

## SOME MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON SOUTH CAROLINA BIRDS

BY G. E. HUDSON AND FRANKLIN SHERMAN

DURING June and early July, 1934, G. E. Hudson carried out intensive field work in the vicinity of Clemson College, S. C., in the employment of the Department of Entomology and Zoology. The object of this work was to collect as much data as possible on the breeding birds of the region. Most of the time was spent in the immediate neighborhood of the college but a number of one-day trips were made into various parts of the nearby mountains of Pickens County. Observations recorded here include some made during this period together with other scattered records that have been collected during the past several years by Professors Franklin Sherman and H. A. Rankin of Clemson College, and others.

Late in the summer of 1934 seventy-three bird-skins from the collection of the Department of Entomology and Zoology of Clemson College were sent to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of the U. S. Biological Survey for subspecific determination. These were subsequently identified and returned. We are greatly indebted to Dr. Oberholser for this courtesy. The subspecific names that are based on his identifications are followed in the list by an asterisk placed in parentheses. Our appreciation is further extended to Professor Myron H. Swenk of the University of Nebraska for helpful suggestions.

***Gavia immer immer*.** COMMON LOON.—On May 3, 1932, a female taken at Pendleton was brought to F. Sherman at Clemson College. This specimen is now in the college collection and constitutes our only record of this species for the vicinity.

***Aquila chrysaëtos canadensis*.** GOLDEN EAGLE.—On November 16, 1934, J. E. Whitfield found one of these birds dead at a power line near Townville and brought it to Clemson College where F. Sherman identified it. This is our only record for the vicinity.

***Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*.** SOUTHERN BALD EAGLE.—T. P. Baskin brought in an immature specimen killed in the vicinity of Clemson College on May 24, 1930. This bird was examined by F. Sherman and is now in the college collection.

***Falco peregrinus anatum*.** DUCK HAWK.—Reported by R. E. Ware and H. A. Rankin at Caesar's Head during the spring of 1933. The birds were seen flying in and out of a recess in the cliff.

***Falco columbarius columbarius*.** EASTERN PIGEON HAWK.—A female in G. E. Hudson's collection was taken by Captain H. L. Harlee on St. Helena Island, Beaufort County, December 30, 1932. There are only a few other winter records for the state.

***Bonasa umbellus umbellus*.** EASTERN RUFFED GROUSE.—In 1886 Loomis (The Auk, 1886, p. 483) recorded this species as common in the mountains of Pickens County. Sherman observed it twice near Rocky Bottom during the period 1929 to 1932, and also in northern Oconee County in March, 1935. It is, therefore, still present in the region although in greatly reduced numbers.

**Porzana carolina.** SORA.—E. S. Prevost brought in a specimen taken at Anderson on September 27, 1928; our only record.

**Gallinula chloropus cachinnans.** FLORIDA GALLINULE.—One caught in a college building on April 27, 1935, and identified by F. Sherman. It was later banded and released by R. E. Ware. This is our only record.

**Philohela minor.** AMERICAN WOODCOCK.—A rather rare permanent resident; more common in winter. F. Sherman has observed it at Clemson College on the following dates: August 17, 1930; July 18, 1931; November 16, 1934.

**Bartramia longicauda.** BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER.—This species has been reported only rarely in South Carolina during recent years. G. E. Hudson observed three in a pea field near Florence on August 9, 1928.

**Limnodromus griseus hendersoni** (\*). INLAND DOWITCHER.—Two specimens were taken by G. E. Hudson near Mt. Pleasant on August 15, 1927. Rowan (*The Auk*, 1932, p. 32) in his original description of this race reported a male from South Carolina, taken by Bishop at Mt. Pleasant on May 3, 1912.

**Larus argentatus smithsonianus.** HERRING GULL.—On June 4, 1931, a Mr. Teat brought in an immature female taken near the village of Six Mile. This species is very rare this far inland and the date is unusually late for this latitude. The specimen is in the college collection.

**Zenaidura macroura carolinensis.** EASTERN MOURNING DOVE.—A number of nests of this species were found at Clemson College during the summer of 1934. It was noticed that the brooding birds feigned injury only when young were in the nest. Birds with eggs flew directly away when flushed, hence it was possible to tell what was in the nest by the actions of the incubating birds. Further observations are necessary to determine whether or not this is an invariable procedure. Bent (*U. S. National Mu. Bull.* 162, 1932) throws no light on this subject.

**Bubo virginianus virginianus.** GREAT HORNED OWL.—One was brought in from Townville about the first of February, 1935, and identified by F. Sherman. This is our only record for the vicinity of the college.

**Strix varia alleni** (\*). FLORIDA BARRED OWL.—Wayne (*Birds of South Carolina*, 1910) states that the typical form of the Barred Owl occurs in the upper counties of South Carolina. A specimen taken by J. O. Pepper at Central on December 8, 1925, was identified by Dr. Oberholser as *alleni*. Another specimen taken at Meredith, near Florence, by R. V. Segars on January 30, 1928, was also pronounced this form but was marked "not typical."

**Chordeiles minor minor** (\*). EASTERN NIGHTHAWK.—Three specimens were taken by G. E. Hudson at Florence on the following dates during the summer of 1926: June 10, July 16, and July 22. Florence is well within the usually accepted range of *chapmani* and since these birds were taken during the breeding season a slight revision of the ranges of the two forms is probably desirable.

**Colaptes auratus luteus** (\*). NORTHERN FLICKER.—A winter visitant. A specimen taken at Clemson College on December 31, 1925, was identified as this form. Two other Flickers taken at Clemson College on March 23 and November 27, 1926, were pronounced typical *auratus*, which is the breeding form in South Carolina. A. L. Pickens (*The Auk*, 1928, p. 67) has reported *luteus* from the Piedmont Region on the basis of a specimen measured by himself.

**Dryobates villosus villosus** (\*). EASTERN HAIRY WOODPECKER.—There are three specimens in the college collection taken at Clemson College: March 29, 1926; September 15, 1927; November 10, 1927. This region is well within the range of *auduboni* as given in the 1931 edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list.' Apparently this is another case in which subspecific ranges are in need of revision.

**Tyrannus tyrannus.** EASTERN KINGBIRD.—This species is rather uncommon in the western part of the state but becomes increasingly abundant toward the coast.

**Myiarchus crinitus boreus** (\*). NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Specimens were taken at Clemson College on April 24 and May 14, 1926. This is apparently the breeding form in the Piedmont Region.

**Sayornis phoebe.** EASTERN PHOEBE.—Wayne (*Birds of South Carolina*, 1910) records the Phoebe as breeding only in the mountainous parts of the state. A. L. Pickens (*The Auk*, 1934, p. 537) recently reported this species as nesting at Greenville in "the past two or three years." G. E. Hudson found the Phoebe breeding commonly at Spartanburg about 1923. Loomis (*The Auk*, 1890, p. 39) observed it near Spartanburg during June, 1889.

**Otocoris alpestris praticola.** PRAIRIE HORNED LARK.—In 1891 Loomis (*The Auk*, 1891, pp. 56-59) reported this bird as being a common and regular winter visitant at Chester, flocks of hundreds of individuals having been observed. During many years of observation in the Piedmont Region neither Hudson nor Sherman has ever seen a Horned Lark.

**Cyanocitta cristata florincola** (\*). FLORIDA BLUE JAY.—Four Blue Jays representing both winter and summer specimens were identified as *C. c. cristata* (equals *florincola*). This reversal of names, the reason for which Dr. Oberholser has given in 'The Auk' 1921, pp. 83-89, has not been accepted by the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature. (See *Stone Auk*, 1929, p. 447.)

The determination of these birds as the southern form does not substantiate the statement by Pickens (*The Auk*, 1934, p. 537) that "our Blue Jays remain dominantly northern."

**Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus** (\*). SOUTHERN CROW.—One taken at Clemson College on November 26, 1926, by F. Sherman III.

**Sitta carolinensis atkinsi** (\*). FLORIDA NUTHATCH.—Two specimens taken at Clemson College on February 15 and 22, 1926, were identified as *S. c. carolinensis* (equals *atkinsi*). Dr. Oberholser (*The Auk*, 1917, pp. 181-187) has explained this switch in names in 'The Auk,' but it has not been accepted by the A. O. U. Committee.

**Sitta canadensis.** RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—H. A. Rankin observed one of these birds at Clemson College on April 17, 1931. This is our second record for the vicinity.

**Telmatodytes palustris dissaëptus** (\*). PRAIRIE MARSH WREN.—Two specimens, both males, were taken at Clemson College on April 13 and 25, 1927. Dr. Oberholser referred these birds to the race *iliacus* which is not accepted by the A. O. U. Committee.

**Turdus migratorius achrusterus** (\*). SOUTHERN ROBIN.—Three specimens in the college collection were taken at Clemson College on the following dates: February 6, 1926; February 24, 1928; March 4, 1930. The Eastern Robin (*T. m. migratorius*) no doubt occurs here in migration.

Robins have greatly increased as breeding birds at Clemson College during recent years. As many as eighteen individuals were observed in a single day during July, 1934.

**Hycloichla minima minima** (\*). BICKNELL'S THRUSH.—A male taken at Clemson College on May 3, 1927, constitutes our only record. The commoner migrating from here is the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*H. m. aliciae*).

**Lanius ludovicianus migrans** (\*). MIGRANT SHRIKE.—A male was collected at Clemson College on November 9, 1927. This was perhaps a migrant from farther north but the breeding form here is still to be determined.

During the breeding season Shrikes are far more abundant in the eastern part of the state.

***Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris.*** STARLING.—This species has greatly increased in numbers at Clemson College during the past six years. Flocks of forty or more were commonly encountered during the summer of 1934.

***Vireo solitarius alticola* (\*).** MOUNTAIN VIREO.—An unsexed specimen was taken at Clemson College on October 15, 1927. A singing male was observed at Caesar's Head on June 28, 1934.

***Protonotaria citrea.*** PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.—H. A. Rankin observed two at Clemson College on May 2, 1931. This is our only record for the vicinity.

***Helmintheros vermivorus.*** WORM-EATING WARBLER.—An unsexed specimen was taken near the base of Sassafras Mountain on June 26, 1934. Loomis (Auk, 1890, p. 127; 1891, p. 331) found it breeding at Caesar's Head and Mt. Pinnacle.

***Vermivora chrysoptera.*** GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.—Our only Clemson College records are the following observations by H. A. Rankin: May 3, 1931, ten; April 25, 1933, two; April 21, 1935, one.

***Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi* (\*).** CAIRNS'S WARBLER.—On June 12, 1934, a singing male was observed near Mountain Rest, close to the North Carolina line.

An adult male and a juvenile male were collected on June 26, 1934, near the top of Sassafras Mountain. Besides these the following were also observed: three adult males, one adult female, and one juvenile female. All of these birds were observed on the South Carolina side of the mountain, and as far as we are aware this is the first breeding record for the state.

***Dendroica cerulea.*** CERULEAN WARBLER.—Some recent Clemson College sight records by H. A. Rankin are as follows: April 21, 1933, one; April 26, 1934, one; May 1, 1934, one; April 22, 1935, two; April 23, 1935, three; April 25, 1935, one.

***Dendroica dominica dominica* (\*).** YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER.—The following specimens, all males, are in the Clemson College collection: Clemson College, April 21, 1926; Florence, June 12 and 17, 1926. The Sycamore Warbler (*D. d. albilora*) has been recorded by Loomis (The Auk, 1890, p. 127) from Pickens County. We have never encountered this form.

***Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla* (\*).** NORTHERN YELLOWTHROAT.—Two males were taken at Clemson College on April 10 and May 1, 1926. These were doubtless migrants since this form breeds much farther northward.

Two other specimens taken at Clemson College, a male on Sept. 25, 1926, and a female on April 9, 1927, were identified as *G. t. typhicola*. This form was described by Burleigh (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 1934, pp. 21-22) in 1934.

***Setophaga ruticilla.*** AMERICAN REDSTART.—G. E. Hudson observed an adult male singing near Jocassee on July 3, 1934. This species undoubtedly breeds in the mountainous portions of the state, although there are as yet no definite records.

***Sturnella magna argutula* (\*).** SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK.—A dark-colored male was taken at Florence on May 15, 1926. This is probably the breeding form over most if not all of South Carolina. A female taken at Clemson College on February 18, 1927, was pronounced the Eastern Meadowlark (*S. m. magna*), but was marked "not typical." This subspecies is no doubt a winter visitant.

***Icterus galbula.*** BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—J. A. Berly saw a male in his yard at Clemson College on June 12, 1928, and again on June 28 of the same year.

***Quiscalus quiscula aglaeus* (\*).** FLORIDA GRACKLE.—A male taken at Clemson College on November 23, 1926, was identified by Dr. Oberholser as *Q. q. quiscula* (equals *aglaeus*). Wayne (The Auk, 1918, p. 440) has shown the need of this change in subspecific names, but it has not been recognized by the A. O. U. Committee.

Burleigh (*The Auk*, 1934, pp. 91-92) has recently shown the Florida Grackle to be the breeding form in western as well as eastern South Carolina.

A Grackle was seen in Central on June 23, 1934. Several dozen were observed at Spartanburg on the evenings of August 22 to 26, 1934. These were roosting in water oak trees in company with English Sparrows and Starlings. During the breeding season Grackles are far more abundant in the eastern half of the state; in fact, they are almost rare in the Piedmont Region at this season.

**Quiscalus quiscula aeneus** (\*). BRONZED GRACKLE.—A winter visitant. The following specimens have been taken at Clemson College: March 13, 1926, male; November 27, 1926, female; November 22, 1927, female.

**Molothrus ater ater**. EASTERN COWBIRD.—G. E. Hudson saw a female at Clemson College on June 11, 1934, but was unable to collect it.

On July 17, 1934, F. Sherman and several members of his bird class saw a fledgling being fed by a small foster-parent on the Clemson College campus. The bird in attendance appeared very nervous and did not allow a close enough approach for positive identification, but it looked like some kind of female Warbler in worn plumage. It was much smaller than the young Cowbird.

This is the first breeding record for the state although its breeding here has been suspected for some time since several of these birds were seen engaged in courtship antics on May 4, 1927, and a single male was seen on May 23 of the same year. Friedmann (*The Cowbirds* 1929, p. 147) gives the southernmost breeding range of the Cowbird in the Atlantic States as Virginia.

**Piranga erythromelas**. SCARLET TANAGER.—A common breeder in the mountainous portions of the state. During June and early July, 1934, it was observed at Mountain Rest, Mt. Pinnacle, Mt. Sassafras, Caesar's Head, Jocassee, and Little River near Salem.

**Spinus tristis tristis**. EASTERN GOLDFINCH.—An uncommon breeder in the Piedmont Region. During the summer of 1934 it was observed at Mt. Sassafras, Caesar's Head, Jocassee, and Spartanburg.

**Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus** (\*). RED-EYED TOWHEE.—It was thought that perhaps the Alabama Towhee (*P. e. canaster*) might occur at Clemson College. However, two specimens submitted to Dr. Oberholser proved to be the typical form. These were taken on October 30, 1926 and March 25, 1927.

**Ammodramus savannarum australis**. EASTERN GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—An uncommon and local breeder in western South Carolina. A colony of several pairs was located in a hay meadow on the Clemson College farm in June, 1934. A nest with four young was found on June 22. We did not observe this species elsewhere during the summer of 1934.

**Junco hyemalis carolinensis**. CAROLINA JUNCO.—On July 30, 1932, F. Sherman saw one of these birds near the summit of Sassafras Mountain at an elevation of about 3200 feet. This was on the South Carolina side.

**Melospiza melodia melodia**. EASTERN SONG SPARROW.—G. E. Hudson observed a singing male in the yard of the Attakula Lodge near Jocassee on July 3, 1934. Burleigh (*The Auk*, 1933, p. 226) reported the first breeding record for the state from Greenville County, May 25, 1931. Pickens (*The Auk*, 1934, p. 537) has recorded this species as "common in summer in the lower mountains." Our observations do not confirm this since during several weeks of intensive field work in the summer of 1934 only one bird was observed. Furthermore this was a species for which we were particularly looking.

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