

BIRD DISTRIBUTION IN EASTERN KENTUCKY.

BY R. E. HORSEY.

I HAVE had the pleasure during the past fifteen years of spending from ten days to three weeks, Spring and Fall in botanical collecting for our Rochester, New York, Parks, under the direction of Prof. C. S. Sargent, Director of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, who receives duplicates of all the botanical specimens, seeds and plants obtained.

My interest in birds during the past eight years has led me to carefully record all that I have seen, having my bird glass handy at all times. My field for the past two years was eastern Kentucky including also a few visits across the Ohio River while studying the arborescent flora of Ohio.

In Kentucky along the Ohio River the country is more or less hilly but soon flattens out as one leaves the river in Greenup, Kenton and Boyd Counties, while in Clark and Madison Counties, the famous Blue Grass Region, it is level or rolling except along the Kentucky River where there are a few low hills. This however is all changed in passing to the southeast where we enter the hills, beautiful in their never ending variety of valleys and abrupt ridges clothed with forests of oak, maple, hickory and pine, edged with sassafras, and undergrown with dogwood and sumac, making a riot of color in the Autumn. The hill country of Johnson, Pike, Letcher, Breathitt and Lee Counties while an excellent place to pursue the study of the arborescent flora, is not so favorable for the ornithologist. The brushy pastures and stream sides of the level counties give the largest number of species of birds, but to me those of the hills are the most interesting because of their elusiveness.

The difference in elevation in eastern Kentucky affords a fine field for the study of plant distribution and this is true of bird life also. One striking example of trees is furnished by the Buckeyes; the Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) being the tree of the open country while the Sweet Buckeye (*Aesculus octandra*) is found only in the hills. Of course some trees may be found generally distributed also. The following notes will show the same differ-

ences in bird distribution, and as I hope to pay special attention to the hills and mountains of southeastern Kentucky during the year 1921 I trust I shall be able to throw still further light on this subject.

Podilymbus podiceps. PIED-BILLED GREBE.—One in a small pond west of Winchester, Clark Co. September 23, 1920.

Butorides virescens virescens. GREEN HERON.—One and two in Clark and Madison Counties, May and September.

Pisobia maculata. PECTORIAL SANDPIPER.—Four migrants in a wet meadow, Clark Co., May 13, 1920.

Actitis macularia. SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—One along the river in Breathitt Co. May 21, 1920.

Oxyechus vociferus. KILLDEER.—Fairly common in May, Clark and Madison Counties with thirty noted in Clark Co., September 23, 1920.

Zenaidura macroura carolinensis. MOURNING DOVE.—Noted in May, one to four birds, Clark, Madison and Boyd Counties.

Cathartes aura septentrionalis. TURKEY VULTURE.—One to six birds, Greenup, Clark, Madison and Pike Counties, spring and fall.

Circus hudsonius. MARSH HAWK.—One May 15, 1920, Madison Co.

Accipiter cooperi. COOPER'S HAWK.—One May 14, 1920, Madison Co.

Falco sparverius sparverius. SPARROW HAWK.—This useful small hawk noted a number of times in Greenup, Clark and Madison Counties but never more than two birds at a time.

Otus asio asio. SCREECH OWL.—One startled from a thicket May 15, 1920, Madison Co.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.—One May 11, 1920, Clark Co., and a dead bird found in the wooded hills May 19, 1920, Breathitt Co.

Ceryle alcyon alcyon. BELTED KINGFISHER.—One along a mountain stream in Letcher Co., October 4, 1920.

Dryobates villosus subsp.? HAIRY WOODPECKER.—One May 13, 1920, Clark Co.

Dryobates pubescens medianus. DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Two of these birds were noted May 18, 1920, in Breathitt Co. and as they were among the hills I believe they were the northern subspecies.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—A fairly common bird in Clark, Madison and Boyd Counties, two were also noted among the hills in Breathitt Co., October 7, 1920.

Centurus carolinus. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—In May recorded two in Clark and one in Madison Counties.

Colaptes auratus subsp.? FLICKER.—Of general distribution in eastern Kentucky, found in both the open counties and in the hills.

Chordeiles virginianus virginianus. NIGHTHAWK.—Noted twice in May, Madison Co.

Chaetura pelagica. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—A common summer bird throughout eastern Kentucky.

Archilochus colubris. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Observed in May in Boyd and Pike Counties.

Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—Recorded in May, Clark and Madison Counties.

Myiarchus crinitus. CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Two birds May 19, 1920, in the wooded hills, Breathitt County.

Sayornis phoebe. PHOEBE.—In Clark, Madison and Boyd Counties.

Myiochanes virens. WOOD PEWEE.—Evidently a well distributed summer resident in eastern Kentucky.

Empidonax flaviventris. YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.—One on May 12, 1919, Boyd Co.

Empidonax minimus. LEAST FLYCATCHER.—One on May 11, 1920, Clark Co.

Cyanocitta cristata cristata. BLUE JAY.—Fairly common in Spring, Clark, Madison and Johnson Counties.

Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos. CROW.—Common in the Blue Grass Region and along the Ohio River but among the hills, only met in an open place planted in corn, Pike Co.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. BOBOLINK.—Eight, May 13, 1920, Clark Co. and four September 16, 1920, Madison Co.

Molothrus ater ater. COWBIRD.—From one to three birds noted in spring, Kenton, Clark and Pike Counties.

Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—In suitable locations in Clark, Madison and Boyd Counties. A few in May with flocks from 500 to 1,000 in September and October.

Sturnella magna subsp.? MEADOWLARK.—Common in Kenton, Clark and Madison Counties but not seen in the hill counties.

Quiscalus quiscula aeneus. BRONZED GRACKLE.—Common in Kenton, Clark, Madison and Boyd Counties but only noted in the hills in Johnson Co. where there are a considerable number of open fields.

Astragalinus tristis tristis. GOLDFINCH.—Noted in May as a common bird in eastern Kentucky.

Passer domesticus. ENGLISH SPARROW.—This bird is well established in eastern Kentucky.

Passerculus sandwichensis savanna. SAVANNAH SPARROW.—Two birds only, May 13, 1920, Clark Co.

Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—Two May 12, 1919, in Boyd Co. and one May 13, 1920, Clark Co.

Zonotrichia albicollis. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—One bird Clark Co, May 12, 1920.

Spizella passerina passerina. CHIPPING SPARROW.—A common summer resident in the eastern portion of the state.

Spizella pusilla pusilla. FIELD SPARROW.—Noted in May, in Boyd, Clark, Madison and Lee Counties but not more than four at a time.

Melospiza melodia melodia. SONG SPARROW.—Common in all counties visited.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus. TOWHEE OR CHEWINK.—This brush-loving bird was noted only in Kenton and Boyd Counties.

Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis. CARDINAL.—Fairly common in eastern Kentucky.

Zamelodia ludoviciana. ROSE-BREADED GROSBILL.—One only May 12, 1920, Clark Co.

Passerina cyanea. INDIGO BUNTING.—Noted in May as a common bird.

Spiza americana. DICKCISEL.—The only bird of this species I ever met with was perched on a low hedge bordering a pasture in the Blue Grass Region, and I was very fortunate in having an intimate study of him at close quarters. May 13, 1920, Clark Co.

Piranga erythromelas. SCARLET Tanager.—A male in fine plumage, May 19, 1919, Breathitt Co. Tanagers, immature or female were also noted at times but I could not satisfy myself whether they were Scarlet or Summer Tanagers.

Progne subis subis. PURPLE MARTIN.—It is a pleasure to note the numbers of these birds in Eastern Kentucky, especially as they are barely holding their own in two small colonies in Monroe Co., N. Y. where I am at home.

Hirundo erythrogastra. BARN SWALLOW.—Fairly common in Greenup, Clark and Madison Counties.

Stelgidopteryx serripennis. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—A few noted in May; Madison, Lee, Johnson and Pike Counties. In Johnson Co. they were flying in and out of nesting holes in a cliff of crumbling stone only five or six feet above the roadway along Paint Creek.

Bombycilla cedrorum. CEDAR WAXWING.—Twenty-five birds, May 12, 1920, in Clark Co. with several September 29, 1920, in Boyd Co.

Vireosylva olivacea. RED-EYED VIREO.—In the wooded hills during May, Johnson, Pike, Breathitt and Lee Counties with one record only in the open portion in Clark Co.

Vireosylva gilva gilva. WARBLING VIREO.—One on May 13, 1919, Boyd Co. and two May 19, 1920, Breathitt Co.

Lanivireo flavifrons. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.—Two birds, Kenton Co., May 10, 1920.

Mniotilta varia. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—May 12, 1920, Clark Co., May 20, 1920, Lee Co. and September 26, 1920, Madison Co. One bird at a time.

Dendroica aestiva aestiva. YELLOW WARBLER.—A few in May in about all counties visited.

Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—One October 5, 1920, Letcher Co.

Dendroica coronata. MYRTLE WARBLER.—One September 6, 1920, Madison Co.

Dendroica magnolia. MAGNOLIA WARBLER.—May 11, 1920, Clark Co.

Dendroica pensylvanica. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.—Kenton Co., May 10, 1920, and Madison Co., May 14, 1920.

Dendroica castanea. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.—September 29 and October 1, 1920, Boyd Co.

Dendroica striata. BLACK-POLL WARBLER.—May 13, 1920, Clark Co.

Dendroica fusca. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.—May 12 and 13, 1920, Clark Co.

Dendroica virens. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—Boyd Co. May 12, 1919.

Dendroica discolor. PRAIRIE WARBLER.—Boyd Co., May 11, 1919.

Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis. WATER-THRUSH.—Two May 19, 1920, Breathitt Co.

Geothlypis trichas trichas. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Well distributed in all Eastern Kentucky, noted in May.

Icteria virens virens. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—In May and September, Boyd, Clark and Madison Counties.

Wilsonia citrina. HOODED WARBLER.—October 5, 1920, Letcher Co.

Setophaga ruticilla. REDSTART.—Noted in most counties visited from May 10 to 19.

Mimus polyglottos polyglottos. MOCKINGBIRD.—Clark, Madison and Pike Counties.

Dumetella carolinensis. CATBIRD.—Common in Eastern Kentucky.

Toxostoma rufum. BROWN THRASHER.—In May several in the level counties but only noted in the hills in Lee Co., May 20, 1920.

Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus. CAROLINA WREN.—Fairly common in all counties visited.

Thryomanes bewicki bewicki. BEWICK'S WREN.—I had the pleasure of my first acquaintance with this sprite in tangled underbrush near the Ohio River, Greenup Co., May 24, 1917, one was also noted May 12, 1920, Clark Co.

Troglodytes aedon aedon. HOUSE WREN.—Noted in May, Greenup, Kenton and Johnson Counties.

Baeolophus bicolor. TUFTED TITMOUSE.—Among the wooded hills in Pike and Breathitt Counties. Noted in May.

Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis. CAROLINA CHICKADEE.—Two at a time noted in May, Greenup, Johnson, Clark and Madison Counties and October 3, 1920 Pike Co.

Hylocichla mustelina. WOOD THRUSH.—Noted in May, Greenup, Kenton and Boyd Counties in the low wooded hills along the Ohio River as well as in Johnson, Pike and Breathitt Counties in the true hill country.

Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens. VEERY OR WILSON'S THRUSH.—May 24, 1917, Greenup Co., May 12, 1919, Boyd Co., May 12, 1920, Clark Co. and May 14, 1920, Madison County.

Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.—May 19, 1920, among the hills in Breathitt Co.

Planesticus migratorius migratorius. ROBIN.—A common bird May 8 to 23 and September 23 to 26, in the level counties but three only seen about the town of Jackson, Breathitt Co., May 19, 1920, and not found elsewhere in the hills

Sialia sialis sialis. BLUEBIRD.—Several noted in about all counties visited.

Highland Park, Reservoir Ave., Rochester, N. Y.

A NEW BURROWING OWL FROM COLOMBIA.

BY WITMER STONE.

IN a collection of Colombian birds recently received by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia from Mr. M. A. Carriker, Jr., are two specimens of a Burrowing Owl which appear to represent an undescribed form.

They are nearest geographically to *Speotyto cunicularia tolimae* described by the writer¹ from the plains of Tolima, but curiously enough while that form is the darkest Burrowing Owl that I have seen from South America the present is among the lightest. It may be described as follows:

***Speotyto cunicularia carrikeri* subsp. nov.**

Type. No. 73700 Coll. Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia. Palmar, Boyaca, Colombia. April 24, 1917, coll. M. A. Carriker, Jr.

Description. Resembles almost exactly in general coloration specimens of *S. c. hypogaea*, from California, and similar to the large pale birds of southern South America, but it is of about the same dimensions as the small dark colored *S. c. tolimae* of Colombia.

The outermost tail feathers are white with remains of four dusky bars mainly on the outer web and reduced to a mere streak in the case of the uppermost; on the next three pairs the bars are broad and well defined on the outer web, but the inner web is largely buffy white, the distal bars sometimes partly developed. The outer feathers are equally barred on both webs.

This bird is much worn and the light spots above and on the wings are white.

The other example (No. 73699) is marked as a female and is distinctly tawny, the tail more heavily barred and all light spots on tail, wings and back, strongly suffused with tawny. There is, however, in neither specimen a suggestion of the almost chocolate brown of *S. c. tolimae*.

The type measures as follows: Wing 173 mm, tail 78, tarsus 46. exposed culmen (from cere) 14.

¹ Stone, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1899. p. 304.