

MARSH HAWK	SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	PIGEON HAWK
119 Stomachs sent	483 Stomachs sent	298 Stomachs sent
107 Birds	530 Birds	318 Birds
52 Mammals	16 Mammals	4 Mammals
2 Amphibians	38 Insects	967 Insects
8 Insects		
1 Fish		
11 Reptiles		

So few of the adult Pigeon, Sharp-shinned and Marsh Hawks do we see in comparison with the numbers of young birds, that we have come to the conclusion that the majority of the adults must follow a different course. Certainly we never see more than one adult for every ten young birds. In the spring we see scarcely any hawks, so it is evident they have different routes which they follow as they work their way back to their nesting localities.

Fishers Island, N. Y.

ADDITIONAL DATA REGARDING THE FAMOUS ARNOLD ARBORETUM MOCKINGBIRD.

BY CHARLES L. WHITTLE.

IN the 1921, July-August issue of 'Bird-Lore,' there is a short article by C. H. Early, entitled 'The Mockingbird of the Arnold Arboretum,' pp. 179-181 inc.; and in Vol. XXXVIII of 'The Auk' (1921) there is an exhaustive account of the Mockingbirds that have been recorded in New England and Canada, by Horace W. Wright, pp. 382-432 inc. In this article Mr. Wright deals at length with the history and imitative abilities of the same Mocker, a male, of which Mr. Early wrote in 'Bird Lore,' and commonly refers to him as the "Resident Mocker," since, for a number of years, the bird appears not to have left the Arboretum or nearby grounds at any season of the year.

So much has now been written about this more than locally-celebrated songster (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*), whose reputation for vocal ability promises to rival that of any bird of this

race yet recorded, that certain additional and important facts, not generally known, deserve a place in the record to complete as far as possible the history of the bird while he has abided in Boston, Massachusetts.

My first meeting with this Mocker took place on May 20, 1915, at which time a fellow bird student informed me that the bird had wintered in the Arboretum, having made its first appearance here in 1914. On this occasion the Mocker was in full song and even at this time his proficiency as a singer of other birds' songs was recognized. From the fact that I was told that the bird was first observed during the previous year, I have always referred to him in my notes as the "1914 Mocker." As Mr. Wright, in the article referred to above, p. 389, states that the bird was first seen here January 10, 1915, I have taken occasion to examine the basis for the belief, also current among other ornithologists, that he had passed the entire winter of 1914-15 in the Arboretum, and had therefore arrived here in 1914. Without going into unnecessary details, the evidence sought was obtained from Miss Julia A. Carter, Secretary to Prof. Charles S. Sargent, who for a number of years has made a practice of recording in her diary any unusual birds reported to her as having been seen in the Arboretum by Mr. Charles Faxon, who was associated with Prof. Sargent in his arboricultural work. Miss Carter kindly furnished me with a transcription of her ornithological notes, among which I find that on November 25, 1914, a Mockingbird was seen here, the first one reported in the Arboretum by Mr. Faxon since May 7, 1910. That Mr. Faxon saw this bird in the fall of 1914 is also confirmed by Mr. van der Voet, Superintendent of the Grounds, who informs me that Mr. Faxon also told him that the Mockingbird which afterwards became so well known, first appeared here at that time.

On page 395 of Mr. Wright's article, he mentions that Mr. van der Voet informed him on May 17, 1920, that "An observer had told him that he (the observer) had seen a second Mocker in the Arboretum a few days previous." Also, p. 395, Mr. Wright alludes to the "Alleged appearance of a second bird, presumably a female" and comments thereon at some length. In regard to his "Second Mockingbird," it should be stated that Mrs. Whittle

and I first ran across the new bird, apparently a female, on March 24, 1920, and we also saw the bird again on the following March 27 in the same place; and on one of these occasions we informed Mr. van der Voet of the fact and asked him to report to us if the new bird later associated with the Resident Mocker, or paired with him, for, on the two occasions mentioned, it was a singular fact, considering, that as far as known, no other female of this species had been in the Arboretum during the previous five and a half years, that the male bird kept by himself in one part of the Arboretum, vigorously mimicking other birds and singing his own song. The female, meanwhile, kept strictly by herself on the other side of the park, the two birds being not over seven hundred feet apart. The new Mocker gleaned her subsistence from the ground under hickory trees, and probably the pits, rendered available by the frost in opening the shells, formed the main part of her diet. During our visits on these dates her only note was a single, somewhat harsh cry, a note never uttered by the male during my five years' acquaintance with him so far as I am aware.

The above paragraph is written for the reason that I believe some confusion in the published record of the male Mocker has come about due to mistaking the female for the male, both by Mr. Early and by Mr. Wright. For example, Mr. Wright says, p. 395, that he saw the Resident Mocker on April 24 and 29, 1920, but he says it was not heard to sing. The presumption is that he was unknowingly observing the female, for at this season of the year and with temperature and other weather conditions as they were on these dates, namely, a maximum temperature of 54 degrees on April 24, and 59 degrees on April 29, the male bird was characteristically in song much of the time. Mr. Early, writing in 1921. 'Bird-Lore,' loc. cit., p. 179, speaks of seeing the "Mockingbird of the Arboretum," almost every time that he visited it "during the past six years." This statement may be true enough if the Mocker seen by him in January 1921 (see p. 180) was the Resident Mocker, but incorrect if he too mistook the new bird for the old one.*

* Since writing the above paragraph, 'The Auk' for October 1921, has been issued, and on p. 617, under "Recent Literature," Mr. Early's article in 'Bird-Lore' is briefly reviewed, the comment being that his article "Carries the history

In support of the contention that such confusion has occurred and that we have no positive knowledge that the 1914 Mocker has been seen or heard in the Arboretum since July 10, 1920, as reported to me by Mr. Early in a recent letter, or that he was seen by Mr. Early in January 1921, as stated in his article, loc. cit., pp. 180 and 181, I offer the following considerations, the principal ones being,—first, the fact that no one, among all the observers who are familiar with the bird, and its song, and I have canvassed the field rather thoroughly, bears testimony that it has been heard singing since July 10, 1920; and, second, the sudden appearance of a new Mocker, believed to be a female, about three months earlier, namely March 24, 1920; one bird leaves the scene shortly after another appears, and observers generally, and there are several of them, are not cognizant of the fact. It should be stated, however, that Mr. C. S. Anderson reports seeing and hearing a Mocker sing on one occasion, sometime during the spring of 1921, his oral report being that "The bird sang in a manner characteristic of the Resident Mocker but in a cracked voice." The bird was reported near the Bussey Institution. As no notes of the occurrence were taken by him and as the exact date is unknown, the value of the testimony is considerably impaired.

To any one thoroughly familiar with the singing ability, manner and times of singing and with the habits of the Resident Mocker such as his feeding places, the kinds of food eaten, and areas within the Arboretum frequented by him, the behaviour of the Mocker seen since July 1920 is in great contrast. During my acquaintance with the bird from May, 1915, to March, 1920, I have seldom found him any where except in the southeast portion of this park or just outside of it near the Forest Hills entrance among the small Siberian crab trees whose fruit in winter, rendered sweetish by frequent freezings and thawings, constituted his favorite and most dependable food.

The new Mocker when first seen remained in an area of its own well outside of the one frequented by the singing bird, and during

of this notable bird so fully described by the late Horace W. Wright (Auk, July, 1921) on for another year." One of the purposes of this article is to forestall just this kind of error from appearing in ornithological publications, for it seems patent that the history of this talented Mocker is likely to be widely referred to both in foreign and in American literature.

the winter of 1920-21 the Mocker in the Arboretum was distinctly not a permanent resident for it appeared rarely and irregularly within the park and was absent, or at least undetected, for days at a time and then was seen at different places from one end of the grounds to the other. The principal winter food of the resident bird, Siberian crab apples, appears not to be eaten by the newcomer. Added to these contrasts in behaviour is the testimony of Mr. van der Voet, who is daily afield in the Arboretum all through the open season, that from May 1920 to October 1921 he has not heard a Mockingbird sing there, an observation in accordance with my own experience.

From the above considerations and from Wright's and Early's articles, I think we may safely conclude that the Resident Mocker, at least as far as continuous residence in the Arboretum is concerned, was first observed there on November 24, 1914, by Mr. Faxon, and was last heard there by Mr. Early on July 10, 1920, and was therefore, a permanent resident for five years and a little over seven months. It is not to be inferred from above that I have knowledge of the death of the bird for such is not the case. It is well within the realm of possibility that he may again take up his residence in the Arboretum and add still other songs to the following phenomenal list of imitated songs and calls.

Mr. Wright has enumerated fifty-one species of birds whose songs or calls were heard imitated and recognized by him. An inspection of this impressive list shows that several calls of some species were heard mimicked. For example, he writes of the Blue Jay that "All its various voicings" were imitated, p. 391. Not knowing all the various voicings of this bird I cannot know how many songs or calls Mr. Wright had in mind, although I have heard the Mocker give six different calls of the Blue Jay in the space of a few minutes and will, therefore, use this number in estimating the total number of songs and calls of the fifty-one species reported by him and such other species as I am personally able to add to his list, plus three or four from other observers. (See tabulation.)

In considering the history of this bird it is natural to inquire where he was probably born and raised and how he obtained the necessary contact with singing birds to enable him to learn such

an extensive and varied list of songs and call notes. While chiefly a bird of the Austral Zones, the Mocker also nests sparingly in the Transition Zone. Of the five characteristically southern species imitated, the Carolina Wren is not known to nest in Massachusetts; the Yellow-breasted Chat infrequently nests here; and the Cardinal is on record as having nested but once in the state. The White-eyed Vireo and the Mourning Dove are only very locally fairly common summer residents, but do not nest in the Arboretum or its vicinity and in fact probably seldom visit it, so that a knowledge of the songs and calls of these species was certainly acquired elsewhere and presumably well south of New England, very likely in the Upper Austral Zone. Most of the songs imitated could, however, have been heard while the Mocker resided in the Arboretum and Mr. Wright noted the growing proficiency in the bird's mocking powers during its residence here. The bird's phenomenal ability to acquire and remember songs and calls is shown by his knowing the song of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and several calls of the Olive-backed Thrush, birds which tarry only a short time and sing little in this region as they pass through in migration.

My own observations and those of others show that the fruits of the following plants have formed an important part of the Mocker's diet while he has lived in the park:

Pokeweed (*Phytolacca decandra*).
Juneberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*).
Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
Barberry (*Berberis*, various species).
Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*).
Black Alder (*Ilex verticillata*).
Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*).
Siberian Crab Apple (*Pyrus baccata*).
Corktree (*Phellodendron chinense*).

In order that this bird's record as a mocker may be easily consulted, I have prepared a table giving a list of all the birds imitated by him, both their songs and their calls, which includes the fifty-one species given by Mr. Wright and seven additional birds that have been heard mimicked by other reliable observers. By interviews and correspondence I have come into possession of pertinent information regarding this Arboretum bird from a number of the local observers who have furnished, among other

TABULATION OF BIRDS IMITATED BY THE "RESIDENT MOCKER" OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM.
LISTED IN THE ORDER OF THE 'CHECK-LIST OF N. A. BIRDS' (THIRD EDITION).

Name	Songs Calls (Wright)	Authority	Also Reported by	Remarks*
Black Duck (<i>Anas rubripes</i>)	1	Jessie E. Kloseman	Annie W. Cobb	Craking call. "Scattered" (sic) No number in check list. Call note. "Coo."
Bob-White (<i>Colinus v. virginianus</i>)	1	H. W. Wright		
Ring-necked Pheasant (<i>Phasianus torquatus</i>)	1	C. H. Early		
Mourning Dove (<i>Zenaidura macroura carolinensis</i>)	1	H. W. Wright		
Red-shouldered Hawk (<i>Buteo l. lineatus</i>)	1	"	Mrs. M. M. Kaan, C. L. Whittle	
Sparrow Hawk (<i>Falco s. sparverius</i>)	1	"	L. R. Talbot, C. H. Early, Mrs. M. M. Kaan, C. L. Whittle	"Killy-Killy." Species not given. "Rattle" notes.
Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus</i> sp?)	1	"		
Belted Kingfisher (<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>)	1	"		
Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Dryobates v. villosus</i>)	1	"		
Downy Woodpecker (<i>Dryobates pubescens medianus</i>)	1	"	Annie W. Cobb, C. L. Whittle	
Flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus luteus</i>)	1	"	E. E. Caduc, Mrs. M. M. Kaan, Annie W. Cobb, C. L. Whittle	"Song and Flicking."
Whip-Poor-Will (<i>Antrostomus v. vociferus</i>)	1	"	Annie W. Cobb	
Nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles v. virginianus</i>)	1	"	Margaret Bradbury	Call (Miss Cobb)
Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>)	1	"	L. R. Talbot, C. E. Clark, Annie W. Cobb	

* Quotation marks indicate matter from Mr. Wright's article or from his personal notes.

Name	Songs Calls (Wright)	Authority	Also Reported by	Remarks*
Crested Flycatcher (<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>)	1	H. W. Wright	Annie W. Cobb	Song
Phoebe (<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>)	1	"	L. R. Talbot, Edith McL. Hale, I. P. Gammon Jr., Mrs. M. M. Kaan, Florence Nelson, Annie W. Cobb, C. L. Whittle	Call (Miss Cobb)
Chebec (<i>Empidonax minimus</i>)	2	C. L. Whittle	L. R. Talbot, C. H. Early, E. H. Atherton, Annie W. Cobb, Edith McL. Hale, C. E. Clark, I. P. Gammon, Jr., E. E. Caduc, Mrs. M. M. Kaan, C. L. Whittle	Song "All the voicings of the Blue Jay"
Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta c. cristata</i>)	2	H. W. Wright		calls (Mrs. Kaan), one, Ta-Lee-dle; six calls (C. L. Whittle)
Crow (<i>Corvus b. brachyrhynchos</i>)	1	"	Annie W. Cobb, C. L. Whittle	Song (Miss Cobb)
Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	1	"	L. R. Talbot, E. E. Caduc	Song heard by Miss Cobb.
Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius p. phoeniceus</i>)	2	"	Annie W. Cobb, Mrs. M. M. Kaan, L. R. Talbot, C. L. Whittle	"Rattle call."
Meadow Lark (<i>Sturnella m. magna</i>)	2	H. W. Wright	Mrs. M. M. Kaan, Annie W. Cobb	"Song and chatter call" Whistle (Whittle).
Baltimore Oriole (<i>Icterus galbula</i>)	1	"	L. R. Talbot, Annie W. Cobb, C. L. Whittle	Song
Bronzed Grackle (<i>Quiscalus q. aeneus</i>)	1	"	Mrs. M. M. Kaan	Not in check list.
Purple Finch (<i>Carpodacus p. purpureus</i>)	2	L. R. Talbot	C. H. Early	Call (Miss Cobb)
House Sparrow (<i>Passer d. domesticus</i>)	1	H. W. Wright	Annie W. Cobb, C. H. Early	"Trill."
Chipping Sparrow (<i>Spizella p. passerina</i>)	1	"		Song
Field Sparrow (<i>Spizella p. pusilla</i>)	1	C. L. Whittle		Song
Junco (<i>Junco h. hyemalis</i>)	1	"		Song

* Quotation marks indicate matter from Mr. Wright's article or from his personal notes.

Name	Songs Calls (Wright)	Authority	Also Reported by	Remarks*
Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza m. melodia</i>)	1	H. W. Wright	C. H. Early, Mrs. M. M. Kaan	
Chewink (<i>Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus</i>)	1	"	L. R. Talbot, C. H. Early, C. E. Clark, Edith McL. Hale, 2 songs (Whittle)	
Cardinal (<i>Cardinalis c. cardinalis</i>)	1	"	Mrs. M. M. Kaan, Annie W. Cobb	"Chip-Chur."
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (<i>Zamelodia ludoviciana</i>)	1	"	Mrs. M. M. Kaan, Annie W. Cobb	"Whistle."
Scarlet Tanager (<i>Piranga erythromelas</i>)	1	"	Annie W. Cobb	
Cliff Swallow (<i>Petrochelidon l. lunifrons</i>)	1	"	Edith McL. Hale, C. L. Whittle	
Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo erythrogastra</i>)	1	"		
Tree Swallow (<i>Iridoprocne bicolor</i>)	1	"		
Northern Shrike (<i>Lanius borealis</i>)	1	"		
Red-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireosylva olivacea</i>)	1	"		
Warbling Vireo (<i>Vireosylva g. gilva</i>)	1	"		
Yellow-throated Vireo (<i>Lanius flavifrons</i>)	1	"		
White-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo g. griseus</i>)	1	"		
Yellow Warbler (<i>Dendroica a. aestiva</i>)	1	"		
Oven Bird (<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>)	1	"		
Yellow-breasted Chat (<i>Icteria v. virens</i>)	1	"		
Catbird (<i>Dumetella acrokinensis</i>)	1	C. L. Whittle H. W. Wright	C. H. Early, Annie W. Cobb	Call (Miss Cobb) "Teacher Song," Call
Brown Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>)	1	"	C. H. Early, E. H. Atherton, E. E. Cadue, Florence Nelson, Mrs. M. M. Kaan, Annie W. Cobb, C. L. Whittle C. H. Early, E. H. Atherton, E. E. Cadue, Mrs. M. M. Kaan, Annie W. Cobb, C. L. Whittle	

* Quotation marks indicate matter from Mr. Wright's article or from his personal notes.

Name	Songs Calls (Wright)		Authority	Also Reported by	Remarks *
Carolina Wren (<i>Thryothorus l. ludovicianus</i>)	1		H. W. Wright	E. E. Caduc, C. L. Whittle	
House Wren (<i>Troglodytes a. acadm.</i>)	1		"	L. R. Talbot, E. E. Caduc, E. Edith M. S. Hale, Annie W. H. Atherton, C. E. Clark, Cobb, I. P. Gammon, Jr., C. L. Whittle	"Phebe" and Dee dee Call.
White Breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta c. carolinensis</i>)	1	1	"		
Chickadee (<i>Penthestes a. atricapillus</i>)	1	1	"		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus c. calendula</i>)	1	1	"		"Pip and Querulous." Calls.
Olive-backed Thrush (<i>Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni</i>)	1	3	"		"Cackle Call."
Robin (<i>Planesticus m. migratorius</i>)	1	1	"	L. R. Talbot, C. H. Early, E. H. Atherton, C. E. Clark, I. P. Gammon, Jr., Florence Nelson, Annie W. Cobb, C. L. Whittle	
Bluebird (<i>Sialia s. sialis</i>)	1	1	"	L. R. Talbot, E. E. Caduc, Mrs. M. M. Kaan, C. L. Whittle	
Canary (<i>Fringilla canaria</i>)	1	1	"	Annie W. Cobb	"Bantamfowl's barnyard voicing." "Crow."
Bantam.....	1	2	"	Annie W. Cobb	Peep (Brainerd). "Gutteral Roll." "Chirp."
Chicken.....		1	J. B. Brainerd	L. R. Talbot	
Frog.....		1	H. W. Wright		
Cricket.....		1	"		

* Quotation marks indicate matter from Mr. Wright's article or from his personal notes.

matters, the several imitated songs added to Mr. Wright's list. These birds are the Purple Finch (L. S. Talbot), Ring-necked Pheasant (C. H. Early), the Black Duck (Jessie E. Kloseman) and the common chicken (J. B. Brainerd). I can personally add the songs or calls of the Chebec, Junco and the Yellow-breasted Chat. That Mr. Wright should have heard and identified fifty-one of the fifty-eight species known to be mimicked, indicates how thoroughly the bird was studied by him in the field.

Songs and calls were not the only forms this bird's mocking abilities assumed, for according to Mr. C. E. Clark (personal communication), in imitating the Kingbird's notes, the bird would often mount into the air and on quivering wings deliver the notes in true Kingbird fashion. Mr. Early also mentions seeing the bird turn sommersaults in the air on one occasion while it was exhibiting its powers as a mimic. Flight singing and other ecstatic courtship movements are not uncommonly indulged in by this species, but I find no other mention in ornithological literature of its turning somersaults, so that it is not unlikely in this case that the bird was copying the performances of the Tumbler Pigeon.

Part of my purpose in gathering the data contained in the tabular list was to obtain confirmation as far as possible of the observations of Mr. Wright, not that there is any doubt as to the accuracy of his work; but where a record exists so astonishing as this Mockingbird's, it is well to have it as complete as possible by having it verified in detail by independent observers. Of the fifty-one birds enumerated in Mr. Wright's article, thirty-three have been confirmed by the records of other competent observers and such confirmations range from one to nine for the different species. The number of independent observers who have furnished confirmation is thirteen. (See table).

The Resident Mocker's record of imitated bird songs, calls and other sounds stands as follows:

Bird songs imitated	39
Birds calls imitated	50
Other sounds (frog and cricket)	<u>2</u>
Total imitated sounds	91

10 Chauncy Street,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.