

## A DAY WITH LAKE COUNTY BIRDS.

BY F. N. SHANKLAND.

The morning of May 19, 1918, dawned bright and clear, and by six o'clock, four of us had eaten our breakfasts and set out for an all-day bird census. Our objective was Joplin's Woods, where birds of all kinds are always abundant and migrating warblers especially numerous during the month of May. Through this woods runs a small creek which empties into Chagrin River about a mile further down. The creek is bordered by beautiful wooded hillsides, with just enough swamp land, second growth and blackberry thickets, to make it a veritable birds' paradise. This little wilderness had been left to itself in the midst of the neighboring farms, and if it had been designed especially for the birds it could not have served the purpose better.

We had made thorough preparation for this bird census, and had listed all the birds in that vicinity, so that they could readily be checked off as observed. We were fortunate in having selected an excellent day for bird study and we were kept busy making records from six o'clock in the morning until late in the afternoon. We had planned to stay three or four hours in this particular woods and then go by automobile to Mentor Marsh, located some eight miles distant on the shores of Lake Erie. There we expected to add to our lists some water birds that could not be found elsewhere.

During the day we succeeded in recording eighty-two species in all, which is the best record that any of us had made in Lake County up to that time. Most of these were common birds, and not more than four or five of the species recorded would be considered as rare or even scarce. Furthermore, when we checked up our lists in the evening we were surprised to find that we had been unable to record a dozen or more fairly common species which we knew were present in the vicinity.

Birds of prey are not very plentiful in this locality and our list included only four species, as follows:

Sparrow Hawk	Red-tailed Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk	Sharp-shinned Hawk

This list was something of a disappointment since we were positive that Marsh Hawks and Cooper's Hawks were resident in that woods. We were simply unable to get a glimpse of them on that particular day. We did see one bird that might have been the Bald Eagle, but it was too far away to make identification sure. None of our four common species of owls were to be seen that morning, which was quite a keen disappointment. It was not late enough in the season to look for Turkey Vultures and the Rough-legged Hawks had long since gone north. These are about all the birds of prey that are ever recorded in Lake County, although some of the older lists contain the names of the Snowy Owl, the Barn Owl, and the Osprey.

We had very good luck with the *Conirostres*, among which are included the crows, jays, blackbirds, orioles, sparrows, grosbeaks, and buntings. Our complete list included the following:

English Sparrow	Crow
Song Sparrow	Blue Jay
Field Sparrow	Cowbird
Chipping Sparrow	Red-winged Blackbird
Vesper Sparrow	Scarlet Tanager
Bronzed Grackle	Towhee
Orchard Oriole	Cardinal
Baltimore Oriole	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Bobolink	Indigo Bunting
Meadowlark	Goldfinch

We were very fortunate indeed in our study of the *Dentirostres*, among which are included the vireos, warblers, thrushes, fly-catchers, wax-wings, etc. The warblers, on account of their small size and rapid movements, made us quite a lot of work following them through bushes and thickets or trying to identify them with the aid of our field glasses as they flitted through the tops of the trees. In

addition to the warblers listed, we saw three or four more varieties which were not positively identified. The list follows:

Robin	Yellow Warbler
Bluebird	Oven-bird
Wood Thrush	Hooded Warbler
Cedar Waxwing	Black-throated Blue
Kingbird	Warbler
Wood Pewee	Blue-winged Warbler
Phoebe	Tennessee Warbler
Crested Flycatcher	Bay-breasted Warbler
Acadian Flycatcher	Canada Warbler
Least Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler
Traill's Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler
Yellow-throated vireo	Black-poll Warbler
Warbling Vireo	Maryland Yellow-throat
Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-breasted Chat
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Cape May Warbler

Of the thrushes we were disappointed in not recording the Wilson's Thrush, and the Olive-backed Thrush. The Hermit Thrushes had all gone north some time before. Of the warblers we were a little too late for some of the early ones, such as the Black and White Warbler, the Palm Warbler, the Myrtle Warbler, and one or two others, but we were disappointed in not seeing the Nashville Warbler, the Parula Warbler, the Redstart, the Water-Thrush, and the Black-throated Green Warbler.

Lake County boasts of six common species of woodpeckers, of which we succeeded in recording four, as follows:

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Red-headed Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Flicker

We were unable to locate the Hairy Woodpecker, although we usually saw several individuals in passing through these woods. The Red-bellied Woodpecker was also conspicuous by its absence.

Owing to the fact that swallows of all kinds had been

very scarce all spring, we were rather surprised in making as good a showing with these birds as we did. The extremely cold winter had almost exterminated the Purple Martins and we therefore counted ourselves fortunate in finding several pairs of them carrying nesting material into a Martin-house on the estate of one of the wealthy Cleveland men who lives near Lake Erie. Our complete list of swallows included the following:

Purple Martin	Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow	Chimney Swift was also
Bank Swallow	seen

In the deeper woods we found the Chickadee, the Brown Thrasher, the Tufted Titmouse, the Catbird, and the White-breasted Nuthatch. One of the most interesting discoveries of the day was a Chickadee's nest containing eight eggs, in the decayed limb of a small willow tree. Before leaving home, we had listed the House Wren and later in the day we recorded the Long-billed Marsh Wren, near Mentor Marsh.

When we left Joplin's Woods, we checked up our list and found that we had seventy species recorded. As we drove along the country road toward the Marsh, we heard the welcome and cheery calls of the Bob-whites, from the adjacent fields and pastures. While stopping at a dilapidated old barn, we found a Mourning Dove sitting upon her nest, which had been built upon one of the heavy timbers of the frame of the barn where a section of the roof was still intact and effectually sheltered her from the weather.

One of the most agreeable surprises of the day was our finding of a large colony of Cliff Swallows. As we made our last turn before reaching the Marsh we noticed a group of several old barns and one of our number called attention to the swallows which were flying around. One of them flew past our car a moment later, and we were delighted to find that it was a Cliff Swallow. We hastily

climbed the fence and upon arriving at the barnyard found that the eaves were thickly covered with the picturesque nests of these birds, and out of nearly every nest a Cliff Swallow's head was visible. Such colonies have become very rare in this section of northern Ohio and we urged the proprietor of the farm to use every effort to protect them, which he promised to do.

When we arrived at the Marsh, we found the Herring Gulls circling around over the lake or resting upon its surface. A short time later we also saw a flock of Common Terns, which appeared around a bend in the shore and wheeled past us, calling loudly as they went. In the open water of the Marsh we saw a Coot. As we approached nearer, it disappeared among the cat-tails. Where the marsh empties into the lake we found water birds abundant. There were Killdeers, Spotted Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers, Kingfishers, and Green Herons, and once a flock of shore birds which we could not positively identify, but which were probably Pectoral Sandpipers, flew overhead. Here, also, we saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, which increased our total to eighty-one species, and that evening, while checking over our records, we saw three Nighthawks circling overhead, making the total eighty-two. No doubt other Lake County observers have made larger records, but this list is representative and gives a good idea of the species that one may expect to meet with in this vicinity.

In comparing this list with that made by Harry C. Oberholser and associates, near Washington, D. C., it will be seen that their lists contain many more species, due principally to the fact that the territory which they covered is a more favorable one and is haunted by many species never found in Lake County at all.

Our party included C. M. Shipman, R. W. Hill, E. J. Chesbro, and the writer.

*Willoughby, Ohio.*