

"The place where this occurred was on a great reservoir in Mercer County, Ohio, midway between St. Mary's and Celina. This body of water feeds the Miami Canal, is ten miles long, and from three to five miles in width. During the summer season there are always some of these hawks—a smaller species—and also a few of a much larger kind—are always about there. Owing to the facility of procuring their food, as there are a great many young ducks, squirrels, etc., they also do great damage to the farmers' chickens. One friend had upwards of one hundred young chickens and only forty-five are now remaining.

"He shot thirteen of the species in controversy, which according to his description must have been the Goshawk (*Astur palumbarius*) and also shot many of the other two kinds during this summer, but never saw more than from two to ten (the highest number) in one flock together before.

"Such migration of hawks I believe was never heard of before, and the question is will they do so annually? and in day or night time. If the first, I should think they would have been seen before.

"I was on the prairies in August, grouse were scarce, owing to the first brood being nearly all destroyed by the heavy rains in May and June, when these level prairies were all under water. The young ducks, however, were very plenty. When will Agassiz be out with his fish?

Truly yours,

J. S. UNZICKER.<sup>1</sup>

"Messrs. J. W. and V. G. Audubon, N. Y."

<sup>1</sup> Dr. J. S. Unzicker, Cincinnati, Ohio. Born August 11, 1812, died April 18, 1876. A prominent physician, an ardent sportsman, and lover of birds, and had been personally acquainted with Audubon and his sons.

#### A TRIP TO GARDINER'S ISLAND.

that my wish was realized.

BY FRANK BRUEN.

It would be presumptuous for me to try to write up the birds of Gardiner's Island after the admirable article contributed by Mr. Frank M. Chapman to the Nov.-Dec. (1903) number of *Bird-Lore*; but it would be nearly impossible to visit Gardiner's Island and write nothing at all. Ever since reading the above-mentioned article, I have had a consuming desire to visit the island; but it was not until June 17, 1904,

The approach, of Mr. Ford and myself, to the island was not in the romantic fashion described by Mr. Chapman, but in an *intermittent* gasoline boat from Saybrook Point, Conn.

Beaching our boat we found what proved to be the best camping spot on the island; it was also richest in the number of bird species. Although three o'clock in the afternoon when we landed, nevertheless, thirty-four (34) species of birds were noted in the immediate vicinity.

Our stay from June 17th to 21st was all too short to properly cover the island in detail, but still we felt that we had seen a great deal. Most of the birds mentioned by Mr. Chapman were seen; all, I believe, excepting the Wood Duck, Woodcock, and Indigo Bunting; and in addition to his list were the Great Blue Heron and Red-tailed Hawk. The latter was seen three different days—an Ishmaelite among birds, for every feathered creature was against him. When first seen our attention was attracted by his "exhaust steam" scream as he went off, chased by Purple Grackles. The next day at another part of the island some Grackles and Ospreys were after him, and the third day some Crows were after him. He kept in the virgin forests as much as possible. It was a question in our minds whether he was trying to live there or wished to leave the island but could not owing to the vigilance of the Ospreys.

The Osprey display was simply amazing to us who had never seen them at such close quarters nor in such abundance. Most of the nests examined had young birds from one to ten days old as nearly as we could judge; a few had eggs only or eggs and just hatched young. On the beach at one place were four nests, placed on the ground, in a distance of 700 feet; one nest had so *little material* in it that it compared closely, except in size, with the *most elaborate* (?) of the terns' nests. We noted 78 nests of the Osprey in use, but undoubtedly there were as many more on the island. At one time 38 Ospreys were in sight, counting those easily seen on their nests and those in the air.

In the two tern colonies 35 nests containing 89 eggs were found; without making an exhaustive search. The south colony is really two, being divided by an inlet in which the water was too deep to wade at the time of our visit, or more nests would have been recorded. One nest had four eggs, but most

of them had three eggs; others of one or two eggs each were probably not yet complete.

We found the English Sparrows and Purple Grackles nesting in the crannies of the Ospreys' nests. The sight of the Britishers in the depths of the virgin forests was a most unwelcome one to us.

To us the Grackles, which were abundant, formed the one bad feature of the island bird life; for they seemed to be continually upon the watch to prey upon the young and eggs of the smaller birds. Many times as we passed through the woodland paths (one cannot go outside of them owing to the dense growth of green or cat briers), Ovenbirds, Redstarts, etc., would scold us for coming near their nests or young; and almost immediately the Grackles would be seen slipping up to see what they could find.

A storm the last day of our stay on the island prevented our looking for the Great Blue Herons' nests.

A novelty to us was the constant chatter of the Yellow-breasted Chat at night. Almost the first bird to greet us after we landed, he kept it up all night excepting an interval between 8 and 10 o'clock; whenever Mr. Ford or I awoke during the night he was going full blast.

We were disappointed in the length of our list for the island, for we could have found a larger number of species with the same effort, at home; but the special features of the list more than made up for its shortness. We missed our Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos, Purple Finches, Whip-poor-wills, Blue Jays, Bobolinks, Phœbes, and House Wrens, and some others,—to be sure some of them may have been there but missed by us. But one pair of Bluebirds was seen. No Least Flycatcher was seen or heard, but he seems to vanish or lose his voice at about this time even in Connecticut.

We feel under many obligations to Mr. Gardiner, the owner of the island, for his courtesy in allowing us to camp there.

Subjoined is a list of the birds noted:—

1. Downy Woodpecker, 4.
2. White-breasted Nuthatch; few seen.
3. Chickadee; few seen.
4. American Goldfinch; few seen.
5. American Crow; abundant.

6. Song Sparrow; common.
7. Red-tailed Hawk, 1.
8. Bobwhite; common.
9. Herring Gull; 12 or 13 seen.
10. Meadowlark; 6 seen.
11. Bluebird, 2.
12. Robin; common about the homestead only.
13. Red-winged Blackbird; common.
14. Purple Grackle; abundant.
15. Cedar Waxwing, 1.
16. Northern Flicker, 4.
17. Field Sparrow; few seen. Sheep graze too close for cover,
18. Belted Kingfisher. rather common.
19. Cowbird, 3.
20. Savanna Sparrow; 10 seen.
21. Chipping Sparrow; 2 seen.
22. Barn Swallow; few near barns.
23. Chimney Swift, 3.
24. Towhee; fairly common.
25. Black and White Warbler; 3 seen.
26. Brown Thrasher; several.
27. Spotted Sandpiper; fairly common. Saw crow carry off a young one.
28. Bank Swallow; several large colonies.
29. Catbird; fairly common.
30. Northern Yellow-throat; common.
31. Oven-bird; common.
32. Yellow Warbler; common.
33. Wood Thrush; fairly common.
34. Red-eyed Vireo; common.
35. Baltimore Oriole; 2 seen.
36. Kingbird; few seen.
37. American Redstart; fairly common.
38. Yellow-breasted Chat; 2 seen.
39. Black-billed Cuckoo; few seen.
40. Scarlet Tanager, 1.
41. Grasshopper Sparrow, 9.
42. Crested Flycatcher; fairly common.
43. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1.
44. White-eyed Vireo, 2.
45. Northern Parula Warbler; 7 noted where usnea moss grew.
46. Wood Pewee; common.
47. Nighthawk, 4.
48. Green Heron; fairly common.
49. Black-crowned Night Heron; common.
50. English Sparrow; common.
51. Osprey; abundant.

52. Orchard Oriole, 1.
53. Common Tern, 200.
54. Black Duck, 2.
55. Carolina Wren, 3.
56. Great Blue Heron, 5.
57. Bald Eagle, 1.
58. English Pheasant, 20.
59. Piping Plover, 5.

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## NESTING OF THE GRASSHOPPER SPARROW IN SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.

BY J. WARREN JACOBS.

The Yellow-winged Sparrow (*Conturmiculus savannarum passerinus*) is distributed in limited numbers, during the nesting season, throughout Greene county, in the extreme southwestern corner of Pennsylvania. Their favorite resorts are in the hillside fields and along the low ridges. In pasture fields, not too cleanly kept, and where the wild "sink field" mats its frail vines through the carpet of blue grass, the birds choose a site for a nest. Not every apparently good field has its pair of birds, and indeed one may pass through several such fields without hearing the song of this bird or flushing the female from her nest. However, it must not be inferred from this that birds have not escaped notice, or that a nest has not been passed without the sitting bird taking flight.

The bird itself is very shy; its song pleasing, but not distinguishable a very great distance, being easily drowned by the rattle of numerous ever-singing chats and the medley of a dozen other species which haunt the neglected fields. The female is a close sitter, not leaving her post until almost trampled upon. This makes nest-seeking very tedious; and the apparent scarcity of this species renders uncertain the result of a careful search.

One of the very first nests new to me was of this species, and stumbled upon accidentally on top of the ridge overlooking my home town, away back in the '80s, in about the second year of my bird studies. The old bird fluttered from under my feet and darted down over the hill to a brier clump. It was a new bird to me then, but I got a fairly good look at it; and a year