

return nor could I approach within many feet of him. He was just as shy as any wild grebe and paid no attention to pieces of meat tossed out to him. He saw me then as he has seen men before. I was no longer the great mass standing over him. One is reminded of the little girl at the menagerie who couldn't see the elephant. There he was towering up before her; but he was so big that she could make nothing of him, so she still asked, "Where is the elephant?"

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## AN ORNITHOLOGICAL RECONNOISSANCE OF THE GRAND RESERVOIR, OHIO, IN 1904.

BY W. F. HENNINGER

The fact that in former years the Grand Reservoir, in Mercer and Auglaize counties, Ohio, was an interesting place for birds, as also that in Dawson's recent investigations it received but scant attention, induced Mr. Karl Heilmann, of Tiffin, and myself to take a summer trip to the Reservoir, to find out what the conditions of bird life would be at the present time. Along the northern side of the Reservoir is the pike from St. Marys to Celina, the tracks of the Lake Erie & Western R. R. and the Western Ohio Traction Co. It is obvious that this part of the Reservoir showed nothing of interest concerning birds. The western part from Celina to the southeast showed us one interesting species, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, for the finding of this bird at this time of the year would tend to strengthen Mr. Oberholser's only breeding record for this species in the state. The basis of our work and supplies was Montezuma, on the southwest end of the Reservoir, a quiet little village, the monotony of which is changed only by the advent of a stranger, or an occasional dog fight in which most of the citizens participate with great glee. There we heard that the oil wells in the Reservoir had driven the nesting birds out quicker than anything else.

The Cormorants had ceased to nest since 1886, the Gadwall even before that. One of the natives told me he had not seen a young duck for the last four years, though Mallards and Blue-winged Teal were supposed to nest there still. This did

not seem very encouraging and the first day on the water, which was higher than for the last 13 years, only confirmed this. We saw great numbers of the Great Blue Heron, flocks of 18 and 25, and one Coot, the only one seen on the trip, and one bird which by elimination we thought to be the Sandhill Crane, but identification was not as satisfactory as it should have been. As soon as we reached the oil derricks bird life was extinct.

We rowed back in a fierce gale and concluded to start out bright and early the next morning on the pike to St. Marys. So 6 a. m., July 2, found us out on the road with hip boots, gun and camera. After walking nine miles to the east we turned off to the Reservoir, and three miles east of the oil wells struck a place which was promising. The trees fringing the Reservoir were standing in about three feet of water, mostly willows, water ash and a few oaks. With their green arches they were keeping almost every ray of sunlight away from the oozy recesses beneath. Spotted Sandpipers and Redstarts were common and in a few moments I saw a female of the Prothonotary Warbler, which we observed for about five minutes. Later on in a similar place we saw another female of the same species. This would indicate that it is still a very rare summer resident at the Reservoir. The call note, to my ear, faintly resembled the chirp of the Yellow Warbler, while the colors in general, setting aside the size, would remind one of the Blue-winged Warbler minus the wing bars.

In this shady retreat we also found the Chestnut-sided Warbler in several specimens. Most likely they had bred in the neighborhood. Rowing across a space of open water we soon entered a dense swampy margin and here was the only place where the Long-billed Marsh Wren could be found, and then sparingly only, not to be compared with the vast numbers at the Sandusky Bay marshes. Bitterns were booming plentifully, but the Least Bittern was not there. Gallinules and Rails were also absent, while a Wapakoneta sportsman, who is also a practical taxidermist, had found a nest of the King Rail on the previous week off Russell's Point at the Lewiston Reservoir. After poking around in the cat-tails for a while, we suddenly started a female Blue-winged Teal, but in spite of a very diligent search we did not find the nest. The

bird was in an excellent condition and flew rapidly away, proving that she was in no way a crippled bird. Evidently the Blue-winged Teal is a rare summer resident at the Grand Reservoir. No other water birds were seen. Tree Swallows and Martins were very common and I am surprised to see how commonly, in northern Ohio, the Purple Martin takes to the woods and swamps to nest, and how rare comparatively the species is, while in southern Ohio, it is hardly ever seen away from the bird houses and is a common bird. The ordinary Ohio land birds were all common at the Reservoir with the exception of the House Wren, which was rather rare. All told 67 species of birds were heard or seen.

It certainly does not pay an ornithologist to make a visit to the Grand Reservoir, except in the migration seasons, the Licking Reservoir no doubt being the most profitable inland body of water in Ohio. The interesting things which Mr. Dury found at the Grand Reservoir in former years are gone for good, and after coming to this conclusion we wearily tramped the nine miles back to Montezuma, packed our grips and went home.

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#### JULY FOURTH CENSO-HORIZONS, 1904.

Judging from the writer's experience, the Independence Day bird work was far less interesting and inspiring than the May migration work, and it was entered into with that lack of enthusiasm which summer heat is pretty certain to bring about. However, the work actually done proves that there is, after all work to be done in summer which will count quite as much as the May work in the final result. Heat, foliage, and last but not least, insects, make bird study in summer irksome. Take away the annoyance of the insects and I venture to assert that the present hesitancy about going into the woods in July would give place to commendable enthusiasm. Let us hope that so much of the millennial time will soon come.

The reports which have been received cover a pretty wide range of country, but are not as well scattered as the May reports. They are interesting in disclosing what are in the breeding birds of the several regions. One would suppose that a