

(10) That both male and female, as a general rule, always approach and leave their nests by a certain well defined route, and the female, when brooding, usually sits in the nest facing in one particular direction.

(11) That either sex may, and does at times, exhibit extreme nervousness whilst being watched, which, however, parental instinct usually overcomes in the long run.

(12) That the young are fed on an average once every ten or eleven minutes.

(13) That in the early stages, when brooding is necessary, it lasts on an average for about twelve minutes at a time.

(14) That alterations to the nesting site are always accompanied with a certain amount of risk to the young, and should therefore never be attempted, except by the experienced student, who has a definite scientific object in view.

Hatley, Que., Canada.

THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN NAMES OF BIRDS.

BY HERBERT H. BECK.

IT IS doubtful if there exists in the United States a more distinctive or more picturesque set of local names of birds than those current in southeastern Pennsylvania among that people of German-Swiss antecedents traditionally and broadly called the Pennsylvania Dutch; in a more limited way, by standard usage, the Pennsylvania Germans.

The language of these people, which is a fusion of South German dialects with an infusion of English, for two hundred years has persistently refused to be absorbed from its racial eddy by the strong stream of American life. It maintains itself as the dominant language of many rural regions of Berks, Lebanon, Monroe, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties, and the northern parts of Lancaster, Montgomery and Bucks Counties. Even in the larger towns like Reading, Allentown and Bethlehem, it is still actively used. In its sound, inflection and flavor it is positive and dialecti-

cally detached; and this character has strongly impressed itself upon the bird names of the region.

The settlers who established this language in America came in the early eighteenth century from the German sides of Switzerland and Holland and from Swabia, Hesse, Alsace and Saxony, but mostly from the Palatinate; which was formerly an independent state made up of what is now the upper part of Bavaria and that Rhine region bounded by Baden on the east, Baden and Alsace on the south, and Alsace-Lorraine on the west. It extended north as far as the cities of Treves and Mayence. These people first broke in the rich lands of the Lehigh and the Schuylkill valleys, then pushed into the Cumberland, the Susquehanna and the Juniata valleys, thence in scattered groups into central Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and elsewhere. They were originally in greater part pioneer farmers, strong and resourceful; in mind potentially capable, but unsharpened and unextended.

A people such as this, busily occupied with the rough work of making a nation, observed only those birds of the Alleghenian and Carolinian zones which by reason of habit or character were prominent or impressive. Such species were without exception noted and named; sometimes in a way reminiscent of the European avifauna, sometimes originally and with recognition of the bird's habits or mannerisms. Thus it is that outstanding species like the Canada Goose and the Turkey Vulture have several names each in Pennsylvania German, while great families like the Warblers and the Sparrows are not noted in the language. When with the progress of American ornithology the birds of these more obscure and involved groups were differentiated, the more inquiring of the Pennsylvania "Dutch" came to know them by English or scientific names. Sometimes, though rarely, a bird is given the Pennsylvania German equivalent of its English name. Such cases are of more recent origin and they lack the true character of the names which have come down from more ancient and less admixed sources.

Pennsylvania German has attained to grammar and dictionary only within comparatively recent years. Its vocabulary and syntax are limited. The meagre literature of the dialect, while sometimes on a basis of the German alphabet, is usually spelled

phonetically. The phonetic method is used here because it is more generally readable and because it more broadly and faithfully portrays the characteristic heaviness of Pennsylvania "Dutch" as a spoken language. The conventional symbols are used to indicate vowel sounds. No consistent attempt is made to trace word origins to German sources, though they are often obvious enough and always interesting to the philologist and to the student of Germanic languages.

PYGOPODES.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*); Wosser Shlibber, Drek Shlibber. *Colymbus holboellii* and *C. auritus*, less common on the ponds and streams of the region, share these names with *P. podiceps* from which they are not clearly distinguished.

Loon (*Gavia immer*); Grosa Wosser Shlibber, Loon.

ANATIDAE.

All edible Ducks, as well as the three Mergansers, are known as Wilte Ent (pl. Ente). The male Mallard is sometimes called Greekop (Greenhead); and the Black Duck, Shwortsa Ent, but these distinctions are not general.

ANSERINAE.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis canadensis*). As an impressive and picturesque figure of the vernal and autumnal skies this species has surrounded itself with names prophetic and legendary. As a harbinger of the coming and of the going of the snow it has won the name of Schna Gons; as the result of its clanging note, which in the mass and in the night suggests a pack in full cry, it is called Awicher Yager (Ger. Ewiger Jaeger), to connect it with the story, still current in South Germany, of the restless soul of some riotous huntsman doomed to follow the hounds through eternity.¹ Again it is called Wilte Gons.

¹ The abergläubig fear of this evil spirit still exists in parts of Bavaria. Wood-choppers often make crosses on the fresh stump as a protection against the Ewiger Jaeger. In some villages in wooded regions the church bell is rung every two hours throughout the night, nominally as *Irrlette* for persons lost in the forest; but by ancient tradition and a still persistent superstition, as a safeguard against this spook. Naughty children are warned of the menace of the Ewiger Jaeger.

ARDEIDAE.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias herodias*), Green Heron (*Butorides virescens virescens*), and Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*) are all generally called Fishroyer or Royer. *Butorides* is sometimes called Glaner Fishroyer. Also, on the basis of a habit of the species which has given rise to many of its cruder names, A'darmicha. *Nycticorax* in many parts of the region is given the onomatopoeic names of Gwock and Gwockfogel. *Casmerodius egretta* and *Florida caerulea caerulea* (Juvenal), once common and still fairly so within the region during the northward wandering of these species in the late summer and early fall, are called Groser Weiser Fishroyer and Glaner Weiser Fishroyer respectively. In a detached Pennsylvania German colony¹ the name Kranich is applied generally to the order Herodiones.

PALUDICOLAE.

Coot (*Fulica americana*). Often shot in mistake for a wild duck. Called Shdink Ent on account of its foul odor on being drawn. Also sometimes Wosserhund (probably from Wasserhuhn, European Coot).

LIMICOLAE.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*), Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*), Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*), Solitary Sandpiper (*Helodromas solitarius solitarius*), Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) and other less common species of wet meadow or mudbank are called Shneb (pl. Shneppe). *G. delicata* is sometimes specialized as Englishe Schneb; *A. macularia* as Drekschneb and Budershneb. Irregularly, for it is not well known, the Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) shares the same Schneb or it is called Grosa Brouna Shneb.

Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*); Feldhinkel, Longbaniche Feldhinkel.

Kildeer (*Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*); Gilderee, Gilleree.

¹ Clearfield County.

GALLINAE.

Bob-White (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*); Bodreesel, Feldhinkel.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonansa umbellus umbellus*); Fesond (pl. Fesonte).

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*); Wilte Welshhinkel.

COLUMBAE.

Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) during the days of its fleeting glory was called Wilte Doub (pl. Douba or Douwa).

Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura caroliniensis*); Dord'l Doub, (pl. as above).

RAPTORES.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*); Osfogel, Luder Awdler, Luder Fogel, Luder Krop and Osa (a pl. usage).

Buteonidae and Falconidae. The larger hawks are called Hinkelwoi, Woi and Boy, rarely Hawicht. This includes the common Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus lineatus*), Broad-winged Hawk (*B. platypterus platypterus*), Red-tailed Hawk, (*Buteo borealis borealis*), Rough-legged Hawk (*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*), Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*), the rare Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus atricapillus*), Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), and approximately Cooper's Hawk, (*Accipiter cooperi*) ♀. The smaller hawks and falcons including *A. cooperi* ♂, Sharp Shinned Hawk (*A. velox*), Sparrow Hawk (*Cerchneis sparveria sparveria*) are known as Dauwa Shdosser, Dauwa Woi, Shdos Fogel and Shdos Woi.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and the former resident Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), are called Awdler.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*); Fishwoi, Fish Awdler and Awdler.

Barn Owl (*Tyto pratincola*); Eil and Sheier Eil.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*), Short-eared Owl (*A. flammeus*), Barred Owl (*Strix varia varia*) and Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) go under the name of Eil and Nocht Eil; *Bubo*, that of Grosa Eil.

Screech Owl (*Otus asio asio*), Shta Keitzel, Eil, Glana Eil, and Nocht Eil.

CUCULIDAE.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus americanus*), and Black-billed Cuckoo (*C. erythrophthalmus*), are both known as Raya Fogel, rarely as Gukuk.

ALCEDINIDAE.

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*), shares the name Fishroyer with the herons.

PICIDAE.

Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens medianus*); Glaner Woodpicker.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Spryrapicus varius varius*); Bawm Lawffer.¹

Pileated Woodpecker (*Phloeotomus pileatus pileatus*); Huls Hock (Woodchopper).¹

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*); Shbecht, Rodkuppicher Shbecht, Rodkup and Woodpicker.

Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*); Gree Shbecht, Hexa Shbecht, and Gale Shbecht.

CAPRIMULGIDAE.

Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*) and Nighthawk (*Chordeiles virginianus virginianus*) are both called Wib'rwil or Wib'rewil.

MICROPODIDAE.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*); Shornshte Shwolm or Shwob; also, less commonly, Roos Shwolm (Soot Swallow).

TROCHILIDAE.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*); Shnaf-fag'le and Shnarrfag'le.²

TYRANNIDAE.

Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*); Eemafresser, Eema Woi.

Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) and Wood Peewee (*Myiochanes virens*); Biwi.

¹ Clearfield County.

² Clearfield County.

CORVIDAE.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*), perhaps for his rich garb and officiousness, is dignified with the name of Gudhaar, from the German word meaning landlord; also Heckert and Herrafogel. All of these names doubtless have their origin in Heher, the German word for Jay.

Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*); Grob, Krop and Kraa.

ICTERIDAE.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*); Reedfogel. (The term is also used rarely for the local Rallidae, Virginia and Sora).

Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*); Kee Shdawr.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*); Rod-fleeg'ltter Shdawr.

Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*); Larrich.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*); Guldts Omshel.

Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula quiscula*); Shdawr, Shwortsa Fogel.

FRINGILLIDAE.

Goldfinch (*Astragalinus tristis tristis*); Zolawd Fogel, Zolawd Shbeds'l, Gale Fogel and Guldink.

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*); Shna Fogel.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia melodia*). This species particularly and all sparrow-like birds are generally given the name of Shbeds'l. In some parts of the region *Spizella passerina passerina* (Chipping Sparrow) is distinguished as Tsitcha.

Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis*); Rota Fogel.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*); Blofogel.

TANAGRIDAE.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*); Bludfink, Bludfogel.

HIRUNDINIDAE.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*); Hous Shwolm or Shwolb. One of the earliest observations in bird banding is recorded of this species from the Pennsylvania German region. In August, 1812, John Beck, grandfather of the writer, at Lititz, Lancaster

County, encased the tarsus of a Martin in chamois leather and noted the bird's return the following April.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*); Drek Shwolm.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*); Sheier Swolm.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*); Sondbonk Shwolm.

Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*); Cave Shwolm.

MNIOTILTIDAE.

Warblers generally are called Finka (pl.) or simply Glana Fag'le (little birds).

MIMIDAE.

Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*); Kotsafogel.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*); Shpottfogel, Drush'l and Drushdel.

TROGLODYTIDAE.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aëdon aëdon*); Zaw Shlibber, Zounshlibber, Mouskanich.

SITTIDAE.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*); Glaner Bloer Woodpicker.

TURDIDAE.

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*); Hulsfrush, Frush, Drush'l.

Robin (*Planesticus migratorius migratorius*). The Palatines like the Puritans blundered ornithologically in naming this common species. Everywhere in the Pennsylvania German region it is called Omshel, which originated from a fancied resemblance to the German Amsel. Omshel is probably the only other commonly used name for *P. migratorius* besides the more general one based on the Puritanic identification of the bird with the English Robin.

Bluebird (*Sialia sialis sialis*); Blofogel.

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