

IMPRESSIONS OF BIRD-LIFE IN FRANCE.

BY E. L. POOLE.

Plate XIV.

LIKE most American students of bird-life I had long cherished a desire to form the acquaintance of some of the old-world birds that are so frequently mentioned in literature. The experiences of John Burroughs and Frank M. Chapman during their trips abroad only increased my curiosity to really see and hear some of these famous songsters and to compare them with our own favorites.

It was in the summer of 1918, while serving with the American Expeditionary Forces, in France, that I finally had an opportunity to gratify my ambitions in this direction.

The trip across was made at a time when submarines were the primary objects of interest, but this proved to my advantage, ornithologically, for it caused us to go far out of the usual course, and pass around the northern coast of Ireland, near the large breeding colonies of sea birds which lie off these coasts.

During the first day out of New York, July 30, we were attended by numbers of Wilson's Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*) which were not seen after that evening, and not another bird was noted until three days later when we passed a school of whales which were attended by numbers of Greater Shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis*), Wilson's Petrels, (*Oceanites oceanicus*) and at least one Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*).

On the seventh we saw more Shearwaters, another Fulmar and a Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).

Finally, on the ninth we were warned of our approach to land by the appearance of a flock of the Common European Gulls, (*Larus canus*). Upon the following morning we found ourselves in sight of the coasts of Ireland and Scotland, while the water all about us was literally alive with numbers of Razorbills, (*Alca torda*), Murres, (*Uria troille troille*) Puffins (*Fratercula arctica arctica*), Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisæa*) and Gulls of several species.

The harbor of Liverpool was filled with a living snow-squall of Gulls, including the Herring Gull, (*Larus argentatus*) three or four

Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) and numbers of the Black-headed Gulls, (*Larus ridibundus*).

The return trip in July 1919, revealed no new species except the Storm Petrel (*Thalassodroma pelagica*) which we met on the 20th, one day out from St. Nazaire, and saw for two days following. From then until the 29th no birds were seen. On that day we again met the Wilson's Petrels, and the following day docked at Hoboken.

Most of the following observations were made in the vicinity of Is-sur-Tille, Cote d'Or, in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains, and at Montoir, a small village some seven kilometers east of St. Nazaire, on the river Loire.

The country about Is-sur-Tille is rolling, and checkered with patches of pine, which is seldom allowed to reach any considerable size. The hardwoods along the Tille consist largely of planes, poplars, and willows, the latter invariably being lopped off at a height of eight feet or so.

Fences are very rare in this country, their place being taken by thorn hedges, with an occasional stone wall or ditch.

The Tille is simply a large meadow-brook which meanders through broad meadows and patches of thorns and alders, with now and then a strip of reeds of varying depth.

The Montoir district is bordered on two sides by tidal meadows, which are almost entirely inundated during the rainy season, from October until March, altho the Americans succeeded in reclaiming certain areas by drainage. The remainder of the camp faced an extensive peat bog which is covered by at least three feet of water during the winter, but dries up completely in April, the drainage being accomplished by means of a large canal.

The surrounding country is cut up into small farms, fenced everywhere by ditches and hedges of thorn, pollard willows and oaks.

With the exception of the main military roads the surrounding country is traversed by the most picturesque lanes, that are often lined by a dense prickly bush which is covered with handsome yellow flowers throughout the winter.

While the number of species observed was less, comparatively, than would be seen in a like period in our Eastern States, the num-

ber of individuals was about the same. These conditions are probably due to the country having been longer under cultivation, and the consequent extinction of those species which were unable to adapt themselves to the changes in environment.

The following extract from my note-book gives a fair idea of the character of the bird-life about Montoir during the breeding season. "June 8. Montoir. Out lane around the peninsula near camp. Summer well advanced. Marsh completely dried, except for a few ditches. Roses, honeysuckle, buttercups. Thistles just opening.

Swifts and Swallows flying over the meadows and about barn-yards. Three or four Stonechats are perched on the highest bushes along the hedgerow, now and then darting to the ground to feed. They have a nest in a dense clump of thorns nearby.

One or two Whitethroats are singing in the hedges. A couple of Pies fly over and alight in a poplar, only to continue their flight as we approach. A Blackbird flies up the row ahead of us, and a Hedge Sparrow darts down among the reeds in a partly dried up ditch along the road.

At intervals a Chaffinch sings its plain but welcome song from the roadside trees, and one of the Red-backed Shrikes makes a short detour out over the meadow only to return and take up its point of vantage in the hedge.

A small group of Goldfinches are feeding among the opening thistles a short distance out in the field, and two or three Carrion Crows and a Green Woodpecker wing over the meadow, the latter looking, from a distance, exactly like our Flicker.

As we turn to go, a pair of Greenfinches fly out of the Hawthorns and cross over to some trees on the other side of the road, while a Yellow Bunting sings its monotonous ditty from somewhere in the thick foliage of the hedge.

But beyond all, from the meadows and air in every direction comes the incessant jargon of the Skylarks, forming a background of sound to the whole scene."

The following notes cover all the species which I was able to identify with certainty, all the more doubtful records having been omitted.

The disadvantage of being unable to find a satisfactory work on

French bird-life was met by making a series of field-sketches of the birds as I observed them. These were, for the most part, identified without difficulty upon my return.

These notes cover the period between September 22, 1918 and July 5, 1919.

Larus melanocephalus. MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL.—Common on the Rhone at Lyons. February 14 and 15.

Larus marinus. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—Three seen over the Montoir marshes during a storm on April 26, 1919.

Larus argentatus. HERRING GULL. A flock of 20 flew over the Montoir marshes, January 18. Abundant on the Loire at Savenay, February 10; five seen at Montoir. April 13. and six on April 17; also common at Lyons. February 14 and 15.

Anas platyrhynchos. MALLARD. A common migrant or possibly summer resident on the Montoir peat bog. April 19 to June 14. On one occasion a pair of these ducks alighted in a dry pasture near some cattle; the first time that I have ever seen wild ducks do this.

Gallinula chloropus chloropus. MOOR HEN.—One was captured alive in the British rest camp at Le Havre. August 13. Another seen on the River Tille, where it was flushed from dense reeds bordering the stream, September 22.

Ardea cinerea. COMMON HERON.—One seen on February 25 at Montoir. This was my only record. Seen in flight it resembles a small Great Blue Heron,

Actitis hypoleucos. COMMON SANDPIPER.—Apparently a scarce migrant. Three or four seen along the canal that drains the Montoir bog on April 26 constitute my only record of this species.

Vanellus vanellus. LAPWING.—Tolerably common transient. On February 2 I saw two flocks of from 25 to 30 individuals each. On that day I met a Frenchman who had shot and wounded one, which he permitted me to sketch. While on the ground their actions suggest the Killdeer, but they seem more sluggish and were altogether silent. The flight is heavy and the wing beats regular, suggesting that of our Green Heron.

The flocks fly in close formation, wheeling over the meadows almost as one; now showing the white breasts, or again wheeling so that only the black backs are visible, presenting a most attractive picture.

Several were also seen on February 10 near Savenay, and two over the Montoir marsh, May 4.

Perdix perdix perdix. PARTRIDGE.—Common both at Is-sur-Tille and about Montoir. These are somewhat similar in habits to our Bobwhite, but are larger. On several occasions I heard them utter a peculiar harsh call when flushed.

Streptopelia turtur turtur. TURTLE DOVE.—Summer resident. Not seen until May 11, but common thereafter. Certain dead trees in the Montoir bog were often literally covered with them at times, although they seem to be much sought after by the native pot-hunters. Their mournful cooing could be heard at all hours of the day, echoing through the countryside and reminding one very often of our Mourning Dove at home.

Columba palumbus palumbus. WOOD PIGEON.—Common about some of the squares and parks in Paris, May 17 and 18. The conspicuous white wing-patches easily distinguished them from the domestic pigeons with which they did not associate.

Milvus milvus. KITE.—February 2 I saw two soaring on motionless wings over the flooded Montoir meadows. The feet appeared decidedly reddish.

Circus æruginosus. MARSH HARRIER.—Apparently a tolerably common summer resident. It hunts in much the same way as our Marsh Hawk, but appears larger and heavier. Individuals were seen over the Montoir marshes May 11 and June 14 and 15.

Circus cyaneus. HEN HARRIER. Common summer resident. Arrived, April 26. Some individuals appear fully as light as Herring Gulls. This species is indistinguishable in the field from our Marsh Hawk.

Accipiter nisus. SPARROW HAWK. A rather common permanent resident. Resembles the Sharp-shin very closely. Its usual method of hunting in this country is to skim over the fields at a low elevation, rising just enough to clear the hedges; thereby enabling it to surprise any birds that may be feeding away from cover.

Buteo buteo buteo. BUZZARD.—Apparently a tolerably common resident at Montoir. More common in winter. It takes the place of our Red-tail, and has a similar call.

Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus. KESTREL.—Common resident. Resembles our Sparrow Hawk very closely. It is apparently feared by the Skylarks, which it appears to hunt regularly in winter. The call is similar to that of *F. spaverius*, too, but is best described in one syllable. "klee, klee", etc.

EAGLE.—On January 17 an eagle, of unknown species, flew over the Montoir meadow.

Pandion haliaetus haliaetus. OSPREY.—One seen April 27, flying over the flooded bog at Montoir.

Tyto alba alba. BARN OWL.—The carcass of a Barn Owl was seen hanging from a pole in a grain-field on April 19, and hung in the same position for several weeks. It was decidedly smaller than our variety.

Strix aluco. BROWN OWL.—One seen, December 25 and 26. Surprised while hiding in a vine covered tree, from whence it flew to another a short distance off, bringing to the scene scores of Tits, Chaffinches, a couple of Jays and a Green Woodpecker, which created a great commotion for some time.

Athene noctua noctua. LITTLE OWL.—December 25 and April 28, I found this to be the source of a peculiar kitten-like cry that I had heard once or twice at dusk near Montoir. Apparently nesting in a lopped-off oak. It looks much like an Acadian Owl.

Cuculus canorus canorus. CUCKOO.—Abundant summer resident. arriving April 20. Its call is just like the regulation cuckoo clock, with much the same quality as the Mourning Dove—a far-reaching call. This Cuckoo is not as shy and retiring as ours, but seems very restless and flies from place to place with a hawk-like flight, carrying the head in a strained position.

Alcedo atthis ispida. EUROPEAN KINGFISHER, A pair were seen along the Tille (Cote d'Or) on two occasions, September 22 and 29. They are certainly among the handsomest birds here, fairly glittering as they fly past, uttering their weak rattle or scream.

Picus viridis virescens. GREEN WOODPECKER.—A common resident wherever the trees have been allowed to grow to their normal size. It resembles our Flicker in many ways. Feeds much on the ground, and has a loud rolling call suggesting somewhat the whinnying of a colt. To all intents and purposes it is simply a Flicker dipped in yellowish green dye.

Dryobates minor (hortorum ?) LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER.—One seen December 25, at Montoir. It seems to take the place of our Downy.

Dendrocopus major pinetorum. GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER.—June 16 and July 4. my only Montoir dates for this species. Also seen twice December 1 and 8, at Is-sur-Tille. It seems to represent our Hairy Woodpecker in this fauna.

Jynx torquilla torquilla. WRYNECK.—One seen on a towpath along Montoir canal, June 12. Feeding on ants, apparently. When disturbed it perched on an upright stick and craned and twisted its neck in the grotesque manner peculiar to this species.

Caprimulgus europaeus europaeus. NIGHTJAR. Started one up April 20, from an unfrequented road.

Apus apus apus. SWIFT. Abundant summer resident. Larger than ours, with a slightly forked tail, and slower in its movements. Its only note is a harsh wheezy scream.

Alauda arvensis arvensis. SKYLARK. An abundant resident at Montoir, being heard at all hours of the day. They commence to sing in February and are seldom silent after that. The usual call note is a loud "dear, dear, dee'ar" suggesting the call of our Killdeer, but it sometimes utters a low "churring" note when flushed. The song is a loud, mad outburst, rivalling that of our Bobolink, but louder and more piercing, suggesting certain notes of the Meadowlark in quality. The Skylark is one of the most aggressively energetic birds here and usually carries its crest erect whenever suspicious or excited. It is very pugnacious, and during the mating season the males were constantly fighting or attempting to outsing one another.

Lullula arborea. WOOD LARK.—A common winter resident, frequenting drier localities than the former species. It is less active and noisy than the other, and more shy. I have no record of it after February 2.

Garrulus glandarius glandarius. JAY.—Apparently a common resident at Montoir. Much larger and heavier than our Blue Jay. The conspicuous white rump and wing patches are excellent identification marks. The flight resembles that of our Belted Kingfisher and the only note is a harsh croak.

Pica pica pica. MAGPIE.—Abundant everywhere in France. One of the most characteristic and conspicuous birds. It has a varied vocabulary, ranging from a harsh parrot-like screech to various low chuckling notes. On one occasion I observed a trio of Kestrels and a small flock of Pies engaged in a game which seemed to afford both parties great amusement. The Kestrels would hang over the bushes in which the Pies were concealed and dart down on one whenever it exposed itself. Thereupon the whole assemblage of Pies would pursue the Kestrel until it returned to its former elevation. This performance continued for at least half an hour.

Corvus corone corone. CARRION CROW.—Common everywhere, but more solitary than the Rook. Easily distinguished from the latter by its harsh croak and much larger size. A pair nested in a large elm in the Montoir bog.

Corvus frugilegus frugilegus. ROOK. Abundant resident. It has a weak nasal caw resembling the Fish Crow's. It is gregarious, nesting in colonies wherever suitable woodlands can be found.

Corvus monedula spermologus. JACKDAW. Abundant about the Cathedral of Nantes, February 10.

Corvus cornix cornix. HOODED CROW. One seen over the marshes at Montoir, March 19. Its call is weak and nasal, somewhat like the Rook's.

Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris. STARLING. Resident, but more abundant in winter, when it feeds on the flooded meadows, wandering about in great compact flocks and resorting to tall pines to roost.

Passer domesticus domesticus. HOUSE SPARROW. Uniformly abundant, but probably less so than in certain localities here.

Passer montanus montanus. WOOD SPARROW. A rather common resident in country districts. One pair nested in the temporary hospital buildings near St Nazaire. Resembles a small highly colored House Sparrow.

Acanthis cannabina cannabina. LINNET. Abundant summer resident, nesting among the hedges. First seen April 19. It reminds one somewhat of our Redpoll in appearance and habits, feeding mainly in cultivated fields and gardens. It has a very sweet goldfinch-like song.

Carduelis carduelis carduelis. EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH. Common summer resident, resembling our Goldfinch much more in habits than in

appearance. I know of few prettier sights than a group of these Goldfinches feeding among the apple blossoms. Like our species, they are a so fond of thistles, and every large patch of thistles was sure to harbor a small flock. Arrived April 13.

Emberiza cirius. CIRL BUNTING. A common resident, generally distributed. Nest'ng among the hedgerows. Its song is a droll, wheezy performance.

Emberiza citrinella citrinella. YELLOW BUNTING. A common resident; in winter feeding along with the Cirl Buntings, Chaffinches, and Greenfinches, about the grain warehouses in the American railroad yard. In summer they frequent hedges, nesting among the Hawthorns. Their song is a monotonous repetition, "sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet."

Emberiza schoeniclus schoeniclus. REED BUNTING. A common summer resident on the Montoir bog, living among the reeds and coarse sedges, where it dodges in and out among the thick growth which borders the pools. First seen May 4. Also rather common in similar localities along the River Tille in autumn.

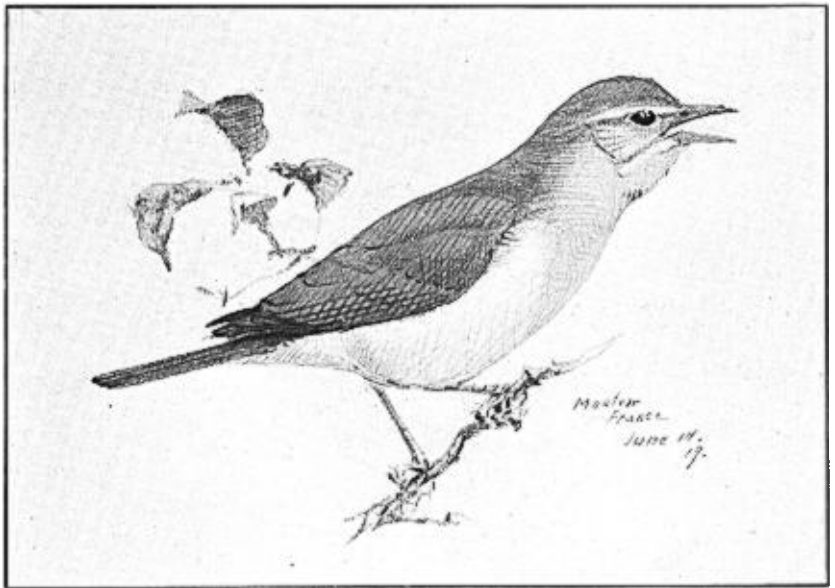
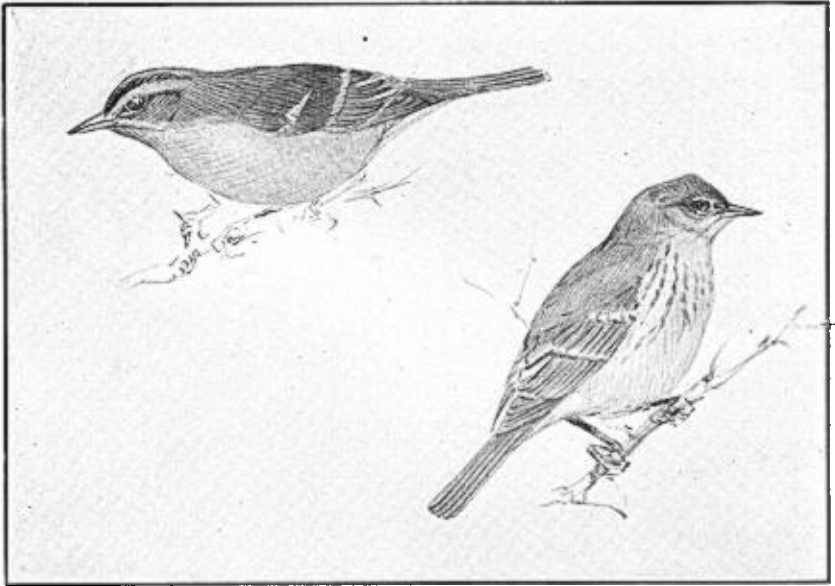
Emberiza calandra calandra. CORN BUNTING. Common summer resident near Montoir. First seen, April 13. This looks much like a large grayish Song Sparrow. Its song is a very good imitation of our Grasshopper Sparrow's, but is considerably louder, and is often given while in flight, the singer gliding back into the grass with wings, legs and tail dangling, reminding one of the flight performance of the Yellow-breasted Chat.

Chloris chloris (subsp?). GREENFINCH. A tolerably common resident, associating in the winter with the Yellow and Cirl Buntings and Chaffinches. In summer it frequents the dense hedges.

Fringilla coelebs coelebs. CHAFFINCH. An abundant resident about Montoir. Probably the most abundant winter species in and about the villages. In the winter plumage it bears a decided resemblance to our Goldfinch. One of the Chaffinch's call notes is exactly like the call of our Chewink. Its song starts out like that of our House Wren rising in a crescendo, then breaking into an odd jargon resembling the song of the White-eyed Vireo. At one farmhouse the inmates kept a brood of young Chaffinches in a cage, hanging in a hedge. The parents were feeding them.

Pyrrhula pyrrhula europaea. BULLFINCH. Seven seen on April 19 at Montoir, feeding on buds in tree-tops. Common during September and October at Is-sur-Tille. In habits it resembles our Goldfinch.

Delichon urbica urbica. MARTIN. Abundant in the Province of Cote d'Or until September 22. Apparently scarce in Brittany (only one seen, June 12). In Is-sur-Tille they nested below the eaves of the houses on the main street, building retort-shaped nests like those of our Cliff Swallow. One nest was actually in the corner of a window in the heart of the village.



FIELD SKETCHES FROM LIFE.

Upper: The Aquatic Warbler (Left) and the Spotted Flycatcher (Right).
Lower: The Garden Warbler.

Hirundo rustica rustica. SWALLOW. Summer resident, arriving April 10. This is almost identical with our Barn Swallow, both in appearance and habits, and is equally abundant.

Riparia riparia riparia. SAND MARTIN. Abundant summer resident. First seen April 13, after which, for several weeks, the flooded Montoir bog was literally alive with them. They are identical with our Bank Swallow.

Lanius collurio collurio. RED-BACKED SHRIKE. This handsome Shrike was quite common in some localities, three or four pairs nesting within a half mile along a thorn hedge skirting the Montoir bog. They appear to feed exclusively on insects, as the other birds display no fear of them. The strikingly marked white and black tail is common to this species, the Wheatear, and the Whinchat. The only note that I ever heard this bird utter is a harsh cry like that of our Northern Shrike. It is usually seen perched on some exposed twig, from which it flies to the ground to pick up its insect prey.

Lanius senator senator. WOODCHAT SHRIKE. One seen June 14. at Montoir.

Muscicapa striata striata. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. Common along the Tille (Province of Cote d'Or) during the last week of September. It resembles our Phoebe in feeding habits.

Muscicapa hypoleuca hypoleuca. PIED FLYCATCHER. One seen, June 3, in yard of Base Hospital at St. Nazaire. Apparently like our flycatchers in feeding habits.

Phylloscopus collybita collybita. CHIFFCHAFF. Common summer resident. First seen March 30. Resembles one of our Vireos in habits and appearance but has a characteristic ringing song—a monotonous repetition of its name.

Phylloscopus trochilus trochilus. WILLOW WARBLER. First seen, April 13. This resembles our Warbling Vireo in appearance, but is more active, and sings incessantly while it feeds. It is one of the finest songsters. The song resembles a part of the Indigo Bunting's, but is sweeter and lacks the harsh finch quality.

Prunella modularis modularis. HEDGE "SPARROW." A common resident, living in hedges throughout the country. It has a very sprightly and attractive song, suggesting that of our Indigo Bunting. This species is often hard to observe because of its shyness and preference for thick hedges.

Phoenecurus phoenecurus phoenecurus. REDSTART. Two seen April 19, at Montoir. One was singing a sweet plaintive song reminiscent of our Vesper Sparrow, but softer.

Anthus pratensis. MEADOW PIPIT. An abundant winter visitant at Montoir, feeding on the flooded marshes with the Pied Wagtails and Starlings. A counterpart of our native Pipit.

Anthus trivialis trivialis. TREE PIPIT. A tolerably common sum-

mer resident. First seen March 30. Its usual song is sweet but monotonous, but its flight song resembles in a miniature way the outburst of the Skylark, as it starts up from its perch with wings vibrating rapidly, and after ascending for perhaps 100 feet, glides downward, singing all the while, and finally flutters to its perch with the wings extended low, legs hanging, and tail held in a vertical position.

Motacilla alba lugubris. WHITE WAGTAIL. Abundant all winter at Montoir, wading about the flooded marshes; becoming less common as the spring advanced, when its place was taken, to a large extent, by the next species. I never heard its song, but once witnessed a curious chattering duet between two males, which fluttered before each other in the air, with their long tails opening and closing during the performance. Ordinarily the tail is wagged quite smartly in walking, and the head bobs backward and forward with each step. While the farmers are plowing the Wagtails desert the marshes and follow the plow, sometimes fairly covering the freshly turned earth. Their call note is a nervous sharp "tseep, tseep, tseep."

Motacilla flava rayi. YELLOW WAGTAIL. Resident, but much more abundant in summer, nesting in the marshes. Altho essentially a ground walker, it frequently perches on weed stalks and wires to give its "song," simply a loud explosive "k'seet." Both of the Wagtails fly gracefully in long undulations, opening and closing the tail with each bound.

Troglodytes troglodytes troglodytes. WREN. This species resembles more closely the Winter Wren. As a songster it is far superior to our House Wren. I heard its full song in December at Is-sur-Tille and found it common at Montoir.

Certhia sp?. CREEPER. Common in autumn and winter at Is-sur-Tille. It is not distinguishable from our Creeper.

Sitta europaea caesia. NUTHATCH. One seen, February 14 at Tete d'Or Park, Lyons. Reminded me of a large edition of our Red-breasted Nuthatch, and like that species is fond of pines.

Parus palustris longirostris. MARSH TITMOUSE. Common in September along the Tille. Only one flock of four seen near Montoir March 30. They resemble our Chickadee very closely, both in appearance and habits.

Parus major major. GREAT TITMOUSE. Abundant resident, generally retiring to wilder sections to breed. They become very tame in winter, coming right into the dooryards to feed, and may be approached very closely. This and the next species are often seen in company, the present one being much the more common. Its notes are a "see-saw" and various chattering and scolding notes resembling the Chickadee's.

Parus caeruleus caeruleus. BLUE TITMOUSE. I found this diminutive titmouse tolerably common everywhere, altho never as abundant as the Great Titmouse with which it commonly associates. It is the most energetic and acrobatic of its tribe. The nest is placed in knot-holes in the gnarled oaks which abound throughout the country.

Sylvia communis communis. WHITETHROAT. The Whitethroat is one of the commonest and most persistent singers. Upon its arrival (April 19), the song is most welcome. It is extremely vivacious and reminiscent of our Bobolink, or the Skylark, but softer. As the season wears on, however, it becomes rather tiresome. The Whitethroat is very energetic, its crest, cheeks, and throat feathers usually being held erect. It seems to delight in hiding among the thick hedges and scolding whenever approached.

Sylvia hortensis hortensis. GARDEN WARBLER. This is one of the very finest songsters that I encountered. Its song resembles that of our Orchard Oriole, but is less throaty and more "warbler-like." May 4 and June 14 at Montoir.

Luscinia megarhyncha megarhyncha. NIGHTINGALE. A summer resident, inhabiting dense thickets where it is very difficult to observe, altho its loud and varied song carries to a great distance. I heard it singing at noon on a cloudy day. Part of the song is very rich and full, but certain harsh notes are reminiscent of the Chat's.

Acrocephalus aquaticus. AQUATIC WARBLER. One seen along the Tille, dodging among thick shrubbery near the stream, September 22.

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus. SEDGE WARBLER. A common summer resident in suitable localities on the Montoir bog. First seen May 2. These odd little warblers are very wren-like in habits, dwelling in thick undergrowth and hedges skirting the drainage ditches. They are very secretive and hard to observe, but their loud song and wren-like scolding notes are constantly in evidence in the localities which they inhabit. The song resembles a combination of that of the Marsh Wren and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Erythacus rubecula rubecula. REDBREAST. A common resident inhabiting hedges and brush piles, generally in the vicinity of houses. Its droll song is a curious medley, containing a variety of wheezing and buzzing notes.

Pratincola torquata rubicola. STONECHAT. Resident, much more abundant in summer. Resembles our Bluebird in its feeding habits, perching on a fence post or projecting twig in a hedge and flying to the ground to pick up its food. It sometimes hovers over the grass where a suitable perch is not to be found.

Pratincola rubetra rubetra. WINCHAT.—May 11, three or four seen. Resembles the Stonechat in habits, perching on weed stalks and flying into the grass to feed. Its song is a weak little warble suggesting the Bluebird's, but not so rich in quality and contains some buzzing notes. Common in September at Is-sur-Tille, feeding on berries.

Regulus regulus regulus. GOLDCREST.—Local winter visitant, resembling our Golden-crowned Kinglet very closely, both in appearance and habits. First seen at Is-sur-Tille, September 29. Last seen at Montoir, January 1.

Turdus philomelus philomelus. SONG THRUSH. Resident, more common about Montoir in the winter, when it fed on the marshy meadows bordering the bog. Its method of feeding and general actions at this time recall our Robin. Its song, however, is somewhat like the Thrasher's but contains some harsh notes.

Turdus viscivorus viscivorus. MISTLE THRUSH.—One at Montoir, January 1. Quite as large as our Brown Thrasher.

Turdus musicus. REDWING.—Only one identified, December 31, at Montoir.

Turdus merula merula. BLACKBIRD.—A common resident. Acts much like our Robin, feeding on the ground and flying up into hedges when alarmed, with the loud piercing cries which are so often heard from Robins at dusk. Their song, however, resembles that of the Thrasher, without the repetitions. Some phrases are almost as rich as those of the Wood Thrush.

Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe. WHEATEAR.—One feeding in a wet meadow, at Montoir March 30.

Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pa.

THE BIRDS OF LAKE POOPÓ, BOLIVIA.

BY WILLIAM RAY ALLEN.

THE overflow of Lake Titicaca, especially voluminous during the rainy season, is poured out into the Bolivian Lake Poopó (Aullagas) and the salt marshes and lagoons of Coipasa. Despite a wide-spread popular belief concerning an underground outlet to the Pacific, the entire rainfall is probably taken up by evaporation. The river Desaguadero by which Titicaca drains into Poopó passes near Calacoto through a rock-channel in a narrow valley. This acts as a valve, regulating the flow of the water above. Lake Titicaca, therefore, varies in its level no less than five feet between its highest and its lowest known stages; and Lake Poopó below rises and falls with greater seasonal regularity. It cannot fluctuate more than two or three feet, while the excess overflows into the salt marshes.

As a result of the above situation we have the almost anomalous