

## THE MAY HORIZON.

So much interest was shown in the May Horizon last year, and such good results grew out of it, that we are ready to undertake it again the coming May. If possible, it would be the best plan to spend several whole days with the birds during May; but if that is not possible, then plan to spend some one whole day with them, in the definite expectation of making your list for that day reach the hundred mark. Woods, fields, marshes, and bodies of water should be included in the field of operations if possible. It is always best to give the region as much study as possible the day previous to the day set for the supreme effort, so that you may be able to find the less common species with the least expenditure of time. You cannot hope for a very large list unless the study begins as soon as the morning light is strong enough to make large birds visible. I expect to get the owls during the morning twilight, and the Whipporwill during the evening twilight. If you must sleep, do it at high noon. You will need four lunches at least, and if you eat them while you watch for birds, you will be surprised at the number of new records that are made during the meal in the woods or beside the lake or pond. Lists sent to the editor not later than the 12th of May can be printed in the Bulletin.

## A DOOR-YARD LIST OF BIRDS.

BY ROBERT L. BAIRD.

Many local lists are monthly published in our bird magazines. These are valuable and show the increased interest in bird study. Many of these lists are from favored localities and few are from such limited areas as one's own door-yard. It is with the purpose of showing some of the possibilities in this time that I contribute the following account from my notes and check-book for September and the first twenty days of October, 1902:

At this time my home was with Dr. Chas. Hancock, of Denmark, Lee County, Iowa. Dr. Hancock's place is situated at the southeast edge of town. With the exception of one house across the road, there is no other within a hundred and fifty yards. The lot is about a hundred and fifty yards long by sixty to seventy wide. About the house are six or seven evergreen trees, Norway Spruce, Cedar and Pine, several fruit trees and an Osage Orange tree. At the farther end of the lot is a row of Locust trees. Part of the place was devoted to a garden, but a large part was simply in grass.

Within these limits I saw or heard forty different species of birds in the seven weeks of the fall above mentioned. Not

the most favorable time of the year, by any means, for finding birds, yet I was surprised almost every day by some new visitor. I wish I might have kept a list for a whole year there. I would be willing to wager that in the course of twelve consecutive months, ninety or one hundred different species of birds could be seen or heard in this yard or flying over it. The list which I have, I am sure could have been made much larger, but my school duties kept me away from eight o'clock in the morning to four in the afternoon.

The best find of the period, for myself at least, was Bewick's Wren. He came on one of the last days of the period, a cool, cloudy day. I had a good look at him, for he did not seem to notice my presence much. He was investigating everything around, especially through the large wood pile.

It was just a few rods down the road that I found three Leconte's Sparrows one week, but I found none right in the yard.

One wet, foggy morning, just before leaving for school, I happened to look out of the window to a cedar tree, a few feet from the house. It was fairly swarming with little birds and warblers. Among them were Kinglets, an Ovenbird, Black-throated Green Warblers, Yellow Warblers, a Myrtle Warbler, and two or three which I could not identify.

One evening just before twilight, I could hardly believe my ears when, from a little clump of bushes, came an occasional "chewink" of a retiring Towhee. I investigated more closely and watched for some time a female Towhee from a distance of only six feet.

Taking it all in all, I found the numbers of individuals in this region of southeastern Iowa far larger than here about Oberlin. My first of January all day horizon, published in the first Bulletin of 1903, was a good example of this fact. Especially was this true of the Larks, Blue Jays, Warblers and Sparrows.

Following is the complete list of birds found in the yard I have described:

Mourning Dove, few; Screech Owl, few; Hairy Woodpecker, few; Downy Woodpecker, few; Red-headed Woodpecker, tolerably common; Red-bellied Woodpecker, few; Northern Flicker, tolerably common; Chimney Swift, common; Nighthawk, few; Crested Flycatcher, few; Wood Pewee, few; Prairie Horned Lark, 2; Blue Jay, common; American Crow, few; Meadowlark, tolerably common; Baltimore Oriole, few; Bronzed Grackle, common; English Sparrow, common; American Goldfinch, tolerably common; Whitethroated Sparrow, few; Field Sparrow, few; Slate-colored Junco, few; Towhee, 1; Barn Swallow, few; Warbling Vireo, few; Yellow Warbler, few; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1; Black throated Green Warbler, 2; Oven-bird, 1; Catbird, few; Brown Thrasher, few; Bewick's Wren, 1; House Wren, few; Whitebreasted Nuthatch, few; Chickadee, tolerably common; Golden-crowned Kinglet, few; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, few; American Robin, few; Bluebird, common, migrating.