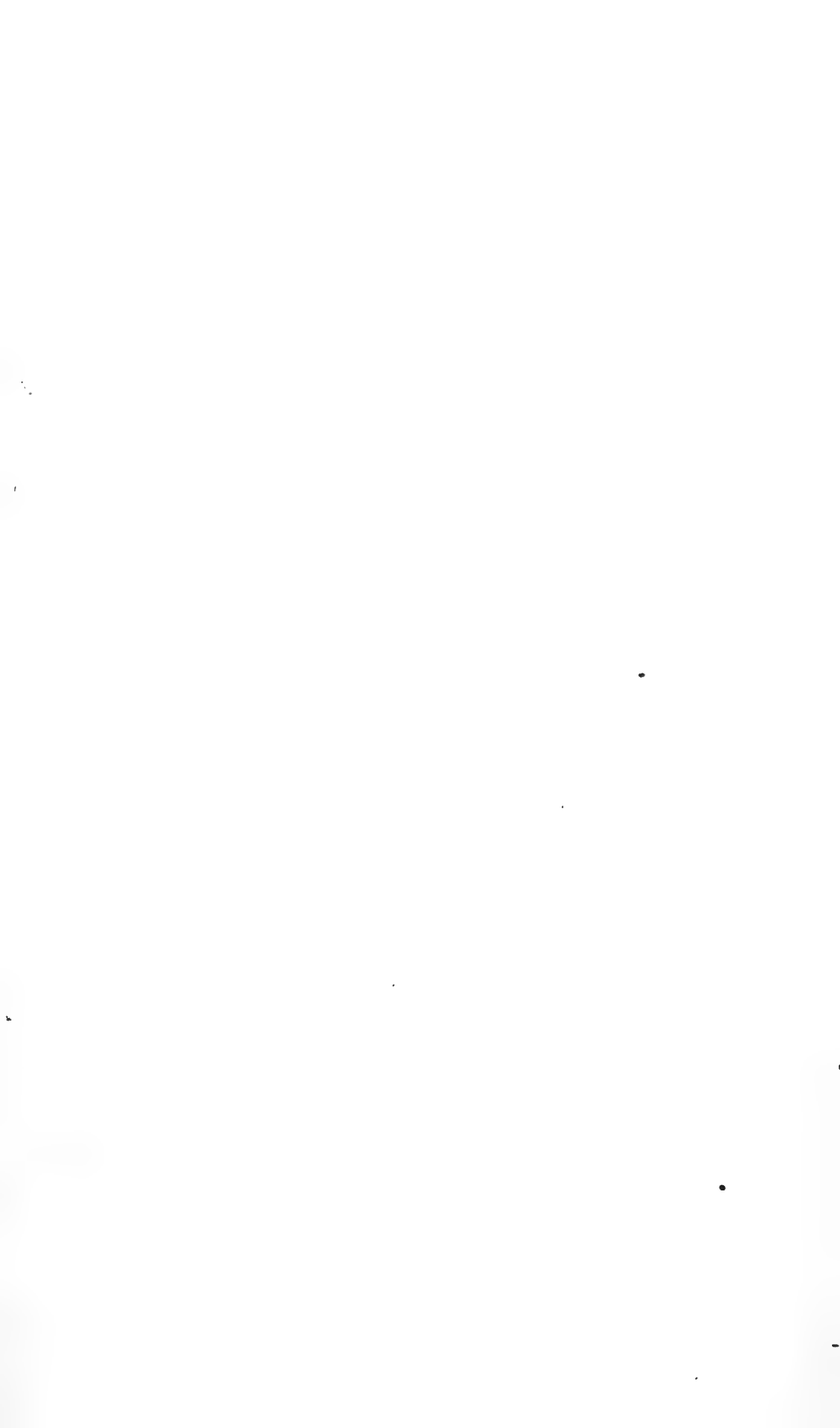
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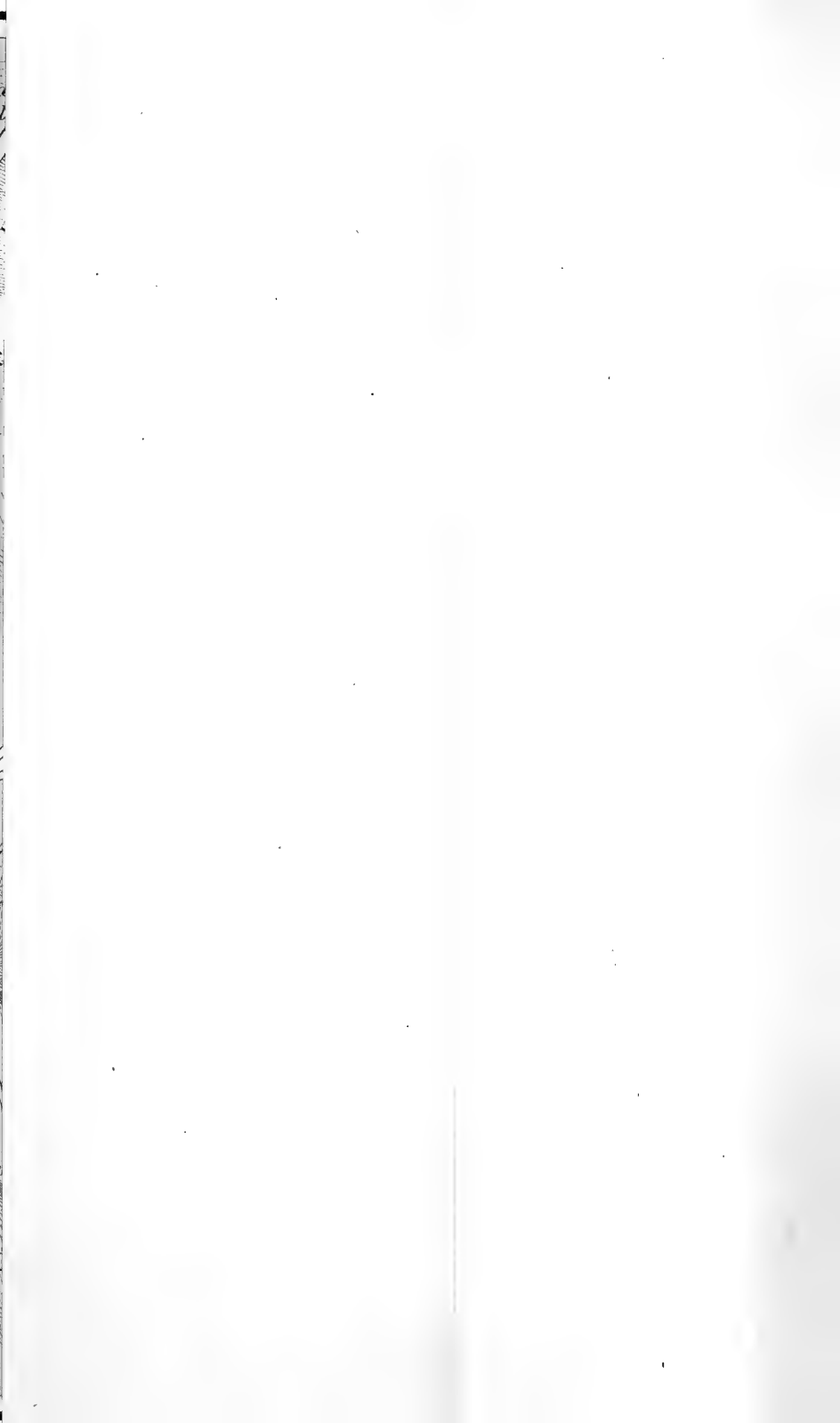


MAP  
OF THE  
POTOMAC RIVER REGION  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Scale 2 1/2 inches to one mile

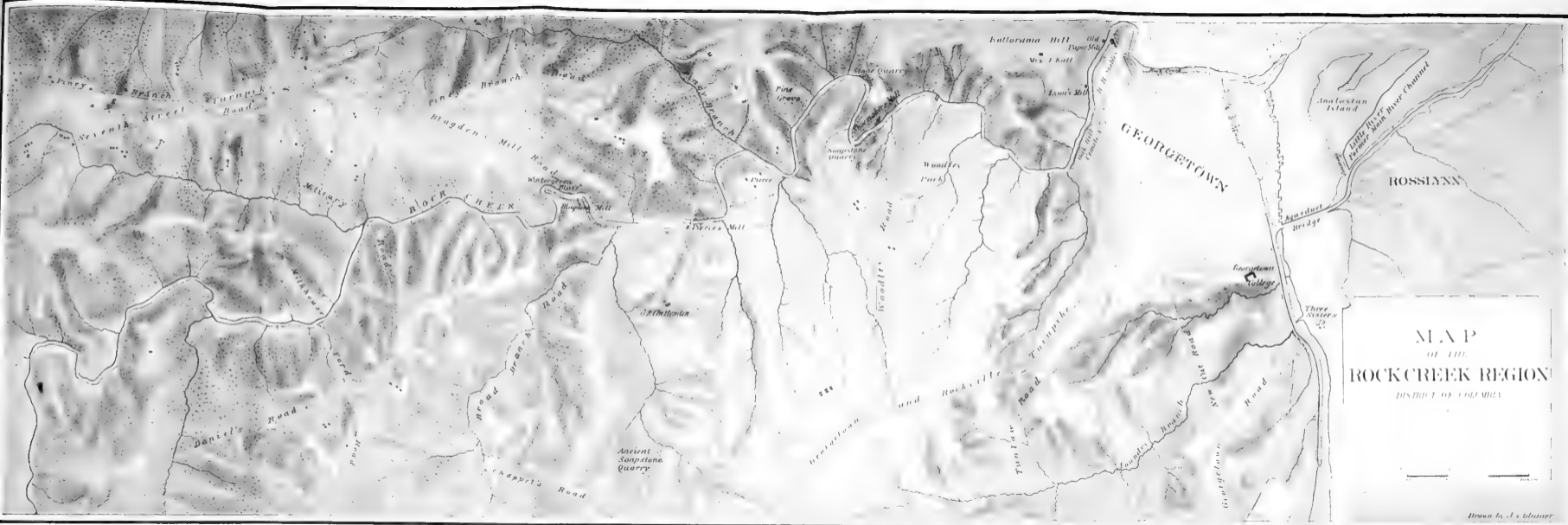








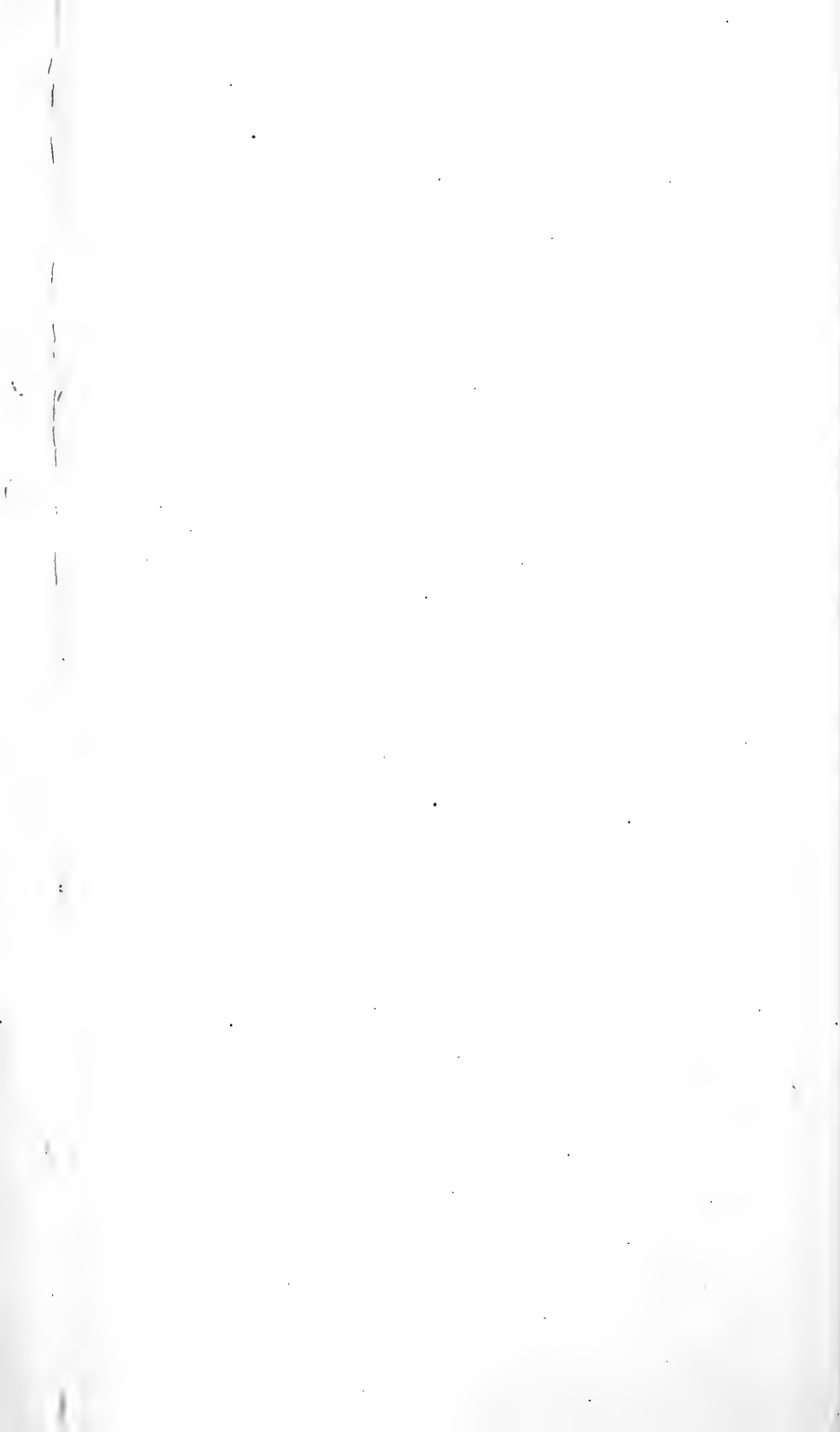




MAP  
 OF THE  
 ROCK CREEK REGION  
 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Drawn by J. A. Glatner



ber

Walt's



BT





# WASHINGTON



MAP  
OF THE  
ANACOSTIA RIVER  
OR  
EASTERN BRANCH REGION  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Scale: 1 1/2 inches to one mile

Drawn by T. C. Gilmer



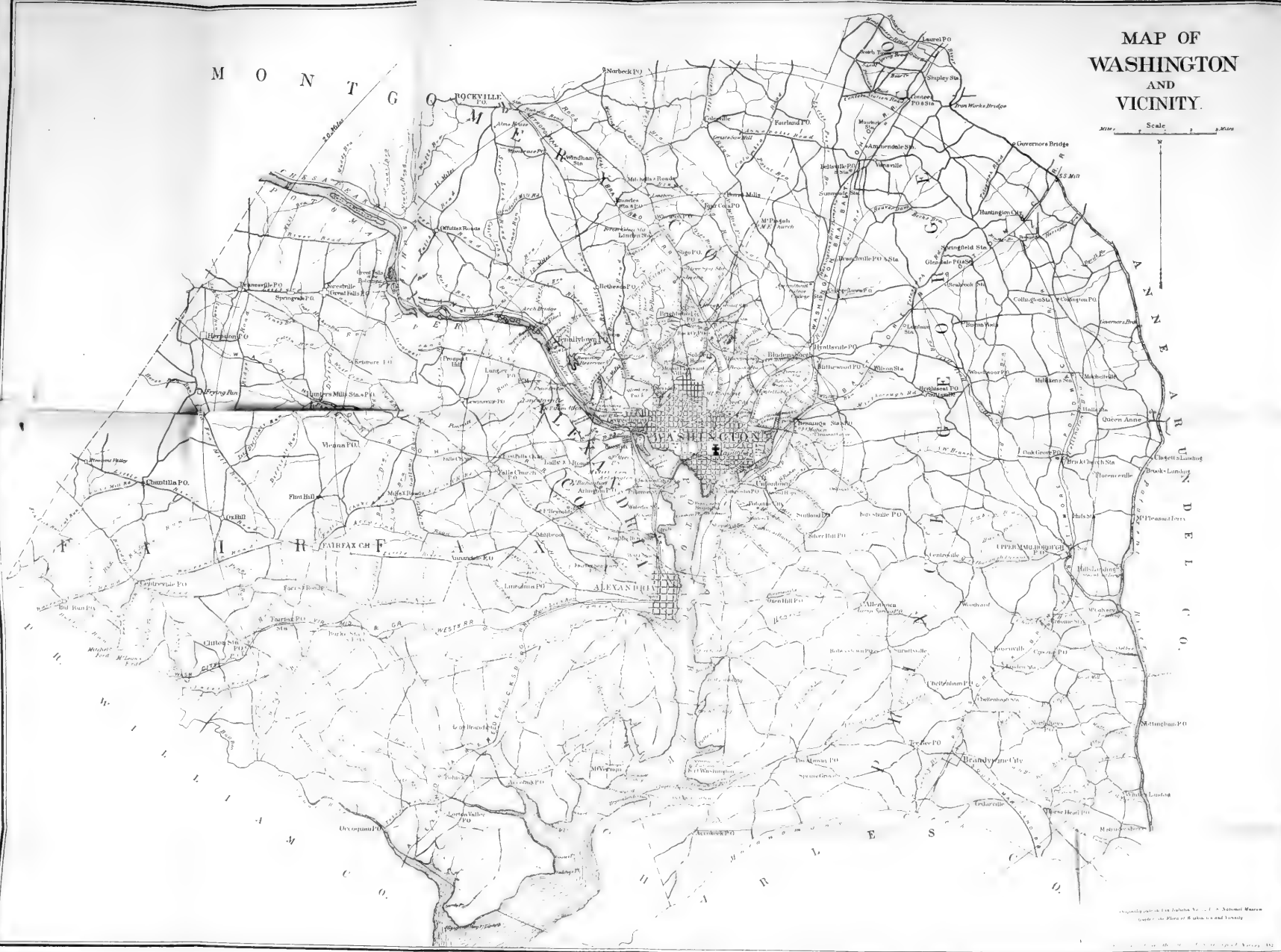




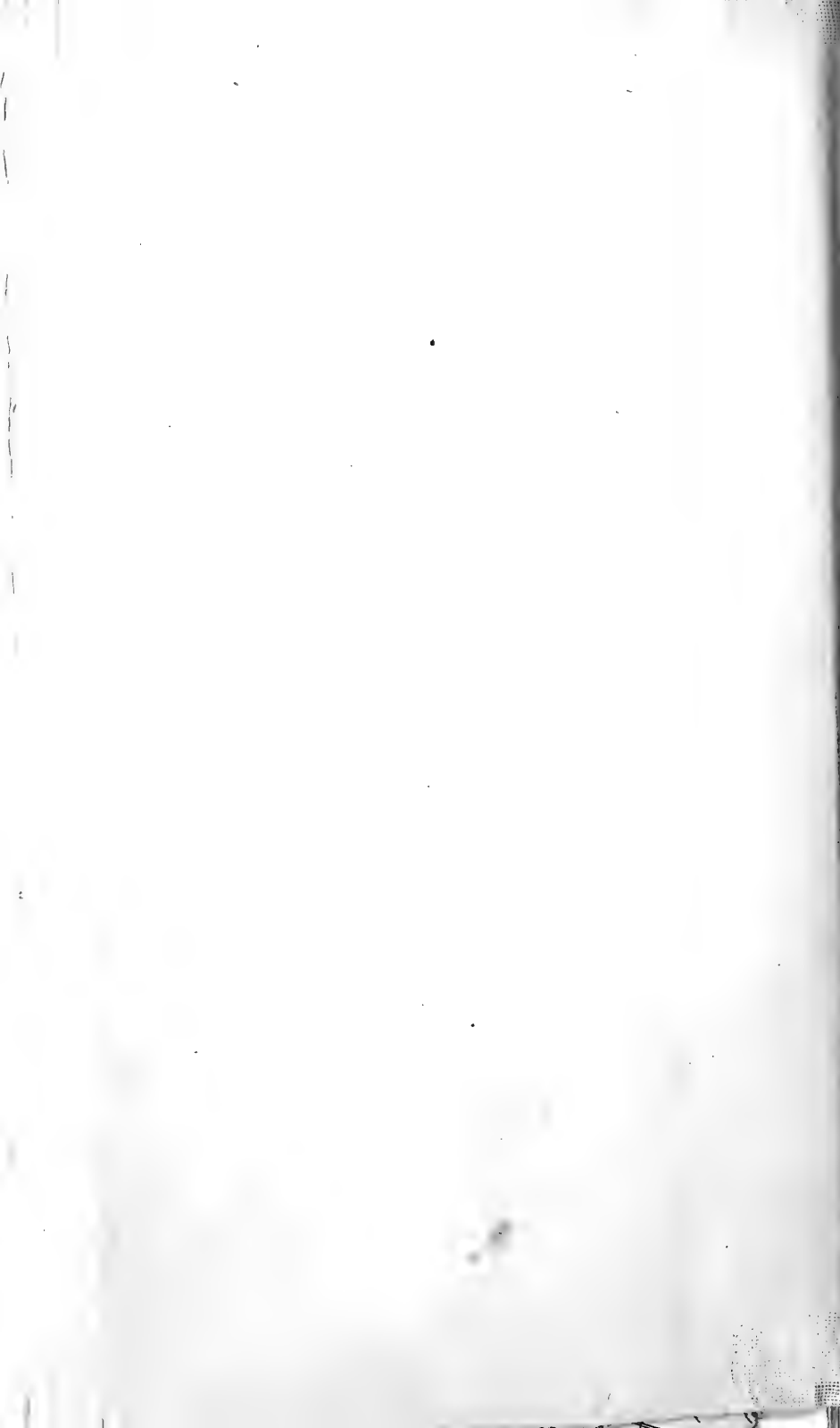


# MAP OF WASHINGTON AND VICINITY.

Scale  
1 Mile



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