

## GENERAL NOTES

### BIRD NOTES FROM NORTHERN MICHIGAN

In a recent paper (1948) I have detailed in part the results of a wildlife survey of the Huron Mountain district, Marquette County, Michigan, made from October 1939 to July 1942. Included therein are a description of the area and an inventory of its vertebrate fauna, among which are listed 206 species and subspecies of birds, with only the briefest of notes appended. Certain additional data of special interest as well as Huron Mountain records of some forms not to my knowledge previously published are presented. Mentioned in the present notes are 29 species.

Common Loon. *Gavia immer*.—This is a common summer resident, and pairs may be found on most of the inland lakes. On June 25, 1940, I located a nest containing 3 eggs (2 is the usual number) on a small island in Howe Lake. On June 26, 1942, at Mountain Lake I observed 2 chicks riding on the parent's back. From July to October groups of from 2 to 6 loons are frequently seen on Lake Superior, near the shore, usually in early morning or evening.

Blue Goose. *Chen caerulescens*.—Bayard H. Christy has told me that 2 geese, seen on the Cranberry Marsh by Herbert E. Perkins in May 1926, were accurately described as this species.

American Pintail. *Anas acuta*.—This species has been reported once in the Huron Mountains, on September 28 (probably since 1930), by B. H. Christy.

Gadwall. *Anas strepera*.—S. Morris Pell observed 1 of these ducks on Howe Lake on September 2, 1941.

Wood Duck. *Aix sponsa*.—This species continues to breed in limited numbers in the Huron Mountains. In 1941 there appeared to be at least 2 broods on the Salmon Trout River. A downy juvenile, probably not over a week old, was taken in a weir by F. Wallace Taber on June 2, 1941. On 2 other occasions from then until June 25, 1941, Wood Ducks were captured in this weir—once an adult together with 5 young.

Canvas-back. *Aythya valisineria*.—I observed a flock of 30 flying southward in V-formation over Mountain Lake in the late afternoon of October 9, 1941.

Old-squaw. *Clangula hyemalis*.—I observed one of these ducks over Conway Bay on February 1, 1941.

White-winged Scoter. *Melanitta fusca*.—On January 25, 1940, I saw a pair about 200 yards from shore, at the edge of the ice on Lake Superior, near West Flat Rock. Again, on May 16, 1940, I observed 1 male and 3 females resting on the water of Conway Bay.

American Merganser. *Mergus merganser*.—A few winter in the Huron Mountains. On November 20, 1939, and for about a month thereafter, a flock of more than 200 was congregated on the south bay of Rush Lake; over 75 per cent of them were males. After May 31, broods were frequently encountered, numbering from 6 to 14. On June 10, 1942, I observed a female swimming on Mountain Lake, with 7 young on her back.

Bald Eagle. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.—Usually at least 1 pair nests in the region each year. Near West Flat Rock, in the summit of a large white pine about 100 yards from the Lake Superior shore, was an aerie which had been used for several years. On July 8, 1940 (as seen with binoculars from a boat) there was 1 young bird in this nest, and another trying its wings on a nearby branch; 1 adult perched in a neighboring tree top, while another flew along the shore. On July 9, 1941 2 birds were seen in this nest, at least 1 of them apparently an adult. Another aerie has been reported, in years past, on Conway Point; immature eagles were seen in flight near here on June 15, 1941 and again on June 7, 1942.

Sharp-tailed Grouse. *Pedioecetes phasianellus*.—This bird is a recent arrival in the Huron

Mountain region. Baumgartner (1939) stated that the first authentic record in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan was in 1922, and that the species appeared to be "spreading eastward on a broad front extending from Lake Superior to Lake Michigan." I noted 1 in a cutover area on Salmon Trout Point on November 10, 1939; B. H. Christy saw 1 near the town of Big Bay on July 3, 1941, and S. M. Pell saw 1 on May 26, 1942.

Upland Plover. *Bartramia longicauda*.—I observed a single bird on September 24, 1941, in a grassy clearing among jack pines between Pine Lake and Lake Superior.

Greater Yellow-legs. *Tringa melanoleuca*.—S. M. Pell saw 1 on Third Pine Lake on October 5, 1941.

Ruddy Turnstone. *Arenaria interpres*.—B. H. Christy observed 1 on the Lake Superior beach near the mouth of Pine River from the last week of August until September 13, 1937. I noted 1 at the same spot on October 5, 1941.

Pectoral Sandpiper. *Erolia melanotos*.—S. M. Pell noted 1 at the Cranberry Marsh on October 5, 1941.

Red-backed Sandpiper. *Erolia alpina*.—B. H. Christy and I observed 1 on the shore near the outlet of Ives Lake on October 13, 1939.

Wilson's Phalarope. *Steganopus tricolor*.—A bird, seen at about noon near the eastern Huron Islands by S. M. Pell and me on July 9, 1941, was believed to be this species.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. *Coccyzus americanus*.—One bird, which I preserved, was found dead at the Anne Lake landing on the west shore of upper Mountain Lake on October 4, 1940.

Snowy Owl. *Nyctea scandiaca*.—Mrs. Carroll Paul reports that 1 was shot at the Ives Lake Farm in the winter, about 1937. David M. Nason tells of seeing 1 near the Five Forks on January 26 and again on April 5, 1940. Several were reported seen, and 1 killed, at the town of Big Bay in November 1941.

Great Gray Owl. *Strix nebulosa*.—B. H. Christy reported seeing this bird repeatedly, and in successive years, on the upper reaches of Pine River from about 1900 to 1905.

Richardson's Owl. *Aegolius funerea*.—One bird was collected "in the late fall in the woods between Rush Lake and Lake Superior" (Gregory, 1929). This specimen was taken about 1910 by Hans Jensen and given to H. E. Perkins, who had it mounted; it is now in the collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

Saw-whet Owl. *Aegolius acadica*.—One specimen was collected by D. M. Nason at his home a few miles southeast of Big Bay on February 23, 1941; it is in the collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. B. H. Christy reported seeing and hearing 2 of these owls in woods south of Pine Lake on July 12, 1941.

Chimney Swift. *Chaetura pelagica*.—H. Emerson Tuttle, in 1936, located a hollow nesting tree along the Trout Lake trail; debris and egg shells a foot deep outside the tree indicated long occupancy. Leopold (1939) mentioned "one bird found in a hollow basswood near Trout Lake, May 31, 1938." B. H. Christy once found a nest in a boathouse cubicle near the mouth of Pine River.

Rough-winged Swallow. *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*.—B. H. Christy and I observed several at the Ives Lake Farm in the early evening of July 12, 1940, in company with Barn Swallows and Chimney Swifts. I observed the species again over the Cranberry Marsh on July 12, 1941; B. H. Christy has also seen it at the dam on the Salmon Trout River.

Raven. *Corvus corax*.—Ravens are moderately common permanent residents of the Huron Mountains, but no nest has yet been located, to my knowledge. On September 19, 1940, near Ives Mountain I witnessed the masterful aerial performance of a Raven; with wings partly closed it went into a steep dive, then executed a twist and pulled out of the dive, sometimes upside down, on extended wings. This performance was repeated several times by the Raven, while another hovered in the air nearby.

Eastern Winter Wren. *Troglodytes troglodytes*.—This is a common summer resident, but

seldom remains after mid-October. I observed a straggler on January 13, 1940, very active among brush piles and windfalls near a dense cedar swamp on the West Flat Rock trail.

Blue-headed Vireo. *Vireo solitarius*.—This uncommon summer resident is usually seen among jack pines; I noted it on 5 occasions, in jack pines and in mixed hardwood-hemlock stands. On July 9, 1940, in low bushes among maples and hemlocks on the shore of Rush Lake (nearly a mile from the nearest jack pines), I observed an adult feeding 2 young out of the nest. The fledglings were just beginning to fly and were able to perch on low shrubs.

Eastern Cowbird. *Molothrus ater*.—This bird is a rather common summer resident in the Huron Mountains. B. H. Christy noted young Cowbirds out of the nest, and being fed by a Myrtle Warbler, on July 17, 1941; S. M. Pell again observed a Myrtle Warbler feeding young Cowbirds on August 1, 1941.

Greater Redpoll. *Acanthis flammea rostrata*.—One male which I collected at the Oscar Webster homestead on January 30, 1941, was identified by Pierce Brodtkorb as this subspecies.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- BAUMGARTNER, F. M.  
1939 Studies on the distribution and habits of the sharptail grouse in Michigan. Trans. 4th North Amer. Wildlife Conf., 485-490.
- GREGORY, STEPHEN S., JR.  
1929 The birds. Pp. 171-190 in "The Book of Huron Mountain." Privately published by the Huron Mountain Club; Bayard H. Christy, editor.
- LEOPOLD, ALDO  
1939 Report on Huron Mountain Club. Privately published by the Huron Mountain Club. 18 pp.
- MANVILLE, RICHARD H.  
1948 The vertebrate fauna of the Huron Mountains, Michigan. Amer. Midl. Nat., 39: 615-640, 1 fig.
- RICHARD H. MANVILLE, Department of Zoology, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.

#### THE VERNACULAR NAME OF THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Erroneous statements concerning the vernacular name of the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) have been printed so often in the last half century that it seems worthwhile to assemble the scattered proofs of their errors. Various of the statements appear in such widely circulated works as Mabel Osgood Wright's "Birdcraft," 1895: 172-173; Neltje Blanchan's "Bird Neighbors," 1897: 212; E. H. Forbush's "Birds of Massachusetts," II, 1927: 444; "Birds of America," edited by T. Gilbert Pearson, 1936, II: 260-261, and Malcolm MacDonald's "Birds of Brewery Creek," 1947: 111.

The statements—sometimes presented as tradition, sometimes as fact—are that George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, visited Chesapeake Bay in 1628, saw the bird for the first time, and was so pleased by it that he adopted its colors as his own; that colonists who came to Maryland with Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore, misnamed the bird "oriole"; and that Linnaeus named the species from skins, and named it Baltimore Oriole because its colors were those of the Calverts.

The errors in those stories are shown by historical and ornithological works as follows: A formal "exemplification," or statement, of the Calvert family coat of arms was issued in England in 1622 (1) and this document, a possession of the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore, shows that the Calvert colors had already been established as "or and Sables"—that is, gold and black. It was not until 1625 that George Calvert became the first Lord Baltimore (2) and not until 1629 that he visited the Chesapeake (3). Cecil Calvert never visited America (4). Thus it is certain that the Baltimore colors were not adopted from the bird, and that Cecil has no part in any tradition.

It is as certainly true, on the other hand, that the bird was named after the Baltimore