

THE BIRDS OF WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH,
LOUISIANA.

BY ANDREW ALLISON.

A FAUNAL or floral list of any locality, based on observations covering a limited space of time, is, after all, liable only to such objections as may be urged against anything finite. Nothing is complete; therefore I need not apologize at too great length for the small size of the list given in this article. The ground is sufficiently well covered by the statement that my observations in West Baton Rouge Parish extended over the period between November 1, 1902, and July 1, 1903; comparing these results with those obtained under similar conditions at New Orleans, some differences of interest were easily discernible, and I now present a synopsis of the notes written during the specified period.

The Parish of West Baton Rouge lies on the right bank of the Mississippi River, about eighty miles northwest of New Orleans, in latitude between 30° and 31° north, longitude between 91° and 92° west. The surface is generally perfectly level, and the soil is largely a black fertile alluvium; where crevasses have more or less recently occurred, a covering of silt, commonly known as river sand, has been deposited; and where this reaches its maximum thickness, a slightly rolling character is given to the surface.

The cultivation of sugar-cane has necessitated the clearing of the forests for some distance back from the river, which, for most of the length of the parish, runs close to the line of levees. In some places, however, a flood plain has been formed outside of the levee, varying in width up to a maximum of three miles; this formation is covered with a thick growth of willow (*Salix longifolia*) and cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*); and even where the plain is but a very few years old, the growth, here of cottonwood, there of willow, is very thick. In the older parts of the plain, honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), pecan (*Hicoria pecan*), deciduous holly (*Ilex decidua*), and some other species, are mingled with the cottonwoods, and the poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*) clings to almost every tree. The willows disappear as the ground rises.

It would be tedious and useless to enumerate the herbs that

make the margins of the fields and ditches more interesting to the botanist than to the agriculturist; but of the shrubs and trees something further should be said. Beginning at the levee, and going toward the woods, one traverses sugar-cane fields defined by drainage ditches, along which the common elder (*Sambucus canadensis*) is a characteristic shrub, often affording nesting sites to Red-winged Blackbirds. Tall hedges of Osage orange (*Toxylon pomiferum*) often form the boundary lines between one plantation and another, and these are rendered at once more impenetrable to man and more habitable for birds by a growth of blackberry (*Rubus sargutus*) and bamboo or cat-brier (*Smilax bona-nox* et *pseudo china*). Everywhere along the highroads and fences are dense hedges, sometimes of many hundred yards in length, of the Cherokee rose (*Rosa laevigata*); there is no plant more characteristic of the lower Louisiana fertile alluvial regions than is this rose.

There is much undergrowth in many of the small tracts of woodland encountered before one reaches the primeval swamp stretching behind all as interminable as the river running before; this is mainly bamboo, blackberry, switch-cane or cane-reed (*Arundinaria tecta*), *Ampelopsis cordata*, and supple-jack (*Berchemia scandens*). This last, with the bamboos, also climbs high, as do the trumpet-flower (*Tecoma radicans*) and the cross-vine (*Bignonia crucigera*). Poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*) is common everywhere, and its fruit is an important article of avian diet. The smaller trees and shrubs are haw (*Crataegus arborescens*), deciduous holly (*Ilex decidua*), and cornel (*Cornus stricta*); above these rise cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), hackberry (*Celtis mississippiensis*), maple (*Acer drummondii*), and ash-leaved maple or box elder (*Acer negundo*).

In the deep swamp, though this is fringed with a heavy undergrowth, shrubs and vines are hardly present; Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) hangs abundantly from the trees, of which the principal species are: ash (*Fraxinus lanceolata*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), and tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*).

Certain parts of the parish, some miles back from the river, present an abruptly undulating surface; these regions are drained by small sluggish streams. The presence of water hickory (*Hicoria aquatica*) along these streams, and the local occurrence of certain dry-ground plants not found in the less well-drained swamps, such as hackberry, and the various shrubs and vines making up a heavy undergrowth, give a more or less definite regional value to the topographical characters.

With this hasty sketch of the parish and its floral characteristics completed, I shall proceed to the main part of this article — the annotated list of its birds.

1. *Larus atricilla*. LAUGHING GULL.

2. *Larus delawarensis*. RING-BILLED GULL.

To both these species, undoubtedly, belonged the few gulls that passed up and down the river between Nov. 14, 1902, and March 7, 1903. I was unable positively to identify these birds in any case, for a gull in mid-channel of a mighty river is an ambiguous object.

3. *Anhinga anhinga*. ANHINGA.—A not uncommon breeder in certain localities. Probably resident; but I saw none until March 20, 1903, when a single male passed over at Lobdell. Early in June I found the species breeding in the swampy wooded end of a lake on the grounds of the Louisiana State University, in East Baton Rouge Parish, and also in the deeper swamps of that vicinity; and later (June 29), I saw a male, evidently of a breeding pair, on a heavily-wooded tract outside of the levee on the right bank of the river.

4. *Aythya collaris*. RING-NECKED DUCK.—The species composing most of the flocks noted passing southward in November, and those commonly seen on the river during the winter. Probably the last of these were reported to me on March 18, 1903; some ducks were reported after this date, but they were probably teal.

5. *Querquedula discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—Like most of the water birds observed, this species is rather insufficiently authenticated. In the dusk of Nov. 12, 1902, a flock of small ducks passed me that I referred to this species. Owing to the fact that it is usually common in migration in April, I also refer to it a trio reported to me on April 11, 1903. What ducks may have passed besides these two species is indeterminate.

6. *Anser albifrons gambeli*. AMERICAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.—A flock of about fifty, headed toward the north, made a noisy stay of a few minutes in the fog and rain of March 27, 1903. Their clamor was continuous; they settled first in the bare sugar-cane fields, then rose, flew over the levee, and sat for a few minutes on the water.

7. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON.—It is hard to trace the

connection of this heron with this locality; it was present in November, 1902, its habits being noticeably crepuscular and nocturnal, at the ponds on the *batture*, as all land lying outside the levee is called. On January 29, 1903, I recorded its return; but from that date forward I have no records.

8. *Florida cærulea*. LITTLE BLUE HERON.—The date of arrival of this species was very late; I saw none until April 20, 1903, when about twenty passed up the river. Apparently some heronries are near Lobdell—the base of my operations—for late in June I found many birds, all but one in white plumage, a few miles west of that point. They had probably bred in inaccessible parts of the wide, wooded *batture*.

9. *Butorides virescens*. GREEN HERON.—Locally an uncommon species. I saw the first birds flying northward at dusk on April 2, 1903; I had thought, however, that I recognized the note in night migration on March 29. After this I had no proof of its presence in the vicinity until there came to my ears, on June 23, 1903, the cry of the Green Heron in the extensive swamps across the river from Lobdell.

10. *Nyctanassa violacea*. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—A common spring migrant after March 22, 1903. According to many reports there are large heronries of the species not many miles west of Lobdell, and it is much too common a practice to despoil these heronries of the 'squabs,' or half-fledged young, to be used as food.

11. *Rallus elegans*. KING RAIL.—An individual of this species was taken alive by a settler in the swamp, and accurately described to me. I was unable to get the date of the capture. I thought I heard the cry of another on the night of June 20, 1903.

12. *Philohela minor*. AMERICAN WOODCOCK.—During the winter I spent in this parish, Woodcock were said to be abundant on the left bank of the river (East Baton Rouge Parish) and it is safe to record the species as a winter resident also in West Baton Rouge Parish.

13. *Gallinago delicata*. WILSON'S SNIPE.—Uncommon; it was the first bird—possibly omitting *Ardea herodias*—to show migrational activity. Two were seen Feb. 3, 1903, and another on Feb. 15; these were the only records.

14. *Actodromas maculata*. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—A fairly common spring migrant; present in some numbers on March 19, 1903, and seen again on March 22.

15. *Actodromas minutilla*. LEAST SANDPIPER.—A late spring migrant; noted in small numbers from May 12 to May 25, 1903. The river, falling after its spring rise—of almost unprecedented extent in the season of 1903—leaves on the *batture* a deposit of rich silt, and these mud-flats are most favorable to the presence of limicoline birds; here were seen Least, White-rumped, Semipalmated, and Spotted Sandpipers, and Semipalmated and Killdeer Plovers.

16. *Actodromas fuscicollis*. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—A flock of about fifty appeared in the mud-flats May 14, 1903, and by May 17, the

last day of their stay, it had decreased to twenty. The sound of the feeding flock was remarkably similar to that made by a larger number of Pipits.

17. *Ereunetes pusillus*. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.— Appeared May 14, 1903, and was present intermittently until May 28. Not in large numbers at any time.

18. *Bartramia longicauda*. BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER.— A rather common spring migrant, preferring here, as everywhere, the fields to the mud-flats. First seen March 19, 1903; last seen May 15.

19. *Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER.— This is the only Sandpiper breeding in this locality, and the last to leave in the fall. The first arrived March 31, in 1903, and I saw two on Nov. 5, 1902.

20. *Squatarola squatarola*. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.— There seems no doubt that to this species is referable a plover seen with Killdeers on Nov. 2, 1902. Its notes also pointed to this conclusion.

21. *Oxyechus vociferus*. KILLDEER.— A common and most characteristic winter resident; one can hardly get beyond reach of its cries by day, except by going far back from the river; and even at night it often utters querulous, restless notes.

The winter residents left, in 1903, before the middle of March; but the species undoubtedly breeds not far away, probably to the northeast; for its presence was reported to me in the late summer, after my departure. One was present, but did not mix with the other waders, May 14-15, 1903.

22. *Ægialitis semipalmata*. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.— A few present May 15, 1903, on the mud-flats with the sandpipers.

23. *Colinus virginianus*. BOB-WHITE.— A common resident.

24. *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE.— A common resident. Very gregarious from my arrival on Nov. 1 (and doubtless a month previous to that date), until February. The first record of the song is Feb. 21.

25. *Cathartes aura*. TURKEY VULTURE.— A very common resident.

26. *Catharista urubu*. BLACK VULTURE.— Perhaps three times as abundant as the preceding.

27. *Ictinia mississippiensis*. MISSISSIPPI KITE.— A not uncommon breeder, arriving late. The date of arrival in 1903 was May 9.

28. *Circus hudsonius*. MARSH HAWK.— A fairly common winter resident; last seen Mar. 31, 1903.

[28.1. *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.— I noted this species in December, 1897, on the campus of the Louisiana State University, in East Baton Rouge Parish; but I have no records from the right bank of the river.]

29. *Accipiter cooperi*. COOPER'S HAWK.— Probably in some degree resident; but I noted it only as a rather infrequent winter resident.

30. *Buteo borealis*. RED-TAILED HAWK.— A fairly common winter resident; last seen March 17, 1903.

31. *Buteo borealis harlani*. HARLAN'S HAWK.—I saw this species only on March 12 and 16, 1903, while on the way to and from New Orleans; on these dates it was not uncommon. But from Port Allen, Lobdell, and the districts west of these points, it was not recorded.

32. *Buteo lineatus*. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.—Possibly both this form and *B. l. alleni* were present; certainly *B. l. lineatus* was. I found it a common resident, beginning to nest in January.

33. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*. AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.—On two successive days—April 6 and 7, 1903—I saw at some distance, beating over the fields, a large, light brown hawk which could not have been anything but this species.

34. *Falco columbarius*. PIGEON HAWK.—A not uncommon winter resident.

35. *Falco sparverius*. AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK.—A very common winter resident, subsisting very largely on grasshoppers. I saw more after March 30, 1903. In common with certain others, this species regards latitude less than other considerations in its choice of breeding-places; in sandy or clayey regions, wooded with conifers (*Pinus taeda*, *P. australis*, et *P. cubensis*), it remains throughout the year in latitudes lower than that of this parish.

36. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*. AMERICAN OSPREY.—I saw a single one sailing up the river May 15, 1903.

37. *Asio accipitrinus*. SHORT-EARED OWL.—I saw this species only once; this individual I flushed from a grassy ditch in a canefield, on March 26, 1903. Subsequently I found remains of another.

38. *Syrnium varium*. BARRED OWL.—Writing to Dr. Fisher, of the Biological Survey, for definite information as to the distribution of *Buteo lineatus alleni* and *Syrnium varium alleni*, I was informed that it was Mr. Ridgway's opinion that typical specimens could not be found outside of the Florida peninsula. Therefore I refer the owls of this region to *S. v. varium*. This species is resident, and rather common in the deep swamp. The swamps on the left bank of the river being denser, it is more common there.

39. *Megascops asio floridanus*. FLORIDA SCREECH OWL.—A very common resident in suitable localities—copses, and thick hedge-rows containing trees. Very difficult to see, but very often heard.

40. *Coccyzus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.—A common summer resident; in 1903 it was very late in arriving in this parish, though not abnormally so at New Orleans. None were present until May 8, but the next day the species was fairly common.

41. *Ceryle alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER.—Remarkably uncommon. None present during the winter, and one on March 28, 1903, and another on April 5, were the only individuals I saw.

42. *Dryobates villosus audubonii*. SOUTHERN HAIRY WOODPECKER.—A common resident.

43. *Dryobates pubescens*. DOWNY WOODPECKER.—I have recorded

this bird as common in only one spot,—a thin wood of willow and cottonwood, in a recent deposit of silt on the batture, about six miles above Lobdell.

44. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—A rather common winter resident; not observed after March 7, 1903.

45. *Ceophlœus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER.—Fairly common, and resident, in the deep swamps.

46. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—A common resident in suitable places, such as clearings containing large dead trees, and groves of large trees near houses.

47. *Centurus carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—Rather common everywhere in winter; retiring to the deeper swamps to breed.

48. *Colaptes auratus*. FLICKER.—Common in winter, increasing in numbers in March. I saw none after March 28, 1903.

49. *Antrostomus carolinensis*. CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.—Doubtless breeds in the drier parts of the parish; I observed it at intervals after April 18, 1903, but saw none later than May 9.

50. *Chordeiles virginianus*. NIGHTHAWK.—Of this form, undoubtedly, were the transients observed in late April and early May. I first noted the species April 22, 1903. After the middle of May very few nighthawks were observed, though a casual trip showed them to be abundant in East Baton Rouge Parish early in June. Perhaps these breeding birds were *C. v. chapmani*.

51. *Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—An abundant summer resident; the first were seen March 26, 1903.

52. *Trochilus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Abundant as a migrant, and common in summer. The first—a male, as usual—was observed April 3.

53. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD.—Common in spring, much less so in summer. First seen April 4.

54. *Myiarchus crinitus*. CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—A fairly common summer resident, arriving, in 1903, on April 11. This, like very many of my other dates, is very late, according to New Orleans standard, which set the date of arrival at about March 26 (in 1903, March 28).

55. *Sayornis phœbe*. PHŒBE.—A common winter resident; the last left about the middle of March.

56. *Contopus virens*. WOOD PEWEE.—Fairly common as a summer resident; the first was noted April 14.

57. *Empidonax virescens*. GREEN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—A common summer resident; the commonest of all the flycatchers observed. First observed April 11.

58. *Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY.—A common resident.

59. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. AMERICAN CROW.—A common summer resident.

60. *Corvus ossifragus*. FISH CROW.—Infrequent early in the winter; common, however, in February, and remaining to breed on the wooded battures.

61. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. BOBOLINK.—A flock of about fifty was present from April 30 to May 2, 1903. The males were in almost perfect plumage, and in fine voice. I shall quote here from my note-book: "Presently I heard *Chink, chink!* and the Bobolinks began to rise from the weeds, a few at a time; they were of both sexes, and the males were in the beautiful nuptial plumage. . . . Considering the striking character of their coloration, their concealment was admirable. . . . Evidently they were feeding on the ripe seeds of *Senecio lobatus* and *Sonchus asper*, and the stomach I examined contained the seeds of *Chærophylllum tainturierii*, I think, besides fragments of beetles. Suddenly one of the males began to sing, and soon the concert was glorious."

62. *Molothrus ater*. COWBIRD. — A common resident.

63. *Agelaius phœniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. — It seems to me probable that to this form are referable the blackbirds of this parish; they are unquestionably larger than breeding birds from the Mississippi coast and the region about New Orleans. They breed in small colonies among the shrubbery and thick weeds on the banks of the cane-field ditches. The species is resident, but a great influx from the southeast began on January 7, 1903; these were mostly transient, however, and the majority probably passed northward, though doubtless many returned to the coast marshes to breed. It therefore appears probable that in winter both *A. p. phœniceus* and *A. p. floridanus* are to be found here.

64. *Sturnella magna argutula*. SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK. — A common resident.

65. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE. — The most abundant summer bird of this region. The adult males began to arrive April 1 — ten days later than at New Orleans in the same season — and were common by April 5; on April 8 I saw the first females and immature males, and from this time on the birds were very abundant. On a day in May I counted thirty-one nests in a single homestead, where nearly all the trees were recently planted and still small. The song is unending all day long, from five in the morning to six, and sometimes later, in the evening.

66. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE. — An uncommon summer resident; indeed, the only proof I have to offer of its being a breeder here is furnished by two nests found during the winter. Both of these were in cottonwoods on the batture; I knocked down one and satisfied myself of its identity. This species is of very local distribution in Louisiana in summer, being known to breed, I believe, only in East and West Feliciana and East and West Baton Rouge Parishes. I noted the first migrant in 1903 on April 20.

67. *Euphagus carolinus*. RUSTY BLACKBIRD. — Very common in the late winter, entering largely into the composition of all the motley flocks of blackbirds. It is late to arrive in the fall; I saw none before November 17. At New Orleans it is usually very late to leave in spring, but here I saw none after March.

68. *Quiscalus quiscula*. PURPLE GRACKLE. — More or less typical of

this form are all the grackles breeding in this locality. Mr. F. M. Chapman pronounced this verdict upon a series which I collected for him. The birds are less frequent in winter; in their breeding habits they are gregarious to a considerable extent.

69. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE. — Winter resident, or at least it is a regular winter visitor. Some of the breeding specimens closely approach it, but are distinctly referable to the preceding. I took a typical example on January 24, 1903.

70. *Poœcetes gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW. — An uncommon winter resident. The last was seen March 20, 1903.

71. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNA SPARROW. — A common winter resident, becoming very abundant in spring. By the middle of April the maximum abundance is reached, and from this time on for nearly two weeks very many are present, singing often from trees and fences. After the last of April, as a rule, few are seen; but in 1903 the species was locally common until May 2, and the last lingered until May 15.

72. *Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. — Probably an uncommon breeder, though I observed none later than May 2. The first arrived — or was seen, for this may be a winter resident also — on April 4.

73. *Coturniculus leconteii*. LECONTE'S SPARROW. — I saw no birds that I could positively identify as this species until April 7, 1903, when I took one and saw three others; after this I noted them at intervals until April 25.

74. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. — An abundant winter resident; last seen April 26.

75. *Spizella pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW. — Abundant in East Baton Rouge Parish, but of singularly restricted distribution in the parish under consideration. I first heard its song on April 5, 1903 — though it is doubtless resident — and from that time until the end of my stay I was always sure of finding it fairly common — but only in the spot where I first heard it. At no time did I see or hear a single individual four hundred yards from the metropolis of the species, — a cleared pasture grown up again in bushy young plants of honey-locust and bounded by fields and hedges.

76. *Melospiza georgiana*. SWAMP SPARROW. — An abundant winter resident; frequenting mainly thickets and hedge-rows, but spreading also into the grassy fields, where, in the ditches, according to my note-book, "These birds behaved most strangely; I could hear them creeping under the matted grass, squeaking like mice, and often splashing through the water like little musk-rats." The last were seen May 2, 1903.

77. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. TOWHEE. — A rather common winter resident; less common in summer.

78. *Cardinalis cardinalis magnirostris*. LOUISIANA CARDINAL. — Mr. Outram Bangs (*Proc. N. Eng. Zoöl. Club*, Vol. IV, pp. 5-7) has founded, on

the basis of twelve specimens collected by me in West Baton Rouge Parish, the subspecies named above. This is in accordance with the opinion expressed by Mr. Ridgway (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 50, Part I, p. 641): "The bill is, in fact, decidedly larger in these Louisiana birds than in any other specimens from the United States east of Arizona, and I have little doubt that it will eventually become necessary to separate the Louisiana bird as a different subspecies." The bird is an extremely abundant resident.

79. *Zamelodia ludoviciana*. ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK.—A rare spring migrant; I saw one feeding on the fruit of the wild mulberry (*Morus rubra*) on May 2, 1903.

80. *Guiraca cærulea*. BLUE GROSBEAK.—Probably breeds rarely; it is an uncommon spring migrant, and I saw none before May 2, which date is abnormally late for its arrival.

81. *Cyanospiza cyanea*. INDIGO BUNTING.—An abundant spring migrant, a much less common breeder. First seen April 14.

82. *Cyanospiza ciris*. PAINTED BUNTING.—A very common breeder, first seen on April 11. The conditions affecting this species and the preceding are reversed in East Baton Rouge Parish, where the Indigo Bunting is a much more conspicuous summer bird.

83. *Spiza americana*. DICKCISSEL.—A rather common late spring migrant, first seen April 30. It is uncommon as a breeder, and at least in the territory between Lobdell and Port Allen, appears to be confined to the small area occupied by *Spizella pusilla*.

84. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER.—A rather uncommon spring migrant, present in 1903 from April 25 to May 9.

85. *Piranga rubra*. SUMMER TANAGER.—A common breeder; first seen April 11.

86. *Progne subis*. PURPLE MARTIN.—An abundant breeder; here, as everywhere in Louisiana and Mississippi, a very early arrival. The first —males, as usual—were seen Feb. 17. Young and old began to gather into summer flocks about May 15.

87. *Hirundo erythrogaster*. BARN SWALLOW.—Common in spring, but does not remain to breed. First seen April 4; last seen May 27.

88. *Iridoprogne bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW.—This species appears not to be present here in winter, though a trip to New Orleans in late December revealed its presence there. I saw none here after the first of December. The first spring migrants appeared on Feb. 27, and the last left May 2.

89. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—A spasmodically abundant summer resident, always appearing to be in migration. First seen March 23, and present in rather small numbers until late in May; after that it was nearly absent until the middle of June, when many began to pass westward; and the majority of those seen after this were moving westward up the river, in straggling flocks.

90. *Ampelis cedrorum*. CEDAR WAXWING.—Perhaps it would be

unsafe to say, after one season's observations on this erratic bird, that it is a very uncommon winter resident. I found it so, however, since I saw it but once during the winter; but a few were present March 7, and May 2-9 they were feeding on mulberries.

91. *Lanius ludovicianus*. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**.—A common winter resident, dwindling almost to rarity in summer.

92. *Vireo olivaceus*. **RED-EYED VIREO**.—A common summer resident; first seen March 28.

93. *Vireo gilvus*. **WARBLING VIREO**.—A rather common summer resident, restricted almost entirely, in its choice of nesting sites, to groves near dwellings. First observed April 9.

94. *Vireo solitarius*. **BLUE-HEADED VIREO**.—Only one record, and that a somewhat doubtful one; the record in question was obtained Dec. 6, 1902. It is a regular winter resident near New Orleans.

[94.1. *Vireo flavifrons*. **YELLOW-THROATED VIREO**.—Early in June Mr. H. H. Kopman and I observed this species on two consecutive days in East Baton Rouge Parish; on the second occasion we found young being fed by the parents.]

95. *Vireo noveboracensis*. **WHITE-EYED VIREO**.—I did not observe this species during the winter, though it is almost invariably noted at least once in each winter at New Orleans. It was first noted March 7, and proved to be a very common summer resident.

96. *Protonotaria citrea*. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**.—A common breeder; first seen April 25.

It is in the movements of the warblers that I find most disparity between my records for the spring of 1903, and those of Mr. H. H. Kopman made at New Orleans in the same season. The species now under consideration arrived at the latter station nearly a month in advance of my west Baton Rouge Parish record, and *Wilsonia mitrata* was common at New Orleans by March 20, while it did not appear at my station until April 25! On the other hand, *Icteria virens* appeared here April 11, two days earlier than it had ever been recorded at New Orleans! With such contradictory records as these, and only one season's observations from this parish to go upon, no satisfactory comparison can be made; and a certain amount of emphasis must be laid upon the fact, stated to me by Mr. W. W. Cooke, of the Biological Survey, that the migrations of warblers in the spring of 1903 were remarkably irregular.

97. *Helmitheros vermivorus*. **WORM-EATING WARBLER**.—Seen only once—April 11. Possibly breeds.

98. *Helmithophila bachmanii*. **BACHMAN'S WARBLER**.—I have one record of this rare warbler; I saw one on May 9, in a thick wood with rank undergrowth.

99. *Helmithophila celata*. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**.—An uncommon winter resident; one taken Jan. 17, 1902, and another seen Jan. 22.

100. *Compsothlypis americana ramalinæ*. **WESTERN PARULA WAR-**

BLER.—A common summer resident; first noted March 7 (at New Orleans March 11). Undoubtedly *C. a. usneæ* is often present in migration, and to distinguish the two forms in recording arrival and departure dates is almost impossible; but I am quite sure that a fine male I saw on March 17 was of the latter form; the large size was very apparent.

101. *Dendroica æstiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Not common during the spring of 1903 (first noted at New Orleans April 14, that date being unusually late); I thought often that I heard it, but it eluded me until May 2. After this I saw it occasionally and finally supposed that May 17 had brought the last. But a singing male on June 16 seems sufficient evidence that this warbler breeds in the parish, as it is known to do in St. Tammany Parish (Beyer, Proc. La. Soc. Nat., 1897-99 (rep. 1900) p. 38).

102. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER.—An abundant winter resident. The last was seen in the city of Baton Rouge, on the left bank of the river, on April 19 (April 27, New Orleans).

103. *Dendroica virens*. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—Seen only once, May 9 (transient at New Orleans, April 26-27).

104. *Dendroica discolor*. PRAIRIE WARBLER.—I am almost positive that an elusive warbler seen on April 17 was of this species; behavior and appearance alike pointed to this conclusion.

105. *Seiurus auropapillus*. OVEN-BIRD.—One seen May 9.

106. *Geothlypis formosa*. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—A common summer resident. First seen April 11, and common from that date.

107. *Geothlypis trichas ignota*. SOUTHERN YELLOW-THROAT.—Common and resident.

108. *Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—An abundant summer resident; first seen April 11. Loquacious to an extent that makes its presence known wherever it occurs; this is one of the most characteristic breeding birds of the region.

109. *Wilsonia mitrata*. HOODED WARBLER.—A common summer resident, but not nearly so widespread as about New Orleans. First seen April 25 (common at New Orleans, March 21).

110. *Setophaga ruticilla*. AMERICAN REDSTART.—Only one seen, April 25 (transient at New Orleans, April 26-27).

111. *Anthus pensilvanicus*. AMERICAN PIPIT.—A common winter resident; last seen May 2. It is fond of feeding at the water's edge, and often covers the levee for many yards with busy flocks.

112. *Anthus spragueii*. SPRAGUE'S PIPIT.—I saw three on the batture at Lobdell, Nov. 3, 1902. It is an uncommon, but not irregular, winter resident at New Orleans.

113. *Mimus polyglottos*. MOCKINGBIRD.—A very common resident. I first heard the song on Jan. 17, and singing was general by Feb. 15.

114. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD.—A fairly common spring migrant; I noted one, singing a little, on April 25, and some were present at intervals after this until May 11; they fed much on the wild mulberries.

115. *Toxostoma rufum*. BROWN THRASHER.—A fairly common winter resident. It possibly breeds, though I saw none after April 13.

116. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. CAROLINA WREN.—A very common resident.

117. *Thryomanes bewickii*. BEWICK'S WREN.—A rather common winter resident. In February and early March the song is very frequent and delightful; I saw none after March 9.

118. *Troglodytes aëdon*. HOUSE WREN.—A rather uncommon winter resident. Last seen April 18.

119. *Olbiorchilus hiemalis*. WINTER WREN.—Saw one March 7, 1903.

120. *Cistothorus stellaris*. SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.—Winter resident; an interesting species, frequenting hedge-rows and heavily grass-clad ditch-banks. In one of the latter situations I took a specimen as late as May 12.

121. *Bæolophus bicolor*. TUFTED TITMOUSE.—Not common, noticeably less so than at New Orleans. Resident.

122. *Parus carolinensis*. CAROLINA CHICKADEE.—Rather uncommon in winter, and even less conspicuous in summer.

123. *Regulus satrapa*. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—A common winter resident. Last seen March 7, when it was in song.

124. *Regulus calendula*. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.—A common winter resident; much more persistent than the preceding. The last were seen April 25.

125. *Polioptila cærulea*. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—Resident; not infrequent in winter, common in summer.

126. *Hylocichla mustelina*. WOOD THRUSH.—A fairly common summer resident; much less so, however, than in East Baton Rouge Parish. First noted April 7.

127. *Hylocichla fuscescens*. WILSON'S THRUSH.—I found this species fairly common on May 9, 1903.

128. *Hylocichla aliciae*. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH.—Common on May 9.

[128.1. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. HERMIT THRUSH.—I am not certain that my records of this species are authentic; I wrote them down without hesitation; but as they were based only on the notes—the familiar *cluck*,—and as I afterwards detected cardinals uttering a similar note, I must question their validity.]

129. *Merula migratoria*. AMERICAN ROBIN.—Uncommon until March 7, the last day on which I saw the species; on that occasion I “found myself in the midst of a great flock of perhaps three hundred all ‘singing and murmuring in their feastful mirth,’ some on the ground, some in trees, and all making as much noise as so many blackbirds” (note-book).

130. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Resident in the upper (western) parts of the parish; it appears remarkably local in its distribution, and occurs near Lobdell only as a transient. Common where it breeds.