

THE BIRDS OF CEDAR POINT AND VICINITY.

BY LYNDS JONES.

More than ordinary interest attaches to the Passerine birds, in this discussion, at least as far as the sand spit of Cedar Point is concerned. Its comparative isolation from the mainland makes it the first step in the translake flight to Point Pelee for the birds migrating east of Sandusky. Its great length as compared with its width causes a crowding of the birds all along the western half during the great days of migration, such a crowding, in fact, that every species is found in normally impossible places. It is evident that many more birds reach the western half of the sand spit by following the lake shore from farther east than by flying across from the mainland. On the days when crowding is the greatest, most species become so unwary that approach to within a few feet of a bird is easy. No doubt this unwaryness is due to hunger, for the birds are seen to be working with might and main to secure food. So great a host must quickly exhaust the food supply in this restricted area.

Here on the sand spit, on great days of migration, have been found species which are absent from the rest of the area, and species recorded as common which are only occasionally recorded elsewhere. There seems little reasonable doubt that a continuous study of the birds from the beginning of the spring rush to its end would result in the discovery of species which have hitherto eluded observation, and would discover movements as yet hardly suspected. It is probably a more favorable station for such intensive study than any other place within the region because of its narrowness, thus permitting a thorough exploration of every place. It is certainly far less favorable for study of the southward migrations because it probably does not lie in a direct line of flight. The southern point of Pelee and Pelee Island would probably furnish much more favorable stations for observing the southward movement.

Aside from the Cedar Point sand spit the region offers no

peculiar inducements for the Passerine birds in either migration. As already pointed out, the topography is sufficiently diversified and the flora sufficiently rich to be attractive to the nearly two hundred species which are recorded in it each year. Of these two hundred species considerably more than two-thirds are Passerine birds, and of individuals considerably more than three-fourths are Passerine birds.

122. *Tyrannus tyrannus*.—Kingbird.

Only tolerably common over most of the region, occurring on the larger islands where it breeds. One pair breeds regularly near the Lake Laboratory, and about seven other pairs nest eastward on the sand spit. The median date of arrival is April 29; the earliest being April 22; the latest May 11, 1908. My latest fall record is September 17, 1900, and 1906. Nest building begins during the second decade of May. A student once brought me a nest of this bird with an apple grown in from one side so that the nest cavity was nearly obliterated. Evidently the birds had built the nest so that the wall surrounded a small apple. Unoubtedly the young had grown large enough to leave the nest before the apple began to pinch them.

123. *Myiarchus crinitus*.—Crested Flycatcher.

This is a familiar bird over the whole region, nesting in hollow apple trees within two rods of occupied dwellings sometimes, and it is also fairly common in most woods, where its challenging call betrays its presence in the upper parts of the woods. Two or three pairs breed on Cedar Point, necessarily where there are large trees, but it is usually common on several days during the migrations in spring. The median date of arrival is May 1, the earliest being April 25, 1899, and the latest May 13, 1907. Most fall departures occur in the second week of September, the latest being the 14th, 1899.

124. *Sayornis phoebe*.—Phoebe.

Common over the whole region, but less numerous during the breeding season on the sand spit because suitable places for nests are few there except at the summer resort grounds. Hereabouts its local name of Bridge Pewee is entirely appropriate, for nearly every bridge harbors a pair. It is also found all along the stream gorges, where it nests beneath overhanging banks or among the rocks. There seems to be much less nesting about buildings than in many sections of the country, probably because suitable natural nesting places are so abundant. The median date of spring arrival is March 21, the earliest being March 14, 1903, the latest April 6,

1900. My latest fall record is October 19, 1906. Most dates of departure fall early in October. The first individuals noted are in the deeper parts of the stream gorges, where the birds remain, feeding upon early flying insects and buds of trees, particularly the elm and linden. For the most part the birds are silent, singing only on balmy days. They are also solitary during the first week or more of their stay. I have not been able to detect any period of maximum migration after the first week of April. It seems probable that the birds come from the south as a species, and that straggling individuals are not seen weeks before the arrival of the bulk, as is the case with many species.

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

First recorded for the region May 13, 1907, when upwards of thirty were counted along the middle reaches of the sand spit. This was the day of greatest migration, during which 144 species were actually recorded along the lake shore from Oak Point to the Lake Laboratory. Most of the individuals were feeding in the larger trees in the vicinity of the mouth of Black Channel. They were not singing, and were not at all wary, permitting approach within twenty feet. Four specimens were collected, all of which were exceedingly fat. A visit to the sand spit one week before this date resulted in recording only 76 species, this one not among them. No others were seen during the spring migrations, but on September 23 one was found on the sand spit near the mouth of Black Channel. On May 18, 1908, five were recorded on the sand spit, but none could be found the following day. One was present in a woods south of Oberlin on May 20 and 21. None were seen in 1909. It is clear that there is no regular migration route through the region, but there probably is from Marblehead across the islands to Point Pelee, and in the reverse direction in autumn. None have been seen on any of the islands, but visits to them have never coincided with the probable movements of these birds across Lake Erie. This species is regularly reported from Wauseon, in the western fourth of the state.

126. *Myiochanes virens*.—Wood Pewee.

Common in all open woodlands and about towns and city parks. Also common on the thinly wooded parts of the Cedar Point sand spit, where it nests. The median date of arrival is May 6, and of departure September 20. The earliest spring arrival is May 2, 1899, and 1905, and the latest fall record is October 18, 1907, when two remained in the writer's orchard for a full month after the bulk had departed. The latest date of nesting is August 15, 1899, when a nest containing three nearly fresh eggs was found. I have never

noticed any material increase of this species in the fall, when the migrations are at their height. It therefore seems likely that the birds from further north move southward by way of the Marble-head route.

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

Hardly more than casual for the Oberlin quadrangle, and usually decidedly uncommon everywhere else. The first one was recorded at Oak Point on May 9, 1904. Other records are May 13, 1907, when upwards of 20 individuals were recorded on the sand spit, September 23, 1907, one on the sand spit, and May 13, 16, and 26, 1908, one each time on the sand spit. None were noted in 1909. A sharp lookout has been kept for this species, and it is not likely that it has been overlooked. It therefore seems certain that its migration route passes west of this region.

128. *Empidonax virescens*.—Acadian Flycatcher.

Common in the deeper woods over the whole region, except Cedar Point and the smaller islands, where there are suitable habitats. The median date of arrival is May 9, the earliest being May 4, 1899. The latest fall record is September 21, 1906, when the bird was singing. Its presence in the deep stream gorges has surprised me, since its natural habitat seems to be rather dense beech woods. Its rather loosely constructed nests are usually placed on the swaying boughs of beech trees, from five to twenty feet up. Often interlacing of branches afford suitable nest sites.

129. *Empidonax traillii alnorum*.—Alder Flycatcher.

There is a colony of some six pairs in each of three swamps at Oak Point, one of perhaps a dozen pairs at the mouth of Vermilion River, one of about ten pairs at Ruggles Beach, between Huron and Vermilion, and a considerable colony at the mouth of Huron River. In the small marshes along the lake shore there are usually to be found one or more pairs of these flycatchers. A pair regularly nests among some water willows which grow on low ground along Plum Creek in the outskirts of Oberlin. I found this flycatcher common at the few suitable places on Middle Bass Island, but have not noted it elsewhere among the islands. It has been found in the borders of the marsh along the sand spit occasionally, but does not nest there regularly, much to my surprise. I have little doubt that it will be found on Pelee Island as a regular breeder. The median date of arrival is May 14, the earliest being May 7, 1902 and 1904. The latest one noted in fall was August 22, 1896, which is probably a good deal too early for the completion of the southward migration. Nests are built much like nests of the Yellow Warbler, but el-

der bushes are more often used than other bushes where they are available. I have also found nests in rose bushes.

130. *Empidonax minimus*.—Least Flycatcher.

Usually common for a month in the spring, but scarce and irregular in the fall. I have never noted more than half a dozen individuals in the fall. The median date of arrival is May 1, the earliest being April 11, 1903. A few individuals usually remain well toward the end of May. Fall records are September 14 and 21, 1907, and 23, 1908. It seems a little strange that the species should be so well distributed over the region during the spring movement, but practically fail to reach it during the fall migration. The fly-line must pass to the westward across Marblehead. While this flycatcher is here it is mostly confined to the brushy border of woods. A few individuals wander into village parks and the shrubbery about houses and vacant lots. On the sand spit it is confined to the brushy fringe which borders the marsh side, rarely venturing over toward the lake. I have one record for August 2, 1907, at the Lake Laboratory.

131. *Otocoris alpestris*.—Horned Lark.

A regular winter visitor to the mainland and sand spit, but usually in small numbers as compared with *praticola*. These birds arrive with the first severe winter weather, and are usually gone north by the opening of spring. One female was captured on April 8, 1895, which seemed to show indications of breeding. Winter flocks of these Larks are almost always mixed in the proportion of 2 of *alpestris* to 7 of *praticola*. Occasionally other field birds are found with them, particularly the Lapland Longspur. It is not difficult to distinguish this form from *praticola* in a good light by the distinctly yellow line over the eye, which, in *praticola*, is grayish white without yellow.

132. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*.—Prairie Horned Lark.

A common resident on the mainland, occurring at other times than the breeding season on the sand spit in its movements to and from the north. None have been noted on any of the islands. These are strictly field birds, preferring pastures to meadows and plowed fields. While feeding in the winter they may be found in any fields which afford food. They make good use of freshly scattered barnyard manure, especially when the land is snow-bound. When such feeding places are scarce they gather in flocks numbering more than 200 individuals. It is not easy to determine whether there is any marked increase during the fall and winter months, because the flocking habit in winter and the scattering of the paired birds dur-

ing the long breeding season make comparisons of individuals difficult. Pairing begins with the first warm days of late winter, and nesting is in progress as early as the last week in March. A second brood is raised in late June or in July. If wintry weather comes after the birds have paired, and continues for some days, they return to the flocking as in winter.

This and the preceding form range together all winter. It is no uncommon thing to see flocks coming from the northward over the lake, always low down near the ice or water, especially in late winter. Many times such flocks have almost tumbled upon the beach to rest, and show "not the slightest fear when approached." After a short rest, without any effort to feed, they start up and resume their southward flight. They may not have crossed the lake, but the evidence points that way. While Lapland Longspurs and Snowflakes are often found with the Larks, I have never seen them in companies which were coming in from the north.

133. *Otocoris alpestris hoyti*.—Hoyt Horned Lark.

My records are February 9, 1903, February 24, 1904, February 22, 1906. The first record was of four individuals in a flock of Prairie Horned Larks; the other two records were of five and four individuals respectively not in company with other birds. Of course the only sure identification is of a bird in the hand, but the distinctly lighter color than either *alpestris* or *praticola*, and the larger size than *praticola* furnish a clue to the individuals of this form when they are flocking with the others. These three records are all for the eastern edge of the Vermillion quadrangle.

134. *Cyanocitta cristata*.—Blue Jay.

Common everywhere except on the smaller islands. More are seen in towns and villages during the winter than in the woods, but the woods are by no means deserted. It has been present at the western end of the sand spit on all visits, and usually individuals are met with along the course of the sand spit eastward. On April and May visits to the Lake Laboratory flocks of Jays have been seen flying from the region of the resort grounds diagonally across the bay to the mainland. I have not been able to find a satisfactory explanation for these flights. A count of the birds in the woods of that area makes it appear that many comprising the flock must have come from outside. It can hardly be a true migration, certainly. In Iowa I have often seen considerable flocks going from one woods in the direction of another woods some two miles distant. It may be no more than a simultaneous change of feeding ground of all the Jays of a small region. I have no evidence of such fluctuations of numbers as would account for spring and fall

migration movements. I doubt if there is any migration in either the Oberlin or Vermillion quadrangle.

135. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*.—Crow.

Common from March to December; present in small numbers all winter in favorable localities. A distinct northward migration occurs with the first sure signs of spring, and a southward migration about the first of November, or with the first really cold weather. An extensive winter roost has been reported to me in a considerable woods south of Lorain, but I have been unable to verify it. Certainly the birds are not sufficiently numerous in winter to account for the numbers reported as resorting to the roost. On three occasions I have been fortunate enough to happen into the midst of great migrations. The first was prior to detailed records before me; the others March 12, 1902, and March 7, 1903. The birds were moving eastward parallel to the lake shore over an area more than half a mile in width and from a few feet above the ground to a height of 300 feet. The migrating stream was almost continuous from 9 a. m., when I arrived at the lake shore, and was still in progress unabated when I left at 4:20 p. m. Most of the birds had reached the shore at some distance west of my point of observation, but some were coming from the south to swell the host. A number of counts of the birds passing a given point were made at widely different times, which resulted in an average of 130 birds passing per minute. There were thus over 50,000 passing during the period of my stay. One might be pardoned for entertaining some curiosity about their destination and why they preferred the long journey around the east end of Lake Erie rather than the short flight directly across, always provided they were Canadians returning to the land of their birth. One pair nested near the Lake Laboratory in the spring of 1907, but I saw no evidence of any nesting the following year. Crows visited the lake beach regularly all summer, where they fed upon the fishes thrown up by the waves. I have never witnessed any other migration of Crows along the point than small flocks flying either westward or eastward, which did not have the appearance of regular migration flights.

It is not stated definitely by Taverner and Swales that on October 14-15, 1906, the Crows were seen flying southward toward the Ohio shore from Point Pelee, but one might so infer. I was on the sand spit all day of the 15th and failed to see any of the Crows coming over the lake, although there were considerable numbers along shore and inland. If any considerable company had arrived anywhere between Huron and Cedar Point I would surely have seen them.

136. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.—Bobolink.

Common over the whole mainland region and on the larger islands all summer. Present at Cedar Point only as straggling individuals, except during the migrations. The median date of arrival is April 27, the earliest being April 16, 1904, when it arrived singing. The latest fall record is October 9, 1897. The bulk usually leaves by the middle of September. This bird does not become common before the first week in May. Young birds have been found by June 12. Almost without exception nests are made in meadows. Sometimes the males arrive in considerable flocks, but more often singly or in small companies. The females arrive about a week later than the first males. I have never witnessed any considerable movement of Bobolinks, such as might be called a great migration. None have ever been seen venturing out over the lake as if to cross, nor have any been seen coming from over the lake.

137. *Molothrus ater*.—Cowbird.

Common all summer, but abundant when the young birds begin to flock together. The median date of arrival is March 18, the earliest March 11, 1899. The bulk leave about the first of October, but individuals linger into November, with an occasional one remaining all winter. It is well known that this bird spends the spring and breeding season in small companies of males and females. When the breeding season draws to a close these companies retire to the pastures, where they may be found about the cattle. After the young have begun to flock the old birds seem to join them and roost with them, usually in company with the Grackles. When the Grackle migrations have been delayed considerably I have seen Cowbirds in the great flocks of other "blackbirds."

138. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*.—Yellow-headed Blackbird.

I have nothing to add to the record in "Birds of Ohio," page 218, where it is stated that "There is a specimen in the collection of F. Frey of Sandusky. A flock of six passed over Oberlin just above the treetops, October 9, 1896."

139. *Agelaius phoeniceus*.—Red-winged Blackbird.

Common in all swampy and marshy places over the whole region. It is even abundant in the Sandusky marshes, and in the marshes of Middle Bass and Pelee Islands, where it nests in great numbers. The median date of arrival is March 8, the earliest being February 26, 1906. The bulk have gone south by the third week in October, individuals lingering past the middle of November. I have never noted individuals in mid-winter. Normally this blackbird

migrates in flocks of its own kind, but when the migrations have been held back by a late season they join the huge companies which are made up of several species. The males often arrive in advance of the females, but by no means always. Many early flocks contain both sexes in nearly equal numbers. On each of the late summer visits to the islands this species has been seen migrating southward along the island route, and flocks have been seen coming toward the southern end of Pelee Island from nearly due east, as though they had essayed to cross directly to the Ohio shore from the point of Pelee, but had turned their course to the westward before passing abreast of the southern extremity of Pelee Island. None have ever been seen crossing elsewhere, and none arriving between Sandusky and Huron. I have never seen flocks make as though intending to cross the lake in the northward migration. Marsh vegetation is still sufficiently abundant, so that these birds seldom build their nests in the marsh bushes, as they do sometimes when natural conditions have changed. I have found eggs which appeared to be nearly fresh, July 15.

140. *Sturnella magna*.—Meadowlark.

Common all summer, present in small numbers all winter wherever there are fields of sufficient extent to harbor a pair. On the Cedar Point sand spit it is only a straggler, more often seen in the winter and early spring than at other times. It feeds in the marsh in the winter, particularly when it is ice covered. I presume it may spend the night there also, at least in heavy weather. Regular migrations occur with the first bird wave, the birds becoming common by the middle of March. The bulk leaves about the end of October, usually just in advance of a hard storm, or during the storm. The winter resident birds begin to sing in late February if the weather becomes spring-like. I have not noticed any increase in numbers with the fall migrations.

141. *Icterus spurius*.—Orchard Oriole.

It is now common over the whole region except the small islands. Prior to 1898 it was decidedly uncommon, but has steadily increased in numbers until now it is in almost as great numbers as the next species. The median date of arrival for the last twelve years is May 1, the earliest being April 29, 1899. I have no reliable fall records. Either the birds depart early or go into hiding. All along the sand spit this Oriole is found nesting in the cottonwood trees eastward, in various trees westward. In 1907 I found many more west of the pleasure grounds than elsewhere. On the mainland they are found nesting in orchards more frequently than else-

where. Several pairs nest in Oberlin. The proportion of full plumaged birds to immature plumaged is about one to three, for the males.

142. *Icterus galbula*.—Baltimore Oriole.

Abundant in villages and parks, common in woodland and orchard elsewhere. It is a common summer bird on the larger islands, but scarce in the region of the Lake Laboratory. During the migrations it is decidedly numerous along the sand spit. The median date of arrival is April 26, the earliest being April 14, 1905. The first arrivals are always bright colored males, which sing very little until others have come. My latest fall record is September 21, 1906. It is not easy to keep track of the Orioles after they begin to molt. I have noticed individual characteristics in the songs, so that it is not difficult to make a fairly accurate count of the birds which inhabit a limited area, like the Oberlin College Campus. Here we found no less than six pairs breeding three successive seasons.

143. *Euphagus carolinus*.—Rusty Blackbird.

Common in wet woods and about the marshes during both migrations. A female was captured at Oak Point February 13, 1897.¹

¹The Birds of Ohio. A Revised Catalogue, 1903, p. 134.

This species often flocks with the Red-wing, especially during the early days of migration, but as the season advances it retires to the wet woods or marshes, where its only company is that of occasional Cowbirds. It sings during its entire stay in spring. The median date of spring arrival is March 16, and it has gone north about the tenth of May. It returns about the middle of September and leaves for the south with the first winter storm, usually early in November. It occurs in rather less numbers than any of the other "blackbirds."

144. *Quiscalus quisculus aeneus*.—Bronzed Grackle.

Abundant in the vicinity of human habitations during the breeding season, seen everywhere on its excursions for food. A few remain all winter in favorable places. The migrations occur with the opening of spring in late February or early March, and the departure of the bulk is coincident with the first winter weather. The summer roosting begins by the first of May and continues as long as the foliage furnishes a cover. Molting begins the last week in June and continues, for the flock, for fully eight weeks. The birds nest in great numbers in cemeteries and in shade trees about dwellings in towns and villages as well as about farm dwellings. Their numbers are becoming so great that they make nuisances of

themselves, especially during the roosting period and when the young are just beginning to fly. None have been found nesting on the sand spit, but great numbers come into the marshes during late summer. At all times of day numbers of these birds may be seen feeding along the beach. Their favorite morsel seems to be the eyes of the fishes which the waves have cast up.

145. *Hesperiphona vespertina*.—Evening Grosbeak.

The only record for the region known to the writer is that recorded in "The Birds of Ohio," page 136, of a specimen secured by Dr. Carl Tuttle at Berlin Heights, January 30, 1890. Its casual occurrence in other places along the lake shore indicates casual visitation to this region.

146. *Pinicola enucleator leucura*.—Pine Grosbeak.

One was found in the Vermillion River gorge January 1, 1902, a flock of twelve visited the outskirts of Oberlin from November 20 to December 4, 1903; two companies of four individuals were recorded in the region of Oak Point on January 5, and a company of four individuals remained just north of the college campus from February 21 to 29, 1904. The character of the winter seems to have little to do with the visitations of this interesting species.

147. *Passer domesticus*.—English Sparrow.

The increasing abundance and aggressiveness of this vermin in feathers forces this much recognition. It has not yet made its way to any part of the sand spit except the summer resort grounds, but elsewhere in the whole region it is menacingly abundant. As yet it goes into the woods to nest but rarely, but it is gradually invading the borders of woods. In several places in the stream gorges it has caused the complete evacuation by the Bank and Rough-winged Swallows by appropriating all available nesting places. Their destructiveness to small grains both while it is standing in the field nearly ripened and while it is in the shock, and to garden vegetables, is more serious than is commonly supposed. Effective means for their destruction would be hailed as a relief.

148. *Carpodacus purpureus*.—Purple Finch.

A regular but seldom common winter visitor. It was common on October 9, 1897, and again on September 24, 1906. It usually occurs in small companies. Fully colored birds are always less numerous than those in the spotted plumage, and they usually occur in about the proportion of one to five. The latest spring record is May 28, 1907, the average falling near the first of May. First fall records are too scattering to be reliable, the earliest are September

7, 1901, and September 14, 1906. In winter these birds are more often found in the stream gorges and among evergreen growth than elsewhere. I have met them in the cedar thickets of the sand spit at all seasons in fall, winter and spring. During the spring they feed pretty largely upon buds of trees.

149. *Loxia curvirostra minor*.—Red Crossbill.

Of decidedly irregular occurrence. It has never been recorded in the middle of the summer, but the record for May 25, 1897, and May 18, 1900, give some reason for the suspicion that it may occasionally breed hereabouts. It has not yet been seen at Cedar Point, but its occurrence there is probably beyond question.

150. *Loxia leucoptera*.—White-winged Crossbill.

A flock of six was seen in a small pine woods north of Elyria on January 4, and two in the same place on January 7, 1902. Three in full and one in immature plumage were found a mile west of Huron on November 5, 1906. These are all of my records.

151. *Acanthis linaria*.—Redpoll.

My personal records follow: December 29, 1903, two near Brownhelm; February 5, 1904, probably the same two birds at the same place; one on February 1, south of Oberlin, two flocks numbering about 20 birds just north of the edge of the college campus in Oberlin from March 11 to 16, 1907, and small flocks ranging along the beach of the sand spit during the winter of 1906-7. Previous to my residence in Ohio this species was reported as being common in the region of Oberlin nearly every winter. The records given above indicate that it has greatly decreased in numbers since.

152. *Astragalinus tristis*.—Goldfinch.

Present all the year, but apparently much more numerous from May to October. I incline to the opinion that there is little or no migration, but that the flocking of the birds in winter, and their habit of living in secluded places in woods, and their spreading out during the warmer part of the year are accountable for the apparent difference in abundance noted. There is a time in late March and during the most of April when it is unusual to record this species unless one knows where to look for them. They are undergoing the spring molt and remain in hiding. During the summer they are one of the most conspicuous and omnipresent of our birds. They nest along the whole length of the sand spit, except the region of the summer resort grounds. I have seen them on all but the small islands. On several steamer trips far out upon the lake a Goldfinch has been sighted flying about in the vicinity for some part of the trip.

153. *Spinus pinus*.—Pine Siskin.

Tolerably common from late September until the third week in May. It is pretty evenly distributed over the whole region visited during this period, and likely visits the islands in winter. I have as often found it feeding in weedy fields as in the woods. It ranges along the lake shore pretty generally, and is usually seen on the sand spit except in summer. The reported breeding of this species in northern Ohio needs verification. This finch is often associated with the Goldfinch in winter.

154. *Plectrophenax nivalis*.—Snowflake.

The earliest fall record is October 29, 1906, which was five weeks before any really wintry weather occurred. These two birds were ranging the beach along the sand spit easterly. The latest spring record is March 16, 1908; also along the sand spit. We can never count on the appearance of this bird on the mainland until winter sets in with snow covering the ground. During the present winter, 1909-10, there have been unusual numbers of Snowflakes, accompanying the almost continuous snowy covering since Christmas day. When they are in considerable numbers they occur in flocks without mixing with other species, unless it is an occasional Lapland Longspur, but when their numbers are few they often flock with the Horned Larks and Longspurs. They are less strictly open field birds than the Larks and Longspurs, sometimes being found perched in trees at the border of woods, or feeding in orchards.

155. *Calcarius lapponicus*.—Lapland Longspur.

regular, but seldom more than few in numbers during the winter. My earliest fall record is October 15, 1906, and latest spring record April 23, 1897. The largest company ever seen was one of upwards of fifty on April 23, 1897. They almost always flock with the Horned Larks, from which they are readily distinguished by their different method of flight when in the air, and by their habit of crouching close to the ground when feeding. I have never seen any individual in perfect spring dress. It has not been seen on the sand spit proper, but it has been found in the fields bordering the marsh on the south and east.

156. *Pooecetes gramineus*.—Vesper Sparrow.

Common over the open parts of the mainland all summer, sometimes common during the spring migrations along the sand spit. None observed breeding anywhere along the sand spit. It was found on Kelley's and Put-in-Bay Islands in summer. It should breed on Pelee Island. The median date of arrival is March 27, the earliest being March 20, 1898. The bulk leaves during the last of

October, individuals sometimes remaining into the first week of November. One was recorded on January 1, 1904, at a spot on the lake shore where a large mass of cinders used for a railroad fill was afire. On subsequent visits the bird was not found. Fresh eggs have been found May 16, and young birds in the nest May 31. This is one of the most characteristic and numerous birds of our fields, where its nests abound.

157. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*.—Savanna Sparrow.

A regular migrant in small numbers at both migration seasons. The only time when it has been found in sufficient numbers to be called common was October 21, 1907. In that year it was present on the sand spit from April 15 to 29, and from October 15 to 23. Several individuals were singing during the autumn sojourn. I have never found it on any of the islands, probably because visits to them have not coincided with the migrations of this species. The median date of arrival is April 6, the earliest being March 21, 1903. The birds have gone north by the third week in May. Fall records are too few to make statements of that movement of any value. Except on the sand spit, where they are found anywhere in open spaces, these birds are confined to the grassy fields and meadows, being most numerous along the grassy borders of ditches. They may occasionally be flushed from the midst of wet fields.

158. *Ammodramus savannarum australis*.—Grasshopper Sparrow.

A rather common summer resident, breeding in meadows. The average is about two pairs in a five-acre meadow. It was fairly common on the sand spit among the grassy reaches, but not in the swamps, on April 29, and May 6 to 13, 1907. It breeds in a meadow at Rye Beach. The median date of arrival is April 27, the earliest being April 16, 1906. It sings well toward the end of July, and passes south by the middle of September. There has been no perceptible increase or fluctuation in numbers in sixteen years. The plowing up of meadows results in a shifting of the nesting area to the nearest new meadow. The nest is placed in a slight depression in the ground at the base of a tussock of grass or bunch of weeds. In Iowa many nests were placed beneath the lowest leaves of the bull thistle. While the favorite perch is a weed stem, which barely reaches the top of the grass of the meadow, birds not infrequently perch on a fence post or the topmost wire while they sing.

159. *Passerherbulus henstowi*.—Henslow Sparrow.

The first specimen captured in the region was June 4, 1894, in a meadow three miles north of Oberlin, by Rev. W. L. Dawson and

the writer. It was next recorded during the entire summer of 1896, the first migrant appearing on May 6. None were recorded until April 22, 1907, near Amherst. On April 29 and May 13, 1907, it was found breeding at Rye Beach, where it remained during the summer, being recorded on each visit. It was again recorded on May 11, 1908, near Berlin Heights, and on May 13 at its old breeding field at Rye Beach. The two published records of this sparrow in Ohio which appeared prior to the publication of Mr. Ridgway's monumental work on the Sparrows were overlooked by him, so that in that work he cited no authentic Ohio records. The first published record was in the *Auk*, XII, 1895, p. 241; the second in *The Wilson Bulletin*, III, p. 1.

160. *Chondestes grammacus*.—Lark Sparrow.

A fairly regular summer resident of the mainland, but scarce. My records indicate that it arrives late in April and departs southward during the first half of September. It is more often met with in the river bottoms than elsewhere, but it has nested in fields in the environs of Oberlin. I have never found it in the vicinity of the sand spit. It is as much of a field bird as Vesper Sparrow, and sings from a fence or tree perch. This sparrow has been found casually to the eastern border of the state, but this region is evidently near the eastern border of its habitual range in summer.

161. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*.—White-crowned Sparrow.

Always common, sometimes abundant, in the spring migrations, much less numerous in the fall migrations. It is probably the most numerous sparrow on the sand spit during the height of the spring migration, where every thicket is full of singing birds. It was common from October 2 to 9, 1897. The median date of spring arrival is May, the earliest April 22, 1902. The bulk have gone north by the middle of May, the last May 21. Fall arrivals are October 1 to 15. The last depart about October 20. The favorite retreats of this sparrow, while it is with us, are the weedy and brushy fence rows, brush patches, or even brush piles in the borders of woods. It is also found in rather thickly grown orchards. The middle and eastern thirds of the sand spit are ideal retreats in spring.

162. *Zonotrichia albicollis*.—White-throated Sparrow.

Common during both migrations on the sand spit as well as on the mainland. It is distributed over all brushy areas as well as in the woods and in back lots in villages and parks, and therefore is really more numerous than the last species, but on the sand spit it is usually outnumbered by it. The median date of arrival in spring is April 16, April 1, 1899, being the first. One was found in a river

gorge on January 1, 1906. The median date of departure of the bulk is May 12, of the last, May 16, but the individuals tarry until May 21 (1904). The median date of arrival in fall is September 26, of departure, November 3. It is possible that an occasional pair remains to breed, but if so none have ever been found.

163. *Spizella monticola*.—Tree Sparrow.

Our most numerous winter bird. Small to considerable flocks range along the sand spit and out into the frozen marshes all winter. It is usually associated with Juncos and Song Sparrows, and frequently with Cardinals, but also occurs alone. The median date of spring departure of the bulk is April 7, of the last, April 27; of arrival in fall, October 25. Flocks of from a few individuals to at least 300 range over the whole country all winter, visiting the door-yards in town as well as penetrating into the deepest woods, and gleaning from open fields. It is a not infrequent visitor to the lunch counter in the heart of Oberlin. This sparrow suffers more from attacks of the Northern Shrike than any other, probably because it is the most numerous. Pigeon Hawks also prey upon it. The constant cheerful twitter of the Tree Sparrows, and their habit of bursting into full song while the snow is falling and the wind blowing in midwinter, make it seem a most welcome visitor when most other birds are absent or silent.

164. *Spizella passerina*.—Chipping Sparrow.

Common about human habitations all summer. It is everywhere in parks and dwellings, and about the premises of country houses, often nesting in the vines which cover a trellis to shade a porch. It also nests in ornamental vines and shrubs which afford a sufficiently dense network of branches or twigs. I have many times noted it nesting in such situations long after the buildings had disappeared and the region deserted by human beings. One such place was clearly an old Indian "kitchen midden." The median date of arrival is April 1, the earliest March 27, 1905. The median date of departure of the bulk is September 24, of the last, October 15. The birds usually become common within a few days after the arrival of the first one. Naturally the sand spit is not a suitable place for the nesting of this species, but it has been found common during the migrations, especially toward and at the west end. Probably a few pairs breed about the summer resort grounds, but the noises there and the confusion of crowds drown its voice and make it timid.

165. *Spizella pusilla*.—Field Sparrow.

Common over the whole region where there are suitable brushy conditions. It breeds on the sand spit, but less commonly than one might expect. Its proper habitat is brushy borders of woods, or, if there is no brush, rank weeds will do as well. Brushy fields are also thickly inhabited. Most nests are placed above the ground, sometimes as high as six feet in a brushy tangle, but sometimes practically on the ground among weed stems and grasses. The median date of arrival is March 18, the earliest March 12, 1898. The median date of departure of the bulk is September 19, the latest being October 23. This Sparrow is seldom imposed upon by the Cowbird, in spite of the relatively exposed situation of the nest—or because of this.

166. *Junco hyemalis*.—Slate-colored Junco.

Abundant during the migrations, and usually common all winter, especially in the stream gorges. It ranges with the Tree Sparrow in the less exposed places of that sparrow's range, but does not often venture out of the woods or brush, except to door yards, in mid-winter. It is a frequent visitor to the lunch counter in winter. The median date of departure of the bulk is April 25, and of the last, April 30, but individuals sometimes tarry to May 20 (1907). The birds return about the first of October, and become common almost immediately. Early fall storms which cover their food often bring about a diminution in numbers. I have found them tucked snugly away in hay stacks, in hay mows, in corn shocks, among the rocks in the gorges, in thickly leaved trees, beneath thick grass, and beneath the snow, where they pass the night.

SOME WINTER BIRDS ABOUT LAKE WIMLICO,
FLORIDA.

BY G. CLYDE FISHER.

Having decided to spend a week hunting deer in the vicinity of Lake Wimlico, six others and I proceeded to Apalachicola, an interesting old city situated on the Gulf coast at the mouth of the river of the same name. Here we secured a launch, and on the morning of December 25, 1909, we started, going up the Apalachicola River, which separates what is locally known as West Florida from the rest of the state. This pan-handle, which lies immediately south of Alabama, would naturally be a geographical part of that state. However, it is