

THE EFFECT ON THE BIRDS IN THE OPENING OF
THE PARK AND THE BUILDING OF THE RESER-
VOIRS IN THE VICINITY OF YOUNGS-
TOWN, OHIO.

BY GEORGE L. FORDYCE.

For the past ten years I have been keeping a definite record of the migratory movement of the birds in Eastern Ohio within a 12-mile radius of Youngstown. The opening of Mill Creek Park, in which there are two reservoirs in the Mill Creek Valley, and the enterprise of the Mahoning Valley Water Company in building two reservoirs in the Yellow Creek Valley has brought about a marked change as to the birds that may be seen in this locality.

Mill Creek Park is a deep gorge, extending about three miles up the lower end of the Mill Creek Valley, with the stream from which its name is derived winding through the center. The source of Mill Creek is some 20 miles—almost directly south of Youngstown. The gorge, the edges of which represent the boundaries of Mill Creek Park, extends about three miles up from where Mill Creek joins the Mahoning River. On either side of this gorge are precipitous bluffs, quite heavily wooded, with hardwood trees as well as a dense growth of Hemlocks. During the spring migration this valley seems like a funnel, which the birds follow in their northward movement to where it narrows down to the park gorge, in which the migrants stop over and are so concentrated that one has a remarkable opportunity for bird observation. The many miles of drives and walks in the park add very greatly to this opportunity.

Youngstown is located in the Mahoning River Valley, and substantially all the territory covered by my observations is in the Alleghenian Life Zone. Mill Creek Park, however, seems to include some of the Transition Zone, and my records show that more than 90% of the warblers which I have listed during the period covering these records have been seen in this park, including some 30 species of this family. With the exception of four species of Warblers, which I mention

below, the others are usually listed annually. The exceptional records are the

Prothonotary Warbler.....	May 16, 1911,
Kentucky Warbler.....	May 11th, 1909,
Connecticut Warbler.....	{ May 17th, 1906, May 28th, 1907, and May 24th, 1913.
Orange Crowned Warbler.....	May 15th, 1909.

My Vireo records are nearly all made in the Park, the only unusual record being that of the Philadelphia Vireo, May 12th, 1912, and May 6th, 1913.

Lake Cohasset, the upper reservoir in the park, was filled with water in 1899, and covers about 28 acres. This lake is rather narrow, with steep bluffs on both sides, and for several years after being filled with water was a stop-over place for many species of water birds. My first water bird records for this locality were made at Lake Cohasset, including the Mergansers, Lesser Scaups, Golden-eye and Ruddy Ducks, also Gulls and Terns. The most important record for this lake was a male and female Surf Scoter that remained from April 21st to April 24th, 1911.

In 1907, Lake Glacier, at the lower end of the park was filled with water, with an area of about 43 acres. This lake is wide enough so that any species of water bird is liable to stop in passing. Within a year or two of the formation of this lake, the water birds almost deserted Lake Cohasset, and my records show that at some time during the past five years, nearly every species of water bird to be seen in this locality has visited this lake, including Grebes, Gulls, Terns, Ducks and Coots. It was on this lake—October 28th, 1913, that I established the remarkable record for Ohio of the Western Grebe. December, 1913, a Loon, Two-Hooded Mergansers, and a Black Duck remained in a small area of open water on Lake Glacier until a day or two after Christmas—really staying until the ice closed in and forced them to leave. White-winged Crossbills, March 3rd, 1907; Crossbills, March 3rd, 1909, and Pine Siskins at different times are among the rare winter visitors that have visited Mill Creek Park.

Lake Hamilton in the Yellow Creek Valley was filled in 1905 with an area of about 100 acres. This larger reservoir greatly increased the numbers of water birds that stopped over in this locality, and some years there have been thousands of ducks on this body of water for one or two days at a time. My first and only record for the Black-crowned Night Heron was along the shore of this lake April 21st, 1911.

In 1910, Pine Lake, with an area of 400 acres, near the head waters of Yellow Creek and about 12 miles south of Youngstown, began to fill with water, and during the spring migration of 1911 great numbers of water birds stopped over for days and weeks at a time. This was probably on account of the decaying vegetation in the water, which furnished unusual feeding conditions. Since this larger reservoir was filled the water birds have not been as abundant at the other reservoirs or visited them as frequently. I am satisfied that during the year 1913 I observed more water birds and shore birds about Pine Lake as to numbers than during all other years of observation in the Youngstown district put together. My first record for the Canvas-back, April 9th, 1913, and a few later dates, was on this lake. On April 15th, 1913, more than 100 Horned Grebes were on the lake at one time. October 31st, 1913, while standing on the east shore of Pine Lake with Mr. John P. Young, about 200 Canada Geese and a flock of 13 Blue Geese circled over the lake for a time, and then continued their southward journey. This is my first and only record for the Blue Goose. Previous to 1913 I had not recorded the Wood Duck, except April 2nd, 1911, when a male visited Mill Creek Park. However, during the fall of 1913 I listed three Wood Ducks—September 12th, and about 30 September 14th at Pine Lake. Some of these, or others, remained at this lake until September 28th. During the season of 1913 I added to my list quite a number of species of shore birds for this locality around the shores of Pine Lake: Golden Plover, October 23rd; Semi-palmated Plover, May 9th; Baird Sandpiper, May 10th; Red-backed Sandpiper, October 23rd; Semi-palmated Sandpiper, May 10th; Sanderling, September 14th. While these were my first records for

these species in this locality, all the other and more common shore birds were quite abundant during the spring and fall migration about the shores of this lake. The Pipit and Savannah Sparrow were frequently seen during the summer of 1913.

As near as I can estimate from my records there are over 60 species of birds that have been added to my list in this locality since the opening of the park and the building of these reservoirs.

It will perhaps emphasize the opportunity for bird observation in the vicinity of Youngstown to refer to all-day lists last May, when Prof. Lynds Jones was in the field with me: May 9th, 1913, 116 species; May 10th, 1913, 113 species, nearly all of which were in the park or about the reservoirs. For the year 1913 we listed 196 different species of birds in the vicinity of Youngstown. Previous to the building of these reservoirs an all-day list of 75 species was considered very good, and a yearly list of 130 species, including residents and migrants, was about the limit.

With such favorable conditions for bird study, the people of Youngstown and vicinity have become quite generally interested in the birds. At the present time we have a number of men and women who are reliable in observation and identification, and a great many with a good general knowledge of the birds.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

BY LYNDS JONES.

The actual founding of the organization out of which this Club grew occurred on December 3, 1888, when President Harlan H. Ballard, of the Agassiz Association, issued a charter to the Corresponding Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association. The movement was inaugurated by Mr. J. B. Richards, of Fall River, Mass., who was elected