

*Dryobates borealis*, RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER. This coastal plain form occurs in the very edge of the piedmont.

*Corvus ossifragus*. FISH CROW. Somewhat rare. Occurs in the lower piedmont. Mr. Wm. Hahn, Jr. found a nest on Rocky Creek near Greenwood, April 1, 1925.

*Passerina ciris*, PAINTED BUNTING. No specimen taken, but a single bird on Broad River above Columbia I observed carefully with a high-powered binocular, May 21, 1923.

*Protonotaria citrea*, PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. Occasional in the lower piedmont below the five-hundred foot level. No specimens. I have a personal record of one observed near Troy, S. C., about ten years ago. Mr. P. M. Jenness reports it from the Catawba river near Great Falls in a letter of May 24, 1926.

*Compsothlypis americana usneae*, NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER. This appears to intergrade in this vicinity with *C. a. americana*, a specimen I got in upper Anderson county I refer to *americana*, but I have observed what is apparently the other form. The specimen of *americana* attributed by Chapman to "Caesar's Head in the mountains of western North Carolina," was probably taken from Caesar's Head in this county, that point being very near the state boundary. (Warblers of North America, p. 103). This, and the two preceding are of course hypothetical. Curiously enough many biological forms found both on the coastal plain and in the mountains I have not found in the intermediate piedmont, and while the Parula breeds along the coast, and in the mountains, between these regions it appears chiefly, or entirely as a migrant.—A. L. PICKENS, Greenville, S. C.

**Effect of An Early Spring on the Resident Breeding Birds of Athens, Clarke Co., Georgia.**—Through the middle of January the weather this past winter, 1926-27, was quite normal, and devoid of any incidents worthy of comment. January 16 witnessed the lowest temperature so far experienced for it hovered between 14° and 18° F. that day, and for the first time in a year or more the few lakes and ponds about Athens were completely frozen over. The following day there was a marked moderation in the weather and there followed five weeks, clear and warm, with practically no rainfall, and conditions that rarely are experienced before the middle of February. At the end of January the Weather Bureau reported but 1.11 inches of rain, the lowest on record for that month, while on January 21 the thermometer registered 76° F., with days both preceding and following almost as warm. Vegetation responded at once to this incentive to growth, and by the latter part of February the appearance of the scattered stretches of woods about Athens was typically that of late March. On the 18th of February the weather changed again and for the following three weeks there were days when it was rather cold, with frequent rains and high winds, and, on March 2nd, an inch of snow, the first that had fallen here in three years. During this long stretch of

abnormally warm weather I had wondered what effect it would have on the resident breeding birds of this part of Georgia, and its apparent and unquestioned influence, in spite of the setback later received, was of decided interest. I unfortunately lacked the time I would otherwise have devoted to a systematic search for nests of the species listed below but the records will give an idea of how an early spring will affect bird life in any locality.

*Dryobates pubescens pubescens*. SOUTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER.—This species usually has fresh eggs from the middle of April through the first of May, my earliest breeding record until this past spring being a nest found April 15, 1923, with four fresh eggs. On April 5, 1927, a female was flushed from a nest in a rotten willow stub that held four eggs showing slight incubation.

*Spizella pusilla pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW.—This species rarely breeds here before the middle of April, and while I have found numerous nests the latter part of that month with fresh eggs, my earliest breeding record until this year was a nest that on April 18, 1922, held four slightly incubated eggs. On April 7, 1927, a nest was found with four fresh eggs, built, as is usual with this species, at the edge of a field overgrown with scrubby underbrush.

*Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis*. CARDINAL.—I had never before known this species to begin breeding in March, so it was of decided interest to me to find a nest April 6, 1927, that held three young already several days old. Considering twelve days for incubation this nest must have held a full set of three eggs by approximately the 23rd of March. This is almost three weeks earlier than my previous earliest record, a nest found April 9, 1922, with three fresh eggs.

*Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*. LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.—This species normally has fresh eggs by the first of April so a nest found March 27, 1927, with five slightly incubated eggs was by no means unexpected. However, it offered an interesting comparison with the spring of 1926 when all of March was unusually cold and this same pair of birds, which nest each year in a small grove of pines, were not incubating their full set of five eggs until April 18.

*Dendroica pinus*. PINE WARBLER.—This species is one of the earliest of the birds to breed here, but it was nevertheless somewhat of a surprise to find a nest already well started on February 17, 1927. Had the weather continued good I have no doubt but that it would have held eggs by the first of March; however the birds were not discouraged even by the inch of snow that covered the ground on the morning of March 2, and on March 15 this nest held four fresh eggs. Normally this species breeds the latter part of March, my earliest record until this past spring being a nest found March 25, 1921, with four slightly incubated eggs.

*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*. MOCKINGBIRD.—As with the Cardinal I had never before known this species to breed in March so I was quite interested to find a nest April 13, 1927, that held well-grown young. Other

years it has been the middle of April or later before many of the birds were nesting, my earliest record until this past spring being a nest found April 13, 1921, with four fresh eggs. The nest found this year unquestionably held a full set of fresh eggs by at least the 27th of March, over two weeks earlier than this species usually breeds.

*Sialia sialis sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—This species rarely nests before the first week in April, and until this past spring my earliest breeding record was a nest found March 22, 1925, with four fresh eggs. On March 17, 1927, I found a nest that held three slightly incubated eggs, an early and rather small set considering that it was the first brood of the year.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, Athens, Clarke Co., Georgia.

**Notes from the Chicago Area.**—*Stercorarius parasiticus*. PARASTIC JAEGER.—On October 29, 1926, and on the days immediately before and after, this northern visitor seems to have been almost numerous over the lagoons along the lake shore near the Field Museum. Mr. E. G. Wright of the Harris Extension Branch of the Museum took three on the date indicated above. They are all in the immature plumage.

*Larus marinus*. BLACK-BACKED GULL.—On September 26, 1925, while walking along the lake shore at Wickliffe, near Mineral Springs, Porter County, Indiana, I noticed a number of Gulls in the distance. They were standing close together, as if in convention assembled, within a few feet or yards of the lake. Creeping up to the place behind the first incipient dune, I was almost startled when, getting my glasses on them—which, indeed, was hardly necessary—I saw three enormous Gulls before me, much larger than the Herring and Ring-billed Gulls all about them. They were in the immature plumage, the black terminal tail-band, the frosted appearance of the breast, but mainly their size marking them plainly as belonging to this species. There had been strong equinoctial gales on the previous days, which had probably brought them along from farther northeast. They have been reported from this part before.

*Oidemia americana*. AMERICAN SCOTER.—On October 23, 1926, my son E. G. Eifrig was staying at Grand Tower, near Murphysboro, on the banks of the Mississippi, in connection with the building of the huge power house there. Noticing multitudes of Ducks on the big river, he went out for a short hunt. Among his bag of Scaups, Ruddies, Pintails and Buffle-heads, which he brought home, I was much surprised to find three young American Scoters. Woodruff, in his 'Birds of the Chicago Area,' gives no definite records of this species for Illinois, neither does Bent in his admirable 'Life Histories,' both stating that it occasionally winters on the Great Lakes.

*Chen hyperborea* subspecies? SNOW GOOSE.—It is being reported much oftener of late by sportsmen and other observers than formerly. One shot November 25, 1925, on Lake Griswold was brought in to Kahmann's taxidermy shop, but I did not see it before it was taken away by its owner, so the subspecies could not be determined. One in my collection, taken