

PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BIRDS OF FLOYD
COUNTY, IOWA.

CARROLL LANE FENTON, CHARLES CITY, IOWA.

The county in which these observations were made is located in the north central portion of Iowa, and might be taken as a type of the "Iowan plain," and is in reality typical of the counties lying in that belt which Mc Gee classes as the "Rolling Iowan" prairies. It possesses but few really large wooded areas, the largest in the county being about fifteen hundred acres in extent, and not particularly rich in bird life. The country is well cultivated; the banks of the streams low, with none of the miniature "badlands" found in southern and western Iowa; and the whole area one which would present but average attractions for birds, and if compared with some of the districts along the Mississippi, it is very unfavorable.

Notwithstanding this, the list of birds found within the county during 1914, 1915, and the portion of 1916 which has elapsed, shows a large number of species, some of which are so rare as to deserve special mention.

The following list is a compilation, largely from lists given in the first Annual Report, and Bulletin No. 1 of the California Naturalist Club; notes given in the "History of Floyd County" by Clement L. Webster, M.Sc.; private lists, and state lists. It represents observations covering a period of more than fifty years, and gives what is probably an almost complete list of the birds noted in the county during that time. Some are omitted, for lack of reliable data, which probably occur in Floyd county, or at least may have occurred here. The larger portion of the data, however, has been collected in the years 1913-1916, including the past months of the latter year. The bird life of Floyd county was once really rich, both in species and in numbers. Ducks, grebes, loons, and geese nested within the county and the gallinaceous birds were common. All this is now changed. Tiling had destroyed the marshes, and promiscuous shooting has

done the rest for the water-birds, and most game birds. The cover has been cut away, and now, though we have a considerable number of species, their numbers are greatly depleted, while many formerly abundant ones have disappeared entirely from the county.

LIST OF SPECIES AND SUB-SPECIES.

1. *Colymbus holbælli*—Holbæll's Grebe. In 1862 this species was quite common in Floyd county, nesting near Charles City (M. A. Dalton). It is now rare, even as a migrant. Flock of six seen in an adjoining county March 24th, 1916, by Mr. C. L. Webster. I saw a single specimen May 26th, 1916, within the limits of Charles City, but could not distinguish sex.

2. *Colymbus auritus*.—Horned Grebe. Up to 1880 this species was common. Webster, in 1897, mentions it as uncommon. I saw one specimen on September 21st, 1915. Mr. J. H. Wadell reports a pair as having nested near Floyd in 1913, the latest and only nesting record for many years.

3. *Podilymbus podiceps*—Pied-billed Grebe. Formerly very common, often nesting in swamps near Charles City, and along the Cedar and Shell Rock rivers. Even now it is fairly common, nesting regularly within the county. In 1915 a pair nested well within the limits of Charles City.

4. *Gavia immer*—Loon. Formerly common, regularly nesting within the county. Webster, in 1897, states that they were rarely found nesting, and it has now disappeared, except as a rare migrant. Last observation, March 23, 1916; W. T. Swartz.

5. *Gavia arctica*—Black-throated Loon. This species disappeared previous to 1897. Up to 1870, according to Mr. John R. Waller, it was a fairly common migrant, but after that decreased very rapidly. I have no late data.

6. *Larus argentatus*—Herring Gull. This species has never been common, as there are no large lakes to attract it. My last date for the species is March 12, 1916, in a Charles City park.

7. *Larus franklini*—Franklin's Gull, has been seen occasionally. What I think to be the latest reliable record is April, 1898, W. C. Miles.

8. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*—Black Tern. I have but one record; Nora Springs, March 28th, 1916.

9. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*—White Pelican. This species was formerly fairly common. The High School Museum at Charles City possesses a specimen taken in 1890. I think that this is the latest record for the county.

10. *Mergus americanus*—Merganser. This species has now disappeared except as a probable migrant. I have no data since 1906. The High School Museum possesses a specimen taken in 1904.

11. *Lophodytes cucullatus*—Hooded Merganser. Never very common, this species has now entirely disappeared from the county. Two mounted specimens, taken in 1894, are in the Charles City High School Museum.

12. *Anas platyrhynchos*—Mallard. This species formerly nested within the county (Webster). Even now it is a common migrant passing over on its way north in the latter part of March.

13. *Anas rubripes*—Black Duck. I have but one record of the occurrence of this species in Floyd county. One specimen, taken near Floyd, in the spring of 1896, is now in the Charles City High School Museum.

14. *Nettion carolinense*—Green-winged Teal. Formerly common (Webster) but at present a rather uncommon migrant. Last reported observation is April 3, 1916. My first date in 1914 was April 24th.

15. *Querquedula discors*—Blue-winged Teal. A rather uncommon migration. Latest observations: November 26, 1915, and March 27, 1916.

16. *Spatula clypeata*—Shoveller. A rare migrant. One was killed near Nora Springs, May, 1914.

17. *Dafila acuta*—Pintail. A fairly common migrant. I observed a small flock near Charles City, April 1, 1916, my latest date.

18. *Aix sponsa*—Wood Duck. Webster states that this species formerly occurred in Floyd county in large flocks, but is now almost extinct. Last observation, March, 1915; C. L. Webster.

19. *Marila americana*—Redhead. An uncommon migrant. A small flock was observed near Charles City in March, 1915, by John R. Waller.

20. *Marila marila*—Scaup Duck. Formerly common (Webster); now rare migrant. My last observation was March 23, 1910.

21. *Marila affinis*—Lesser Scaup Duck. A rare migrant. Last observation, Floyd, March, 1915; John R. Waller.

22. *Charitonetta albeola*—Buffle-head. Webster states that this species was at one time fairly common. It is now quite rare. My latest observation is April 2, 1916, two specimens, near Charles City.

23. *Oidemia deglandi*—White-winged Scoter. A rare migrant.

I observed four specimens, within the limits of Charles City, on April 25, 1915.

24. *Chen caerulescens*—Blue Goose. A rare migrant, though Mr. Waller states that it was formerly common. His last observation is March, 1915. I have no later date.

25. *Anser albifrons gambeli*—White-fronted Goose. A rare migrant. Latest observation, Floyd, October, 1915, Mr. John R. Waller.

26. *Branta canadensis canadensis*—Canada Goose. A not uncommon migrant. Mr. Webster states that this species nested to a slight extent in the county during the '60 s. My latest record is March 17th, 1916.

27. *Branta vernicla glaucogastra*—Brant. A rather uncommon migrant, though Mr. Webster states that the species was, during the days of the early settlements, a very common migrant. My latest record is March 17th, 1916.

28. *Branta nigricans*—Black Brant. A rare migrant. Latest date, March, 1915; near Charles City; John R. Waller.

29. *Olor columbianus*—Whistling Swan. Webster states that these birds were, during the "early days," common, though rare in 1897. They have now disappeared from the county's fauna.

30. *Olor buccinator*—Trumpeter Swan. Webster states that this species was at one time, during the latter '50's, not uncommon. One was killed near Charles City in 1887.

31. *Botaurus lentiginosus*—Bittern. A fairly common summer resident, often nesting within the county. I have frequently come upon them within the limits of Charles City.

32. *Ixobrychus exilis*—Least Bittern. A not uncommon summer resident, though rarer than the preceding species. Nests within the county, but on account of its plumage and habits is rarely seen.

33. *Ardea herodias herodias*—Great Blue Heron. A rather uncommon summer resident. A pair nested near Floyd in 1914, and probably in 1915, as young herons were seen by Mr. J. H. Waddell, shortly after the nesting season. Mr. Webster observed one in December of 1914. My first date for 1916 is April 3.

34. *Butorides virescens virescens*—Green Heron. A common summer resident, often nesting close to the towns. First observation in 1916; Charles City, March 30th.

35. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*—Black-crowned Night Heron. In 1897, and for some years later this species commonly nested within the county. (Webster). The latest nesting record which I have is in 1913. They are now uncommon.

36. *Grus americana*—Whooping Crane. Webster states that

during the early settlement this species was very common, and large numbers were shot as game. However, it does not now occur, except as an occasional migrant, and even this is doubtful.

37. *Grus mexicana*—Sandhill Crane. Webster and others, including Mr. Waller, state that this species formerly occurred in flocks of many hundreds within Floyd county. They are not now found within the county except, perhaps, as occasional migrants. I have no late data.

38. *Grus canadensis*—Little Brown Crane. A rare species in Floyd county. Last observed, by Webster, in March, 1916.

39. *Rallus elegans*—King Rail. A rare species in Floyd county. My latest observation is at Charles City, April 24th, 1916. The bird was in a small swamp, north of the thickly settled portion of the city, and south of the plant of the Charles City Engine Company.

40. *Rallus virginianus*—Virginia Rail. This species, according to Mr. John R. Waller, and Mr. Webster, was quite common in the '60's and '70's, though it is now rare. My latest observation is May 3, 1916, in nearly the same locality as the preceding.

41. *Prozana carolina*—Sora. Mr. Webster recorded this species as commonly nesting in Floyd county, though it is now rare. Latest record, Floyd, 1914, nest (?).

42. *Prozana noveboracensis*—Yellow Rail. In a note attached to a specimen taken in 1885 by W. C. Miles, it is stated that the species was then uncommon. This note, in Mr. Miles' handwriting, and the specimen, is my only data.

43. *Ionornis martinicus*—Purple Gallinule. This species has been, so far as I know, observed but twice in Floyd county. A single specimen was taken by Mr. John R. Waller, in 1891. Mr. Waller states that he is positive that this specimen was not a Florida Gallinule. On September 9th, 1915, Mrs. Mary A. Dalton, and Miss Sydney Wetherbee, two members of the Califor Naturalist Club, reported one of these birds. It was seen less than one-half mile from the thickly settled portion of Charles City. As it allowed them to approach within fifteen feet of it, and as they carried glasses, a good view of it was obtained. (See Bulletin No. 1 of the Califor Naturalist Club).

44. *Gallinula galeata*—Florida Gallinule. A rare species in Floyd county. Mahlon Palmer observed two close to Charles City, April, 1916. This is the only definite data I have.

45. *Steganopus tricolor*—Wilson's Phalarope. Not uncommon. I have observed no nests but have seen numerous young. My last data is Charles City, August 12, 1915.

46. *Himantopus mexicanus*—Black-necked Stilt. I am told by

Mr. John R. Waller that this species sometimes occurs in the county. I have it on my "questionable" list for May 28th, 1916.

47. *Philohela minor*—Woodcock. In 1897, Webster classed this species as fairly common. Mr. John R. Waller took a specimen near Floyd in 1904, the latest data I have.

48. *Gallinago delicata*—Wilson's Snipe. Webster states, and Mr. Waller corroborates, that this species was very common during the early settlement, and uncommon in 1897. I observed a single specimen April 25th, 1914, but none in 1915. On May 3d of the present year I observed three specimens in practically the same locality as the King and Virginia Rails.

49. *Pisobia maculata*—Pectoral Sandpiper. A rare species in Floyd county. My last data is June, 1913, when I observed two specimens southeast of Charles City, but unfortunately lost the exact date.

50. *Totanus melanoleucus*—Greater Yellow-legs. A fairly common migrant. During the migratory season it is often encountered along ponds and small streams. My last observation is September 22d, 1915.

51. *Totanus flavipes*—Yellow-legs. Data same as of preceding species, though perhaps a little more common.

52. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*—Western Willet. Webster states that this species sometimes occurs in Floyd county, but gives no dates. I have no other records.

53. *Bartramia longicauda*—Upland Plover. Webster makes the same statement concerning this as concerning the Western Willet. I have it on my "questionable" list for June 6th, 1914.

54. *Tryngites subrafcollis*—Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Uncommon. I have one specimen, taken September 9th, 1915.

55. *Actitis macularia*—Spotted Sandpiper. Not uncommon. During August of 1915, when there was a great deal of rain, I frequently saw these birds about ponds which had been formed in various places in Charles City by the excessive rainfall. The larger number of my observations come in the month of August.

56. *Numerius americanus*—Long-billed Curlew. Messrs. Webster and Waller both state that this species was fairly common in the '60s and '70s. I have no definite data.

57. *Charadrius dominicus*—Golden Plover. Webster states this species was formerly common. It is now rare, only two observations of it in Floyd county being recorded for 1915, and it is not at all improbable that the same specimens were the subjects in both cases.

58. *Oryechus vociferus*—Kildeer. A fairly common summer

resident. First observation in 1916, March 21st. This species seems more common than usual this year.

59. *Ægialitis semipalmata*—Semipalmated Plover. Webster states that this species occurs rarely in Floyd county, but mentions no dates. Mrs. F. May Tuttle saw one in an adjoining county in November 3rd, 1914.

60. *Colinus virginianus virginianus*—Bob-white. This species was very common during the early settlement. Mr. Will L. Swartz of Charles City, states that, when they were unmolested, they often came to the farm yards, and fed with the poultry. A pair nested in a Charles City park in 1913, though the species is now rare. My first observation for 1916 is January 6th.

61. *Bonasa umbellus umbellus*—Ruffed Grouse. Webster, in 1897, states that this species was rare except in deep woods. So far as I can find, it is now extinct in Floyd and adjoining counties.

62. *Tympanuchus americanus americanus*—Prairie Chicken. Webster states that this species was formerly common, though it is now rare. Mr. John R. Waller saw a small flock in January, 1916. Webster mentions two albino prairie chickens taken near Niles, Iowa, and gives a photograph of them, but no date.

63 and 64. *Phasianus torquatus*—Ring-necked Pheasant. A considerable number of these beautiful birds were placed in a game preserve northeast of Charles City. A small number of English pheasants were also placed here. They have done very poorly, however.

65. *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*—Wild Turkey. In 1897 this species was classed as rare by Webster. I have one record, in 1898, from Mr. W. C. Miles of Charles City.

66. *Ectopistes migratorius*—Passenger Pigeon. Both Webster and Waller state that this species was very common during the "early days." The last authentic record is by Webster, in 1897.

67. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*—Mourning Dove. A quite common species, though the numbers were considerably reduced in 1912, for a reason which I cannot find. They have increased from 25 to 35 per cent since the Federal Migratory Bird Law went into effect.

68. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*—Turkey Vulture. Classed as rare by Webster, in 1897; now extinct, so far as Floyd county is concerned.

69. *Elanoides forficatus*—Swallow-tailed Kite. Mr. Webster tells me that this species was formerly fairly common, but could give me no definite data. Mr. Waller also corroborates Mr. Webster's statement. So far as I know, it has not been seen in this county within the last twenty years.

70. *Circus hudsonius*—Marsh Hawk. Messrs. Webster and Waller state that this species was formerly quite common. It is hardly common at present, though this spring this species seems more plentiful than usual. My first observation in 1916 is March 25th.

71. *Accipiter velox*—Sharp-shinned Hawk. This species is fairly common, being commonly called "pigeon hawk." I have located several old nests, but none in use.

72. *Accipiter cooperi*—Cooper's Hawk. This hawk is more common than the preceding species. Its nests are not uncommon though as with *A. velox* I have found none in use.

73. *Buteo borealis borealis*—Red-tailed Hawk. This species might be safely termed uncommon. There are few nesting records within the county in recent years, and none, I think, within the last five.

74. *Buteo lineatus lineatus*—Red-shouldered Hawk. This hawk is considerably more common than the preceding species. It nests to quite an extent in the county, although killed indiscriminately.

75. *Buteo platypterus*—Broad-winged Hawk. This species is fairly common, and nests within the county to a considerable extent. A pair nested within the limits of Charles City in 1913.

76. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*—Rough-legged Hawk. Webster mentions this species as occurring in Floyd county, but gives no exact dates.

77. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*—Bald Eagle. This species, according to Webster was not very rare in 1897; now probably extinct in the county. Mrs. F. May Tuttle reports one near Osage, March 26th, 1914.

78. *Aquila chrysaetos*—Golden Eagle. An uncommon winter resident. Specimens were taken near Charles City, November 18th, 1914, and Nova Springs, November 5th, 1915. I have no data for 1916.

79. *Falco mexicanus*—Prairie Falcon. Rare. E. G. Brown took a specimen near Charles City September 19th, 1914. Its diet seemed to have been largely garter snakes, as the stomach contents showed four of these, and one caterpillar.

80. *Falco columbarius columbarius*—Pigeon Hawk. This falcon is noted as an occasional migrant. My last observation is September 5th, 1913. A questionable nest record was given me for 1915.

81. *Falco sparverius*—Sparrow Hawk. Fairly common, nesting regularly within the county. It is seldom recognized as a hawk, so escapes persecution. My first date for 1916 is March 27th.

82. *Pandion haliaeetus carolinensis*—Osprey. This species is

very rare in Floyd county. I have no late records of it here, though I saw a single specimen in southeastern Cerro Gordo county, May 28th.

83. *Strix pratincola*—Barn Owl. Rather uncommon of late years, though plentiful as late as 1881, according to a note made by Mr. W. C. Miles of Charles City. A pair nested in Charles City in 1914, and for a short time I had one of the young ones, which had fallen from the nest.

84. *Asio wilsonianus*—Long-eared Owl. An uncommon resident. The Charles City high school possesses a specimen taken near Rockford in 1904.

85. *Asio flammeus*—Short-eared Owl. Quite common, nesting in swampy districts near Floyd; north of Charles City, and in other parts of the county. Specimens are quite often taken, especially in autumn.

86. *Strix varia varia*—Barred Owl. This species is quite common. They are often shot, merely because they are owls. My last observation is March 27th, 1916.

87. *Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*—Richardson's Owl. I found one specimen of this owl north of Floyd, July 14th, 1915. The body had been crushed by an auto, but served for identification, though worthless as a specimen. A specimen was taken near Osage in 1914, and Mrs. F. May Tuttle saw a specimen in Osage March 25th, 1916.

88. *Megascops asio asio*—Screech Owl. A common resident. Both grey and red phases are common, though the former is somewhat the more plentiful of the two.

89. *Bubo virginianus virginianus*—Great Horned Owl. Uncommon in Floyd county. My last observation is September 23d, 1914. A specimen was taken near Charles City in October, 1915.

90. *Nyctea nyctea*—Snowy Owl. A rare winter resident. During the last five years I have seen this species but once, December 23d, 1913, south of Charles City.

NOTES ON THE BREEDING WARBLERS OF TENNESSEE.

BY A. F. GANIER.

It is a general supposition that our warblers, with few exceptions, pass through the south as migrants and to a northern clime in search of a place to breed. Hence the following notes on sixteen species of Mniotiltidæ found in middle Ten-