

SUMMER BIRDS ON MOUNT MAGAZINE, LOGAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS.¹

BY W. J. BAERG.

MAGAZINE Mountain² represents the highest elevation in the State of Arkansas, rising to an altitude of 2830 feet. The valleys in its vicinity have an altitude of about 350 feet. The summer bird population presents some unusual features which seem to be of interest. The Oven-bird is very common on top of the mountain; it does not occur south of the mountain, nor is it very common even as far north as Fayetteville (about 100 miles). The Scarlet Tanager is very common on top of the mountain and is decidedly rare in the neighborhood of Fayetteville. The Orchard Oriole does not occur on top, but may be found at least as far south as Texarkana. Other birds either rare or not occurring on top and common south of Mount Magazine are the Mocking-bird, Cardinal, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo, and Field Sparrow.

The top of the mountain is a nearly level plain, sloping gradually from west to east. This account deals mainly with birds found on the top, which area is shaped somewhat like a triangle, less than a quarter of a mile in width at the apex, about one and three-fourths miles long, and about a mile in width at the base. The top of the mountain is but sparsely populated. A few families, three or four, that like a very quiet life, come there for the summer. There are small cleared areas around the cabins. On the eastern slope, about five miles from the west end, are small farms, but even here most of the land is in woods.

The altitude of Mount Magazine, if expressed in degrees Fahrenheit, would represent about 7.50 degrees less than that of the surrounding valleys, and if this be expressed in latitude, it comes at a place about 450 miles to the north. The summer bird population, however, corresponds, as it seems to me, to conditions farther north than 450 miles.

The most significant feature in the climatic conditions on the

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² For information regarding the geology and temperature relations of the mountain, I am indebted to Mr. C. G. Cronis of Harvard University.

mountain is the strong southerly breeze that blows throughout the afternoon and night, about twenty-eight days out of thirty. The breeze is apparently due solely to the exposed position of the peak. This breeze further decreases the "sensible temperature," if not the real temperature, by evaporation. As is well known, the reduction of the "sensible temperature," so far as physiological processes are concerned, has the same effect as a reduction of the real temperature.

The observations were made in 1925 on June 13 and 14, and in 1926 on June 13, 14, and 15. Identifications were made with the aid of a Zeiss prism glass, 6x. A collecting gun was carried, in case it was necessary to secure specimens for identification.

***Colinus virginianus virginianus*.** BOB-WHITE.—Quite common. Several small cleared areas offer favorable breeding and feeding grounds.

***Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*.** MOURNING DOVE.—Not common on top, only two birds were seen there. It is more numerous in the valleys.

***Catharista urubu*.** BLACK VULTURE.—Frequently seen. During the middle of the afternoon it may often be observed in the air, apparently standing completely still, just over the southern edge of the mountain. It seems that the strong breeze from the south plays an important role in this manner of soaring.

***Buteo borealis borealis*.** RED-TAILED HAWK.—This was the only Hawk observed on the mountain.

***Coccyzus americanus americanus*.** YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.—Only one was seen on top; several were observed on the side and at the foot of the mountain.

***Dryobates villosus villosus*.** HAIRY WOODPECKER.—Occurs in small numbers on top as well as on the slope.

***Dryobates pubescens pubescens*.** SOUTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Common on top as well as on the slopes.

***Phloeotomus pileatus pileatus*.** PILEATED WOODPECKER.—One pair observed on top of the mountain.

***Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.** RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—One pair observed about half way down the mountain.

***Colaptes auratus auratus*.** FLICKER.—Was not observed on top; a few were seen on the slope and at the foot of the mountain.

***Archilochus colubris*.** RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Several were seen on the mountain.

***Myiarchus crinitus*.** CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Common on top and occurs also on the slopes.

***Sayornis phoebe*.** PHOEBE.—Is fairly common both on top and on the sides of the mountain. The cliffs and springs offer good building sites.

Myiochanes virens. WOOD PEWEE.—Numerous on top and common on the way down.

Empidonax virescens. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—Only one was observed and it was near the foot of the mountain.

Cyanocitta cristata cristata. BLUE JAY.—Apparently uncommon; only two were seen.

Molothrus ater ater. COWBIRD.—Not seen on top. One was seen on the side.

Icterus spurius. ORCHARD ORIOLE.—Does not occur on top of the mountain, but is common in the adjacent valleys. Contrary to my expectations, the Baltimore Oriole likewise was not found on the mountain.

Astragalinus tristis tristis. GOLDFINCH.—Common on top as well as on the sides of the mountain.

Chondestes grammacus grammacus. LARK SPARROW.—Occurs in small numbers on top, more numerous in the valleys.

Spizella passerina passerina. CHIPPING SPARROW.—Occurs on top, as well as on the slopes.

Spizella pusilla pusilla. FIELD SPARROW.—Apparently is not present on the mountain. Is fairly common in the valleys.

Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis. CARDINAL.—On the mountain is conspicuous by its scarcity. Apparently only one or two pair are on the mountain. It is more numerous part way down and in the valleys.

Passerina cyanea. INDIGO BUNTING.—Is numerous on top as well as on the sides of the mountain.

Piranga erythromelas. SCARLET TANAGER.—This is the most interesting feature of the bird population on the mountain. In the neighborhood of Fayetteville (100 miles north of Mount Magazine), even on adjacent hills rising to an altitude of 1750 feet, the Scarlet Tanager is decidedly rare. In some years I have succeeded in locating a pair in these mountains, in other years the birds do not seem to nest here. On Mount Magazine the Scarlet Tanager's song is almost the dominant one, second only to that of the Oven-bird. Probably eight or ten pairs of Scarlet Tanagers nest on the relatively small area of the mountain top. They occur also on the north side of the mountain, down to 300-400 feet from the top. On the east slope, although this is very gradual, they apparently do not extend as far down.

Piranga rubra rubra. SUMMER TANAGER.—Very common in the valleys, but does not extend to the top of the mountain. On the way down the first one was seen on the first bench below the top.

Vireosylva olivacea. RED-EYED VIREO.—Common on top, but more so on the sides of the mountain.

Lanivireo flavifrons. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.—Occurs in small numbers on top and on the sides of the mountain.

Vireo griseus griseus. WHITE-EYED VIREO.—Is conspicuously rare on the mountain, but one was observed.

Mniotilta varia. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—Occurs on top and on the sides of the mountain, but is relatively uncommon.

Helmitheros vermivorus. WORM-EATING WARBLER.—Occurs in small numbers on the mountain, only one was seen.

Dendroica vigorsi vigorsi. PINE WARBLER.—There is a sufficient growth of pines on the mountain sides to attract this Warbler in considerable numbers. It was not found on top.

Dendroica discolor. PRAIRIE WARBLER.—Fairly common in the second growth in cleared areas on top, and observed also on the slopes.

Seiurus aurocapillus. OVEN-BIRD.—So far as song is concerned, this is the dominant bird on the mountain. More than ten pair nest in a small area there. They occur on the sides only as far as about half way down.

Oporornis formosus. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—Is fairly common on top as well as on the sides of the mountain.

Geothlypis trichas trichas. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Was not seen on the mountain, but a few individuals were observed on the eastern slope near the top.

Icteria virens virens. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—Occurs in small numbers, two or three pairs on top.

Wilsonia citrina. HOODED WARBLER.—Occurs on the sides just below the top. Three pairs were observed.

Mimus polyglottos polyglottos. MOCKINGBIRD.—Does not occur on top of the mountain. It is the most conspicuous singer at Blue Mountain, a small town at the foot of the mountain.

Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus. CAROLINA WREN.—Is heard, though not very commonly, on top as well as on the slopes.

Thryomanes bewicki bewicki. BEWICK'S WREN.—Is not found on top, but occurs at the foot of the mountain.

Sitta carolinensis carolinensis. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Is fairly common on the slopes.

Baeolophus bicolor. TUFTED TITMOUSE.—Was observed on top as well as on the sides of the mountain.

Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus. CHICKADEE.—Occurs on the mountain, but is relatively uncommon.

Polioptila caerulea caerulea. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—Was seen only at the foot of the mountain and on the road toward the top.

Hylocichla mustelina. WOOD THRUSH.—Common on top, about eight pairs were observed in a small area.

Planesticus migratorius migratorius. ROBIN.—Is fairly common in the town of Blue Mountain, but rare on top of the mountain.

Sialia sialis sialis. BLUEBIRD.—Occurs in small numbers on top and on the sides of the mountain.

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