

COLORED PLATES IN *THE WILSON BULLETIN* THROUGH 1962

KENNETH C. PARKES

FEW features of an ornithological journal are as universally popular as are colored plates of birds, especially when these have been accurately reproduced from the work of a skilled painter. Color reproduction is, of course, an expensive undertaking, and the time has long since arrived for editors of journals with limited budgets to be highly selective in choosing paintings or photographs to be printed in color. The plate should not be published merely as an attractive picture, but should make some point; it should illustrate something that *needs* illustration, whether it be a species of bird as such, a plumage stage, or a behavioral posture. It seems to me that there is now very little justification for publication in ornithological journals of additional color plates of well-known plumage stages of familiar North American and European birds. As long ago as 1947, I was able to list 29 different colored illustrations of the Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), exclusive of photographs, in books and journals then available in the Cornell University Library (Parkes, 1947: 63-64), and this figure may well have doubled by 1963.

This is not to say that such well-known species should be taboo as subjects for color plates in our ornithological journals. Of many common birds there are plumage stages which may never have been satisfactorily illustrated, and of which a good colored figure would be most useful. An outstanding example is the plate by Shortt illustrating his note on the juvenal plumages of the two North American species of pipit (Shortt, 1951). The continuing need for such illustrations is shown by the fact that of the 29 color plates of the Bobwhite mentioned above, two portrayed color variants, two the normal downy young, and only one (Audubon!) the juvenal plumage. All of the rest included only the adult male and/or female.

The members of the Wilson Ornithological Society can be proud of the bird portrait gallery represented in the pages of a set of *The Wilson Bulletin*. As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our journal, it might be of interest to have available a list of the colored plates published thus far. The body of this paper, then, is a checklist of the species of birds figured in color in *The Wilson Bulletin*.

It was not until 1926 that the first colored illustration appeared in Volume 38 of the *Bulletin*. No illustrations of any type are to be found in the first six volumes. In Volume 7, No. 2 (1900), page 73, appeared the first illustration, a full-page cut showing variation in the pattern of upper tail coverts of the Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), accompanying a monograph on that species by Frank L. Burns. We then skip to the leading article in Volume 9 (1902), with which we find a full-page halftone reproduction of a wash drawing by "W.K.S." of the nest site of the Rock Nuthatch (*Sitta neumayer*), as well as similar drawings of the nests of the European and Red-breasted Nuthatches (*S. europaea* and *S. canadensis*). There is also a line cut of the heads of the three species of *Sitta*. These illustrations accompany a paper by H. C. Tracy on the nest of the Rock Nuthatch.

The first map in *The Wilson Bulletin* appeared in the following issue, Volume 9, No. 2 (1902). It is a two-page map of Lorain County, Ohio, to accompany a paper on the birds of that county, by Lynds Jones.

In the fourth issue of the same volume appeared the first illustration of a whole bird—in fact, a pair. It is a full-page reproduction of a spirited but rather crude drawing of the Cuban Tody (*Todus multicolor*) by Alice Noble, accompanying an article on this species by John W. Daniel, Jr.

The first photographs to be published in *The Wilson Bulletin* appeared as a frontispiece to Volume 10 (1903). They were taken by the Reverend W. F. Henninger and show two nests of Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*). These photographs were apparently published for their own intrinsic interest, as no text of any sort accompanied them. The next photograph, in the following issue, illustrates a paper by R. W. Shufeldt on the nest of the Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). In the next issue (Volume 10, No. 3) appeared the first scenic photograph and the first photographs of living birds. These accompany a paper by Edward R. Warren on a nesting of the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) in Delta County, Colorado, and illustrate the nest site and the young birds.

The first drawing by a recognized bird artist appeared in Volume 10, No. 4 (1903). It was a full-page sketch of a huddled covey of Bobwhites by Robert J. Sim, who illustrated a number of U.S. government publications on birds in later years. The following year, in Volume 11, No. 3, the two full pages of halftone reproductions of sketches by Sim, drawn from a living Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*), really inaugurated the career of *The Wilson Bulletin* as a repository of good bird art.

The first colored plate in *The Wilson Bulletin*, as mentioned above, appeared in 1926, as the frontispiece to No. 2 of Volume 38. Taken from a watercolor by George Miksch Sutton, it portrays the American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) on its breeding grounds. There is a large standing bird in the foreground and three flying birds, preparing to land, in the background. The plate illustrates an article by Walter W. Bennett entitled "White Pelicans and other birds of Chase Lake, North Dakota." In the same issue is an editorial, thanking the artist and the engraver for their generosity in presenting this plate to the Wilson Ornithological Club (as it was then called), and an article, written at the request of the editor, on the method of color engraving used, prepared by the engraver, Harry G. Lotz. It was highly appropriate that the first colored plate in *The Wilson Bulletin* should have been taken from a painting by George Miksch Sutton, as Dr. Sutton has contributed just over half of the paintings reproduced in the *Bulletin* to date.

Although the editorial accompanying the first colored plate solicited opinions from Club members (and, by implication, contributions toward costs) with regard to publication of more color, the next such plate did not appear until almost three years later, as the frontispiece of Volume 41 (1929). It is a rather poorly reproduced "Impression of Wood Ibises at 'Gator Lake," again by Dr. Sutton. The editor explained that the journal's regular publication budget could not afford such reproductions, but he had found the Sutton painting so irresistible that he had obtained a portion of the publication costs by correspondence and solicited further contributions from readers.

One more colored plate was published in 1929, and two in 1930. Then came the longest colorless period in the *Bulletin's* history after the first plate appeared. In No. 4 of Volume 52 (1940), in the second year of the editorship of Josselyn Van Tyne, appeared a colored plate of the head of an Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*), the first of what was to be a series of Dr. Sutton's famous Mexican watercolor field sketches in *The Wilson Bulletin*. This plate accompanied a paper by Dr. Sutton and Thomas D. Burleigh on the birds of Tamazunchale, San Luis Potosí, and was donated by the late John B. Semple, sponsor of this and many other Sutton expeditions. From then on, only Volumes 53 (1941) and 61 (1949) have lacked colored plates, and some volumes have had as many as four.

In all, 41 colored plates have appeared in *The Wilson Bulletin* through 1962. Of these, five were reproductions of photographs, the rest of paintings. A total of 48 avian species has been figured, in addition to two plates of hybrids (*Piranga*, *Vermivora*). The

artists represented, in alphabetical order, are as follows (with number of plates published):

Breckenridge, Walter J.	1	Peterson, Roger T.	1
Clem, Robert V.	1	Sandford, Lloyd	1
Dilger, William C.	3	Shortt, Terence M.	3
Eckelberry, Don R.	3	Sutton, George M.	19
Grossenheider, Richard P.	1	Swenk, Iva B.	1
Mengel, Robert M.	1	Weller, Milton W.	1

Two colored photographs each have been contributed by Hal Harrison and Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., and one by Bernard Baker.

The following checklist of species figured in color in *The Wilson Bulletin* is arranged taxonomically rather than chronologically. Subspecific names are used only if these are indicated in the caption of the plate. No page references are given, as all plates were published as frontispieces for their respective issues. The stated month of issue has been constant: March (No. 1), June (No. 2), September (No. 3), and December (No. 4). Unless the word "photo" appears, the plate was reproduced from a painting.

FAMILY SPIHENISCIDAE

- Rockhopper Penguin (*Eudyptes crestatus*): adults and 24-day chicks.
 Vol. 72, No. 3, 1960. Photo, Pettingill.
 Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*): adult and downy young.
 Vol. 64, No. 2, 1952. Grossenheider.

FAMILY TINAMIDAE

- Rufescent Tinamou (*Crypturellus cinnamomeus mexicanus*): adult female (head).
 Vol. 63, No. 2, 1951. Sutton.

FAMILY PHALACROCORACIDAE

- Olivaceous Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus mexicanus*): immature (head).
 Vol. 64, No. 4, 1952. Sutton.

FAMILY ARDEIDAE

- Pinnated Bittern (*Botaurus pinnatus caribaeus*): adult.
 Vol. 73, No. 4, 1961 (with description of subspecies). Breckenridge.

FAMILY CICONIIDAE

- Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*): adults.
 Vol. 41, No. 1, 1929. Sutton.

FAMILY ANATIDAE

- Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*): bills and feet of 11 age/sex classes.
 Vol. 55, No. 1, 1943. Shortt.
 Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*): adult male.
 Vol. 57, No. 1, 1945. Shortt.
 Redhead (*Aythya americana*): male at 4 mo; male at 10 weeks; adult female, spring aspect; adult male, winter-spring aspect; adult female, summer aspect; day-old chicks; "eclipse" of year-old male (2nd basic plumage).
 Vol. 69, No. 1, 1957. Weller.
 Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*): adult female (mated with male King Eider).
 Vol. 71, No. 3, 1959. Photo, Pettingill.
 King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*): adult male (mated with female Common Eider).
 Vol. 71, No. 3, 1959. Photo, Pettingill.

FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE

- Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinea plumbea*): adult female.
Vol. 56, No. 1, 1944. Sutton.
- Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*): adult, anterior half.
Vol. 65, No. 1, 1953. Sutton.
- Blackish Crane-hawk (*Geranospiza nigra*): adult female (head).
Vol. 66, No. 4, 1954. Sutton.

FAMILY FALCONIDAE

- Bat Falcon (*Falco albicularis*): adult male.
Vol. 54, No. 1, 1942. Sutton.

FAMILY CRACIDAE

- Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*): adult male (head).
Vol. 67, No. 2, 1955. Sutton.

FAMILY PHASIANIDAE

- Singing Quail (*Dactylortyx thoracicus pettingilli*): adult male and female, newly hatched chicks.
Vol. 69, No. 2, 1957 (with description of subspecies). Sutton.

FAMILY RALLIDAE

- Brown-banded Rail (*Rallus mirificus*): adult female.
Vol. 71, No. 4, 1959 (with description of species). Sandford.
- Spotted Rail (*Pardirallus maculatus*): adult.
Vol. 74, No. 4, 1962. Clem.

FAMILY SCOLOPACIDAE

- Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanum*): downy young females.
Vol. 59, No. 1, 1947. Shortt.

FAMILY RECURVIROSTRIDAE

- American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*): adult, summer aspect.
Vol. 38, No. 2, 1926. Sutton.

FAMILY TROCHILIDAE

- Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*): adult male and female.
Vol. 70, No. 1, 1958. Eckelberry.
- White-crested Coquette (*Paphosia adorabilis*): adult males and female.
Vol. 73, No. 1, 1961. Eckelberry.

FAMILY TROGONIDAE

- Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*): adult male and female.
Vol. 71, No. 1, 1959. Eckelberry.

FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE

- Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*): adult male.
Vol. 64, No. 3, 1952. Sutton.

FAMILY MOMOTIDAE

- Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota coeruliceps*): adult.
Vol. 58, No. 1, 1946. Sutton.

FAMILY RAMPHASTIDAE

- Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus prasinus*): adult male (head).
Vol. 52, No. 4, 1940. Sutton.

FAMILY PICIDAE

- Bronzed Woodpecker (*Piculus aeruginosus*): adult male (head).
Vol. 65, No. 2, 1953. Sutton.
- Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*): adult female (head).
Vol. 66, No. 1, 1954. Sutton.
- Flint-billed Woodpecker (*Phloeocoastes guatemalensis regius*): adult male (head).
Vol. 64, No. 1, 1952. Sutton.

FAMILY TURDIDAE

- Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*): adult male.
Vol. 68, No. 3, 1956. Dilger.
- Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus faxoni*): adult male.
Vol. 68, No. 3, 1956. Dilger.
- Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus swainsoni*): adult male.
Vol. 68, No. 3, 1956. Dilger.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus bicknelli*): adult male.
Vol. 68, No. 3, 1956. Dilger.
- Veery (*Catharus fuscescens fuscescens*): adult male.
Vol. 68, No. 3, 1956. Dilger.

FAMILY PARULIDAE

- Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) × Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*):
adult males of 6 genotypes.
Vol. 63, No. 1, 1951. Dilger.
- Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*): adult male at nest with young.
Vol. 57, No. 3, 1945. Photo, Baker.
- Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*): juvenile.
Vol. 70, No. 3, 1958. Dilger.
- Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*): adult male and nestlings.
Vol. 72, No. 1, 1960. Photo, Harrison.
- Altamira Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis flavovelata*): adult male.
Vol. 73, No. 4, 1961. Breckenridge.
- Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*): adult male at nest.
Vol. 63, No. 3, 1951. Photo, Harrison.

FAMILY THRAUPIDAE

- Blue-hooded Euphonia (*Tanagra elegantissima*): adult male and female.
Vol. 63, No. 4, 1951. Sutton.
- Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) × Western Tanager (*P. ludoviciana*): adult male.
Vol. 62, No. 1, 1950. Mengel.

FAMILY FRINGILLIDAE

- Crimson-collared Grosbeak (*Rhodothraupis celaeno*): adult male.
Vol. 62, No. 4, 1950. Sutton.
- Arizona Junco (*Junco phaeonotus palliatus*): adult male.
Vol. 60, No. 1, 1948. Peterson.
- Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*): 1st winter, 2nd fall, 2nd winter, and definitive
spring aspects.
Vol. 41, No. 3, 1929. Sutton.
- White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*): "adult" and "immature."
Vol. 42, No. 2, 1930. Swenk.

- White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*): "adult" and "immature" (but see Lowther, 1961).
Vol. 42, No. 2, 1930. Swenk.

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NEW LIFE MEMBER



Walter J. Breckenridge, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, an active member since 1929 and a past president of the WOS, is a new Life Member. Dr. Breckenridge received

his B.A. degree from the University of Iowa, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota. In 1926 he began preparation work at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History and is now Director of that museum.

Dr. Breckenridge's papers have appeared in the *American Journal of Mammalogy*, *Copeia*, *Journal of Wildlife Management*, and *The Wilson Bulletin*, and he authored the book "Reptiles and Amphibians of Minnesota." He is a member of the AOU (elected Fellow and past member of the Council), American Society of Mammalogists, Minnesota Academy of Science (past president), and Minnesota Ornithologists Union (past president).

At present Dr. Breckenridge is conducting research on the ecological relations of three species of toads in northwestern Minnesota and the life history of the Manitoba toad. His hobbies include wildlife photography and bird artwork, and one of his paintings, of a Pinnated Bittern and an Altamira Yellowthroat, was published in *The Wilson Bulletin*.