

*Hylocichla fuscescens*. Wilson Thrush.—Tolerably common migrant. Many under the electric lights.

*Hylocichla aliciae*. Gray-cheeked Thrush.—Tolerably common migrant. Many under the electric lights.

*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. Hermit Thrush.—Tolerably common migrant.

*Merula migratoria*. American Robin.—Common summer resident.

*Sialia sialis*. Bluebird.—Common summer resident.

---

### SOME WESTERN ADIRONDACK BIRDS.

F. H. HALL.

Four weeks during late August and early September, 1906, were spent by a companion and myself in a canoeing trip through about twenty beautiful lakes of the western Adirondacks. In my anticipations, not a small part of the pleasure of the trip lay in the expected opportunity it would give to see the birds, both new and old, in strictly "wild" surroundings. We found, alas! that the wildness of a quarter century ago is truly a thing of the past. These lakes have become most popular as summer resorts, and cottages and hotels almost line the shores of those not on "State Land." Hardly a day passed during our 150-mile trip from Old Forge to Saranac Lake on which we did not hear the querulous voice of the quarrelsome English Sparrow—striking evidence of fairly permanent human occupancy of the wooded hillsides and foliage hidden valleys that border these sparkling lakes. For considerable distances in any direction from a summer hotel, lakeside village, or lumber camp, this "rat of the air" was liable to be the principle bird in range of eye or field glass. Wild, still, however, are many square miles of territory adjacent to Fulton Chain, Raquette, Blue Mountain, Forked, Spectacle, and the Saranac Lakes, but the forests are hardly primeval. Any considerable areas untouched by the lumberman's ax are hard to find even on lands supposedly protected by the Constitution of the great state of New York. Too often, we fear, the protectors of the forests have been friends of the lumbermen, and have been guided by the significant query, "What's the Constitution between friends?"

But we are inclined to think, contrary to Professor Eaton's conclusion from his month's investigations about Mt. Marcy, that human occupancy is not so much a menace as a protection to much of the bird life in these regions. We certainly found both species and individuals most numerous along the lakes and carries most frequented by resorters; and it was about lumber camps, rather than in the heart of the woods, that we learned to look for our most interesting "birding." It is true that boys carry rifles, shotguns, and revolvers into the woods, and they probably have materially reduced the numbers of large woodpeckers, herons, Ospreys, Loons, grouse, Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, and similar birds once a noticeable feature of this section. So far as our observations extended, however, small birds suffer far less from the summer resorter's rifles than do the red squirrels that are undoubtedly the greatest obstacle to the stocking of these woods with thrushes, sparrows, wrens, flycatchers, vireos, and warblers.

It would certainly be an interesting and valuable study to trace the development of bird life during the next ten years in this rapidly settling section.

Opportunity for careful study was not as good on our trip as I had hoped for, for the length of the journey made it necessary to set up camp a dozen times, and this operation, with the daily routine when established, and with the long stretches of paddling through waters barren of bird life, used up a surprising amount of our time. On side trips, however, to Limekiln and Little Moose lakes, Brown's Tract and Clear ponds, and Bald, Black Bear, West, and Blue Mountains, as well as on the "carries," and on our exceedingly pleasant paddles on Raquette River, I was able to spend some time in noting the birds, though even here I hardly felt like trespassing too long on my partner's forbearance, since he was not a bird enthusiast. However, some notes upon the birds we saw may interest others, since the field is one not yet thoroughly covered by ornithologists.

At Fulton Chain station are the holes of a large colony of swallows, presumably the Cliff Swallows, since we saw many of these, as well as of Tree Swallows, at various points along the route. Their butterfly-like flitting over the lakes at first

made me think them the Rough-winged, since I am not very familiar with either species, but a closer view showed plainly the light rump, placing their identity beyond question. At Raquette Lake two telephone wires extend from the mainland to an island, unsupported for 400 or 500 feet, perhaps more; and for more than half this distance swallows lined these wires at sunset one evening as we paddled below them. We estimated the number of birds on the wires at fully 500, and the air over the lake as far as we could see was lively with others. It was almost too dark to be certain of the identity of these swallows, but they were probably Tree Swallows. At other times we saw both the Bank and the Rough-winged Swallows, while Barn Swallows and Chimney Swift were noted near the village of Old Forge, Blue Mountain Lake, and Long Lake.

In nearly all our camps the early morning call of the Red-eyed Vireo was almost as penetrating and insistent as the scolding of the English Sparrow near the settlements. Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos were also seen, though rarely; but no Warbling, White-eyed, or Philadelphia Vireos were either heard or seen; possibly because they had already begun the fall migration. This was certainly true of many warblers, since only late stayers were in evidence—Myrtle, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Pine, Canadian, Yellow, and Black and White, were fairly common, as were the Oven-bird and Water-Thrush; while one or more individuals were seen of Northern Parula, Cape May, Magnolia, and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and American Redstart and Northern Yellow-throat.

The calls of many flycatchers were heard at various times, but upon one of our side trips—to Little Moose Lake—we found about an old lumber camp what appeared to be a paradise for these alert insect hunters. In less than ten minutes, and without leaving my seat upon a convenient stump beside the road, I was able to identify positively the Kingbird, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, while what was probably the Olive-sided obstinately kept disappointingly out of range. All of these

species were also seen at other times, but nowhere else were more than two species seen simultaneously.

Other birds were also quite plentiful about this camp, among those noted being Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Bluebird, Robin, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow. Many of the warblers listed above were seen at another partly cleared area along the road leading past this old camp.

On another side trip, by steamer from Raquette Lake station to Blue Mountain Lake, we had our best opportunity to study the Osprey, though several of these were seen at other times. The steamer runs for several miles through Marion River, a very tortuous channel through timber killed by high water, and for much of the distance an Osprey kept just ahead of us, evidently hunting the fish that were frightened into shallow water by the advancing boat. Several times the bird's headlong plunges into the water were profitless, but at other times small fish were caught and hastily eaten upon some dead branch. Finally a fish of some size was caught and the Osprey flew back over the woods toward Raquette Lake.

Perhaps the greatest surprise of our trip, in the bird line, was the lighting, only a few feet from our canoe, of a Northern Phalarope. I had never seen these birds before, and to have a "sandpiper," as I thought it when in flight, calmly drop into the water and paddle about in circles almost within paddle reach of us, marked that day with a star in my bird calendar. Later in the same day two more of these peculiar long-legged swimmers were seen, but not so close at hand.

Other days similarly honored were those which brought within sight the Bald Eagle, the fast vanishing Northern Raven, the American Crossbill, a flock of mergansers just before our tent door, a Least Sandpiper "scuttling" along the rocky shore of an island in Saranac Lake, and a Wood Duck leaving her tree nest to land in the water through which our canoe had just passed. All these were new or rare birds on my list.

The full list of species seen so as to be positively identified is as follows:

**Colymbus auritus.** Horned Grebe.—Few seen; two on Fourth Lake.

**Podilymbus podiceps.** Pied-billed Grebe.—One, on Marion River inlet of Raquette Lake.

**Gavia imber.** Loon.—But one seen; on Eagle Pond.

**Larus argentatus.** Herring Gull.—Seen in small flocks or singly, on Fourth Lake, Raquette, Long, and Saranac lakes.

**Larus philadelphia.** Bonaparte Gull.—With Herring Gulls on Fourth Lake; mainly immature specimens.

**Merganser americanus.** American Merganser.—A flock of eight remained for a day on upper Stony Creek Pond (Spectacle Lakes).

**Anas obscura.** Black Duck.—A pair seen on Third Lake; two pairs or a pair and young on Eagle Pond; small flocks or individuals in flight on South, Raquette, and Long lakes.

**Aix sponsa.** Wood Duck.—One female on Raquette River.

**Botaurus lentiginosus.** American Bittern.—One seen, others heard in the marsh along the west side of Long Lake.

**Ardea herodias.** Great Blue Heron.—Seen on Seventh, Raquette, Long and Upper Saranac lakes and Raquette and Saranac rivers.

**Butorides virescens.** Green Heron.—One kept just in advance of us for two miles on Raquette River below Long Lake.

**Palaropus lobatus.** Northern Phalarope.—One in the water on the Raquette River outlet of Raquette Lake; others on the shore.

**Actodromas minutilla.** Least Sandpiper.—But one seen; on the rocky shore of an island in Upper Saranac Lake.

**Actitis macularia.** Spotted Sandpiper.—Occasionally seen, but not common.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** Killdeer.—One seen, others heard near Blue Mountain Lake (village).

**Canachites canadensis canace.** Canada Spruce Grouse.—Three disturbed in a new growth along the road from Raquette Lake to Brown's Tract Pond.

**Bonasa umbellus.** Ruffed Grouse.—A single specimen only. Eighth Lake carry. Reported quite plentiful and tame.

**Circus hudsonius.** Marsh Hawk.

**Accipiter velox.** Sharp-shinned Hawk.—Hawks were quite numerous over the entire forest area passed through. Marsh and Red-tailed Hawks were the most numerous.

**Accipiter cooperi.** Cooper Hawk.

**Buteo borealis.** Red-tailed Hawk.

**Buteo platypterus.** Broad-winged Hawk.

**Haliaeetus leucocephalus.** Bald Eagle.—In flight over Raquette Lake; apparently large specimens of a mature eagle.

**Falco sparverius.** American Sparrow Hawk.—A specimen positively identified at the upper end of Eighth Lake, others seen but at a distance. Less common than the larger hawks.

**Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.** American Osprey.—A single bird seen on Fourth, Raquette, and Lower Saranac lakes and on

Marion River. A nest near the railroad south-east of Brown's Tract ponds.

*Syrnium varium*. Barred Owl.—A pair on the trail up Black Bear Mountain; others, as well as smaller owls, occasionally heard.

*Ceryle alcyon*. Belted Kingfisher.—Numerous on all lake shores. Very common along Raquette River.

*Dryobates villosus*. Hairy Woodpecker.—But few seen.

*Dryobates pubescens medianus*. Downy Woodpecker.—Quite common.

*Sphyrapicus varius*. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.—Only one noticed.

*Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola*. Northern Pileated Woodpecker.—Seen by my friend at camp on Seventh Lake.

*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Red-headed Woodpecker.—A pair seen near the village of Long Lake; others occasionally noticed.

*Colaptes auratus luteus*. Northern Flicker.—Seen at O'd Forge, but not noticed during last half of the trip.

*Antrostomus vociferus*. Whippoorwill.—One heard on Spectacle Lakes.

*Chaetura pelagica*. Chimney Swift.—A few near villages.

*Tyrannus tyrannus*. Kingbird.—Seen only occasionally.

*Myiarchus crinitus*. Crested Flycatcher.—Fairly common.

*Sayornis phœbe*. Phœbe.—Common about villages and camps.

*Nuttallornis borealis*. Olive-sided Flycatcher.—Occasional.

*Contopus virens*. Wood Pewee.—Several seen about lumber camps.

*Empidonax flaviventris*. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.—Occasional

*Empidonax minimus*. Least Flycatcher.—Quite a few seen.

*Otocoris alpestris praticola*. Prairie Horned Lark.—Seen only on cleared land near Long Lake and Saranac villages.

*Cyanocitta cristata*. Blue Jay.—Very common.

*Perisoreus canadensis*. Canada Jay.—Only one pair seen—on West Mountain. Apparently quite local in distribution.

*Corvus corax principalis*. Northern Raven.—One seen at Spectacle lakes. Said to be common in places.

*Corvus brachyrhynchos*. American Crow.—Many seen, but not in large flocks as about Geneva.

*Molothrus ater*. Cowbird.—One small flock heard, two birds seen on Seventh Lake inlet, apparently migrating.

*Agelaius phœniceus*. Red-winged Blackbird.—No large flocks seen, but specimens noted frequently along inlets and reedy shores.

*Sturnella magna*. Meadowlark.—One seen on the road to Limekiln Lake.

*Scolecophagus carolinus*. Rusty Blackbird.—A small flock seen near Inlet.

*Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. Bronzed Grackle.—Less numerous than Red-wing.

*Pinicola enucleator canadensis*. Canadian Pine Grosbeak.—One pair seen on Harding Island, Raquette Lake.

*Carpodacus purpureus*. Purple Finch.—Not common—at least not often seen. Noticed at the Inlet, at Eighth Lake carry, and on Hen Island, Raquette Lake carry, at the foot of Eighth Lake. Very tame.

*Loxia curvirostra minor*. American Crossbill.—Only one seen, though specially sought.

*Astraglinus tristis*. American Goldfinch.—Quite common, especially on elevated clearings.

*Poœcetes gramineus*. Vesper Sparrow.—A few seen, most on the meadow west of Long Lake village.

*Zonotrichia leucophrys*. White-crowned Sparrow.—Call note frequently heard; none in song. Fairly common.

*Zonotrichia albicollis*. White-throated Sparrow.—But few seen.

*Spizella monticola*. Tree Sparrow.—Some seen on mountain trails; not common.

*Spizella socialis*. Chipping Sparrow.—Fairly common, but less numerous than in more open country.

*Spizella pusilla*. Field Sparrow.—Only a few seen.

*Junco hyemalis*. Slate-colored Junco.—Very common, especially on the borders of mountain streams.

*Melospiza cinerea melodia*. Song Sparrow.—Common.

*Melospiza georgiana*. Swamp Sparrow.—A few seen about Raquette Lake station, and the railroad west.

*Cyanospiza cyanea*. Indigo Bunting.—Only one seen; near Raquette Lake.

*Petrochelidon lunifrons*. Cliff Swallow.—A colony at Old Forge. Seen over the lakes in considerable numbers.

*Hirundo erythrogastra*. Barn Swallow.—A few near the villages.

*Iridoprocne bicolor*. Tree Swallow.—Very numerous about Raquette Lake.

*Riparia riparia*. Bank Swallow.—A few, near Limekiln Lake.

*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Rough-winged Swallow.—Seen on Long Lake, but not common.

*Ampelis cedrorum*. Cedar Waxwing.—Not uncommon on the higher lands. Particularly noticed on Bald Mountain.

*Vireo olivaceus*. Red-eyed Vireo.—Very common throughout the entire trip.

*Vireo flavifrons*. Yellow-throated Vireo.—A few seen near Eighth Lake and Limekiln Lake.

*Vireo solitarius*. Blue-headed Vireo.—Only two seen.

*Mniotilta varia*. Black and White Warbler.—Several—Eighth Lake carry, Limekiln Lake trail, road west of lower Raquette Lake.

*Compsothlypis american usneæ*. Northern Parula Warbler.—A few seen near the railroad west of Raquette Lake station.

*Dendroica tigrina*. Cape May Warbler.—One, at Eighth Lake carry.

*Dendroica æstiva*. Yellow Warbler.—Several seen.

*Dendroica cærulescens*. Black-throated Blue Warbler.—A few on Eighth Lake carry.

*Dendroica coronata*. Myrtle Warbler.—Fairly common along open trails.

*Dendroica maculosa*. Magnolia Warbler.—Stragglers only seen.

*Dendroica pensylvanica*. Chestnut-sided Warbler.—Not common.

*Dendroica virens*. Black-throated Green Warbler.—Less numerous than Myrtle.

*Dendroica vigorsii*. Pine Warbler.—Only one seen.

*Seiurus aurocapillus*. Oven-bird.—On the trail from Seventh Lake up Black Bear Mountain. Probably fairly common.

*Seiurus noveboracensis*. Water-Thrush.—One seen along the shore of Long Lake.

*Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*. Northern Yellow-throat.—Not common as expected. Probably most individuals had migrated.

*Wilsonia canadensis*.—Canadian Warbler.—Several seen.

*Setophaga ruticilla*. American Redstart.—But one recorded—Eighth Lake carry.

*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. Catbird.—Occasionally seen.

*Toxostoma rufum*. Brown Thrasher.—Rare.

*Olbiorchilus hiemalis*. Winter Wren.—Several seen in Brown's Tract section.

*Certhia familiaris americana*. Brown Creeper.—Only a few seen. Less numerous than White-breasted Nuthatch and Chickadee, with which it was commonly seen.

*Sitta carolinensis*. White-breasted Nuthatch.—Fairly common in places.

*Sitta canadensis*. Red-breasted Nuthatch.—Perhaps one to ten of the last.

*Parus atricapillus*. Chickadee.—Common.

*Regulus satrapa*. Golden-crowned Kinglet.—Only a few seen.

*Hylocichla mustelina*. Wood Thrush.—Seen at various points.

*Hylocichla fuscescens*. Wilson's Thrush.—Several seen near Seventh Lake; a few elsewhere.

*Hylocichla swainsonii*. Olive-backed Thrush.—One seen near West Mountain.

*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. Hermit Thrush.—Three seen.

*Merula migratoria*. American Robin.—Not common except near villages.

*Sialia sialis*. Bluebird.—A few seen about lumber camps.