

of me. They fought continually with the Noddies that were nesting there and though the terns were the aggressors in most cases, they were always worsted in the encounters. The male sang in the evenings from a cactus just above the cave entrance, frequently calling until it was almost dark.

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## SOME RECENT CONNECTICUT BIRD NOTES.

BY ARETAS A. SAUNDERS.

THE following notes are based on my observations in the past four years in Connecticut and relate to occurrences that are unusual and especially interesting.

**Uria lomvia lomvia.** BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.— Four seen closely at Norwalk, December 31, 1916.

**Larus delawarensis.** RING-BILLED GULL.— Three of these gulls were seen January 27, 1917, in Norwalk Harbor. They were feeding near one of the drawbridges in company with Herring Gulls. The gulls here have been fed by people until they have become exceedingly tame. These birds were watched for a long time in the best of light. The markings on the bill and on the tips of the primaries that distinguish the species were quite plain. The difference in size was less apparent than I had expected it to be. One or two gulls of this species were seen in this same spot several times in the month of February.

**Larus atricilla.** LAUGHING GULL.— This species is now becoming almost common along the Connecticut shore. Others have informed me of its presence since 1914. I first noted it at Grove Beach September 1, 1916, and have since noted it several times in summer, both at Grove Beach and at Compo Cove near Westport.

**Phalacrocorax auritus auritus.** DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.— A flock of forty-five seen at Grove Beach May 27, 1916, and another, of seventy-four, seen at the mouth of the Saugatuck River, May 19, 1917.

**Mareca americana.** BALDPATE.— A rather late date for this species was that of a single drake seen on a small pond at Norwalk on the morning of March 31 and again on April 1, 1917.

**Charitonetta albeola.** BUFFLEHEAD.— The past winter and spring, 1916 and 1917, this species has been more abundant than I have ever seen it before in Connecticut. I first noted it at Grove Beach, December 25, 1916, when several small flocks were seen. A few were seen all winter at Norwalk and Westport, and larger flocks appeared again in the spring migration from March 10 to April 7.

**Ixobrychus exilis.** LEAST BITTERN.—Two seen, and one, a male, secured in Great Marsh, near Norwalk, May 19, 1917. This date is rather early for this species.

**Ardea herodias herodias.** GREAT BLUE HERON.—This species remained later than usual in the spring of 1917, six being seen at the mouth of the Saugatuck on May 26.

**Herodias egretta.** EGRET.—A single bird has been reported in the marshes at Compo Cove, Westport, every summer since 1912. The bird usually stays for several days. I saw it during the summer of 1916, when it was present from July 24 to 28. It was again reported this summer, 1917.

**Pisobia maculata.** PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—A single bird seen in marshes at Silver Sands, East Haven, May 13, 1916. This is the only spring record for Connecticut, but the bird was seen closely, and I examined skins in spring plumage shortly after I had seen it, and am sure of my identification.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** KILLDEER.—This species is evidently increasing, and is now quite common in southwestern Connecticut. I observed a single bird at West Haven, March 21, 1914. I did not see it again till 1916, when a pair were seen several times in a plowed field near Westport. In 1917 the species first appeared on March 31, and was seen commonly throughout the spring and summer. Mr. Wilbur F. Smith found several nests near Norwalk, and I found downy young at Norwalk on May 12.

**Arenaria interpres morinella.** RUDDY TURNSTONE.—A single bird was seen at Grove Beach September 1, 1916, and four others September 9. Two were seen at the mouth of the Saugatuck River May 19, 1917.

**Cathartes aura septentrionalis.** TURKEY VULTURE.—One seen at Short Beach, May 23, 1914.

**Sphyrapicus varius varius.** YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—A bird of this species in juvenal plumage, wintered in Norwalk in January, 1917. I first saw it, January 6 and continued to find it every time I visited the locality till January 27, after which I did not look for it again till March 3, when it was not to be found. The bird frequented a row of Norway Spruce trees, growing about the border of a large estate.

**Melanerpes erythrocephalus.** RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—This species was almost common in Edgewood Park, New Haven, in the spring of 1915. I met with it several times between April 16 and May 4, four being seen at once on one occasion. The following year, 1916, a pair nested in a hole in a trolley pole at West Haven, where I saw them on May 13, 19 and 20.

**Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina.** EVENING GROSBEAK.—A single bird in the female plumage, seen at New Haven, April 15, 1916, and a flock of twelve at Cannondale, April 17, 1917.

**Carpodacus purpureus purpureus.** PURPLE FINCH.—What was apparently the spring migration of this species began at Norwalk in 1917 on February 20. A few birds had been around all winter, but beginning with that date the birds were plentiful everywhere, singing a great deal, and

visiting various bird feeding stations, where they ate peanuts, buckwheat and sunflower seeds. These birds were abundant from this time all through the spring until May 21 when the last disappeared.

**Loxia leucoptera.** WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.— Seen at Norwalk on various dates from January 13 to March 3, 1917. Never more than two birds were seen at once, but that they were not always the same two was evident from the fact that sometimes both were in female plumage and sometimes one in that of an adult male.

**Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus.** LAPLAND LONGSPUR.— A single bird seen in salt marshes at Norwalk in company with a flock of Horned Larks, January 20, 1917.

**Poœetes gramineus gramineus.** VESPER SPARROW.— A single bird seen at Norwalk March 10, 1917. Whether an extremely early spring migrant or a bird that had wintered it is hard to say. No others were seen until March 31, about the normal time for the arrival of this species.

**Passerculus princeps.** IPSWICH SPARROW.— One seen at Norwalk April 1, 1916, and another November 11, 1916.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys.** WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.— May 16 to 18, 1917, a single bird was seen each day in such widely separated localities that it is not probable that they were the same individual. May 19 the species was almost common, but none were seen after that date.

**Junco hyemalis hyemalis.** SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.— This species remained very late in the spring of 1917. I secured one on May 12 and saw others up to May 17.

**Melospiza lincolni lincolni.** LINCOLN'S SPARROW.— One seen at West Haven, May 24, 1915, and another in Edgewood Park, New Haven, May 11, 1916.

**Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis.** CARDINAL.— A male Cardinal spent the winter of 1916-17 at Norwalk. It was first found by Mr. Geo. P. Ells in November, and from then on became an object of special interest to Norwalk's many bird-lovers and students. I first saw it December 9, 1916, and from then until April 9, 1917, was able to find it whenever I visited the locality it frequented, in the morning. In the afternoon I was not always so successful. It disappeared some time after April 9, and as far as I can tell was last seen by a conductor on a trolley line, which ran past its haunt, on April 11. I searched for it on the 15th and was unable to find it.

Another Cardinal, a female, was seen at Clinton during the Christmas holidays. I first saw it Christmas morning at 7 A.M. when its sharp call-note outside awoke me, and I observed it for a short time in the center of a gravel walk. The following morning and again on the 27th, the bird was seen at 7 o'clock on this gravel walk. I never succeeded in locating it anywhere in the vicinity at any other time of day. I am of the opinion that it spent the nights in a large arbor-vitae tree about 15 feet from the point where it was seen, and that each morning it began its daily program

by picking up a little gravel from the walk. A hard rainstorm occurred on the 27th which evidently interfered with this program, for I did not see it again on the mornings following that date.

**Lanivireo solitarius solitarius.** BLUE-HEADED VIREO.— This species remained unusually late in the spring of 1917, one being secured on May 15 and others seen until May 24.

**Vermivora peregrina.** TENNESSEE WARBLER.— This species has greatly increased in numbers in the past few years, until, in 1917, it was one of the most abundant of migrant warblers. I first met with the species at Short Beach, on May 23, and 24, 1914, when a single male was found singing in the same tree, two mornings in succession. In 1915 I met with three adult males in song in the same tree at West Haven, May 20. In 1916 the birds were fairly common in the vicinity of New Haven, from May 20 to 26. In 1917 I first saw the bird May 22, though I think that I heard the song on the 18th. It became common by the 24th, and was seen almost daily, and often in large numbers until June 4. The last bird was seen June 9.

**Dendroica tigrina.** CAPE MAY WARBLER.— This is another species that has evidently been increasing in recent years. In 1916 it was almost common in Edgewood Park, New Haven, from May 10 to 16. In 1917 it was less common than the previous year, but I saw several specimens at Norwalk and Bridgeport on May 19 and 25.

**Dendroica castanea.** BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.— This is another warbler that deserves notice as one increasing in numbers. While it never was so rare as the Cape May and Tennessee, yet it always had some reputation for rarity. The past two years, 1916 and 1917, it has been one of the most abundant migrant warblers, particularly late in the season, remaining in Norwalk in 1917 till June 2.

**Dendroica discolor.** PRAIRIE WARBLER.— An exceptionally late fall bird was one seen at Norwalk on October 22, 1916.

**Sitta canadensis.** RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.— A winter record for this species is one that I saw in Norwalk February 24, 1917.

**Bæolophus bicolor.** TUFTED TITMOUSE.— On March 10, 1917, I found a single bird of this species in a large red maple swamp. I first heard the bird calling from a distance, and being unable to enter the swamp, but suspecting the identity of the bird from previous acquaintance with it in the south, I imitated its whistle and succeeded in bringing it to a point about fifty feet above my head. The bird was observed by several others later, and sometimes from a distance of about ten feet. I found it several times in the latter part of March, and saw it last on April 1 after which it disappeared.

**Penthestes hudsonicus** subsp.? HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE.— A bird of this species appeared in Norwalk in January 1917, where it remained for some time, feeding on suet that was hung in the bushes for birds. I saw it first on January 13 and again January 27. I presume that, like the others that appeared the same winter, it belonged to the new Labrador sub-

species, but since the subspecies' validity has not yet been determined I have not listed it as such.

**Regulus calendula calendula.** RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.— This is another species that remained exceptionally late in the spring of 1917. I observed it up to May 18, securing a specimen on the last date.

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## NOTES ON THE NESTING BIRDS OF WAHPETON, NORTH DAKOTA.

BY J. K. JENSEN.

THE region covered by the following notes is a small part of Richland County, forming a quarter of a circle with a radius of three miles, west and north of Wahpeton, with the Indian School as a center. The ground covered takes in the North Dakota side of the Red River, where a little timber is to be found. The rest consists mostly of cultivated fields, some prairie and a little swampy or wet ground and a few groves around the farm buildings.

This list includes, with one or two exceptions, only birds I actually found nesting in 1917, and does not profess to be complete.

**Botaurus lentiginosus.** BITTERN.— Very common as a nesting bird. On June 6 I found a nest in a clover-field less than a thousand feet north of the Indian School. The Bittern would generally leave the nest when I was about ten feet away. The nest consisted of a handful of dry grass, and contained a set of four fresh eggs.

**Zenaidura macroura carolinensis.** MOURNING DOVE.— Very common. Nests and eggs were found from May 1 to September 1 both in trees and on the ground. Near the Indian School I found a nest, which first served as home for the White-rumped Shrike, later a pair of Brown Thrashers took possession and laid a set of five eggs and a Cowbird placed one of her eggs in the nest. About August 1, I again found the nest occupied, this time by a Mourning Dove incubating two eggs.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** KILLDEER.— The Killdeer is very common in this part of North Dakota, but I only located one nest. This was placed about a hundred feet west of the Indian School in a little garden plot. The nest was a little hollow in the ground, lined with a few dry weedstalks, and on May 11 it contained four fresh eggs.