

BIRD WEIGHTS OF 52 SPECIES OF BIRDS
(TAKEN FROM NOTES OF WM. VAN GORDER).

BY SIDNEY R. ESTEN.

WILLIAM B. VAN GORDER was born in Noble County, Indiana, February 3, 1855. He was interested in botany and ornithology, and wrote several noteworthy articles on each subject. He resided in Noble County until 1895 when he became Superintendent of Schools at Knightstown, Indiana and at Worthington in 1898. In 1915 he returned as Superintendent of Schools at Albion Noble County where he remained until his death April 7, 1927.

He kept migration records, studying the habits of birds and banding them. After his death his bird records of some forty years were sent me by his daughter who desired that they be utilized to the best advantage.

One of the many phases of Mr. Van Gorder's bird study was the taking of bird weights, and the following is the result of his work in this line:

Gavia immer. LOON.—March 31, 1911, ♂, 3,629 grams. April 25, 1915, ♀, 3,260 grams.

Larus argentatus smithsonianus. AMERICAN HERRING GULL.—Nov. 12, 1911, 1,184 grams. March 14, 1912, 1,021 grams.

Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis. BLACK TERN.—May 8, 1915, two, 60 and 60.3 grams.

Anas platyrhynchos. MALLARD.—Nov. 14, 1917, ♂, 1,077 grams. Oct. 31, 1913, ♀, 964 grams.

Mareca americana. BALDPATE OR WIDGEON.—March 14, 1911, ♀, 709 grams.

Nettion carolinense. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—Oct. 31, 1913, ♂, 272 grams.

Querquedula discors. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—April 4, 1911, ♂, 361 grams. April 4, 1911, ♀, 305 grams.

Spatula clypeata. SHOVELLER.—March 14, 1911, ♂♂, 567 and 539 grams, ♀, 453 grams. April 8, 1912, ♀, 510 grams. April 4, 1911, ♂, 595.5 grams.

Aix sponsa. WOOD DUCK.—March 16, 1911, ♂♂, 737 and 624 grams.

Marila americana. RED-HEAD.—March 14, 1911, ♀, 992 grams.

Marila marila. AMERICAN SCAUP DUCK.—March 14, 1911, 737 grams.

Botaurus lentiginosus. AMERICAN BITTERN.—April 7, 1914, 878 grams (in good condition). 316 grams (only half grown). 660 grams (very

poor condition). Nov. 23, 1911, 715 grams. Nov. 14, 1913, 467.5 grams (very poor condition).

Ardea herodias herodias. GREAT BLUE HERON.—Oct. 21, 1914, 3,062 grams. Sept. 20, 1914, 2,551.5 grams.

Nycticorax nycticorax naevius. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Sept. 22, 1914, 933 grams.

Rallus virginianus. VIRGINIA RAIL.—May 3, 1911, three, 88.2, 75.2, and 71 grams.

Porzana carolina. SORA RAIL.—April 24, 1911, two, 76 and 106 grams. April 9, 1915, 51 grams (very poor). May 3, 1911, two, 61.5 and 83.5 grams. April 27, 1916, two, 125.7 and 111.7 grams.

Fulica americana. COOT.—April 27, 1916, three, 496, 551, and 550.2 grams.

Gallinago delicata. WILSON'S SNIFE.—April 24, 1911, six, 107, 111, 105, 118, 131, and 129 grams. May 3, 1911, 132 grams.

Pisobia maculata. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—twenty-two, 92, 110, 90, 99, 104, 108.5, 97, 102, 95, 85, 71.4, 68.2, 67.1, 73.5, 110, 89.1, 81, 85, 85.5, 83.8, 71, 82 grams.

One kept alive weighed the first day after arrival 82 grams while six days later it weighed 106 grams.

Totanus flavipes. LESSER YELLOW LEGS.—April 24, 1911, 98 grams. March 18, 1911, 104 grams.

Colinus virginianus virginianus. QUAIL.—Nov. 12, 1914, ♂♂, 172 and 170 grams. Nov. 14, 1914, ♂, 187 grams. Dec. 20, 1914, seven males, 170, 167.8, 162, 135 (very poor), 170, 127 (very poor), and 148 grams (very poor). Dec. 28, 1914, four males, 184.6, 148.6, 196.4, and 171.6 grams. Nov. 17, 1914, six males, 169.5, 165, 185, 173, 173 and 178 grams.

Buteo borealis borealis. RED-TAILED HAWK.—Nov. 3, 1911, 1,083 grams (young). Dec. 25, 1911, 1,308 grams (adult). Oct. 24, 1912, 1,226 grams (adult).

Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.—March 8, 1912, 1,027 grams. Jan. 7, 1913, 915 grams. April 4, 1913, 723 grams.

Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus. BALD EAGLE.—Jan. 6, 1916, 4,880 grams.

Falco sparverius sparverius. SPARROW HAWK.—Dec. 10, 1911, ♂, 112.4 grams. Nov. 18, 1911, ♀, 103.4 grams. Nov. 28, 1912, ♂, 102 grams. Dec. 27, 1915, ♀, 132.6 grams.

Aluco pratincola. BARN OWL.—Sept. 17, 1911, 321 grams (poor).

Asio flammeus. SHORT-EARED OWL.—Jan. 3, 1911, 326 grams. Jan. 4, 1911, 339 grams. Jan. 6, 1911, 394 grams. Feb. 4, 1913, 339 grams. Dec. 13, 1913, 320 grams.

Otus asio asio. SCREECH OWL.—Jan. 8, 1912, 139 grams. Jan. 12, 1912, 114 grams (starved). Nov. 1, 1915, 162.6 grams. Jan. 4, 1916, 157 grams. Jan. 2, 1924, 122.6 grams (starved).

- Sphyrapicus varius varius.** YELLOW BELLY SAPSUCKER.—April 5, 1915, 51 grams.
- Chordeiles virginianus virginianus.** NIGHT HAWK.—Sept. 1, 1922, 60 grams. Sept. 10, 1915, 106.2 grams.
- Archilochus colubris.** RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Sept. 28, 1917, 53 grains (3½ grams). May 17, 1921, 54 grains (3½ grams).
- Sayornis phoebe** (Lath.). PHOEBE.—April 13, 1916, two, 19.3 and 19.7 grams.
- Cyanocitta cristata cristata.** BLUE-JAY.—Feb. 23, 1914, 74.4 grams.
- Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos.** CROW.—Dec. 10, 1915, 508 grams. March 18, 1916, 415 grams (poor). Feb. 24, 1916, two, 497 and 495 grams.
- Sturnella magna magna.** MEADOW LARK.—Dec. 18, 1914, 104 grams.
- Icterus spurius.** ORCHARD ORIOLE.—June 26, 1914, ♂, 22.7 grams.
- Passer domesticus.** ENGLISH SPARROW.—March 15, 1915, ♂♂♂, 27.2, 27 and 30 grams, ♀ ♀ 26.3 and 27.5 grams.
- Spizella monticola monticola.** TREE SPARROW.—Feb. 5, 1916, 17.6 grams.
- Spizella pusilla pusilla.** FIELD SPARROW.—April 13, 1916, two, 12 and 11.8 grams. April 17, 1916, 12 grams. Oct. 17, 1917, 13.75 grams.
- Junco hyemalis hyemalis.** SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.—Feb. 5, 1916, 20.2 grams. Oct. 24, 1923, 20 grams.
- Passerella iliaca iliaca.** FOX SPARROW.—Oct. 17, 1917, 33.6 grams.
- Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis.** CARDINAL.—Jan. 2, 1914, ♂, 41 grams. April 13, 1916, ♂, 40 grams.
- Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus.** SHRIKE.—April 13, 1916, 51.8 grams.
- Dendroica coronata.** MYRTLE WARBLER.—Oct. 21, 1915, 10.9 grams.
- Dendroica virens.** BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—Oct. 16, 1913, 9.5 grams.
- Seiurus aurocapillus.** OVEN-BIRD.—May 17, 1921, 19.5 grams.
- Mimus polyglottos polyglottos.** MOCKINGBIRD.—April 20, 1915, 50.8 grams.
- Certhia familiaris americana.** BROWN CREEPER.—April 22, 1908, 117 grains (7.6 grams).
- Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis.** CAROLINA CHICKADEE.—April 13, 1916, 9 grams.
- Hylocichla mustelina.** WOOD THRUSH.—Sept. 24, 1912, 50.6 grams.
- Planesticus migratorius migratorius.** ROBIN.—April 15, 1915, 81 grams.

4112 Graceland Ave.,
Indianapolis, Indiana.