

they did not make any efforts to catch any of the fish, though they noticed the splashes of the latter.

R. M. STRONG, *Woods Hole, Mass.*

FIVE DAYS AMONG THE ISLANDS OF LAKE ERIE. Five days, from August 5th to the 9th, spent among the islands near the western end of Lake Erie yielded surprising results. We two insatiable bird cranks, Rev. W. L. Dawson and the writer, left Oberlin on the noon train and left Sandusky on the 3:30 boat and were landed on the wharf of Middle Bass Island at 6 o'clock. The work of recording the resident birds began at once. A large pond near the middle of the island was swarming with shore birds of eight species, not to mention a half dozen Great Blue Herons, nine King Rails, many Green Herons, a Bittern and a flock of fourteen Black Ducks. Swallows skimmed the water's surface and Common Terns winged across the island. A solitary Kingfisher sprung his rattle upon us. This was a most propitious beginning. Yellow Warblers were apparently still in full song.

I shall not take the time to go into detail now, but rather briefly summarize the work done.

From Middle Bass we secured a row boat, and in it visited nine islands, involving about 30 miles of rowing, some of it in rough seas. Upon four of the islands Common Terns were still nesting in considerable numbers, while perhaps half of the birds flying about were in young plumage. On one island the Purple Martins formed a roost of nearly 2000 individuals. The best of evidence pointed to a considerable roost of blackbirds on one other island.

It is interesting to note that Carolina Wrens and Cardinals were seen and heard singing on East Sister island, well into the Canadian boundary, while in Lorain county they are not at all numerous. Indeed, the Carolina Wren is a rare find at any time of year. On the other hand, Yellow Warblers were not recorded north of Middle Bass, where they were in full song. The physical conditions were apparently as favorable on East Sister as on Middle Bass, and certainly no less so on North

Bass. Here, too, on these most northern islands the Red-winged Blackbirds were building in considerable numbers, although there was no suggestion of swampiness along the stony beach. True, the nests were placed low down in the brush.

The din of screaming Terns, calling Blackbirds and warbling Wrens was something to be remembered. Indeed, for hours after leaving the vicinity the same sounds mingled with the southing wind and roaring surf. The Terns were nowhere so numerous that they obscured the sky, but their numbers were uncountable on four of the smaller islands. Black Terns mingled freely with the Common Terns, but were evidently not breeding anywhere in the vicinity. Likewise the American Herring Gulls, few in numbers, were merely roosting out of harms way.

In all 58 species were recorded. The largest number, 42, were found on Middle Bass. On one rock reef but four species were present.

One cannot resist the conclusion that this chain of islands is a natural highway for the birds on their annual migrations.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, *POLIOPTILLA CÆRULEA*.—In my tour of the woods on the 10th of May, I found a nest of this bird saddled upon the horizontal limb of a small post oak tree. Nest about five feet from the trunk of the tree, and about ten feet from the ground. Hillside, high open woods, adjoining cultivated field, through which flowed a small stream. These birds reared their brood undisturbed, nest taken July 1st.

Measurement,—Height, 2.75. Depth, 1.25. Top across, outside 2.50, inside 1.00. Bottom, outside, 1.50; inside, 1.00. Inside walls declining from circumference to center making a shallow funnel shaped cup.

Material.—Entire outside composed of lichens, held together by caterpillar silk, and the stems of the sensitive vine, mixed with a quantity of a little nut brown husk, about one-fourth of an inch in length, the name of which I could not determine. This envelope was separated from the nest entire, without falling apart, making a mat 5.50 inches long on one