

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRDS OF THE PIEDMONT
REGION OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

BY A. L. PICKENS.

SINCE the splendid work of L. M. Loomis, done more than forty years ago, almost no systematic nature work has been done in upper South Carolina by a resident. So well were the Loomis lists prepared, that little was left for succeeding workers to do, and of the true specific additions to his lists, it is to be noted, that a large number are birds that love the vicinity of water. The vast amount of hydro-electric development in this vicinity in recent years, may have something to do with this, as the resulting ponds must certainly afford attractions sufficient to stop many migrant birds that might pass on unnoticed. The territory of what is termed "upper South Carolina" lies above the fall-line, and is about as large in extent as Massachusetts and Connecticut combined. The region is strikingly different from the coastal plain, a fact that has long been noted by naturalists, but despite this, and the density of population as compared with the coastal regions, little information is available for the younger rising generation of amateur naturalists. I recently attempted to draw up and publish a catalogue of the recorded vertebrates of the territory concerned, and venture the following additions to the classic Loomis bird lists. That the area is somewhat transitional will be noted from a careful study of the sub-specific forms here given.

Uria lomvia lomvia. BRUNNICH'S MURRE.—One example taken near Anderson by J. R. Nowell and brother and described by Coues in 'The Auk,' 1897, XIV, p. 203.

Larus argentatus. HERRING GULL.—Frequently found after heavy storms from the coast, and also appears to come in voluntarily, to larger bodies of water on rivers containing hydro-electric dams. I noted it first in the collection of Dr. D. T. Smith who formerly did taxidermy work here. He was not a professional naturalist, and unfortunately I am unable to give dates for this and the two species following.

Chlidonias nigra surinamensis. BLACK TERN.—This bird has been taken on the Saluda river, where there are a number of hydro-electric dams. Dr. Smith received one good example for mounting.

Botaurus lentiginosus. AMERICAN BITTERN.—I record this also from Dr. Smith's collection. One example is contained in the Barratt collection, but all of Dr. Barratt's notes have been lost, and it may not have been taken in the territory involved.

Buteo platypterus platypterus. BROAD-WINGED HAWK.—Mr. William Hahn, Jr. of Greenwood writes me, under date of June 28, 1926, of taking eggs of this bird this year. Mr. Hahn is an oologist, and uses great care in his work.

Aquila chrysaëtos. GOLDEN EAGLE.—Several have been reported from different points. Probably strays from the higher mountains between breeding seasons. Mr. W. C. Cox of Greenville reports one that was shot during March, 1926, and brought to him from a nearby rural section.

Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis. OSPREY.—Mentioned by Loomis as occurring in the lower Piedmont, but not recorded in the upper, and in the alpine region. Now found even up among the mountains. Mr. W. C. Cox kept two as captives, until one attacked and devoured the other, after which he liberated the survivor. This occurred last winter, and I examined the birds closely.

Otus asio floridanus. FLORIDA SCREECH OWL.—Mentioned by Wayne in 'Birds of South Carolina' as occurring as high up as Edgefield Co.

Dryobates pubescens pubescens. SOUTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER.—That this and the Southern Hairy should be the birds of this section is odd when we note the sub-specific form of the following.

Colaptes auratus luteus. NORTHERN FLICKER.—While the Southern form occurs on the coastal-plain this variety occurs in the higher Piedmont, as appears from measurements I made of a specimen taken in Greenville Co.

Antrostomus carolinensis. CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.—Reported by Loomis from Chester, but not seen nor heard by him in Pickens nor Greenville counties, though he records it, not numerically, from hearsay. The bird's occurrence in the Piedmont is well known to local observers, and it is heard every year from April to July, in most of the territory, being even more common than the Whip-poor-will, which is being driven into the mountains by civilization. The Chuck-will's-widow has earned the local name of "Dutch Whip-poor-will," from a fancied Dutch or foreign pronunciation of the word "whip-poor-will," and I have noted that it increases in numbers, and in boldness as one approaches the coast. Mr. Gabriel Cannon, a careful amateur ornithologist, had one brought into Spartanburg from the country for identification. Curiously enough, an outside professional ornithologist recently wrote me, questioning the occurrence of this bird in the Piedmont.

Corvus ossifragus. FISH CROW.—Having noted this bird, even up among the mountain valleys in Virginia, I was not surprised to learn of its occurrence in the Piedmont through Mr. Wm. Hahn, Jr. and Mr. E. R. Blake of Greenwood. They have not found it breeding.

Sturnus vulgaris. EUROPEAN STARLING.—Now well-established and breeding at a number of points. Reports indicate it, so far, as principally a town and city resident.

Loxia curvirostra minor. RED CROSSBILL.—Mr. N. C. Brown has reported this bird along the edge of the Piedmont ('Auk,' XXVI, 432). That this bird, breeding in the mountains northwest of the state, and wintering on the coast-plain, has not been more frequently observed, would seem to imply that it migrates only at night.

Compsothlypis americana americana. SOUTHERN PARULA WARBLER.

Compsothlypis americana usneae. NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER.—Upper South Carolina affords forms tending toward both the varieties of the Parula Warbler, which as a specific form Loomis has already recorded.

As hypothetical forms I would record: Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus holboelli*); Merganser (*Mergus americanus*); Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus*); Canvas-back (*Marila valisineria*); Old-squaw (*Harelda hyemalis*); White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons gambeli*); reported by Dr. E. E. Murphey near Augusta, through Wayne's 'Birds of South Carolina.' Augusta is just across the Savannah, at the southern corner of the territory I include. Dr. Thomas Smyth, of the University of South Carolina, records having seen the Ruddy Duck above Columbia ('Auk,' April, 1926). I have one record of the Wood Ibis, or Stork (*Mycteria americana*), seen in the same vicinity on a large hydro-electric pond. The King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), I record from Three-and-Twenty Mile Creek, late summer. The Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*), and the Black-bellied Plover (*Squatorola squatorola*), are recorded as birds of the pine barrens of upper South Carolina by W. I. Burnett ('Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History,' IV, 115-118, in 1851). I have no specific verification of either of these species. The Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*), has been taken in Aiken Co., very near the Piedmont region, and from descriptions of its note, I judge it occurs at times among the hills.

On May 21, 1923, with a strong field-glass I identified a Non-parail (*Passerina ciris*), on the Broad river above Columbia. Of the Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), I have some creditable reports, but none from above the five hundred foot elevation line. Some birds, like the Orchard Oriole in summer,

and the Pipit in winter, seem to prefer keeping to the territory below that line. The Southern Yellow-throat has been taken, even in winter, near Camden, at the edge of the Piedmont, by N. C. Brown ('Auk,' XXXIII, 227-228) and probably occurs at even higher altitudes in summer.

The status of the Snow Goose puzzles me. I have never seen it, nor have I been able to find any one else who has seen it in upper South Carolina. Yet across the line in North Carolina, and on the adjacent coastal-plain, it seems fairly well-known, and one, or both sub-specific forms surely occur at times.

The Song-Sparrow which is usually regarded merely as a winter resident I found this summer in North Carolina within a fraction of a mile of the state boundary and further clearings on this side may induce the bird to breed in South Carolina.

Students interested may consult the basic Loomis lists in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' IV, 209-218, and in 'The Auk,' VII, 30-39, 124-130; VIII, 49-59, 167-173, 323-333. I shall be glad to furnish copies of my lists of vertebrates without charge, if any reader is interested in the birds of this territory, and has not already received one.

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