

FURTHER NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF LEON COUNTY,
FLORIDA—FOURTH SUPPLEMENT.

BY R. W. WILLIAMS.

SINCE the publication in 1914 of the last supplement to my 'Preliminary List of the Birds of Leon County, Florida' (Auk, XXI, 449), Mr. Ludlow Griscom and Mr. Herbert L. Stoddard have been active in the northern part of the County. Mr. Stoddard's notes, access to which he has kindly allowed me, cover rather continuous observations in the years 1924-1927 while engaged upon his primary project, the Quail Investigation in southern Georgia and north central Florida. Mr. Griscom's observations have been more limited in time and are mainly recorded in 'The Auk,' reference to which presently will be made. I have visited the County each year for brief periods either in spring or fall.

Mr. Bradford Torrey spent the first two weeks of April, 1893, in Tallahassee and approximately half of his charming little book, entitled 'A Florida Sketch-Book,' published in 1894, is devoted to his rambles in the purlieus of that city. Latterly I have discovered that he records in this book two species that have been noted, I believe, by no one else—White-crowned Sparrow and Rough-winged Swallow.

My original list, *supra*, and the three supplements (Auk, XXIII, 153; XXIV, 158; XXXI, 494) totalled 192 species.

In his 'Notes from Leon Co., Florida,' published in 1916 (Auk, XXXIII, 329), Mr. Griscom added the Florida Bob-white, and in his 'Further Notes from Leon Co., Florida,' published in 1919 (Auk, XXXVI, 587), he increased the list by 3 more—Florida Cormorant, Fish Crow, and Lincoln's Sparrow—continuing the numeration from my last supplement and showing a total of 196 species.

To preserve the continuity of my enumeration of the birds of the County I must repeat Mr. Griscom's additions, but under different ordinal numbers.

Two or three errors in my original list need to be corrected and some further data on a few species will be added.

The numeration continues on from my last supplement and totals 218 species for the County.

193. *Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*. BLACK TERN.—Mr. Stoddard saw about 30 on Lake Jackson August 17, 1924, and noted them in diminished numbers until September 28. He first saw them in 1925 on August 9.

194. *Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus*. FLORIDA CORMORANT.—Mr. Griscom saw 2 on Lake Iamonia March 26, 1919. (Auk, XXXVI, 587). Mr. Stoddard collected one on Lake Iamonia December 24, 1924. April 12, 1926, one arose from Lake Jackson and flew past me within a few yards, and April 13, 1927 I saw another on this lake.

195. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. WHITE PELICAN.—Mr. Stoddard says, "A fine individual came up the lake (Jackson), alighted in edge of the pond and swam about 15 minutes, then circled over the lake and crossed back directly over our heads, not over 100 feet up"—October 4, 1925.

196. *Chaulelasmus streperus*. GADWALL.—October 25, 1925, Mr. Stoddard saw 4 in female and 1 in male plumage on Lake Jackson.

Querquedula cyanoptera. CINNAMON TEAL.—In my second supplement which appeared in 'The Auk' for April, 1907, I restated Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads' record (Auk, X, 362) of the capture of a Cinnamon Teal on Lake Iamonia, Florida, allocating the record to Leon County, in which this lake lies. In the same issue appeared Mr. William Brewster's critical article on the several "supposed" records of the Cinnamon Teal from Florida and South Carolina, including Mr. Rhoads'. Naturally, Mr. Brewster's skepticism as to the Rhoads record gave me some perturbation, and chancing to meet Dr. Witmer Stone a few days thereafter I mentioned the matter to him. He assured me that this record was correct and that the specimen, an adult male, was then in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. See also Mr. Rhoads' note in 'The Auk', XXIV, 435. I included this species in my list both on this record and on Mr. E. B. Garner's statement to me that he had killed one in the County, and as he was one of the most experienced hunters and amateur nature observers then in our County I can not doubt the accuracy of his statement.

Charitonetta albeola. BUFFLE-HEAD.—November 21, 1925, I shot one on "Lake Willoughby" on my place five miles east of Tallahassee. It was alone and feeding near the shore, diving now and again after the manner of Grebes.

Clangula hyemalis. OLD SQUAW.—Mr. Oscar Groover of Thomasville, Ga., shot a male on Lake Iamonia, January 17, 1927. Mr. H. L. Stoddard has the specimen. Mr. Stringer of Beachton, Ga. saw three on this lake in the second week in February, 1927.

197. *Ardea occidentalis*. GREAT WHITE HERON.—October 4, 1925, Mr. Stoddard collected an adult female on Lake Jackson. He had seen it on several occasions in the same region as early as August 9.

198. **Nyctanassa violacea.** YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Mr. Stoddard saw an adult in full breeding plumage on Lake Jackson May 31, 1925, and on June 20 another adult on the same lake. He regards this Heron as a summer resident in small numbers.

199. **Steganopus tricolor.** WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—Mr. Stoddard saw one on Lake Jackson September 12, 1926, in association with some other shore birds.

200. **Micropalama himantopus.** STILT SANDPIPER.—October 8, 1927, Mr. Stoddard, while making the scheduled census of wild Ducks on Lake Jackson, collected an adult male which was feeding on the marsh with six Lesser Yellowlegs.

201. **Pisobia minutilla.** LEAST SANDPIPER.—Mr. Stoddard found several on Lake Jackson, September 4, 1927.

Pisobia maculata. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—Mr. Stoddard has found this Sandpiper more or less abundant on Lake Jackson from late July into November.

202. **Ereunetes pusillus.** SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.—Mr. Stoddard has found this Sandpiper in some numbers on Lake Jackson from late July well into October, on the 12th of which latter month he saw about 25 feeding on close-cropped, high and dry pasture. He saw two May 31, 1925, and I saw several April 12, 1926, on same lake.

203. **Ereunetes mauri.** WESTERN SANDPIPER.—Mr. Stoddard collected one and saw 3 others on Lake Jackson October 7, 1926. He says, "I think they will prove to be regular but comparatively rare in late September and early October."

204. **Totanus melanoleucus.** GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.—November 21, 1921, I collected one on the shore of "Lake Willoughby" on my place, 5 miles east of Tallahassee. It was feeding with several Wilson's Snipe. The bird's left leg had been shot off above the tarsus, leaving a short stump which had completely healed. April 12, 1926, I saw 2 on Lake Jackson, and 2 again on April 13, 1927.

205. **Totanus flavipes.** LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.—Mr. Bradford Torrey in his 'A Florida Sketch-Book,' pp. 181 and 191, refers to several that he saw just west of Tallahassee on April 10 and 12, 1893. Mr. Stoddard has found them in numbers varying from 1 to 12 on Lake Jackson from the first of August to November 9. I saw several on Lake Jackson April 12, 1926, and again April 13, 1927.

206. **Tryngites subruficollis.** BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER.—September 12, 1926, Mr. Stoddard saw 3 among the Killdeers and Pectoral Sandpipers on Lake Jackson and collected one, a male. On the following day he collected another male at the same place.

207. **Squatarola squatarola.** BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—September 3, 1926, Mr. Stoddard saw one on Lake Jackson and another October 2, 1927.

Oxyechus vociferus. KILLDEER.—June 12, 1927, Mr. Plez Strickland, who has resided in the vicinity for many years, pointed out to Mr. Stoddard

two nests of this species on Lake Iamonia, one containing 4 and other 2 eggs and told him that the Killdeer has nested in that locality ever since he was a boy. It is, however, very sparingly represented in the County in the breeding season.

208. **Colinus virginianus floridanus.** FLORIDA BOB-WHITE.—Mr. Griscom says that 6 males shot on the Horseshoe Plantation, in the northern part of the County on January 1, 1916, were typical *floridanus*. ('Auk,' XXXIII, 329). The characteristic Bob-whites in the County are intermediates, with strong tendency, however, toward *floridanus*.

Zenaidura macroura carolinensis. MOURNING DOVE.—On Thanksgiving Day, 1923, one of the tenants on the Miller plantation, 6 miles east of Tallahassee, recovered a Dove from a Hawk and finding a band on its leg, turned it over to Mr. Robert D. Foote of Morristown, N. J., who owned shooting privileges in that region. He sent it to me and on inquiry at the Biological Survey I found that it had been banded at Kansas, Ill., Sept. 21, 1923, by Mr. W. B. Taber, Jr.

Accipiter velox. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—In my original list this was said to be a resident. It is fairly abundant in winter, but I now doubt that it occurs regularly, if at all, in summer.

209. **Astur atricapillus.** GOSHAWK.—Mr. Stoddard has a male, killed by Mr. H. P. Whitney in the northern part of the County, December 1, 1926.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.—In my original list this species was said to occur sparingly in summer, and it was stated that there was one record of its nesting. These statements were based upon a nest and 2 eggs collected about 1895, which differed so materially from the nest and eggs of *americanus* with which I was familiar, that I ascribed them to this species. I am now satisfied that they belonged to *americanus*. The Black-billed is, however, a migrant through the County.

Antrostomus vociferus vociferus. WHIP-POOR-WILL.—The set of eggs ascribed to this species in my original list can too well have been of *carolinensis* to justify the retention of *vociferus* in the list as a breeding bird.

Myiochanes virens. WOOD PEWEE.—May 19, 1925, I found one in full breeding song on my place 5 miles east of Tallahassee. Mr. Stoddard says it is a summer resident in small numbers in the pine woods of the northern part of the County.

Empidonax virescens. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—I am now able to add this to the breeding birds of the County. May 10, 1916, I saw one and heard another in the woods on the edge of Sinai Pond on my place. Mr. Stoddard writes me of a nest and 3 eggs he collected on May 23, 1925, as follows: "These were taken on the south side of Forshala Lake, Leon County. Nest on trailing limb of a sapling about eighteen feet above the water, just within the border of a cypress swamp. About four other pairs inhabit a half mile of this strip of swamp and I find the

bird a fairly common summer resident in similar situations and along small water courses in northern Leon County. Have also found this bird (last week in May, 1925) within 2 miles of the Gulf in Jefferson County, so it probably occurs in suitable environment in the southern part of Leon County as well." The nest collected by Mr. Stoddard was entirely of spanish moss and imbedded in a cluster of that epiphyte.

210. **Corvus ossifragus.** FISH CROW.—Mr. Griscom found it an abundant resident of the shores and islands of Lake Iamonia. Mr. Stoddard finds it abundant on Lake Jackson.

211. **Sturnus vulgaris.** STARLING.—Mr. Stoddard saw 4 on Lake Jackson, November 9, 1924.

Molothrus ater ater. COWBIRD.—Mr. Griscom saw a flock of 5 in an old pasture on the southern outskirts of Tallahassee on March 27, 1919. Mr. Stoddard saw a flock of 15 or more, in dull plumage, on and around cattle on Lake Jackson August 9, 1925, and has seen others since.

212. **Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus.** YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.—Mr. Stoddard collected a male on Lake Jackson September 27, 1925. It was among a flock of Cowbirds attending a herd of cattle.

Euphagus carolinus. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—Mr. Griscom saw 3 on the Horseshoe Plantation December 25, 1911. ('Bird-Lore,' XIV, 33).

Quiscalus quiscula aglaeus. FLORIDA GRACKLE.—Mr. Griscom saw 50 on the Horseshoe Plantation December 25, 1911 ('Bird-Lore,' XIV, 33) and Mr. Stoddard saw 12 in that section of the County December 27, 1925 (ibid. XXVIII, 35).

213. **Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys.** WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—Mr. Bradford Torrey, in his 'A Florida Sketch-Book,' pp. 190, 191, 201, 227, and 234, tells of the White-crowned Sparrows he saw on his rambles out of Tallahassee in the first two weeks of April, 1893. As he was a very careful and conscientious observer and writer and speaks of seeing these birds in association with White-throats, there would seem to be no reason to doubt his records. I have never seen the bird in the County and have not learned that anyone else has.

214. **Melospiza lincolni lincolni.** LINCOLN'S SPARROW.—Mr. Griscom saw one March 26, 1919, in the northern part of the County ('Auk,' XXXVI, 588) and he is the first, I believe, to discover this bird in the State. Mr. Stoddard, in his Quail-trapping operations on the H. P. Whitney plantation in the northern part of the County, caught 3 in his traps, one, March 13, another on the 18th, and the third on the 23rd, 1925. He thinks this bird is a regular spring migrant through the County in small numbers.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus alleni. WHITE-EYED TOWHEE.—Mr. Stoddard finds this the resident form in northern Leon County, but outnumbered in winter by the Red-eyed. He found a nest with 3 eggs June 26, 1924, on the H. P. Whitney plantation in a little pine tree about 4 feet high, the nest being about 18 inches above the ground, female present and scolding.

215. **Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons.** CLIFF SWALLOW.—Mr. Stoddard saw one on Lake Jackson September 21, 1924.

Riparia riparia. BANK SWALLOW.—In my original list it was stated that this bird was said to nest abundantly at St. Marks. I have no doubt now that the St. Marks species is the Rough-winged.

216. **Stelgidopteryx serripennis.** ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—Mr. Bradford Torrey, in his 'A Florida Sketch-Book,' p. 218, says of 2 pairs he saw the first week in April, 1893, 2 or 3 miles west of Tallahassee, "Two of the birds—the first ones I had ever seen, to be sure of them—perched directly before me on the wire, one facing me, the other with his back turned. It was kindly done; and then, as if still further to gratify my curiosity, they visited a hole in the bank. A second hole was doubtless the property of the other pair." Mr. Francis M. Weston finds them nesting in small numbers in Escambia County, Fla., in the latitude of Leon County.

Lanivireo flavifrons. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.—In my original list I noted this as a rare migrant. It is a fairly abundant summer resident. May 17, 1925, I found several in the mixed pine and oak woods 3 miles southwest of Tallahassee. They were singing persistently and a male which I collected exhibited the unmistakable evidence of a breeding bird. On the 19th I found them also on my place 5 miles east of Tallahassee.

217. **Vermivora chrysoptera.** GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.—Mr. Stoddard saw 2 on Lake Iamonia, September 7, 1924.

Dendroica discolor. PRAIRIE WARBLER.—This is an abundant spring migrant through the County. I found them quite numerous from April 9 to 15, 1926. On the 12th I heard one in characteristic nesting song in a grove of oaks on Lake Jackson and am very well persuaded that this bird nests in the County in small numbers. Mr. Stoddard says a few undoubtedly nest in the County as he has seen them in the breeding season.

Hylocichla mustelina. WOOD THRUSH.—This bird undoubtedly nests in the County. Mr. Stoddard writes me that he has found two nests in Grady County, Ga. within a mile of the Leon County line and has heard singing birds during the breeding season in three different Leon County localities. In the latter part of June, 1926, he heard one singing in the western part of the County.

218. **Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni.** OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.—Mr. Stoddard saw 3 on Lake Iamonia October 12, 1924.

*U. S. Dept. Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.*