

SOME ADDITIONS TO A LIST OF THE WINTER
BIRDS OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN.

Part III.

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In the Wilson Bulletin No. 42, March, 1903, p. 20-24, and No. 48, Sept. 1904, p. 82-83, I published a list of seventy-one species that I have been able to record as occurring in Southeastern Michigan during the winter months of December, January and February. Since 1904 I am now able to add eighteen species, making a total of eighty-nine species found during the winter months. It is needless to state that I do not deem these 89 species as being all winter birds, but it is interesting merely as demonstrating to what extent the regular winter fauna can be added to by stray migrants or summer residents that, for some reason or other, remain during all or a portion of the winter.

No. 72. *Larus philadelphia*.

Bonaparte's Gulls were found to linger decidedly late in 1911. In the early part of December small straggling flocks could be seen almost daily working down the river, pausing to feed on the open river, here and there. I failed to detect them after December 15, when a flock of fifteen passed down, but others probably remained later as the river remained practically free from ice until December 28.

No. 73. *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*.

The latter part of December, 1907, and early January, 1908, were rather mild, the temperature being as high as 53° on December 27. The river was entirely free from ice and the ground was devoid of snow. On January 8, 1908, I saw a Double-crested Cormorant swimming on the river directly in front of my place on Grosse Isle. I was able to approach within fair range before it saw me; it rose heavily, with labored flapping, and flew down towards Lake Erie.

No. 74. *Branta canadensis canadensis*.

Canada Geese frequently remain all or during that portion of the winter when the lake remains either open or with little

ice. During the winter of 1905-1906 a flock of about ninety birds remained throughout the winter on the west end of Lake Erie near the mouth of the Detroit River. Residents of Grosse Isle and the adjoining mainland endeavored to procure some of this flock, but report that they were very wild and wary. About one hundred geese spent the winter of 1907-1908 in the vicinity of Celeron Island. This was an open winter until January 18, 1908, with scarcely any ice. On December 13, 1908, I saw a flock of ten geese swing in and alight on the bar at the north end of Stony Island, where flocks of ducks were feeding.

No. 75. *Olor columbianus*.

During the winter of 1905-1906 several Swan remained throughout the winter on the western end of Lake Erie. The winter was an open one, with scarcely any ice. At the St. Clair Flats, a resident, Fred Bryant, told me that five swan had remained in the North Channel side of the Flats, and were still there January 29, 1906.

No. 76. *Rallus elegans*.

As hitherto recorded (Wilson Bull. No. 64, 1908, 153), Mr. Taverner and I examined a King Rail that was secured around February 6, 1907, and came in to Eppinger's shop. The bird was in very poor condition. J. C. Wood was informed by Mr. John Krauss that he caught three King Rails near his hotel early in February, 1909. (Auk, 1910, 36.) There are a number of records of this bird wintering in the extensive marsh at Point Pelee, Ont.

No. 77. *Ardea herodias herodias*.

One secured in February, 1903, near Lake St. Clair, Macomb County, and came in to Mr. L. J. Eppinger, Detroit. The gunner had been out after rabbits, the ground was covered with snow, and the day so cold that the bird was completely frozen before the hunter reached his home. The winter of 1902-1903 was the most severe one in Michigan in a long term of years, and how this heron managed to eke out an existence on the frozen marshes is an unknown problem. Of course it was extremely emaciated when taken.

No. 78. *Philohela minor*.

A late Woodcock was shot December 3, 1907, and examined at the shop of Mr. Arthur Borck, Detroit.

No. 79. *Oxyechus vociferus*.

James B. Purdy noticed a Killdeer on December 25, 1907, on his farm near Plymouth, Wayne County. This bird remained in the vicinity throughout January, 1908, after which he failed to notice it.

No. 80. *Aluco pratincola*.

A female Barn Owl was secured December 10, 1908, by a gunner out Gratiot Avenue, near Detroit, and brought in to Mr. Borck. This specimen is now in the collection of P. A. Taverner.

No. 81. *Sayornis phæbe*.

One record. On February 13, 1909, I noticed a Phœbe perched in a small apple tree on the Sterling place, Grosse Isle. The bird was calling and acted as contented as if the day was a month later. January and February to date had been about normal winter months and followed by severe weather.

No. 82. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.

Mr. J. Claire Wood secured a male Bobolink on December 6, 1908, on the marsh bordering Lake St. Clair above the city of Detroit. (Private claims 120 and 321.) This bird was emaciated and healed gunshot wounds on the breast and wing were found. On December 20, 1908, he secured another male, and this was in fine condition, and showed no trace of any injury. (Wood, Auk, 1909, 193.)

No. 83. *Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*.

I examined a male secured on December 30, 1905, near Detroit by Mr. A. J. Long. I heard of no other Evening Grosbeaks during the winter.

No. 84. *Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*.

Mr. J. Claire Wood records (Auk, 1910, 41) a flock of eight Lapland Longspurs on December 13, 1908, and two flocks of seven, and eight on December 15, the latter in River Rouge Valley. He writes me that he saw a few in N. E.

Wayne County on December 19-20, 1911, and February 27, 1912.

No. 85. *Poæcetes gramineus gramineus*.

I secured a female on Grosse Isle on December 29, 1908, that is the only winter record that I am aware of. This bird was fat and in good condition. The ground was bare of snow. Mr. P. A. Taverner was with me at the time.

No. 86. *Zonotrichia albicollis*.

While working through a pasture heavily grown up with thorn trees (*Cratægus*) on December 19, 1911, I found a White-throated sparrow feeding. I was able to watch it for some time at close range. December, 1911, was an unusually mild month and I have no doubt but that others could have been found.

No. 87. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*.

Two records. Mr. Jas. B. Purdy saw a female on January 29, 1905, near Plymouth, Wayne County. On December 19, 1911, I saw a male on Grosse Isle on the same piece of ground where I observed the White-throated Sparrow. The Towhee was actively engaged in scratching among the dead leaves and occasionally gave his alarm notes.

No. 88. *Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*.

One singing from my ice house on Grosse Isle, January 16, 1911. I noticed another Carolina Wren on December 5, 1911, that was busily engaged in exploring an old chicken house. This bird remained in the vicinity for several days, and I heard him calling or singing every day.

No. 89. *Hylocichla guttata pallasi*.

One recorded only. I found a Hermit Thrush on December 8, 1905, in the woods near the head of Belle Isle, Detroit River. The bird was apparently in good condition, to judge from the way it was tripping over the dead leaves. The previous week (Nov. 29-Dec. 4) was a severe one, the temperature being as low as 17° on November 30, with about an inch of snow on the ground on December 2.