## BIRDS OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY.

## BY GORDON WILSON.

So far as I know, no complete résumé of bird life in this section has ever been made. Could I have found just such a report when I began my observations, I would have been spared years of uncertainty and the discouragement which comes from not having any means of checking up one's knowledge. I have prepared this article partly as a summary for my own guide in the future and partly as a suggestion to others who may take up this fascinating study in this section.

Bowling Green is located on the Big Barren River, 110 miles south of Louisville, Kentucky, and 75 miles north of Nashville, Tenn. The town is built on and around two knobs which are three miles east of the easternmost range of the knobs. Many of these hills are still wooded, and are bordered by fields covered with shrubby cedars, hackberries, elms, and persimmons, with wild tangles of greenbriars and honeysuckle. The bottoms, for the most part, are in cultivation, except a narrow strip along the banks of the water courses. There are a few small ponds in this section, but since they are surrounded usually by limestone banks, there is little or no growth plants. The river, with its sheer limestone cliffs, affords little attraction for water birds. Within a mile of the town is Covington's Woods, the greatest place I have ever seen for warblers in the migrating season. Pea Ridge, the last ridge of the knobs, is the place where I have found the members of the goatsucker family, the Pileated Woodpecker, and other retiring birds. Normal Heights, one of the isolated knobs and the site of the Western Kentucky State Normal School, was until the bag-worm plague of 1918, covered with hoary old cedars, the favorite nesting place of the Bronzed Grackle, the Cardinal, and the Robin. One day in 1912, I found 75 nests of the Bronzed Grackle on this knob alone.

My observations have been made up largely by means of field trips, taken weekly or oftener, my average for a year being 60 to 75 trips. In the migrating season I have often gone on trips four or five times in a single week. Whenever I have seen anything unusual or about which I have been in doubt, I have consulted Professor J. H. Clagett, formerly observer for the Biological Survey, and Mr. Carl D. Herdman, a prominent local citizen who has a very comprehensive ornithological library. I have been greatly benefited by the bulletins prepared by Mr. W. L. McAtee, now of the Biological Survey, on the birds near Bloomington, Indiana, and that by Mr. Albert F. Ganier, Curator of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, on the birds of Middle Tennessee. I desire to use this opportunity to thank these two gentlemen for their aid in my study.

My observations were made between the years 1912 and 1921, and are confined, unless otherwise stated, to a territory about ten miles in diameter, with Bowling Green as its center.

Larus argentatus. HERRING GULL.—One seen over Normal Heights at very close range, April 19, 1918.

Anas platyrhynchos. Mallard.—Rare migrant. February 26-May 5; November 28-December 24.

Querquedula discors. Blue-winged Teal.—Rare spring migrant. April 3-20.

Aix sponsa. Wood Duck.—One seen April 5, 1918; another, July 30, 1921. Apparently it used to summer here in numbers, judging by reports from fishermen along the river.

Marila valisineria. Canvas-back.—One seen on the river in company with six Ruddy Ducks, April 7, 1919.

Oidemia deglandi. White-winged Scoter.—Numbers seen on Rich Pond, eight miles south of here, April 6, 1912. I studied this flock for more than an hour with high-power binoculars.

Erismatura jamaicensis. Ruddy Duck.—Six seen on river, April 7, 1919; one seen April 18, 1921.

Branta canadensis canadensis. Canada Goose.—Common migrant. February 26-May 7; September 22-November 12.

Ixobrychus exilis. Least Bittern.—One seen May 1, 1920.

Ardea herodias herodias. Great Blue Heron.—One seen April 12, 1919; one killed near here September 25, 1921. Formerly rather common here.

Florida caerulea. Little Blue Heron.—A very rare summer resident. April 8-September 21.

Butorides virescens virescens. Green Heron. Fairly common summer resident, more abundant in migrations. April 18—September 23.

Rallus virginianus. Virginia Rail.—One seen September 18, another September 21, 1918.

Porzana carolina. Carolina Rail or Sora. Two seen May 4, 1918, both wounded by flying into telephone wires at night.

Ionornis martinicus. Purple Gallinule.—One shot near town in April, 1916.

Gallinula galeata. FLORIDA GALLINULE.—One seen on the river, Aug. 24, 1921.

Fulica americana. American Coot.—Rare spring migrant. March 30-May 5.

Philohela minor. American Woodcock.—Several seen, April 18-23, 1921.

Gallinago delicata. Wilson Snipe.—Fairly common migrant. March 9-May 11; August 24-November 2.

Pisobia maculata. Pectoral Sandpiper.—Rare migrant. May 1-3; August 23-October 8.

Pisobia minutilla. Least Sandpiper.—Rare migrant. April 15—May 14; Aug. 4—Sept. 7.

Ereunetes pusillus. Semipalmated Sandpiper.—One seen September 4, 1919; another May 1, 1920; another, September 15, 1921.

Totanus melanoleucus. Greater Yellow-legs.—Rare spring migrant. April 10-May 14.

**Totanus flavipes.** Lesser Yellow-legs.—Rare migrant. March 27-May 7; September 15-October 8.

Tringa solitaria solitaria. Solitary Sandpiper.—Fairly common migrant, more abundant in the fall. April 10-May 17; July 28-October 11.

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper.—Rare summer resident. March 29-October 13.

Oxyechus vociferus. Killdeer.—Resident; common in summer, rare in winter.

Colinus virginianus virginianus. Bobwhite. Resident. Becoming rather rare, though formerly common.

Zenaidura macroura carolinensis. Mourning Dove. Resident. Abundant in summer, fairly common in winter.

Cathartes aura septentrionalis. Turkey Vulture. Resident. Common in summer, rare in winter.

Coragyps urubu. BLACK VULTURE. Resident. Common to abundant, especially around the slaughter house on Jennings Creek.

Circus hudsonius. Marsh Hawk Rare winter resident. September 4-March 23.

Accipiter velox. Sharp-shinned Hawk Rare resident.

Accipiter cooperi. Cooper's Hawk. Rare resident.

Astur atricapillus atricapillus. American Goshawk.—One seen at very close range on Normal Heights, February 2, 1918. Apparently brought here by the rigorous winter

Buteo borealis borealis Red-Tailed Hawk. Very rare resident.

Buteo lineatus lineatus. Red-shouldered Hawk. Very rare resident.

**Buteo platypterus.** Broad-winged Hawk. Very rare winter resident. September 7-March 29.

Aquila chrysaetos. Golden Eagle. One captured in April, 1919, near here and exhibited by the local chapter of the Red Cross.

Falco sparverius sparverius. Sparrow Hawk. Fairly common resident.

**Tyto pratincola.** Barn Owl. One shot near town in 1914 and preserved by a local taxidermist; another captured alive in August, 1921.

Asio wilsonianus. American Long-eared Owl.—One seen March 14, another April 13, 1918.

Syrnium varia varia. BARRED OWL. Very rare resident.

Otus asio asio. Screech Owl. Fairly common resident.

Bubo virginianus virginianus. Great Horned Owl. Very rare resident

Coccyzus americanus americanus. Yellow-billed Cuckoo.—Common summer resident, a little commoner in the spring migration. April 4-Oct. 6.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. Black-billed Cuckoo — Fairly common migrant, seen nearly every year in both spring and fall. April 24—May 18; September 18–27.

Ceryle alcyon alcyon. Belted Kingfisher.—Rather rare and erratic. It did not winter here in 1915–1916, 1916–1917, 1919–1920, but was seen during the other winters. Only a few pairs are ever seen here in the nesting season.

**Dryobates villosus villosus.** Hairy Woodpecker. Common resident, a little more common in winter.

**Dryobates pubescens pubescens.** Southern Downy Woodpecker.—Common resident, more common in winter.

Sphyrapicus varius varius. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Fairly common winter resident until the winter of 1919–1920, since when it has been very rare. September 23-May 17.

Phloeotomus pileatus pileatus. Pileated Woodpecker.—Rather rare resident, found only along Pea Ridge and in other similar places.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus. Red-headed Woodpecker. Abundant summer resident. The bird puzzles me by its not remaining here through the winter. In nearly all other parts of the state it is to be found at all times of the year. March-October 9.

Centurus carolinus. Red-bellied Woodpecker. Common resident, commoner in fall.

Colaptes auratus auratus. FLICKER. Resident. Common n summer, fairly common in winter.

Antrostomus carolinensis. Chuck-will's-widow. Fairly common summer resident April 25-Aug. 17.

Antrostomus vociferus vociferus. Whip-poor-will. Fairly common summer resident, but more restricted in range than the Chuck-will's-widow. April 6-July 25.

Chordeiles virginianus virginianus. Nighthawk. Common summer resident. April 17-October 20.

Chaetura pelagica. Chimney Swift. Abundant summer resident and exceedingly abundant in the fall migration. Thousands in late summer and early fall roost in the large chimneys at the State Normal and at Davidson Brothers' Wholesale House. April 1-October 16.

Archilochus colubris. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Fairly common summer resident. I saw more around one blossoming horse-chestnut tree on May 1, 1920, than I usually see in an entire season. April 22-October 15.

Tyrannus tyrannus. Kingbird. Common summer resident. April 19-September 23.

Myiarchus crinitus. Crested Flycatcher. Common summer resident. April 19-September 19.

Sayornis phoebe. Phoebe. Fairly common summer resident. Especially fond of the cliffs along the river and the entrances to the caves as building sites. March 9-October 23.

Nuttallornis borealis. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Rare migrant. The first one I ever saw here flew down a chimney into an empty cookstove. May 11–23; September 16–October 25.

Myiochanes virens. Wood Pewee. Common summer resident. April 21-October 8.

Empidonax virescens. Green-crested or Acadian Flycatcher.—Fairly common summer resident, especially along the river above town April 21-October 4.

**Empidonax minimus.** Least Flycatcher. Rare migrant. It very seldom gives its distinctive call while it is here. April 1-May 14; September 7-September 28.

Otocoris alpestris praticola. Prairie Horned Lark. Common winter resident, sometimes almost abundant. July 28-May 11.

Cyanocitta cristata cristata. Blue Jay. Common resident.

Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos. Crow. Resident. Common in summer, abundant in winter. There are three great crow roosts in my territory: one on the Nashville Pike near Lost River, about three miles from town; another on Jennings Creek near the slaughter house; and another on the Morgantown Pike, about four miles from town.

**Dolichonyx oryzivorus.** Bobolink. Common spring migrant, very abundant in 1917 and 1921. I have never seen or heard of Bobolinks in the fall migration. April 27–May 17.

Molothrus ater ater. Cowbird. Common summer resident, frequently very abundant in the fall. In 1915 I found a Cowbird's egg in the nest of a Wood Thrush, the only time I have ever seen one in the

nest of a larger bird. As the nest was broken up before incubation was completed I could not observe the struggle between the parasite and the real owners of the nest. March 5-October 16.

Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus. Red-Winged Blackbird. Common summer resident, abundant in migrations. March 1-November 10.

Sturnella magna magna. Meadowlark. Common resident, a little less common in winter.

Icterus spurius. Orchard Oriole. Common summer resident. Apri 17-August 24.

Icterus galbula. Baltimore Oriole. Common summer resident. April 12-September 17.

**Euphagus carolinus.** Rust Blackbird. Fairly common migrant. April 3-23; August 17-December 7.

Quiscalus quiscula aeneus. Bronzed Grackle. Abundant migrant and common summer resident. Only a small number nest here now as compared with five years ago, before many of the cedars of their breeding-places were killed by the bagworm plague. A flock was reported seen January 22, 1921. February 4-November 27.

Carpadacus purpureus purpureus. Purple Finch. Formerly a very abundant winter resident, but for the past three winters almost rare. October 16-May 8.

Loxia curvirostra minor. Crossbill. Three seen and many others heard, January 19, 1920.

Astragalinus tristis tristis. American Goldfinch. Common resident.

**Pooecetes gramineus gramineus.** Vesper Sparrow. Almost abundant migrant. March 12-May; October 7-October 30.

Passerculus sandwichensis savanna. Savannah Sparrow. Common migrant. May 1-May 11; October 8-October 24.

Ammodramus savannarum australis. Grasshopper Sparrow.—Common summer resident, more common in the spring migration. March 26-September 4.

Passerherbulus henslowi henslowi. Henslow Sparrow.—Fairly common migrant. April 23-May 16; September 6-October 24.

Chondestes grammacus grammacus. Lark Sparrow. Migrant. Common in spring but seen only once in the fall, October 18, 1919. This bird nests commonly in counties of this state farther west. March 27–May 5.

Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys. White-crowned Sparrow. Abundant winter resident, apparently becoming more abundant. Found in fewer places than is the White-throated Sparrow but more abundant. October 11–May 11.

Zonotrichia albicollis. White-throated Sparrow. Common winter resident. September 23-May 17.

Spizella monticola monticola. TREE SPARROW. Never seen

here until the hard winter of 1917–1918, but since then it has been a common winter resident, becoming more common each winter, and widely distributed in its range. October 21-March 12

Spizella passerina passerina. Chipping Sparrow. Resident. Common in summer, rare in winter.

Spizella pusilla pusilla. FIELD SPARROW. Common summer resident, rather rare in winter.

Junco hyemalis hyemalis. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. Abundant winter resident. October 4-April 19.

Peucaea aestivalis bachmanni Bachman's Sparrow. Common summer resident though restricted in its range. March 26-August 22.

Melospiza melodia melodia. Song Sparrow. Common winter resident. October 7-April 27.

Melospiza lincolni lincolni. Lincoln Sparrow. Fairly common migrant. March 8-May 7; September 20-October 24.

Melospiza georgiana. Swamp Sparrow. Rare migrant April 5-May 8; October 13-14.

Passerella iliaca iliaca. Fox Sparrow. Rare migrant but regularly seen. February 12-March 24; October 13-November 10.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus. Towhee. Resident. Common in summer, a little less common in winter.

Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis. Cardinal. Abundant resident. Zamelodia ludoviciana. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Fairly common migrant. April 20-May 15; September 19-October 13.

Guiraca caerula caerula. Blue Grosbeak. I have only one record: two seen in a shrub in the city, April, 1912.

Passerina cyanea. Indigo Bunting. Common summer resident. April 21-October 16.

Spiza americana. Dickcissel. Common summer resident, but a little erratic, sometimes disappearing in mid-summer. April 29-August 22.

Piranga erythromelas. SCARLET TANAGER. Rare migrant, a full-plumaged male being rarely seen. April 18-May 19; September 6-September 30.

Piranga rubra rubra. Summer Tanager. Common summer resident. April 2-September 26.

Progne subis subis. Purple Martin. Abundant summer resident, largely through the efforts of Mr. Carl D. Herdman, who has put up a great many martin boxes and has encouraged others to do so. March 15-September 25.

Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons. CLIFF SWALLOW. Rare summer resident, fairly common in the spring migration. March 24-September 18.

Hirundo erythrogastra. BARN SWALLOW. Fairly common summer resident, commoner in the migrations. April 20-September 17.

Iridoprocne bicolor. TREE SWALLOW.—Rare spring migrant. May 1-May 8.

Riparia riparia. Bank Swallow. Rare summer resident. April 8-September 6.

Stelgidopteryx serripennis. Rough-winged Swallow. One seen May 7, 1921.

Bombycilla cedrorum. Cedar Waxwing.—Common winter resident, a little less common than it was before the hard winter of 1917–1918. Though it remains very late in the spring and returns sometimes in midsummer, I have never seen it in July or found its nest. Evidently it nests in the northern part of this state. August 17–June 12.

Lanius ludovicianus migrans. MIGRANT SHRIKE. Very rare summer resident. One nest found in 1912. February 15-October 24.

Vireosylva olivacea. Red-eyed Vireo. Common summer resident. April 8-September 27.

Vireosylva gilva gilva. Warbling Vireo. Common summer resident. April 8-October 8.

Lanivireo flavifrons. Yellow-throated Vireo. Fairly common summer resident, found only in deep woods and other secluded places. Apri 19-September 29.

Lanivireo solitarius solitarius. Blue-headed Vireo. Very rare summer resident. May 8-November 4.

Vireo griseus griseus. White-eyed Vireo. Common to abundant resident. April 7-October 10.

Mniotilta varia. Black and White Warbler. Fairly common summer resident, March 29-October 6.

**Protonotaria citrea.** Prothonotary Warbler. Fairly common summer resident. April 5-September 28.

Helmitheros vermivorus. Worm-eating Warbler.—Rare spring migrant. April 3-May 9.

Vermivora pinus. Blue-winged Warbler. Rare migrant. April 19-May 19; September 25-October 5.

Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla. NASHVILLE WARBLER. Fairly common migrant. May 1-May 19; August 31-October 1.

Vermivora peregrina. Tennessee Warbler Abundant migrant, especially in the fall. April 19-May 10; September 7-October 24.

Compsothlypis americana usneae. Northern Parula Warbler.—Rare spring migrant. May 3-19.

**Dendroica tigrina.** CAPE MAY WARBLER.—Fairly common migrant. April 19-May 13; September 17-October 14.

**Dendroica aestiva aestiva.** Yellow Warbler. Fairly common summer resident. April 13-August 8.

Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens. Black-throated Blue Warbler.—Rare migrant, the full-plumaged male especially. May 7-May 13; September 22-October 7.

Dendroica coronata. Myrtle Warbler.—Common winter resident and abundant migrant. September 5-May 19.

Dendroica magnolia. Magnolia Warbler.—Fairly common migrant. April 19-May 17; October 13.

**Dendroica pensylvanica.** Chestnut-sided Warbler. Common to abundant migrant in spring, very rare in fall. April 18-May 11; Sept. 20.

**Dendroica castanea.** Bay-breasted Warbler. Fairly common migrant. May 3-May 19; September 28-October 6.

**Dendroica striata.** Blackpoll Warbler.—Common migrant, nearly always being the last of the warblers to arrive in spring. May 5-22; September 17-October 3.

**Dendroica fusca.** Blackburnian Warbler. Fairly common migrant. April 25-May 13; September 8-October 8.

Dendroica dominica albilora. Sycamore Warbler.—Rare summer resident. I found a nest in a sycamore tree near the boatlanding three successive years, 1918–1920. March 27–October 7.

**Dendroica virens.** Black-throateb Green Warbler.—Common spring migrant, very abundant fall migrant. April 23-May 14; Sept. 7-October 16.

**Dendroica vigorsi.** PINE WARBLER.—Fairly common migrant. April 19-May 13; September 11-October 17.

**Dendroica palmarum palmarum.** Palm Warbler.—Abundant spring migrant, fairly common in the fall. April 19-May 13; September 7-September 30.

**Dendroica discolor.** Prairie Warbler.—Rare summer resident, found breeding only in a side valley opening into the river bottom, but found regularly there. April 6-October 15.

Seiurus aurocapillus. Ovenbird.—Rare summer resident, breeding in only two places in my territory. April 10-October 12.

Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis. Water Thrush.—Rare migrant. April 27-May 8; September 4-October 8.

Seiurus motacilla. Louisiana Water-Thrush.—Fairly common migrant, and probably a rare summer resident. April 25-May 24; August 19-October 18.

Oporornis formosus. Kentucky Warbler.—Rare summer resident, found breeding only near Underwood's Schoolhouse, about three miles from town. April 21-August 20.

Oporornis agilis. Connecticut Warbler.—Rare migrant. April 21-May 14; October 8.

**Oporornis philadelphia.** Mourning Warbler.—Fairly common migrant. April 20-May 20; September 19-October 2.

Geothlypis trichas trichas. Maryland Yellow-throat. Common summer resident. April 14-October 29.

Icteria virens virens. Yellow-breasted Chat. Common summer resident. April 20-September 23.

Wilsonia citrina. Hooded Warbler.—Rare migrant. April 13-June 6; August 20-October 15.

Wilsonia pusilla pusilla. Wilson's Warbler.—Fairly common migrant. April 18-May 13; September 6-Sept. 29.

Wilsonia canadensis. Canada Warbler.—Rare migrant. April 28-May 16; September 17-September 25.

Setophaga ruticilla. American Redstart.—Abundant migrant and fairly common summer resident. April 4-September 30.

Anthus rubescens. American Pipit or Titlark. Migrant. Very erratic. A few seen April 6, 1912; hundreds seen May 1 and 8, 1920; ten or more seen April 23, 1921.

Mimus polyglottos polyglottos. Mockingbird.—Common to abundant in summer, fairly common in winter.

**Dumetella carolinensis.** CATBIRD. Common to abundant summer resident. April 14-October 25.

Toxostoma rufum. Brown Thrasher. Common to abundant summer resident. March 5-October 13.

Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus. Carolina Wren. Resident. Common in summer, fairly common in winter.

Thyomanes bewicki bewicki. Resident. Common in summer, a little more common in winter than the Carolina.

Nannus hiemalis hiemalis. Winter Wren.—Fairly common migrant. February 22-May 18; October 21-October 25. I hear its song nearly every spring and occasionally in the fall.

Cistothorus stellaris. Short-billed Marsh Wren.—One seen May 5, 1917, another April 27, 1918.

Telmatodytes palustris palustris. Long-billed Marsh Wren.—Rare migrant. May 5-; September 21-September 28.

Certhia familiaris americana. Brown Creeper.—Fairly common to common winter resident, more numerous in migrations. October 4-May 21.

Sitta carolinensis carolinensis. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Fairly common resident, being very local in its distribution.

Sitta canadensis. Red-breasted Nuthatch.—Rare migrant. April 27—May 4; October 3—November 4.

Baeolophus bicolor. Tufted Titmouse.—Common to abundant resident, more numerous in winter than in summer.

Parus carolinensis carolinensis. CAROLINA CHICKADEE.—Common to abundant resident, more numerous in winter.

Regulus satrapa satrapa. Golden-Crowned Kinglet.—Common winter resident until the winter of 1917–1918; just now becoming common again. October 13-April 27.

Regulus calendula calendula. Ruby-crowned Kinglet.—Fairly common migrant. March 22-May 7; September 23-November 5.

Polioptila caerula caerula. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher.—Common summer resident. March 24-September 27.

Hylocichla mustelina. Wood Thrush.—Common summer resident. March 22-October 14.

Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens. VEERY.—Fairly common spring migrant, very rare in the fall. April 1-May 11; Sept. 18.

Hylocichla aliciae aliciae. Gray-checked Thrush.—Common to abundant migrant. April 21-May 28; September 20-October 23.

Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.—Common to abundant migrant. Nearly every year I find one or more wounded by flying against telephone wires, or buildings. April 17-May 19; September 20-October 18.

Hylocichla guttata pallasi. Hermit Thrush.—Rare migrant. March 12-May 14; September 16-October 24.

Planesticus migratorius migratorius. American Robin.—Resident. Abundant in summer, fairly common in winter.

Sialia sialis sialis. Bluebird.—Common to abundant resident.

The following species I have identified to my entire satisfaction both with and without glasses but no specimens have been taken and knowing the unsatisfactory status of sight identification I agree with the editor that it will be best not to include them in the formal list at present.

Helinaia swainsoni. Swainson's Warbler.

Vermivora bachmani. Bachman's Warbler.

Dendroica kirtlandi. Kirtland's Warbler.

State Normal School, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

## SEVENTH ANNUAL LIST OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE A. O. U. CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

## BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER

This is the Seventh Annual List of proposed A. O. U. 'Check-List' additions and changes in the names of North American birds. Like the six already published, the present list comprises only ornithological cases—i. e., such as require specimens or the identification of descriptions for their determination—and consists of additions, eliminations, rejections, and changes of names due to various causes. However, only changes known to be the result

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For these previous lists, see 'The Auk,' XXXIII, October, 1916, pp. 425-431; XXXIV, April, 1917, pp. 198-205; XXXV, April, 1918, pp. 200-217; XXXVI, April, 1919, pp. 266-273; XXXVII, April, 1920, pp. 274-285; XXXVIII, April, 1921, pp. 264-269.