

ALL DAY WITH THE BIRDS.

The first attempt to determine how many species of birds could be found in a single day in Lorain County, Ohio, was made on May 17, 1898, by Mr. W. L. Dawson and the writer, which resulted in a record of 102 species. May 8, 1899, witnessed the experiment repeated, but on that day Mr. Dawson could not continue the work after 8 A. M. The day's record was 112. There have been two days devoted to this object during 1900; the first on May 5, by Mr. R. L. Baird and the writer, the second on May 19, by the writer alone. The May 5 record is 93, the May 19 record is exactly 100. The smallness of these two records is largely accounted for by the state of the weather. May 5 opened with a temperature of 30° and heavy frost, with a brisk north-east wind blowing; consequently there was not much movement among the birds. The 19th opened at a temperature of 50° with a strong north-east wind and fine penetrating rain for the whole morning, driving the birds to the dense underbrush where the foliage and the dark morning conspired to effectually hide them from view. The early morning work was disappointing in the extreme. The reader will remember that the 1898 and 1899 records were made under some difficulties, especially in the way of wet roads which made the use of wheels impracticable, but on neither occasion was the temperature low, nor was there any appreciable wind. There is probably little likelihood of being able to take advantage of an ideal day for this work, if indeed there should ever be one. However, if the first half of May could be spent entirely with the birds it is more than likely that a more favorable time would be found than any yet taken advantage of. But that is a dream for which there is no likely fulfilment.

A comparison of the species seen on these four occasions proves not a little interesting, especially so as the range of time covers no less than fourteen days in May. If it were possible to give an accurate summary of the weather for the first two weeks or more of May for these three years, this comparison would throw some light upon the influence of the weather upon the several species of late migrants, but that is

a separate topic. The list of species seen on each of the four occasions is of sufficient interest to be given here :

SPECIES COMMON TO ALL THREE YEARS.

Am. Herring Gull.	Towhee.
Common Tern.	Cardinal.
Virginia Rail.	Indigo Bunting.
Spotted Sandpiper.	Scarlet Tanager.
Killdeer.	Purple Martin.
Bob-white.	Cliff Swallow.
Mourning Dove.	Barn Swallow.
Red-shouldered Hawk.	Bank Swallow.
Sparrow Hawk.	Rough-winged Swallow.
Belted Kingfisher.	Red-eyed Vireo.
Hairy Woodpecker.	Warbling Vireo.
Downy Woodpecker.	Blue-winged Warbler.
Red-headed Woodpecker.	Nashville Warbler.
Flicker.	Tennessee Warbler.
Chimney Swift.	Yellow Warbler.
Kingbird.	Black - throated Blue War- bler.
Crested Flycatcher.	Magnolia Warbler.
Phoebe.	Cerulean Warbler.
Prairie Horned Lark.	Oven-bird.
Blue Jay.	Water-Thrush.
American Crow.	Louisiana Water-Thrush.
Bobolink.	Maryland Yellow-throat.
Cowbird.	American Redstart.
Red-winged Blackbird.	Catbird.
Meadowlark.	Brown Thrasher.
Orchard Oriole.	House Wren.
Baltimore Oriole.	Long-billed Marsh Wren.
Bronzed Grackle.	White-breasted Nuthatch.
American Goldfinch.	Tufted Titmouse.
Vesper Sparrow.	Chickadee.
Grasshopper Sparrow.	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.
White-crowned Sparrow.	Wood Thrush.
White-throated Sparrow.	American Robin.
Chipping Sparrow.	Bluebird.
Field Sparrow.	70(+21+17).
Song Sparrow.	

Besides these 70 species seen on each of the four occasions there is a list of 17 species seen on three of the four, and a further list of 21 species which are sufficiently common to make their being seen practically certain under favorable conditions of weather and work. It is evident, therefore, that the county boasts a list of no less than 108 species which one could confidently expect to see during favorable weather in the early part of May. The possibilities which lie within the Warblers are 8 and all other species 16, not including species which may fairly be called rare or casual, and it does not make any provision for the accidents which make the bird student's work so fascinating. The writer does not intend to be boastful for the region in which he finds himself placed. On the contrary this record of what may be found in Lorain County, Ohio, is given in the hope that others in other places may be encouraged to make a similar study of the birds of their region so that instructive comparisons may be possible. The promise of interest and profit which such a study affords is great, and for an inspiration to him who is looking for new things nothing could surpass it.

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GENERAL NOTES.

THE OLD SQUAW DUCK.—To the average amateur ornithologist the wild-fowl do not seem to present the interest that the smaller birds possess, and the explanation seems to be that they are hard to study on account of the difficulty of near approach and the nature of their habitat. But to some they are far more interesting, especially so if the student has inherited a love for hunting. The bulk of the migrating wild-fowl pass this section in March and April, but one must watch the open waters in February if he would study that most erratic visitor, the Old Squaw. Wheaton gives the Old Squaw the name of being rare in the interior and it is rather uncommon here except in very severe winters, when it occurs frequently. When the ice locks up their food in Lake Erie they are apt to be found in unusual locations. On the 20th of February, 1899,