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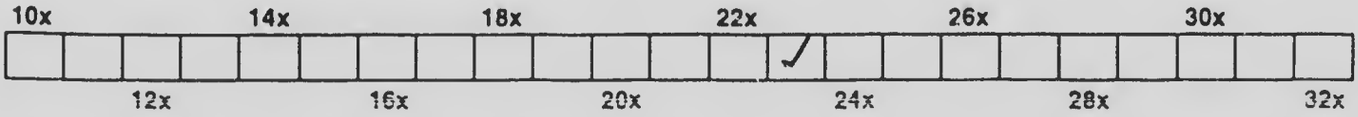

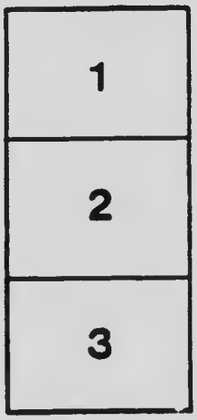

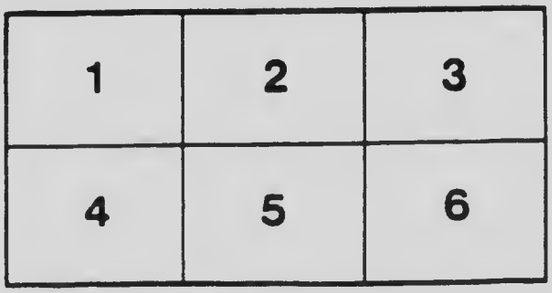

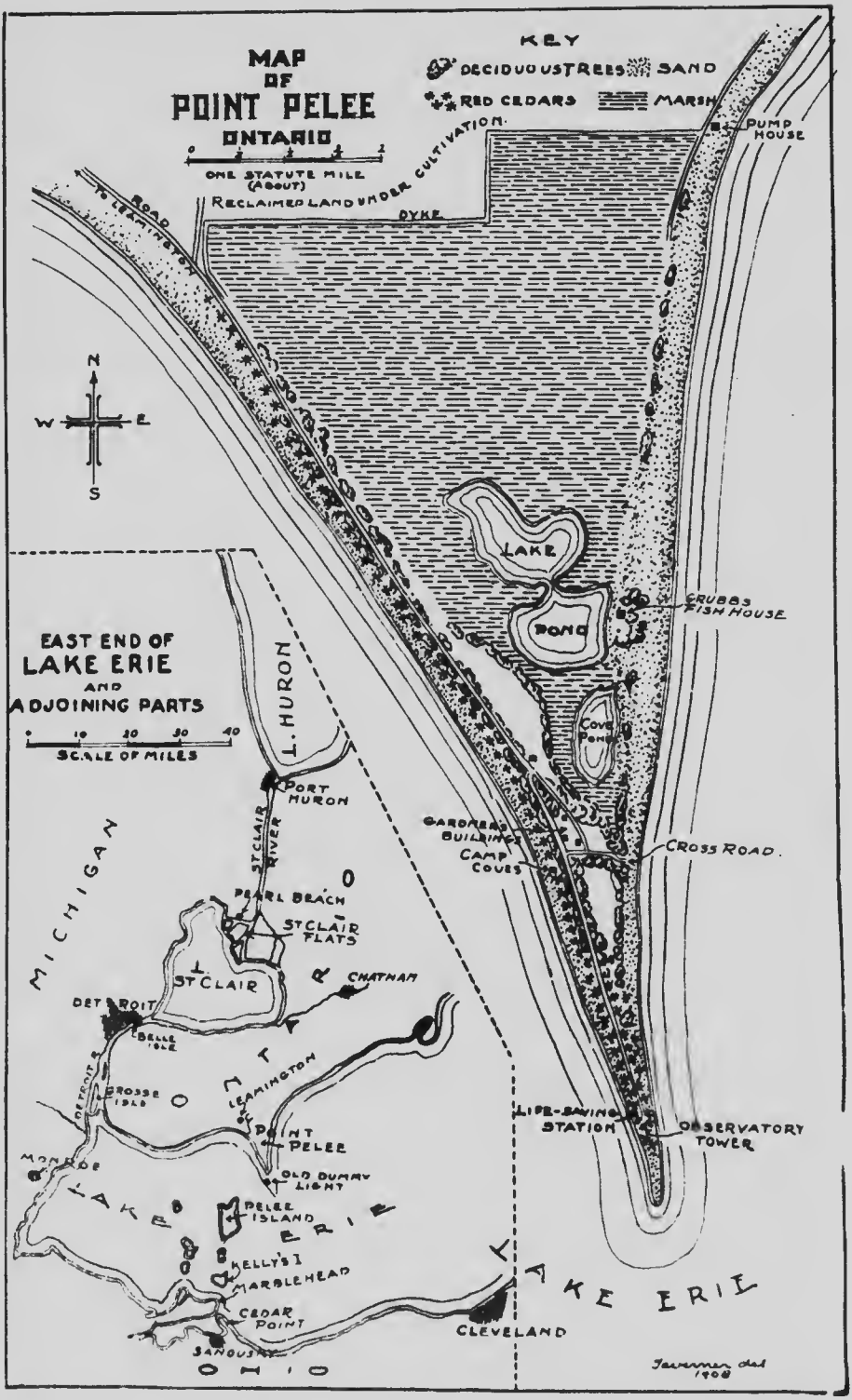
MAP
OF
POINT PELEE
ONTARIO
ONE STATUTE MILE (ABOUT)
KEY
DECIDUOUS TREES
SAND
RED CEDARS
MARSH
RECLAIMED LAND UNDER CULTIVATION
DYKE
ROAD TO LEAMINGTON
PUMP HOUSE
LAKE
POND
GRUBBS FISH HOUSE
Cove Pond
GARDNERS BUILDINGS
CAMP COVES
CROSS ROAD.
LIFE-SAVING STATION
OBSERVATORY TOWER
N
W
E
S
EAST END OF
LAKE ERIE
AND
ADJOINING PARTS
SCALE OF MILES
L. HURON
PORT HURON
ST CLAIR RIVER
PEARL BEACH
ST CLAIR FLATS
L. ST CLAIR
CHATHAM
DETROIT
BELLE ISLE
MICHIGAN
DETROIT R.
GROSSE ISLE
LAKE ST CLAIR
LEAMINGTON
POINT PELEE
OLD DUMMY LIGHT
MONROE
LAKE ERIE
PELEE ISLAND
KELLY'S I
MARBLEHEAD
CEDAR POINT
SANDUSKY
OHIO
CLEVELAND
LAKE ERIE
Jefferson del
1908

THE BIRDS OF POINT PELEE

BY P. A. TAVERNER AND B. H. SWALES.

Reprinted from The Wilson Bulletin, No. 59
June, 1907.

THE BIRDS OF POINT PELEE.

BY P. A. TAVERNER AND B. H. SWALES.

INTRODUCTION.

The following report is mostly compiled from the notes of the members of the Great Lakes Ornithological Club, a small organization formed for the purpose of co-operation and intensive study of the birds of the Great Lakes Region. At one of the earliest meetings of the club attention was called by W. E. Saunders to the peculiarly interesting phases of Point Pelee avifauna, and the interest of the membership was so aroused that a trip was made there May 13 and 14, 1905, by W. E. Saunders, B. H. Swales and P. A. Taverner. The results were so encouraging that further and more extended trips have been made as business conditions permitted. The following are the fruits of the work to date. Credit must be given to the following members, who have aided the writers to the utmost in their endeavors to present all the data so far accumulated in regard to the birds of this interesting locality.

Dr. William Brodie, who made a collecting trip to the Point in July, 1879, and added some valuable notes in regard to conditions at that early date.

Mr. W. E. Saunders, of London, Ont., who made various trips during and after 1884, and has added several species that do not seem to occur there now or that the rest of us have failed to find, besides many other notes whose value will appear

in the following text. Not the least of our indebtedness to this gentleman arises from the fact that he first introduced us to Point Pelee.

Mr. J. E. Keays, who accompanied the above on many of his early trips and made another rather extended one in the fall of 1901.

Mr. A. B. Klugh, of Kingston, Ont., who accompanied the authors on a two weeks expedition the first of September, 1905, and to whom special credit must be given for all the botanical notes, besides others of more direct ornithological interest.

Mr. J. H. Fleming, who accompanied the writers May 20 and 21, 1906, to the Point and who succeeded in making the rarest record for the locality.

Dr. Lynds Jones, who, stationed on the Islands, co-operated with us on the Point in early September, 1905, and furnished valuable data as to the actions of migrants as they passed over the lak

And lastly, though not least, to the various residents on the Point whose good will and kindness made our trips, if not possible, at least comfortable; and among these especially to Mr. Albert Gardner, whose information on various birds we have found most reliable and valuable, especially in regard to the water fowl, of which it is most difficult to gather data on short and desultory trips.

That the work is far from complete will be evident from the numerous gaps that exist in the list, that we have so far been unable to fill from actual observation or reliable report. We have allowed consistently the rule of admitting nothing, except absolutely positive evidence, without giving the grounds for our conclusions that the reader can judge their weight for himself. In nearly all cases specimens have been taken or examined by the writers and in all important records the location of the specimen has been definitely determined so that the identifications can be at any time verified. Many of the shortcomings of the list must be charged against the intermittent character of the work done at the Point and that this may be duly allowed for we append the list of visits made

to the locality, by the writer, upon which the bulk of the work rests.

May 13, 1905, W. E. Saunders, B. H. Swales and P. A. Taverner tramped out the east shore, camped in the red cedar belt on the opposite side and beyond the end of the marsh and returned along the west side road the next day.

Sept. 5 to 17, 1905, A. B. Klugh and Taverner formed a camp about the same place as before, from which point they worked all localities of interest carefully. Sept. 8 they were joined by Swales, who remained until the 13th. Camp was broken the 17th.

October 29, 1905, Taverner made a survey of the east shore.

May 29, 1906, J. H. Fleming, Swales and Taverner drove out to the old camping grounds, worked the end of the Point and a bit of the east shore, returning the next day along the road on the west side.

Sept. 1, 1906, Swales and Taverner worked the country around the end of the marsh and towards the end of the Point and returned Sept. 3.

Sept. 15-22, 1906, Saunders, Swales and Taverner camped in the usual place and worked the end of the Point thoroughly and spent considerable time on the marsh and ponds.

Oct. 11, 1906, Swales and Taverner covered the end of the Point, returning the next day along the east beach, working the Lake Pond on the way.

March 9, 1907, the same two put in two days about the end of the Point.

May 31, 1907, Saunders and Taverner tramped out the east beach and camped on the old grounds, worked the end of the Point and the beaches, returning June 1.

PHYSICAL AND ECCOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION.

Point Pelee is near the western end of Lake Erie, projecting into those waters some nine miles or so from the northern or Ontario shore. It is the most southern point of the mainland of the Canadian Dominion and offers many features of peculiar interest to the student of ornithological distribution. In shape it resembles a large "V" with concave arms flaring

rapidly at the top where it merges into the general trend of the main shore and attains a width of about six miles. This resemblance to the letter is more than superficial, and a closer examination carries out the likeness farther than is apparent from its outline shape alone. The general aspect is that of two long, low sand-bars meeting at the apex where they are amalgamated for a little over two miles of their length, and from thence stretching out in divergent parabolic lines to the main shore. The triangle so inclosed from the point of juncture back to the mainland is swamp of varying degrees of wetness, some places being quite firm and wadable, but others are quaking bogs that render such a proceeding a ticklish undertaking. In several places the marsh deepens into ponds, some being of considerable size.

The marsh itself is largely composed of the following plants: Cat-tail, *Typha latifolia;* Narrow-leaved Cat-tail, *Typha augustifolia;* Wild Rice, *Zizania aquatica;* Reed Grass, *Phragmites communis;* and Lake Bullrush, *Scirpus lacustris.* Of the ponds, those known as the Lake Pond and the Cove Pond are the principal and largest. These are of no great depth and their bottoms are composed of successive generations of aquatic plants and are soft and treacherous. The Lake Pond contains great masses of Wild Celery, *Vallisneria spiralis*, which, with the Wild Rice that grows plentifully and to great size about its shores, offers great inducements to the wild fowl that visit the locality in large numbers during the migrations. German Carp that are said to be common are not nearly as numerous here as at the St. Clair Flats nor have they done the damage that they have at the latter place where the punters claim they have almost entirely exterminated the native Wild Celery.

Across the base of the Point and cutting off a considerable portion of the marsh, a wide ditch has been dug from shore to shore and the material excavated heaped up on the outer side to form a dyke. On the eastern shore a pumping station has been erected and the water is raised from the inner side and thrown out into the lake, thus reclaiming several hundreds of acres of rich swamp land to agricultural use. The debris

taken from the excavation is a stiff blue clay giving an indication of the underlying strata upon which the superficial structure of the Point is built. On top of this clay there are, in places, from two to three feet of solid peat showing in the vertical faces of the cut.

The eastern shore forming the right hand arm of the "V" is very simple in character, being composed of but a single sand-dune, bare of vegetation except for a meager covering of zerophitic plants and a few scattered cottonwoods. Out beyond the end of the marsh where the two arms join, the forest growth of the opposite shore encroaches on the east side until their roots are almost washed by the waves of the lake. The average width of the dune for the greatest part of its length is but a hundred yards and in some places rises to a height of ten feet above the lake, though in others it is so low that, during storms when the wind is in the right direction, the waves wash completely over the slight sand barrier into the marsh beyond. The plant life is typical of such places and is composed of Sand-drop-seed, *Sporobolus cryptandrus;* Knot-weed Spurge, *Euphorbia polygonfolia;* and Tall Wormwood, *Artemisia candata.* Several scattered clumps of Cottonwood mentioned before occur on the crest, and patches of Sea Sand-reed, *Ammophila arundinacea,* and Smooth Panic Grass, *Panicum virgatum.*

Just above high water mark the dune rises rather abruptly, especially towards the base of the point, forming a fairly well marked bluff, and then gradually sinks away into the marsh on the other side, upon which it is evidently encroaching; as between the sand and the bog societies there is usually a long narrow strip of clear water where the blowing sand has smothered the aquatic plants without filling the space up to the water level. In fact there is every evidence that this shore is being eroded, and the time is not very far in the future when Point Pelee will be washed bodily away unless present conditions change or man devises some way in which to stay the natural course of events. The older residents say that some forty years ago this shore was nearly three-quarters of a mile wide and clothed with heavy hardwood timber. Even

since our first visit in May, 1905, we can see that the Point has lost considerable land along the shore, nor have we observed that there have been any compensating accumulations made at other points on this side. The fishermen tell us that the bottom, off shore, is composed of mud, and filled with roots and prostrate tree trunks. On the beach every here and there are often found large regular masses of peat that seem to have been torn up from the bottom and washed ashore in the same manner that Prof. E. L. Mosely describes having taken place immediately across the lake on the Ohio shore at Cedar Point.*

The western side shows an entirely different aspect. Near the base, between the marsh and the lake, it is narrow, barely allowing room for running a road along its length, but as it proceeds onward towards the end of the Point it gradually widens until, beyond the marsh, the two sides of the "V" join and give a width of about half a mile. From the base, on the west side to this point, and all beyond is heavily wooded with deciduous and evergreen trees. Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra*, is one of the most conspicuous species of the former and Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*, of the latter. In fact, these two with Juniper *Juniperus communis*, are the species that give the most striking character to the floral aspects of Point Pelee. Here and there a tall White Pine, *Pinus strobus*, towers up among the other growth or, as in one or two cases, unite to form piney groves. The extreme end of the Point is covered with a heavy growth of Red Cedar in clumps filled in between with great beds of Juniper. This growth mixed with Snowberry, *Symphoricarpus racemosus*, continues down the Point in a sharply defined belt between the beach in front and the deciduous woods behind. A few Red Cedars, however, occur scattered through the woods all along the shore, and in the more barren places inland, where also the Western Prickly Pear, *Opuntia rafinesquii*, flourishes. This western shore, moreover, does not seem to be suffering from erosion as is the eastern. In fact it seems

*Proceedings of the Ohio State Academy of Sciences, 1904, p. 212.

to be growing and extending into the lake. The beach is very wide and of a gentle, even slope and the woods behind seem to be extending their ground over its surface as it encroaches on the lake. It is worthy of notice, in this connection, that large masses of driftwood and other debris is cast up on this shore, while the eastern is perfectly clear except for the masses of peat spoken of before. A road runs out the Point just within the shelter of the trees on this side. Between the road and the lake it is still Crown Land, and so, but for the effects of stray cattle and hogs, is nearly in its primeval state. Beyond the road, however, are farm lands wherever there is room between it and the marsh for cultivation. Beyond the marsh and extending towards the point is woodland composed chiefly of Chestnut Oak, *Quercus primus;* Red Oak, *Quercus rubra;* Black Walnut and Button Wood, *Platanus occidentalis.* In the center of this woodland are extensive fields, both cultivated and waste, some more or less grown up with thickets of Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis;* White-heart Hickory, *Carya tomentosa;* young Black Walnut, Red Oaks and Chestnut Oaks; Climbing Bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens;* Wild Grape, *Vitis riparia;* Carrion Flower, *Smilax herbacea,* and Prickly Green-briar, *Smilax hispida.*

It will be seen from the foregoing that the Point offers inducements for all classes of birds. There are the hardwood forests, cedar thickets, brushy tangles, high and low waste lands, open fields and marshes of all degrees of wetness for a varied avifauna; nor have the conditions promised more than later results have fulfilled as the accompanying list shows. But, before proceeding, it seems desirable to call attention to phenomena of peculiar interest in regard to the avifaunal and other aspects of the Point biota.

The beaches on either side are perfect, wide and clear and of themselves seeming to offer equal inducements to waders; in fact, what choice there is would seem to be in favor of the western one where materials of food value must be constantly washed up. The contrary, however, is the case. We have seen no waders but Spotted Sandpipers on this beach, though Saunders states that on his earlier trips he saw Black-bellied

Plover there. The neighboring marshes on the east side may be the determining factor or the presence of the ponds that, on the east side, wash the inner line of the shore dune in some places, and are not separated from the beach by a belt of timber as on the west. There are many indications, however, that the preference is largely governed by the migrational routes taken by these migrants in approaching and leaving the Point. Just such a condition of affairs would be exhibited if the waders on the fall migration approached the Point from the east side and so along that shore and leaving at the extremity; reversing the route in spring. Such seems to be the course of the Sharp-shinned Hawk flight and what data we have of the distribution of waders on the north shore of Lake Erie seems to substantiate the theory. Gulls and Tern show a less pronounced preference for the same shore but perching birds, as would be expected, are almost absent from it except at such times as described by the residents during the latter part of May, 1907, when, after prolonged interruption of migrations by unseasonable weather, the sparsely sprinkled Cottonwoods scattered along the eastern shore were alive with tanagers and warblers. At other times we have found but such typical species as Savanna Sparrow, Prairie Horned Larks, Palm Warblers and a few White-crowned Sparrows, and late in the season, Snowflakes and Pipits. Practically the same conditions prevailed during all our visits.

The most interesting feature of the Point ornithologically, however, is the intrusion of Carolinian forms of life. This is backed up and supported by the botany as noted by Mr. A. B. Klugh, who says:

"The floral aspect of Pelee is decidedly Carolinian as is shown by the occurrence of the following plants: Sand Grass, *Triodia purpurea*, Summer Grape, *Vitis aestivalis*, Wiry Panic-grass, *Panicum philadelphicum*, Swamp Rose-mallow, *Hibiscus moscheutos*, Florida Milkweed, *Asclepias longifolia*, Button-wood, *Platanus occidentalis*, Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra*, White-heart Hickory, *Carya tomentosa*, Sassafras, *Sassafras officinalis*, and Chestnut Oak, *Quercus prinus*."

How far these conditions, peculiar for Canada, prevail in-

land we are unable to tell. We have found slight Carolinian indications in the bird life along the lake shore as far as Amherstburg to the west. About Leamington, a few miles inland, they are able to raise crops of sugar cane, while tobacco flourishes throughout the region. The Point itself, however, is specially favored by the seasons for, though the spring is some two weeks later than even in the country about Leamington, it more than makes up for that by being absolutely free from late spring frosts, and having almost a month more free from frost in the fall. The results of this are well seen this spring, 1907, when the peach crop on the mainland promised to be almost a total failure, many entire orchards being actually killed, while on the Point itself the trees promise the greatest crop they have ever known. A few such occurrences as this must have a most decided influence upon the biota and explain why so many species are found in but this one locality in the Dominion.

On looking at the map of Lake Erie, Point Pelee, stretching out into the lake, the great arm of Ottawa Co. reaching an equal distance from the opposite Ohio shore, and the islands lying like stepping-stones between seem to constitute a natural migrational highway across the lake. Special attention has been given to this appearance and the results seem to justify our surmises. Dr. Lynds Jones was stationed on the islands during the first of Sept., 1905, and describes the migrational conditions he observed in these words:

"I found the birds migrating practically everywhere along the line of the islands, but the largest and best defined stream was across Pelee Island, with a well marked convergence to its southern point, thence across to Middle, and beyond to Kelly's Island, thence across to Marblehead. Migrating birds were most numerous on Middle Island, but they were in great numbers on Pelee (Island). No birds were seen crossing the lake except in a line with the islands."

This last statement is important for it shows that, though Lake Erie is not very wide at any point, the generality of small migrants prefer an easy passage from island to island to launching directly out and making the crossing

at one flight. We say the "generality" with reason, for some species we have seen crossing directly over, undeflected by the inviting appearance of Pelee Island that lies in full view from the end of the Point and about eight miles and a half away. The birds we have seen so crossing were Duck Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Blue Jay, Robin, and Bluebird. We noted all of these species crossing the afternoon of October 14, 1906. On that date this was of more than common interest as it showed migration at a time when such movements are difficult to detect. Ordinarily with individuals coming and going daily there is no appreciable increase or diminution of numbers of a species. Under such conditions it is almost impossible to tell positively whether the bird population is migrating or stationary. But here it is possible to actually see such species start out and feel certain that it is a migration flight and not but a passage to another woods or swale, and accidentally in a southerly direction. From the first of September on, every morning's sunrise sees great flocks of Blackbirds and Bobolinks that have presumably passed the night in the marsh making their way down the Point for the crossing. Through the day it is but an occasional small bunch that passes over, but from sunrise to about eight o'clock they go in an almost steady stream. Sharp-shinned Hawks, on the contrary, seem to wait until they have digested their morning meal before starting out and then seem to cross throughout the day in steady numbers.

There is one species, however, that does seem to take advantage of every resting place along the way and that is the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. This dainty little bird showed a strange mixture of bravery and caution. Other birds hesitate more or less before finally leaving the Point and then fly at an elevation of about two hundred feet or more. As they start out from the shelter of the last trees the least thing will turn them back, a man shouting, a gun shot or the sight of a hawk in the far distance. In this manner they may make several false starts before the final one. The Hummingbird, however, comes sailing down the Point over the tops of

the last shrubbery and then dropping down to within a few feet of the sand follows its curves and windings out to its most extreme tip when, squaring away at an angle to its flight of a moment ago, it makes straight for Pelee Island. We saw this many times, nor did they once hesitate or pause from the time when they first hove in sight over the bush tops until they faded away in the field of our glasses over the waters of the lake. Contrary to other species noted, they flew low, and according to Dr. Jones, who saw them from a boat out in the lake, they kept, as much as possible, low in the trough of the seas to escape the wind pressure of higher levels.

In most localities in this region fall birds, even in the height of the migrations, are generally rather hard to find. They cruise along in bunches often of many individuals and species. When such companies are found birds are to be seen all about, but soon the host has passed on and the woods are comparatively deserted until another such company is found. During the height of the fall migrations, the last of August and the first of September at Point Pelee, however, the conditions are much different. The birds are in a flock but one might say that it occupies the whole Point. Sometimes, wherever one turns many individuals are in sight and one is bewildered by their numbers. Then some night we hear the "cheeps" of migrants high in the air and the next morning the multitude will be gone and, with the exception of some few species, birds will be hard to find. Then again, they will gradually increase till they reach their maximum numbers and again vanish. In fact, the whole history of the fall migrations at the Point seems to be a series of gradual augmentations and sudden diminutions of bird life, as though the migrants continue to arrive until certain conditions have been fulfilled or a degree of saturation of bird life had arrived and then all leave in a body. About one-third of the way from the Point to Pelee Island, but some miles to the east of the direct line, there used to be a light-house that is now deserted. It was kept by a man by the name of Grubb, who told us that at times great numbers of birds used to become dazzled by the glare of the light, and striking the glass of the

lantern fell struggling to the stage below. Many of these were killed outright, but he says that sometimes he would gather up the stunned ones and carry them inside and has had more than a hundred flying about his small quarters at a time.

As far as we can see, the night departures of birds in the fall are made almost independent of the weather. Several times we congratulated ourselves that the night was too bad for birds to leave the Point and cross the troubled waters of the lake and that the next day we would have a chance to see some rare species again only, when morning dawned, to find that we were to be disappointed and where birds were abundant the day before they were scarce then. This latter fact is easily explainable on considering the short flights from island to island and the number of havens of rest offered should the weather prove too unpropitious.

Usually, companies of migrating birds seem to be moving in given and definite directions and one acquainted with the ground can often locate a group again after it has once passed. On Point Pelee, however, they seem to move erratically about, sometimes traveling up and sometimes down the Point. They seem to have reached the end of their land journey and have nothing to do but kill time until they are ready to take up their next stage across the water.

These facts stand out plainly in our work on Point Pelee: the evident "wave" form of the migrations, the great congestion of bird life during migrations, their erratic wandering while on the Point in the fall and their departure, as far as we could see, regardless of weather.

All these facts point to the conclusion that here is the contraction and consequent condensation of a great migration route and the congestion of bird life in spring and a few days in the fall suggests the great area of territory to the north that must be supplied in the spring and drained in the fall of its birds by this stream. The occurrence of so many rarities within a small locality is also interesting and suggestive, showing how such wandering waifs "follow the crowd" and progress along routes unknown to their ancestors and along these highways sometimes establish permanent homes in new

territory, as in the cases of such intrusive forms as Cardinal, Yellow-breasted Chat and Carolina Wren that have formed permanent settlement here. In studying out the problems presented it is well to bear in mind the fact that Prof. E. L. Mosely seems to have conclusively proved that within almost historical times there was land connection broken but by marshes and streams of comparatively narrow width between the Ohio and Canadian shores.

Taken all together, the bird life of Point Pelee, the islands adjoining and the opposite American shore forms a subject of absorbing interest and ground where migrational phenomena of the Great Lakes can perhaps be studied to better advantage than anywhere else in this section. There are many such problems that seem to have a glimmer of light thrown on them from work done here and should results warrant they will form the grounds of subsequent papers. As a basis for such future work and as a matter of present record the following list is put forth by the authors:

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OF POINT PELEE.

1. *Colymbus auritus*,—Horned Grebe.

Without doubt a regular spring and fall migrant as at Detroit, Mich. Two seen on the Lake Pond, October 15, 1906, and listed by Harry Gould (Ottawa Naturalist, Vol. XV, 1901, p. 16), September 19, 1900.

2. * *Podilymbus podiceps*,—Pied-billed Grebe.

A common migrant and undoubtedly a regular breder in considerable numbers. We have not observed it as yet in the spring during our May visits, but at these times little marsh work was done and they could easily have been overlooked. The species increases in abundance from early September and are common by the middle of the month on the ponds, though we have yet to see it on the Lake. They were very common during October, 1906 and appear to remain until driven out by the formation of the ice. In 1905 there were still numbers to be seen October 29.

3. * *Gavia imber*,—Loon.

Mr. Saunders found a nest during the first week in June, 1884, near the west side of one of the ponds and remarks, "They were then

* Species so marked have either been taken by the writers or specimens have been examined by them personally.

known to breed there annually." This species seems to have suffered the same fate here as it has in the adjoining localities, and from a common breeder has been reduced to the position of a regular migrant, becoming rarer before the encroachments of civilization. We have observed single birds at Pelee at various times and the fishermen inform us that at times they take considerable numbers in their nets. The only places where the loon seems to breed in the adjoining country is on the little isolated lakes of the interior, such as those of Oakland county, Michigan, where but a pair or so still manage to perform the duties of nidification.

4. * *Larus argentatus*.—Herring Gull.

We have found the Herring Gull a common species during all our visits, even as late as May 22 (1906), and as early as September 1 (1905-06). At times of high wind they frequent the surf at the end of the Point. At other times they can generally be found on the stakes of the pound nets that stretch for some distance out into the lake on both sides of the Point. September 13, 1905, we were presented by some fishermen with a very wet and bedraggled Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*) that they had picked up out of the lake where it had been buffeted by the Herring Gulls, and would certainly have been drowned if it had not been rescued for another fate. It seems almost incredible that a bird as large as this gull should have any cause to fear this small *Accipiter*, but there must be some basis in past experience to form such an antipathy as this case shows. From our experience at the western end of Lake Erie and the Detroit River we regard the species as common throughout the winter as long as there is open water.

5. *Larus philadelphia*.—Bonaparte's Gull.

Without doubt a common and regular migrant. We have noted it on all spring visits as late as June 1, 1907. We have not seen it in September, but found it present October 14, 1906, and October 29, 1905. A few immatures may remain during the summer.

6. *Sterna caspia*.—Caspian Tern.

Noted by Saunders on the east shore late in August, 1882. We saw four flying up and down the same shore May 13, 1905, in company with Common Terns; and September 8, 1905, Mr. Swales saw two adults flying just out of gun range near the end of the Point. (Auk, XXIV, 1907, p. 137.)

7. * *Sterna hirundo*.—Common Tern.

An abundant migrant and observed commonly on nearly all visits and as late as September 20, 1906, though none have been seen in October. Breeds in great numbers on the Hen and Chicken Islands directly south in Lake Erie.

8. **Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*,—Black Tern.

A common summer resident and breeder. Sets of eggs were taken by Saunders in 1884 and they were evidently nesting or preparing to do so May 31, 1907. September 12, 1905, is our latest fall date when we witnessed an interesting migration of the species. Early in the morning a large number were observed passing southward along the east beach. Many paused on their way, alighting on the net stakes about half a mile out in the lake until every stake was covered. Nearly all were immatures. By noon all had passed.

9. ** Phalacrocorax dilophus*,—Double-crested Cormorant.

March 10, 1907, we discovered the remains of a specimen of this species on the eastern shore that we were informed had been killed the previous fall. The head was preserved for record.

10. *Merganser americanus*.—American Merganser.

Undoubtedly both Mergansers occur regularly on the waters adjacent to the Point, though we have not noted them personally. This is the species the gunners seem the better acquainted with and they report it as common during migrations and through mild winters.

11. ** Lophodytes cucullatus*,—Hooded Merganser.

Reported by the gunners as a common migrant. A fine male sent us taken November 13, 1906.

12. ** Anas boschas*,— Mallard.

Without doubt a common migrant and a common though limited breeder, as reported by the gunners. Birds seen and taken September 1, 1906, were likely raised on the marsh. Locally all females are known as Grey Ducks by the gunners, who regard them as of a different species. This confusion is likely caused by the taking of males in the "eclipse" plumage when for a short time during the summer moult it assumes the general plumage of the female.

13. ** Anas obscura*,—Black Duck.

A. obscura is a more abundant species than *boschas* and is reported by the gunners as a common breeder. Saunders saw a pair waddling about the marshes June 3, 1884, and May 30, 1907, he and Taverner noted ducks in singles and flocks over the marshes to the number of twenty or more that we took to be of this species. In all probability late migrants will be found to be the form *rubripes*, though so far we have been unable to examine specimens from there later than October 15 (1906).

14. *Chaulelasmus streperus*,—Gadwall.

Gardner seems to know this duck, though he says it is not common. Though it likely occurs rarely, until specimens are secured its status must remain hypothetical.

15. ** Nettion carolinensis*,—Green-winged Teal.

Undoubtedly small numbers are of regular occurrence during mi-

grations. We secured a pair taken October 25, 1906. This species has diminished in numbers of late years throughout this section.

16. *Querquedula discors*.—Blue-winged Teal.

A common migrant, coming early in fall and remaining late in spring. A few may remain to breed as the residents report. Noted a couple in the dyke ditch May 21, 1906, and May 31, 1907. Gardner reported that a few were seen a day or so before on the marsh. Common from September 1 to October 15, 1906, when we left. This species does not seem to be diminishing at this end of Lake Erie as reported by Fleming for Lake Ontario. (Auk XXIII, 1906, p. 444.)

17. *Mareca americana*.—Baldpate.

Reported a fairly common bird during migrations.

18. * *Dafila acuta*.—Pintail.

A regular and fairly common migrant. Have seen it between the dates of September 13, 1906, and November 7, 1906.

19. * *Aix sponsa*.—Wood Duck.

This rapidly disappearing species seems to be still far from uncommon on the Point. We saw numbers both dead and alive all through September 1905-1906, and Gardner reports taking one November 1 of the latter year. He also captured a winged bird on the marsh December 17. According to the shooters they breed in considerable numbers, though they are most common in spring. This spring (1907) Gardner reports a falling off in numbers. He is perfectly familiar with their breeding habits, and when we asked him as to how the female got her young to the ground from the nest he said that he had several times seen her take the young out of the nest in her bill and deposit them one by one at the bottom of the tree where they crouched motionless while she returned for the next. When all are down, with the old one in the lead, they make straight for the nearest water. He says that the greatest enemies that the young birds have after they leave the nest are the Snapping-turtles and large Pike that infest the marshes.

20. * *Aythya americana*.—Redhead.

A very common migrant on the ponds, where it feeds on the mass of Wild Celery (*Vallisneria spiralis*) growing there. Saunders observed them as late as May 31, 1884. In 1906, the first seen by Gardner was October 9, though the year before we took one on the Lake Pond September 9, but as it was an injured bird the date is of no migrational importance. October 15, 1906, we saw large rafts of them in the center of the Lake Pond and the last were reported from the Point December 1.

21. * *Aythya vallisneria*.—Canvas-back.

Not as common as *A. americana*, but of regular occurrence. Gardner reported a number October 13, 1906, and November 16 sent us a specimen.

22. **Aythya marila*.—Scaup Duck.

A common migrant. Reported by Gardner August 31, 1906. We saw a number September 1. Received several specimens from the Point in November the same year. Reported common December 1. We saw them as late as May 13, 1905, and heard of the presence of "Bluebills" May 29, 1907. This species is locally known as "Lake Bluebills" by the shooters.

23. **Aythya affinis*.—Lesser Scaup Duck.

A common migrant, locally called "Marsh Bluebill." We had specimens sent us November 7, 1906, and it was reported December 1. A few remain all summer, but they are likely cripples or immated birds.

24. **Aythya collaris*.—Ring-necked Duck.

Gardner states that this duck occurs in limited numbers especially in spring. He sent us a male taken November 16, 1906. (Auk. XXIV, 1907, p. 139.)

25. *Clangula clangula americana*.—American Golden-eye.

Reported to be a common migrant. We saw a male bird May 13, 1905, and it was reported by Gardner September 13, 1906.

26. **Charitonetta albeola*.—Buffle-head.

A common migrant. We saw none during our October visits, but had a number sent us November 7 and 16, 1906. Gardner reported about twenty December 1 the same year.

27. *Harelda hyemalis*.—Old Squaw.

A bed of about fifty lay out in the lake near the nest stakes May 13, 1905. Mr. Grubb said that they had been there for several weeks. A number remain during open winters. Locally termed "Coween," "South-southerlies" and "Sou-easterlies."

28. **Erismatura jamaicensis*.—Ruddy Duck.

Observed on the ponds by Saunders June 10, 1884. We secured a crippled bird on the Lake Pond September 12, 1905, but regarded it as a "left-over" from the previous migration. Gardner reported a number October 13, 1906, and about fifty December 1. He sent us a female November 7.

29. **Chen hyperborea*.—Lesser Snow Goose.

An immature bird was shot near the base of the Point October 17, 1905, by Sidney Stanlick, of Leamington, and secured by Taverner. It was very poor and an injured foot bespoke a recent injury. (See Auk, XXIII, 1906, p. 219.)

Gardner reports that in November, 1906, after the marsh had frozen over there were eight white geese seen in the fields at the base of the Point, but they were harried so at long range that they became so wild that no one succeeded in taking any of them. They doubtless belonged to this species.

30. * *Branta canadensis.*—Canada Goose.

A common migrant, perhaps more abundant in spring. They sometimes frequent the ponds, but are usually found feeding on the cultivated fields inside the dyke at the base of the Point. Observed October 28, 1905, and October 11 and 12, 1906.

31. * *Olor columbianus.*—Whistling Swan.

Gardner reports Swans as occurring irregularly in spring. Usually they remain well out in the lake, but sometimes during heavy weather they venture in on the ponds. It is less common in fall. We have seen mounted specimens of this species in Leamington and as *columbianus* is the common form in this section, list it under this head, though *buccinator* may occur.

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THE BIRDS OF POINT PELEE.

BY P. A. TAVERNER AND B. H. SWALES.

(Continued from page 53.)

32. **Botaurus lentiginosus.*—American Bittern.

An abundant summer resident, remaining until late in the fall. Gardner reported seeing a bird on the marsh Jan. 25 and Feb. 13, 1907. Undoubtedly breeds commonly.

33. **Ardetta exilis.*—Least Bittern.

Common summer resident on the marshes, especially near the base along the dyke, where the wetness and softness of the muddy bottom is evidently to its liking. Migration dates on this species, especially in the fall, are hard to get. The local name for the bird on the Point is "Strike-the," and under that name it was reported by the shooters Sept. 2, 1907, which gives us our latest date.

34. **Ardea herodias.*—Great Blue Heron.

A common summer resident. About four o'clock in the afternoons, both in spring and fall, numbers of them can be seen winging their way from the marshes, where they have been spending the day, to the stakes of the pound nets off shore on either side of the Point. There they balance themselves awkwardly on the swaying ropes, or stand statuesquely on top of the stakes and take toll of the contents of the nets. Sometimes nearly a dozen can thus be seen about one net, and the fishermen regard the fish so taken as no small item. One evening Taverner witnessed them making their way out to their usual stand with the greatest difficulty, against a heavy head wind. Several seemed unable to make it, and returned to conceal themselves with what they could find along the shore. The wind at this time was blowing about sixteen miles an hour. It was evident that such a wind is about the limit that the early fall birds at any rate can make head against. In the early morning, Great Blue Heron tracks can be seen all over the sand of the eastern beach, though we have seen but few there during the daylight hours. So it seems that many come to the shores in the night to feed. In early September we have seen them rise up from the marsh in the daytime, when disturbed by shooters, in flocks numbering a dozen or more individuals.

35. *Ardea coerulea?*—Little Blue Heron.

Sept. 22, 1906, we examined a white heron in the possession of Mr John Conover, then of Leamington. The bird, an old mounted one, was situated so as to be difficult of examination, but as far as we could see it was pure white, without plumes and the legs were painted green. We therefore enter it under this heading with a question

mark, as not being absolutely identified. It was taken, according to the owner, by a Mr. Dan Goyeau near the base of the Point in September, 1904. See Auk XXIV 139-40.

36. **Butorides virescens.*—Green Heron.

The resident hunters call this bird the "Blue Bittern" and seem to be well acquainted with it. It cannot be a very common species or we would have met with it oftener than we have. A great part of the west side of the marsh is well covered with suitable bushes that would form admirable places for them. We have met individuals at various times of the spring and fall and secured one specimen August 30, 1907.

37. **Nycticorax nycticorax naevius.*—Black-crowned Night Heron.

Mr. Saunders reports that June 3, 1884, he saw "at least one on the marsh." On the night of Sept. 15, 1906, we heard the hoarse croaks of a bird flying out the Point along the shore that we were certain proceeded from an individual of this species. But it was not until Sept. 2, 1907 that we were able to remove the Night Heron from the hypothetical list when Bert Gardner brought one in that he had killed on the marsh while duck shooting. It was a juvenile bird and is now in the collection of Mr. Taverner. Gardner says that he saw at least a dozen of them. The next day he looked for them again, but was able to find but one, which he was unable to secure.

HYPOTHETICAL.

Some of the old residents tell us of "large white cranes" seen near the base of the Point years ago "as tall as a man." Also of cranes feeding in flocks on plowed fields at an equally early and vague date. These descriptions point very closely to the Whooping and Sandhill Cranes, *Grus americana* and *G. mexicana*. The evidence, however, is not sufficient to admit them formally to the list.

38. *Rallus elegans.*—King Rail.

Observed by Saunders June 6, 1884, and by Kingh and Taverner Sept. 5, 1905. The "Big Virginia Rails" spoken of by the local shooters must, from their description, belong to this species; if so they are much more common than the few above records would lead one to suppose. In fact there is no reason to suppose them less common here than on the neighboring St. Clair Flats, where they are common breeders. Gardner reports one in the marsh, apparently in good condition, on Nov. 30 and Dec. 31, 1906.

39. *Rallus virginianus.* Virginia Rail.

Observed May 21, 1906, and May 30 and 31, 1907. Our only fall date is furnished by Keays, who noted two Sept. 19, 1901. Within our sphere of operations it has been our experience that the Virginia Rail is nothing like as common as the Sora. It is undoubtedly a reg-

ular breeder and perhaps further careful work in certain portions of the marsh will prove it to be more abundant than our present data leads us to suppose.

40. **Porzana carolina*.—Sora Rail.

A common summer resident and breeder. Sept. 19, 1906, we found certain parts of the marsh alive with them and both juveniles and adults rose readily from the grass. The shooters call it the "Little Rice Bird." Gardner reports that he saw no more after Oct. 9, 1906.

41. **Gallinula galeata*.—Florida Gallinule.

This species, called locally "Rice Bird," is a common summer resident, and without doubt breeds. Our latest record is one reported by Gardner Oct. 9, 1906.

42. **Fulica americana*.—American Coot.

Likely a few breed as we have noted them on all spring visits as late as May 30 (1907), and in the early fall, Sept. 2 (1907). During October their numbers are very largely augmented by the migrants, when large beds of them are to be observed in the center of the ponds, and every little mud hole in the marsh contains several or many.

43. **Philohela minor*.—American Woodcock.

A common migrant and undoubtedly a regular breeder. From the reports of the shooters and our own experience we judge that the number gradually increases the latter end of August until the end of the month, when the vast majority of them leave. We have never found many of them in September, though from August 24 to 31, 1907, they were very common. Sept. 1 they were all gone, and though we stayed until the 6th, no stragglers were seen.

44. **Gallinago delicata*.—Wilson's Snipe.

Reported by the residents to be a common migrant. First fall date, Sept. 19, 1905. Oct. 13 of the same year they were reported very common and the next day along the edges of the Lake Pond we saw about twenty and took several. Gardner reports having seen occasional individuals during the summer months, and a breeding record would not surprise us greatly.

47. **Tringa canutus*.—Knot.

Sept. 15, 1906, on the eastern beach, Taverner secured an immature male Knot. May 30, 1907, he took another, an adult male this time, in very nearly the same place, but on the marsh side of the sand dune. A little later in the day, two more were seen flying by, but were not secured. Both the above birds are in Mr. Taverner's collection numbered 365 and 867 respectively.

46. **Actodromas maculata*.—Pectoral Sandpiper.

Mr. Saunders took this species in September, 1882, and again in the same month of 1900. Taverner took two of three seen on the mud in the marsh near the east base of the Point, Oct. 29, 1905, and we observed the same number in the same place, Oct. 15, 1906. This species does not favor sand beaches as a rule, but is more often found on mud flats.

47. **Actodromas bairdii*.—Baird's Sandpiper.

Mr. Saunders says: "On Sept. 19, 1900, I saw four Baird's Sandpipers on the east beach, of which we got one or two." This remained the sum total of our knowledge of this species on the Point until August 24, 1907, when we found it almost common. Every bunch, nearly, of small waders that we saw contained one or more. We never found them in flocks by themselves, but always a few individuals mixed in with other species. After the 26th they began to thin out with the rest of the waders, and the last was seen August 31. They were easily distinguished from the Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, when associated with them, by their superior size, and the more general and even suffusion of buffy on the throat and upper breast. In general appearance they seem to be about half way between the Least and Pectoral Sandpipers, though the breast coloration is softer, less streaked and more buffy and general than either. We secured a number of specimens.

48. **Actodromas minutilla*.—Least Sandpiper.

We have noted this little sandpiper much more commonly in the spring than in the fall; indeed, it seems to be one of the earliest fall migrants, arriving in this latitude early in the first week in July, and but a few stragglers remaining after the first of September. Our September dates are all for a few singles seen early in the month, and even when we arrived on the Point, August 24, 1907, there were but few individuals in company with other small waders, and none were seen after the 2d of September. It is always difficult to separate this species from the Semipalmated Sandpiper in life, but when they are both together close attention will reveal the inferior size, redder back and darker breast of the Least. Without doubt this species is a regular and common migrant at both seasons at the Point, as it is at Detroit.

49. **Pelidna alpina sakhalina*.—Red-backed Sandpiper.

Observed by Saunders as late as June 10, 1884, and by us May 13, 1905, when about eleven were seen along the shores of the Lake Pond. May 20, 1906, we saw one, and again another single May 31, 1907. It is a late migrant, both spring and fall, and is likely both regular and common in its occurrence at the Point. We have met it but once in the

fall, Oct. 15, 1906, when about twenty were seen on mud banks in the Lake Pond. Several were taken at this time.

50. **Ereunetes pusillus*.—Semipalmated Sandpiper.

The commonest wader on the beach in the fall. When we arrived on the Point August 24, 1907, we found flocks already there aggregating hundreds. After the 26th their numbers decreased, until after the 30th, when but isolated bunches of from a couple to seven or eight, mingled together with Semipalmated Plover and Sanderling, were met with scattered along the shore. This is about the same numerical condition that we have found on other September trips of the two previous years, and so they continued to our latest dates for the month, Sept. 22, 1906. We saw none Oct. 15 of same year. At Detroit, the Semipalmated Sandpiper arrives in the fall about the last of July and leaves the last of August. It is likely the same at Point Pelee, though as above indicated, a number of individuals linger well towards the end of September. In the spring we have but one good record, Saunders reports it from there June 5, 1884. May 30, 1907, we saw several individuals that we thought were this species, but the conditions of observation were so poor and the chances of mistake so great that we could not be at all certain of our identification. It is likely a late spring migrant here as at Detroit, arriving the latter end of May and departing the first week of June.

51. **Calidris arenaria*.—Sanderling.

It seems evident that the last days of May are the times to look for this beautiful little wader. Saunders found it there May 30, 1884, and again the same date in 1907 it was quite common on the east beach. It has been noted on all September trips, and was very common August 24, 1907, though together with most of the other small waders present then, it much decreased in numbers after the 30th. We saw two as late as Oct. 15 (1906). This is one of the most interesting of the sandpipers. Unlike most of the waders it is frequently seen some distance from the water line and on top of the dunes on the dry sand, though its usual station is just at the water's edge, running forward after each receding wave and nimbly back again just in time to escape being overwhelmed by the next succeeding breaker. They run with great rapidity over the sand and sometimes prefer that method of escaping to flight. At such times it takes a sharp and well sustained pace to walk them down. At times they are absurdly tame, and at one time allowed us to approach within shooting distance and to collect all of a bunch of three, one at a time, the survivors showing not the slightest alarm at the successive reports of a heavy twelve gauge gun. On the wing, the black and white of their plumage shows up in striking contrast, and when in the bright sunlight they pass over the green water they make a rarely beautiful sight.

We expected to find adults present the latter end of August, but when we arrived at the Point August 24, 1907, all secured were in juvenile plumage. Saunders thought he saw a couple with the reddish breast of the adult bird, but was unable to secure them and no more were noted. It is well known that the older individuals of this species arrive early in the fall and generally depart before the first of the juveniles arrive.

52. **Limosa haemastica*.—Hudsonian Godwit.

May 13, 1905, Taverner took a high plumaged male Hudsonian Godwit along the strip of clear water that separates the sand dune from the marsh. It stood bunched up under a small bush with its feet just wet with the lapping of the water, uttering a series of short, sharp "cheeps" that first attracted our attention to it. See Auk, XXIII, 535.

53. **Totanus melanoleucus*.—Greater Yellow-legs.

We have seen but two of this species on the Point. Both killed by Gardner on the marsh, Sept. 3 and 14, 1906. The shooters speak enthusiastically of the "big Yellow-legs" they shoot on the marsh in October. No doubt it is a regular and common migrant, though fewer in numbers than the next species.

54. **Totanus flavipes*.—Yellow-legs.

We have only met this species in early September, our earliest date being the 1st, in 1907, and the latest the 19th, in 1906. This gives very little idea of their migrational movement as they arrive at Detroit the second week of July, and by the first of August are present in great flocks. The bulk of them seem to leave about the first of September.

55. **Helodromas solitarius*.—Solitary Sandpiper.

We have met but single individuals of this species on the Point in various September visits, viz. the 11th and 16th, in 1905, and the 6th, in 1907. Saunders also saw one the latter year, August 28. Both the latter were observed in a drainage ditch at the base of the Point. Indeed, Point Pelee is not ground suitable to their tastes at all, and unless some are to be found on the mud banks scattered through the marsh through July and August their occurrence at all is likely accidental.

56. **Tryngites subruficollis*.—Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

August 29, 1907, Taverner took a male at the extreme end of the final sand spit at the end of the Point. It was in company with a small bunch of Semipalmated Sandpipers and Sanderling. It seemed quite tame and was easily secured. It is numbered 924 in the collector's collection.

57. **Actitis macularia.*—Spotted Sandpiper.

A common summer resident and breeder. In June, 1884, Saunders found this species breeding so abundantly on the west shore, "That a short walk was nearly sure to flush one from the nest." Unlike all the other waders that occur on the Point it is at all times of its occurrence as common on the west shore as on the east. We have always found it in numbers in May, but our fall visits have usually been a little late to find more than the stragglers. Sept. 3 to 18, 1905, we saw from two to four daily. In 1906 it was common from the 1st to 3d, but from the 15th to 22d, our later visit, we saw but a couple the first date and one the 21st. There were quite a number present from August 24 to the end of the month, in 1907, but after that it was but stray individuals and couples that were noted. One of these last was caught in the hand by Mr. N. A. Wood, being incapable of sustained flight. On dissection nothing could be discovered to account for such a condition except that it was so abnormally fat that the conclusion was almost forced upon us that it was too fat to fly.

58. *Numenius hudsonicus?*—(Hudsonian?) Curlew.

The residents tell us of the flocks of Curlew that visit the end of the Point in June. Saunders records Curlew in June, 1884; and May 30, 1907, he and Taverner saw a flock of 15 on the east beach. No specimens have been secured and the exact specific designation of the individuals seen remains in doubt. As Saunders says, "The Hudsonian has always been an abundant migrant on a certain few days in the spring, at favored localities, and the other (Long-billed) always rare." Further researches have convinced us that we would be warranted in putting the case in even stronger language than this, and the probability, almost amounting to certainty, is that these are Hudsonian Curlew, but until specimens are actually examined the species must be regarded as hypothetical.

59. **Squatarola squatarola.*—Black bellied Plover.

A common fall migrant. We have no record of its occurrence in spring. We have found numbers of Black-bellied Plover on the beach and the mud banks of the marsh on all September visits, and took one Oct. 15, 1906. Sept. 15, 1905, five or six were observed with black underparts and the next day Klugh saw a couple more in like plumage; but it was not until August 25, 1907, that any such specimens were taken. For the first three days after this date all seen were in varying stages of the black plage. Then a white-belly was taken and the black ones decreased in numbers until the 29th, when the last one was observed; after which all were white underneath. In common with most of the waders the adults seem to arrive in the fall earlier than the juveniles, and to leave first. It is rare to find a straggling adult after the rest of its kind have left, but the younger birds often linger on for a long time after their elders have gone. This species is

readily distinguished from the Golden Plover in life by its black, instead of gray, axillaries that in flight stand out prominently from the general gray of wings and sides; and the rather prominent white rump that in certain conditions of flight is very noticeable.

60. **Charadrius dominicus.*—American Golden Plover.

We have met the Golden Plover but twice, both times in the fall, Sept. 15, 1905, and Sept. 19, 1906. Gardner reported seeing eight on the marsh Sept. 2, 1907. This completes the record for the Point to date. The shooters tell us that in October great numbers are found on the marsh, and though we can not always tell which of the two large plover are referred to, the time is more in keeping with the habits of the Golden than the Black-bellied, as it seems to be a much later migrant in the fall than the other.

61. **Oxyechus vociferus.*—Killdeer.

The Killdeer is not a common bird on the Point itself, though they seem usually common on the mainland near the base. In our September visits we usually see or hear one or two every day. They seldom alight on the beaches or mingle with the other waders found there. They undoubtedly breed on the cultivated fields at the base.

62. **Egialitis semipalmata.*—Semipalmated Plover.

We have but two or three records for this species in spring. In May, 1884, Saunders met it on the Point, May 20, 1906, three, and May 30, 1907, we saw two. During all fall trips, however, it has been plentiful. Oct. 29, 1905, Taverner took one. All fall birds so far seen or taken have been juveniles with the black of the head and breast replaced with dingy brown. We expected, August 24, 1907, when we arrived at the Point, to find the adults still there, but were mistaken. At Detroit the adults go through about the middle of August and do not stay long. As a rule two weeks covers their sojourn, but it is seen as in other species, that the younger individuals linger much longer than the adults. As a rule they occur on the beaches of the Point in little groups of three or four in company with Semipalmated Sandpipers and Sanderling, and no wader group is complete without one or more.

63. **Egialitis melodа.*—Piping Plover.

No wader is nor could be more daintily pretty than this little species. Its delicate, tasteful coloration, combined with its clear whistled pipe as it flies out over the blue water, and from which it has taken its name, make a rare combination that, together with the smooth beaches upon which it runs, and the adjoining waters reflecting the blue skies overhead, arouses a sentimental interest more lively than any other shore bird is capable of awakening. It is a common summer resident and regular breeder on the east beach. We have found them there on each May visit and usually discovered nests and eggs. The

nest is merely a shallow depression in the sand and is usually placed among the small stones that occur on the top of the dune where the last great storm has washed them. They are inveterate nest builders. May 13, 1905, we counted forty-five nest-like hollows made by one pair of birds. Though the labor is nothing like as great, in point of the number of nests, this bird has the nest-building mania of the Marsh Wrens beaten all hollow. This date we found no eggs, but previously Saunders took them May 30, 1884, and May 24, 1887, and a few days later observed a young bird. May 20, 1907, Saunders found two sets, one of four and the other one. The species leaves early in the fall and is usually gone by the first of September, as before 1907 we never met the species on our fall trips. August 24, however, of that year we found a number mingled with the other small waders on the beaches. All seen then or later were juveniles, as the adults had already gone. The last seen were Sept. 2. Strangely enough Saunders reports that on the occasions of his early visits in 1882 to '87, all breeders seen had the divided breast band of the type form, while of late years all have been attributal to the variety *circumcincta*. We are aware that this subspecies has been discarded by the committee on nomenclature, but it is interesting to note that there has been this change in the type of coloration of the species in this locality in late years. The fall birds taken in 1907, however, all show the divided band; though this is likely the result of juvenility.

64. **Arenaria morinella*.—Ruddy Turnstone.

A regular migrant and likely a more or less common one both spring and fall. Saunders took one June 5, 1884; and May 30, 1907, we noted and took several. In the fall we have met them at various times between August 24, 1907, and Sept. 16, 1906. They were far more common in 1907 than any other fall that we have been on the Point, and for the first few days a couple or so were always to be seen with the larger flocks of other waders. Previous years we had only seen single individuals. They are a little more suspicious and difficult to approach than the other inhabitants of the beach, and it took careful stalking to secure what we did. In life their superior size when mixed in with other waders is not so striking as one would suppose from the written measurements or a comparison of their skins.

65. *Colinus virginianus*.—Bob-white.

Saunders states, "Not very common in 1884, although found nearly to the end of the Point, at least as far as the cultivated lands reached." Personally we have never met it on the Point proper, though that is likely the result of our not working the more cultivated sections. Keays noted but one Sept. 19, 1901, and we flushed a couple on the mainland near the base May 13, 1905. Sept. 20, 1906, Saunders saw ten near the dyke, and August 20, 1907, and Gardner reported a covey of about thirty. The local sportsmen tell us that it

was formerly an abundant bird and that still a few coveys frequent the edges of the clearings. The Quail did not seem to suffer during the rigors of the winter of 1903-04 in this section of Ontario as they did in adjoining localities in Michigan.

EXTINCT.

Bonasa umbellus.—Ruffed Grouse.

Old residents tell us that the Partridge was once a very common game bird on the Point, but now none have been seen for years. This woodland bird cannot stand civilization as the Bob-white does and is now only to be found in the deepest parts of the more extensive woods. There are no such woods on the Point and they are getting scarcer and scarcer in the adjoining country as their sites are being cleared up and made into corn and wheat fields.

EXTINCT.

Meleagris gallopavo.—Wild Turkey.

Formerly the Wild Turkey was exceptionally common in Southern Ontario. Gardner states that they were numerous on the Point in his memory and the last one taken he connects with certain births and marriages and gives the date as about 1878.

EXTINCT.

**Ectopistes migratorius.*—Passenger Pigeon.

The older residents remember the vast flocks of Pigeons that once migrated through the Point. They were still more or less common in 1882, as Saunders says, "In 1882, my stay there extended through the last days of August, and a week or so in September, and during that time we often saw small flocks of Passenger Pigeons, running up to perhaps fifteen or twenty. They would rush up the Point or down, as the case might be, at a speed which was all their own, and which is rarely equaled, to my way of thinking, by any other bird. I have one specimen from that trip, although we shot several. It is a male, labeled August, 1882."

66. *Zenaidura macroura.*—Mourning Dove.

We have never found this a common species though we have met individuals during all our trips in May, September, and October. Gardner reported several that remained throughout the winter of 1906-07, frequenting the vicinity of the barn yards.

67. *Cathartes aura.*—Turkey Vulture.

May 20, 1906, two vultures flew directly over our heads near the end of the Point. It may prove to be a not uncommon species, as we have what seem to be pretty well authenticated reports of a pair that are regular summer residents near Harrow, about fifteen miles west of

the Point and a few miles inland. The birds we saw were flying very low and we had a magnificent view of their wonderful flight.

68. **Circus hudsonicus*.—Marsh Hawk.

A common hawk, and seen almost every day on all our visits, beating slowly over the marsh-lands or soaring over the woods. It was still common Oct. 15, 1906. Gardner observed them during the winter of 1906-07, Dec. 1, Jan. 25, Feb. 13 and 23. As early as March 9 we saw two old blue adults beating over the still frozen marshes and the snow covered meadows.

69.*.1*ccipiter velox*.—Sharp-shinned Hawk.

The most interesting phenomena we have observed at the Point centers about this bird. We have met this species only occasionally on our May trips, but in the fall there is a truly astonishing flight composed almost entirely of juveniles. This flight seems to be a regular annual occurrence and is looked for and expected by the residents. Saunders first saw the flight in 1882 and described it to us in such glowing terms that it sounded like exaggeration. However, on Sept. 10, 1905, we saw for ourselves and only wondered at the restraint that he had used. Since then we observed the same thing in 1906, and our latest reports from Gardner, the middle of September, 1907, advises us that like conditions prevail again. Our earliest Sharp-shin date is August 30, 1907. In 1906 we saw one Sept. 3, and the year previous there were some numbers present on our arrival Sept. 4.

After the coming of the first in the fall their numbers steadily increased until from six to a dozen can be noted in a day, which in most localities would be accounted common. Then there came a day, Sept. 11, 1905, and Sept. 15, 1906, when the morning's tramp found Sharp-shins everywhere. As we walked through the woods their dark forms darted away between the tree trunks at every few steps. Just over the tree tops, a steady stream of them was beating up and down the length of the Point, while in the air they could often be discerned at every height until the highest looked like a mote floating in the light. As concrete illustrations of the number present:—In 1905 we stood in a little open glade and at various times of the day counted from twenty-five to thirty in sight at one time and Saunders writes, "When I saw the flight in 1882 it was probably even greater than in 1905. There were more Sharp-shins than one would suppose were in Ontario, and one day my brother and I stood thirty paces apart, facing each other, with double-barrel, breech-loaders, and for a short time the hawks passed so thick that we had to let some go by unmolested because we could not load fast enough to fire at each as it came." A farmer told us of sitting in his front yard one afternoon and shooting fifty-six without leaving his chair.

Early in the morning of the arrival of the flight there seems to be

some regularity in their movements. First there is a steady stream out the Point, then it flows back again towards the base and then out again. This movement, however, is not very marked and by ten or eleven o'clock it is lost entirely and it is every bird for itself. This great abundance lasted, in 1905, three days, and the next year four, when they gradually began to thin out, though to the latest of our stay (the 22d, in 1906), they still remained more than common, and at least fifty could be observed in a day. All this time there was a steady stream flying across the lake towards the Ohio shore. Near the extreme end of the Point is a wooden observatroy tower built by the U. S. Lake Survey for the purpose of making observations on the changes of the shore contour. It is about fifty feet high, and stands with its base in the red cedar thicket whilst the platform rises well above all surrounding foliage. On this vantage point Saunders and Taverner took their stand the 18th, and with watch in hand counted the Sharp-shins that passed, nearly all within gunshot. From 11:24 to 11:54, 281 passed us, 207 making for the end of the Point and 74 returning, making 133 that started across the lake within half an hour. As far as we could make out without remaining on the spot the whole time this rate was kept up all day and every day of the greatest abundance of the species. The 13th was the last day of the great flight in 1905, but Swales, driving into Leamington, five miles from the base, found them as common the whole way between as they were on the Point itself. As he drove along every field had its quota of hawks and at times every fence post supported one. Even in the business section of Leamington he saw a number.

The hawks were very bold and fearless, dashing by us often so closely that we could feel the wind on our cheek from their wings. Quite often it happened, once three times in one day, that just as we had our guns aimed at a bird we wished to collect, there was a swoop of a dark body, a few choked twitterings from the victim, and our intended specimen was carried off in the talons of a rapacious little freebooter. The effect of this great abundance of hawk life upon the smaller birds and mammals was very marked, and they kept in close covert. The Blue Jay could hardly be made to forsake its grapevines, and when at last forced to do so glided swiftly and silently to the nearest cover, reserving expression of its pent-up feelings until within safe recesses again. The Brown Thrasher and Towhee preferred to slink deeper within their tangle, on our approach, than to seek a new one; and the Red Squirrels overhead hurriedly gathered what nuts they could and scurried away to their hollow trees, refraining from scolding us until safe within their woody fastnesses again. When, however, forced into the open by hunger the first sight of a hawk caused many of the small birds to "freeze" instantly and then they would remain absolutely still until the immediate danger had passed, and in all cases noted such birds were

passed by unseen. Indeed it seems that hawks and, in fact most other birds, recognize life almost entirely by its movement and not by its form and color. A perfectly stationary object is usually regarded as inanimate and we have seen a hawk pass right by a flock of Cedar Waxwings in the top of a dead and bare stub when they thus "froze."

At times the Jays seemed thoroughly to enjoy conditions and delighted to get in the middle of a safe thicket and "jay" their loudest. No sooner was the first note uttered than a hawk was on hand dodging around the retreat in the wildest fashion, while the jay within shrieked with well feigned fear, but apparent delight. In fact the Blue Jay is a canny bird, and though the remains of other species were commonly met with, scattered over the ground around some little knoll or log, we recognized their blue plumage but once. The flicker too, fared well, though subject to constant attack from the ferocious little *Accipiters*. They did not even curb their voices as other birds did and, though frequenting the most exposed dead tree tops, seemed the most care free of any of the birds. Many times we saw a hawk strike at them, but each time just when we thought it was all up with the flicker there was a little scramble to the other side of the trunk and the hawk was sailing away to make another strike. But it was a one-sided game. The flicker had but a circle of a few inches to describe and the hawk one of many yards, and never to our knowledge was the flicker one instant too late.

The loss of life at such times must be immense. We were continually finding the bunches of scattered feathers that marked where some songster had met its end. During the first few days before the heavy flight the cuckoos suffered most severely, but the main body of hawks seem to follow the migrating Olive-backed and Grey-cheeked Thrushes and they formed the staple food supply during the height of the flight, though we recognized Towhees, Red-eyed Vireos, Brown Thrashers, Chipping Sparrows, Wood Pewees, various Warblers, and Catbirds amid the debris.

In spite of all this, however, most of the hawks collected had empty stomachs, likely the well fed ones were those that circled high in the air, while the ones that fell to our guns were the hungry hunters, made bold by their hunger. Nearly, if not quite, all of the birds composing this flight are young of the year. Of the 281 observed from the tower all but two or three of them were positively made out to be in this plumage, while the others were viewed under such conditions of light and distance that no definite determination could be made. All taken were also Juvenile; in fact the only adult we ever took at the Point was one taken Sept. 5, 1907, and before the flight had started.

Most birds migrating from Point Pelee make for Pelee Island that lies in full view out in the lake, but neither the Sharp-shin nor the

other hawks do so. Instead they take a course nearer the Old Dummy Light and well to the east of the island. As far as we could discern their forms with our glasses they followed a straight and undeviating course that would land them on the Ohio shore some four or five miles to the east of the city of Sandusky. It would be most interesting to work this shore at the right season and see just where they do enter American territory.

On the mainland the flight seems to come from the east. Saunders says, "Since then (1882) I find it well known by the farmers that there is a hawk flight (of these birds no doubt) west along the north shore every year." It is certain that it must take a large area of territory to furnish this great number of hawks on migration, and it is an indication of the extent of country drained by this migration route. We have also heard that there is a return flight in spring, some time in April, but we have never seen it and are unable to say what are the species participating in it. It is said, however, that this spring movement is nothing like as great as the fall one, but it is regular and well enough marked to be noted by the farmers and other residents.

Altogether, it will be readily understood that this flight made a great impression upon us all, and as it seems unique, in many of its phases, in the annals of ornithology, it forms one of the most important and interesting memories of Point Pelee.

70. **Accipiter cooperi*.—Cooper's Hawk.

A fairly common hawk, and through all our summer visits we have usually seen a few daily. They do not seem to increase in numbers during the Sharp-shin migration, and the only tendency to a "flight" of this species that we have observed was Oct. 14, 1906, when fifteen were seen or taken. Several were noted May 30 to June 1, but we have no other spring dates, and our earliest fall one is August 28, 1907.

71. **Accipiter atricapillus*.—American Goshawk.

The fall of 1906 was notable for the abundance of Goshawks in certain parts of Ontario, and Point Pelee got its share of them. The first intimation we had of their presence was a large hawk that we could refer to no other species seen October 15 near the end of the Point. It was not until Oct. 21 that our identification received confirmatory evidence when Gardner sent us an adult male, followed by others Oct. 23 to Nov. 14—ten birds in all. Gardner reported them until Jan. 18, when the last one was seen (see Auk XXIV, 1907, p. 142). The flight in this section seemed confined to the Ontario-Michigan boundary and its immediate vicinity on the Canadian side, and there were no reports of any having crossed the lake into Ohio.

72. **Buteo borealis*.—Red-tailed Hawk.

We have never found any of the *Buteos* common at the Point.

Saunders says, "On the occasion of the hawk (Sharp-shin) flight of 1882 one of these was taken and a very few others seen." Keays reports one Sept. 21, 1901. In 1905 we usually saw one a day, but during our September visits of 1906 we saw but one single bird. Gardner sent us one bird Nov. 16 the same year. From August 24 to Sept. 6, 1907, we generally saw from one to three birds daily. We do not think that any Red-tails breed on the Point.

73. **Buteo lineatus*.—Red-shou'dered Hawk.

The Red-shouldered Hawk, contrary to what we should expect from our experience here at Detroit, is the rarest of the *Buteos* on the Point. Keays reports one Sept. 19, 1901, and two *Buteos* seen by us Sept. 8, 1905, were probably of this species. Single individuals were noted Sept. 1 and Oct. 11, 1906, and again May 31, 1907. Three or more were seen Sept. 21, 1906, and an immature was presented to us taken about Feb. 28, 1907.

74. **Buteo platypterus*.—Broad-winged Hawk.

This species seems to arrive in the fall, about the last of August, our earliest date being August 26, 1907, but it does not appear in any numbers until the main body comes down with the Sharp-shins. Even then not more than a dozen have been seen at any one time (Sept. 18, 1905). Keays listed but three in September, 1901. Oct. 11, 1906, is our latest date. We have no spring records.

75. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti johannis*.—American Rough-legged Hawk.

Saunders saw one August 25, 1907, near the end of the Point as it flew by at short range. This is an unusually early record for this section and likely gives no indication as to its migrational dates at the Point. Saunders is very positive as to his identification and it forms our only record. It must, however, undoubtedly occur in late fall and early spring in some numbers. We lack personal experience on the Point at such times.

76. *Haliaetus leucocephalus (alascanus?)*.—(Northern?) Bald Eagle.

As no specimens of this species have been taken the exact sub-specific name of the breeding form must remain hypothetical, but in all probability it will prove to be the Northern form. A pair breed annually on the mainland near the base of the Point. May 13, 1905, we noted the nest in a tall tree in a small patch of woods about a mile inland. A magnificent adult with white head and tail was beating about, and with our glasses we could make out the eaglets perched on the rim of the nest. During all our visits we have noted from one to four eagles almost daily. Usually those seen are immatures, but occasionally a fully adult bird flies over. Likely all those noted in early and middle fall are of the same family before us

tioned. Gardner informs us that they are occasionally seen through the winter. Sept. 18, 1906, we were watching an eagle soaring over the lake, when all at once it lowered and seemed to plow along the surface of the lake for a short way, throwing up a dash of spray on either side, and then rose with somet[illegible] in its talons which it bore away to its perch on a tall tree-top. This is the only time that we ever saw them pick up anything from the lake, though we think they feed quite largely on the dead fish that are washed up on the beach. Oct. 29, 1905, Taverner found the remains of a half grown turkey, at the edge of one of the fields, that had evidently been devoured by some bird of prey. The eagles seem to be the only ones capable of this. Several times during the Sharp-shin flight we noted eagles so pestered by aggressive little *Accipiters* that they were forced to soar away from the vicinity.

77. *Falco peregrinus anatum.*—Duck Hawk.

A regular and not uncommon migrant in the fall, but we have never seen it in spring. All have been sight records, but the peculiar outline and wing action of the Duck Hawk make its identification almost certain when one has had enough experience with the species to become acquainted with its distinguishing traits. We have seen individuals as follows: Sept. 8, 1905, Sept. 19 and 21, 1906, August 28 and 30, 1907. The shooters know it very well and refer to it as that "Big, black, long-winged Hawk," so it must occur in some numbers. Taverner had an interesting sight of one of these birds in action on Lake Muskoka, Ontario. A flock of Blue Jays was passing over the lake when suddenly down swooped a Duck Hawk, into and through their midst, like a dark brown thunderbolt. As he passed he reached to left and right and seemingly at the touch of his talons two lifeless bodies dropped into the lake. Then, while the surviving Jays fled shrieking away, the bold marauder, with a long, circling sweep, returned, and passing, recovered the floating bodies without as much as wetting a toe. The whole strike and return was executed so quickly that it seemed to occupy no more than a couple of seconds' time, and well justified his name of "Bullet Hawk."

78. **Falco columbarius.*—Pigeon Hawk.

Keays saw two Sept. 17, 1901, one of which was taken. May 13, 1905, we saw one as it flew by close to us on the eastern shore. Since then we have noted single individuals Sept. 16, 19 and 21, 1906, and August 31, 1907. Saunders gives an interesting experience he had with this species, which parallels that of Taverner's with the Duck Hawk as described under that species. He says, "We had fired at and wounded a Black-bellied Plover which was flying over Lake Erie. The wounded bird was at once pursued by this falcon. Attaining a height of thirty or forty feet above the plover, who was only five or six feet above the water, the falcon swooped and missed the plover

dodging. Again he rose and swooped, and again missed. This was repeated perhaps six times, the birds drawing away northeast towards the mainland, when finally the falcon was successful and struck the plover, knocking him into the water. He then rose, and with a careful swoop, picked him up and flapped away to the Point and we saw him no more."

79. *Falco sparverius.*—American Sparrow Hawk.

On the Point proper this is not a common hawk even during migrations, and we do not think that it breeds there, though there is plenty of ground that looks eminently suitable. Bearing in mind that Sparrow Hawk flights have from time to time been reported we have looked for something of the sort here, but so far in vain, and careful questioning of the shooters has elicited no information that points towards its probability. Indeed it seems as if this species avoids the Point on its migrations as we have several times, Sept. 4, 1905, and Sept. 3, 1906, found it more than ordinarily common on the mainland and basal quarter of the Point, while scarce as usual on the outer portions. We have noted them occasionally on all September visits, but rarely more than single individuals, though August 24 to Sept. 6, 1907, a pair hung around the waste clearings near the extremity of the Point and we saw one or both nearly every day.

80. **Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.*—American Osprey.

A not uncommon spring and fall migrant, have never heard of any breeding. Saunders saw a few in September, 1882. We have noted it on the following dates:—Sept. 6, 1905, one; Sept. 16, three; and 18, one; and two Oct. 13, 1906. Received one male from Gardner, taken May 10, 1907, and from August 24 to Sept. 6, 1907, we saw individuals each day. Though eagles are rather plentiful we never saw one molest an Osprey.

81. *Asio accipitrinus.*—Short-eared Owl.

Personally, we have never met this bird on the Point, though the shooters have often referred to the "Marsh Owl" as sometimes very common on the marsh. Their description allows no doubt as to what they refer to. Without doubt this is an occasional winter resident, as in adjoining localities. Gardner reported one Oct. 13, 1906, and as common some time previous to then, and his letters refer to one seen Jan. 18, 1907, so some may remain through the winter.

82. **Otus asio.*—Screech Owl.

Heard commonly on nearly all fall trips and once in May, 1907. In all likelihood a regular breeder. Two have been taken—both in gay phase. Some of our pleasantest memories of Point Pelee are connected with this pretty little bird. As we sat in our tent in the evening, preparing specimens and writing the notes of the day, the soft, gently descending tremolo of its song would reach our ears from the black

ness of the woods across the road. Occasionally two would be heard answering each other across the dark gulf overhead and the effect was very far from unpleasant. One night one was heard closer than usual and one of us stole out and stealthily followed up the voice. There was an open glade not far away with a lonely, stunted and twisted oak in its center. In this tree the little owl sat and repeated his love song over and over. Shortly it was joined by another and they sang duets in the well known quaver, but to the hearer below came fragments of cooings and gurgles in between such as he never thought an owl could utter. To attempt to set them down in cold print would, if possible, rob them of their delicate beauty and destroy the sentiment. Besides, we could not do it and retain a shadow of our self-respect. The long, loud quaver was, of course, for the whole world to hear, and to it you would be welcome; but the low parts between were as certainly for no other ears than the little grey-tipped ones by his side, and to blazon them forth and caricature them before the world's unsympathetic eye would be the act of a veritable cad. The night may have had something to do with it, the velvety blackness, the starlit sky and the murmuring of the waves on the shore, but taking into consideration all these influencing surroundings we think that few sounds in nature are as sweet as the love song of this little square gentleman in grey with the big yellow eyes whom hardened naturalists call "Screech" Owl.

83. **Bubo virginianus.*—Great Horned Owl.

Not common, though doubtless a regular migrant and winter resident. Sept. 13, 1906, Gardner shot one near his barn. Specimens were sent us from the Point Nov. 13, 1906, and Feb. 23, 1907, and another was noted March 7 and May 21 of the same year. In spite of this late record we have been unable to get any evidence from the residents that it breeds.

84. **Nyctea nyctea.*—Snowy Owl.

Oct. 23, 1905, Taverner chased an early bird down the entire length of the east beach. It was quite tame and several times he got close enough to make out that it was very white with hardly any dark on the breast, and but few spots on the wings and back. It did not fly very far on being disturbed, and always chose some small elevation to alight upon, such as a log of drift wood, or other jetsam cast up by the waves. Trees were never so used, though there were several cottonwoods scattered along the way, but any tall stake or fence post was taken whenever available. Its snowy plumage could be seen for miles against the tawny grasses and yellow sand of the beach. No more birds were reported that winter, but Oct. 30, 1906, an almost pure white one was sent to us and another in more ordinary plumage Nov. 7. No more were reported for the remainder of the winter. See Auk XXIV, 1907, p. 143.

THE BIRDS OF POINT PELEE.

BY P. A. TAVERNER AND B. H. SWALES.

(Continued from page 99.)

85. **Coccyzus americanus.*—Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

A common and well distributed species in all wooded sections of the Point. Noted May 13, 1905, to September 10, 1905. Likely later birds have been overlooked, as in the adjoining Michigan territory they remain in limited numbers until the end of the first week of October. During the first three days of September, 1906, both species were unusually abundant, but when we made our second visit from September 15 to the 22d, their numbers were much diminished, and none of this species were noted, and but few of the next. From May 30 to June 1, 1907, cuckoos were remarkably scarce and the only indication of their presence on the Point was furnished by a small pile of feathers of one of this species that marked the place where one had been eaten by a hawk. During the first few days of the Sharp-shin flights of 1905-6 the cuckoos suffered severely under their depredations and, until the arrival of the Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, seemed to be the staple of their food supply.

86. **Coccyzus erythrophthalmus.*—Black-billed Cuckoo.

As far as we have been able to judge without carefully looking up every cuckoo noted, the two species are about equally divided in numbers on the Point. If anything the Black bill is slightly in the minority. We have positively identified none later than September 14, 1905.

87. *Ceryle alcyon.*—Belted Kingfisher.

Fairly common. Very seldom seen over the lake, but we have scarcely ever visited the ponds without seeing one or more. We have met with no indications of their breeding on the Point, but the banks of the dykes near the base offer a congenial-looking habitat.

88. *Dryobates villosus.*—Hairy Woodpecker.

Woodpeckers, as a class, are scarce on the Point; and this particular species is rare. Why this should be so we are unable to surmise. There is plenty of heavy woodland, with a normal amount of dead and dying timber scattered through it, and the comparative absence of this usually common species is one of the interesting phenomena of the locality. Keays noted one September 19, 1901, and we observed one single bird March 9, 1907. It is likely that they would be found more commonly during the winter months.

89. *Dryobates pubescens medianus.*—Northern Downy Woodpecker.

With the exception of the Flicker the Downy is the commonest woodpecker on the Point. It was rare during September, 1905, but at all other times we have noted from one to ten individuals each day.

90. **Sphyrapicus varius.*—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

We have generally missed the height of the migrations of this species at the Point, which occur earlier in the spring and later in the fall than the dates of the majority of our visits. We noted a few May 13-14, 1905, and one the first of the following September. Keays reports it as increasing from two on the 18th to one hundred on the 21st of September, 1901. We saw none during the August-September visit of 1907, but October 14, 1906, we noted eight or ten individuals.

EXTINCT.

Ceophlœus pileatus abieticola.—Northern Pileated Woodpecker.

An old resident, a man of about seventy years of age, informed us that in his boyhood the "Cock of the Woods" was not uncommon, but he had not seen any for a good many years. None of the present shooters remember ever seeing one, so it is likely that the species has been extinct on the Point for something in the neighborhood of thirty years.

91. **Melanerpes erythrocephalus.*—Red-headed Woodpecker.

We have found the Red-headed Woodpecker common on all May trips, but scarce at other times on the Point, though coincidently it was often common on the adjoining mainland. In September of 1905, we saw but one bird, on the 6th. During the same month of the two succeeding years they were more numerous and we saw one or more several times during each visit. Our latest date is October 14, 1906, when one was observed. None were seen in March, 1907.

92. **Colaptes auratus luteus.*—Northern Flicker.

Not common during our May dates. Those seen then likely represent the breeding population. One seen March 9, 1907. During September it has always been one of the most abundant birds of the Point. Keays reports a flight in 1901 when he noted four hundred September 21.

The Sharp-shin flight discommoded this species less than any other species of small birds. The Flickers never resorted to concealment of any kind as other birds did, but frequented the most conspicuous places in the dead trees, from whence they shrieked their loudest, as is their wont. Though at times they seemed uneasy and restless, they were perfectly able to take care of themselves and easily made their escape when attacked. On the other hand the hawks seemed aware of the futility of successful pursuit, and after a few half-hearted dashes usually desisted. The usual course of proceedure of the Flicker, when attacked by a hawk, was to wait until the last minute, when the hawk, in its swoop, was just about to seize its victim, and then dodge quickly to the other side of the limb. In every case observed the ruse worked perfectly, and we found only once the feather remains which proved that once in a while the hawk was a little too quick for the Flicker.

93. **Antrostomus carolinensis.*—Chuck-wills-widow.

The capture of this bird, May 21, 1906, by Fleming, in the red cedar thickets near the end of the Point, forms one of the most interesting records for Pelee and one that is unique in Great Lakes Ornithology. The bird was flushed from near the roadside at the feet of Fleming and Swales, and lit again in full view of them both and calmly waited for them to warn Taverner out of the line of fire and then collect it in due form. The bird was a male and forms the first Canadian record of the species. See Auk, XXIII, 1906, 343.

94. **Antrostomus vociferus.*—Whip-poor-will.

A common bird. We have always heard one or more during the May nights, while in camp in the red cedar thickets, when they would repeat their plaintive refrain until early in the morning. In our various September visits we have usually found them more or less common, but at that season they are much quieter, and seldom do more than call a few times in the early evening and then cease. Sometimes one will be heard again through the night, but more often not. September, 1905, beginning the 11th, we saw from one to six until the 13th, when a great flight of them appeared on the Point. That day, in the red cedar thickets near the extremity of the Point, we flushed thirty between twelve and half-past one in the afternoon. They all left that night, as the next day, on the same ground, we were able to put up but three.

One evening, just as the dusk was darkening into night, a Whip-poor-will was heard near the camp. We stole out, and the bird was located in a large bare walnut tree in the open bush where, looking up against the still faintly illuminated sky, it could be plainly made out, sitting lengthwise, as is their fashion, on a rather large and almost horizontal branch. It remained perfectly motionless except for an occasional jerk of its white blotched tail, when it gave vent intermittently to a guttural "gluck." These notes were repeated at irregular intervals of perhaps half a minute, several times and then, without start or warning, it launched away into the air, starting off immediately at full speed, with a drop that carried it in a large, even circle half way to the ground, and then up on the same curve, to vanish in the gloom of the trees. Then it appeared on the other side, swinging down on fixed wings in great elliptical curves as though whirled from the end of a cord, perfectly silent in flight and threading the dusky mazes of the tree tops with the utmost confidence and precision. Here and there it rapidly wheeled, without an apparent stroke of the wing, now coming into view in the lower arc of its great circling, and then vanishing silently again on the upward sweep on the other side. As suddenly as it started, it ceased in the middle of a swing and, while the eyes vainly searched for the dark object along the continuation of its course, it was seated again on the branch from which it first sprang silent and still. This was repeated several times, and then it was joined by another, and the two circled about like great soft, gliding bats until the sky above grew so dark that their movements could no longer be watched.

The latest date we have for the species is October 14, 1906, when one was seen. During the August-September trip of 1907 but one bird was noted, straggling along after a bunch of Nighthawks that were making their way out the Point on their southern migration.

95. **Chordeiles virginianus*.—Nighthawk.

Common on all spring visits, but in the fall it is only the stragglers that are seen after September 1. In 1905 we saw one solitary bird, September 8, and another the 12th. In 1906 a few were seen September 1-3, and another single the 18th. All the early fall migrants of 1907 were a little late, and this species was observed commonly passing southward every day until August 27, when they gradually thinned out and the last was noted the 6th of September. Very few seem to do much feeding when passing along the Point on their southward migration; all then seen are steadily winging their way straight south and but occasionally making the briefest side excursion for passing insects.

96. *Chaetura pelagica*.—Chimney Swift.

Common on all trips except those of October and March. Septem-

ber 15 to 22, 1906, they were scarcer than usual and the ten seen on the 19th were doubtless the last of the main body of migrants, as this is our latest date.

97. **Trochilus colubris.*—Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Common on all May dates and, in the fall, to September 21, 1906, the latest date in that month that we have been on the Point. The first three days of September in 1906 were notable for the vast numbers of Hummers present. In certain low slashings in the open woods were luxuriant growths of Jewel Weed (*Impatiens sp?*) standing nearly shoulder high and so dense that to enter it one had to force his way through. It was simply spangled with blossoms, and all about and over it hovered and darted hundreds of Hummingbirds. From some little distance, as we approached such clumps, we were aware of innumerable little twitterings that followed each other so rapidly as to scarce be separable, one from another, and so fine, sharp, and high in pitch that it took a little effort to realize that it was real sound and not imagination or a ringing in the ears. Underlying this was a low hum that arose from the vibrations of many little wings. Approaching closer, the pugnacious little mites were all about us, chasing each other over the smooth rounded surface of the jewel weed or darting angrily at us from this side or that, with furious chatterings that made one instinctively cover the eyes, or involuntarily flinch at the expected impact of their sharp, rapier-like, little bills. If a Hummingbird were larger and still retained its same aggressive spirit in proportion to its increased size, it would be positively dangerous to stray into its haunts. As it is, such concentrated wrath wrapped up in so small and impotent a body, tempts one to coin a new simile for futile rage and say, "As mad as an angry hummingbird"; and strongly recalls Beethoven's composition, "Wrath at the Loss of a Penny." On remaining perfectly still for a few moments the turmoil resultant upon our intrusion subsided, and the disturbed proprietors of the place went about their business and their pleasure regarding us no more than any other fixture of the landscape or the trees and stumps about them. Some sat preening their feathers on a twig of a bare branch that projected through the green mass, or, on a high spray of the jewel weed itself, passing their wings through their delicate mandibles and raping off infinitesimal particles of dust. Others busied themselves about the flowers that blossomed in such profusion, probing every cup to see whether or not some drop of nectar had not been left by previous explorers. Often two would rise over opposite sides of an obstructing mass of vegetation and meet face to face at the top. Then they would dash towards each other, squeaking and bridling with rage, but just before the final collision and when but a foot or so apart, they would both rise in the air vertically, their bodies hanging straight up and

down, their wings a blurry film on either side, and their voices squeaking defiance as they faced each other and rose, sometimes to the height of the tree tops, and once we watched a couple pass completely out of sight over our heads. Then, as if by common consent, they would drop to earth again, and seek different parts of the weed. This was repeated over and over again and sometimes by the same individuals. Each time there was the same angry dash, the same cross recrimination and the same mutual retreat. Sometimes there would be several such balanced couples in the air at one time, and we saw the action repeated many times in a few minutes. They quarreled interminably, and whenever two met, whether they soared or not, there was a furious succession of little squeaks, blending together into a sort of little song, something like this.—"*tsc tsc tsc tsc tsc tsc tsc tsc tsc*." The groups of squeaks ran into each other so that it sounded almost like a sustained note and, as the groups varied a little in pitch, it made a not unpleasant suggestion of a song.

All these birds were juveniles. Swales noted but one with the ruby throat, and Taverner one with but a single metallic feather set like a gem in its gorget

The succeeding May we had another interesting experience with a Hummingbird that was much aggrieved at our presence at his particular spot. He flew towards us, scolding with vigor, his ruby throat gleaming in the sun. When he was a few feet away, and directly facing us, it paused, and swung back and forth across our path, along an arc of a circle as if swung on the arm of a long invisible pendulum. The amplitude of the swing was about twenty feet and each beat was regularly timed and seemed to be beating seconds. For about half a minute he kept it up and then dashed away and disappeared over the bush tops.

The last of August and the first of September, 1907, saw no such numbers of Hummers as described above. The early migrants were late in starting this season, and it was not until September 23, the last day of our stay, that there was any indication of numbers of migrants. Up to then we had seen but one or two each day, running up to five August 27. The last day, however, in the early morning, fifty were observed. There were no such growths of jewel weed as were seen the fall before, even in the places where it then grew so luxuriantly, and but little patches of it here and there reminded us of last year's glories. What Hummers we did see were about these little clumps.

Keays noted that in 1901 the Hummingbird was the only species that did not turn back when migrating out the Point, it reached the end. We verified this many times. The final end of the Point stretches out for a couple of hundred rods, in the form of a long, low, more or less winding and attenuated sand spit. Stationed about half

way out on this, it was most amusing to watch the little mites come buzzing over the last of the red-cedar bushes and then drop down towards the ground and, without pause or hesitation, follow every winding of the ever-changing sand to its extreme end, and then, with a sudden and resolute turn, square away for Pelee Island, just visible on the horizon. Dr. Jones was stationed on the opposite islands from August 26 to September 2, 1905, and makes the following statement as to the movements of the species over the waters of the lake: "Hummingbirds were passing during the daylight, and all those noted were flying very low. In fact they dropped down between the waves for protection from the wind, which was quartering, or at right angles to their line of flight and seemed to disturb them. I noticed that in the strong westerly wind, all birds headed southwest, but always drifted south."

98. **Tyrannus tyrannus*.—Kingbird.

Common on all May visits. In September, 1905, the bulk of the species had left when we arrived on the 3d, and we saw but two the next, and one each on the two succeeding days. The next year, September 1, we saw a little flock of about twenty on the mainland during our ride out to the Point, and four more on the return trip on the 4th, but none were noted on the Point itself at that time. On our return on the 15th of the same month all had gone. In 1907, when we arrived August 21, Kingbirds were very common and distributed all over the Point and the adjoining mainland. Each day brought more, until by the 27th there were a greater number of Kingbirds present than any of us had ever seen at one time before. Most of them were in the waste clearings near the end of the Point, where at times we saw flocks numbering hundreds of individuals. The dead trees scattered about the edges of these clearings were at all times more or less filled with them and it was no uncommon sight to see from fifteen to twenty in one small tree. The 29th saw the culmination of the flight, and when we went out in the morning of the 30th we found that the bulk of the kingbirds had left, and we saw but a few scattered individuals, where the day before there were hundreds. They kept steadily diminishing in numbers until September 5, when we saw none and decided that the last had left, but the next morning, before we broke camp, we saw two in the fields near one of the farm houses. Likely these were the last stragglers.

99. **Myiarchus crinitus*.—Crested Flycatcher.

On nearly all visits, except those of early spring (March) and late fall (October), we have found the Crested Flycatcher fairly common. The bulk seems to leave before the middle of September. Our latest record is September 15, 1906, though Keays lists one as late as the 19th, 1901.

100. **Sayornis phœbe*.—Phœbe.

Regular but not very common. We have never been able to recognize any decided migrational augmentation of their numbers and likely the few that we have seen on most of our trips represent the resident summer population. The greatest number we have ever noted one day was eight, October 14, 1906. Usually we do not see more than one or two, and these not every day, and usually close to one vicinity, in the neighborhood of some of the farm buildings. They are likely members of the same family, seen repeatedly. Our latest date is the above, October 14, which likely falls within the season of their migrational movement along the Point.

101. **Nuttallornis borealis*.—Olive-sided Flycatcher.

This is by no means a common flycatcher in this vicinity, nor was it noted at the Point until the fall of 1906, when one, two, and one were noted September 1, 2 and 3 respectively, and one taken the 2d. On the last day of our return trip, September 22, during our drive in, another was seen before we left the Point, on the topmost tip of a dead tree. An attempt was made to collect it, but without success. May 31, 1907, another was secured along the cross-road near camp and the same fall six in all were noted or taken August 26 and 29.

The Olive-sided is the most wary of our flycatchers. Sitting on the tip-top of some dead tree, well out in the open, it can study the ground for some distance about and allows nothing suspicious to approach too closely. Usually quiet and undemonstrative, it will once in a while launch out after some passing insect and then return again to the same perch. So situated, it presents the general appearance of a dark colored kingbird; but the dark blotches of the sides stand out prominently in contrast with the light colored center breast line and will identify it without fail as soon as a moderately good view is obtained. Under the wing, on each side of the back, and usually under the secondaries when the wing is folded are patches of almost pure white downy plumage, with a peculiar silky sheen. At times these are thrown over the folded wings forming flaring white patches against the dull olive background of the rest of the body, making a most distinctive and striking field mark. This species becomes very much attached to certain perches and can be found repeatedly day after day doing vidette duty on such favored stations. There are two or three trees on the Point that were so occupied in the fall of 1906 and again in 1907, and when one of the occupants was shot it was only a little while before another was seen in the same place. These were by no means the only perches of the kind in the neighborhood. There were many others standing well out in the open, and to human eyes just as suitable as those chosen, but which we never saw occupied. When disturbed from one station they will

fly to another, and when two or more are discovered a bird can be kept flying back and forth from one to the other many times. Their voice is loud and noisy and their "O-whe-o" can be very easily mistaken for the like call of the Crested Flycatcher before one is familiar with it.

102. **Horizopus virens.*—Wood Pewee.

Common in the spring and very abundant in the early days of fall. It is evident that the first fall movement of this species begins early in the season. The 24th of August, 1907, we found the woods of the Point already in possesion of innumerable hosts of Wood Pewees, and through early September we have always found them the most prominent bird in the landscape. Their voices can be heard any hour of the day uttering their pathetically plaintive note; and often in the night, as we have lain awake in the tent, some Pewee has aroused itself and a long drawn "pewee" has punctuated the darkness with its soft sweetness. In 1905 it remained common until September 9, when the bulk departed, but a number were noted until we left, the 14th. In 1906 the numbers gradually decreased after September 16, but some numbers were still present at the time of our departure, the 22d. In 1907 it was common from the time we arrived, August 21, to the break of camp, September 6.

103. **Empidonax flaviventris.*—Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

We have noticed this bird in the spring but once, May 30 and 31, 1907, but in the fall we have always found it common. In 1905 it was first noted September 4th and was present in large numbers the 9th, after which it decreased to the 13th, when we left. At the time of its greatest abundance it successfully disputed with the Least Flycatcher for the first place in point of numbers. The next fall (1906) they were not quite as common, but September 1 to 3, and 15 to 22, we daily saw several. In 1907, from August 24 to September 6, they were at all times more or less common. Their numbers culminated August 29, when they became abundant, but slowly decreased the succeeding days. This species seems to start on its southward migration about the middle of August, but others come in before the earlier arrivals leave, and many linger until well into September.

104. *Empidonax traillii alnorum.*—Alder Flycatcher.

Not a common bird, but regular. It may be much more common than our notes seem to indicate, for the small flycatchers are difficult to separate without a certain amount of concentration of observation on each individual bird, and this species, without any strong characteristic, may very well be overlooked when the bushes are full of other small flycatchers and the attention is absorbed in looking for other species.

We have noted five, May 11, 1905; two, September 2, 1906, and ten,

August 29, 1907. These latter had been noted for several days in the same spot, and going over the next day with the purpose of taking recording specimens, we found them all gone. Though no specimens have been taken, Mr. Brewster has examined series from the surrounding localities, London, Ontario; Detroit, Michigan; and Oberlin, Ohio; and has pronounced them of this sub-specific form.

105. **Empidonax minimus*.—Least Flycatcher.

One of the most abundant Flycatchers. We have found it common on all our May visits, and in September, until shortly after the middle of the month. In 1905 their numbers culminated the 9th, but there were still a few when we left the 14th. In 1906 they were common during the first three days of September, but were gone by the time of our return trip, the 15th. In 1907 we did not notice any for the first two days, but the 26th of August they commenced arriving, and by the 28th and 29th were very common. After this they gradually decreased, though they were still not uncommon when we left the 6th of September. Our latest fall date is September 14, 1905.

106. **Octocoris alpestris praticola*.—Prairie Horned Lark.

Prairie Horned Larks are usually to be found along the east beach and in the waste clearings near the end of the Point near the shore. We have noted a few on each visit, but found them especially in March and October. Specimens taken March 9, 1907, were evidently breeding or preparing to do so. From the reports of Jones on the Ohio shore, directly opposite, and Saunders, of Rondeau, a few miles east along the Ontario shore, we expect that both *O. a. alpestris* and *O. a. hoyti* will eventually be found here in the winter, but as yet we have received no specimens to verify our expectations.

107. **Cyanocitta cristata*.—Blue Jay.

We have found the Blue Jay common at all times, but more abundant in fall than spring. During the hawk flights of 1905 and 1906 they were much harassed by the Sharp-shins but, as they are perfectly able to take care of themselves and kept pretty close in the grape vine tangles, it is not probable that they suffered much, unless it was from the nervous strain of being continually on the outlook. But who ever saw a Blue Jay suffer from nervousness? In fact once within the shrubbery, they seemed to rather enjoy the situation, and from their safe retreats hurled joyous epithets at their baffled enemies. Saunders also notes the ability of the Jay to keep a whole skin against the hawks, and we have only once found the remains of a hawk-devoured bird of this species.

October 14, 1905, we noticed a very interesting migration across the lake. All morning long we saw large flocks passing out the Point. In the afternoon we followed them to the end and, though most then had passed, we witnessed one small bunch of perhaps fifty

birds essay the passage. The day was fine and clear and but very little wind blowing, but when they came out to the end of the trees they turned back and sought a large tree-top, where they settled to talk the matter over at the top of their voices. Then, reassured, they started out, rising above gun shot from the ground and making for the Ohio shore, not for Pelee Island as we supposed they would. When they got far enough out to see the blue water under them they slowed up, and when we waved our hats and shouted at them a few wavered, paused and then fled back to the shore to their tree again, followed a moment later by the whole flock. Another pow-wow was held and again they started, with great determination and seemingly filled with the motto, "Ohio or bust." This time they had hardly got well out over the lake when a Sharp-shin was discerned far in the distance, but it was enough to again send them shrieking back to their oak tree. This time the consultation lasted a little longer than before, but at last the coast seemed clear and they started once more. Again, as they drew over the water, they slightly paused as though doubtful, but no one shouted, there was not a hawk in sight and, as there was no possible excuse for backing out this time, they kept slowly and gingerly on until well started and away from land, when they settled into their pace and, when lost sight of in our glasses, were continuing on their way in a straight line that would carry them several miles to the east of Pelee Island.

EXTINCT.

Corvus corax principalis.—Northern Raven.

One of the older residents tells us that in his boyhood the Raven was well known on the Point, but the last one was seen there so long ago that he could give no information as to the date.

108. **Corvus brachyrhynchos.*—American Crow.

Common, though as but few nests are to be found when the trees are bare of leaves it is not likely that many breed on the Point itself. A few are always to be found along the beaches picking up dead fish and other food stuffs that are washed ashore. October 14-15, 1906, they had congregated in large flocks and were constantly passing up and down the Point, from the end of which we watched them gathering in the final trees and acting much as did the Jays as before described preparatory to crossing the lake.

109. **Dolichonyx oryzivorus.*—Bobolink.

Common in the cultivated fields on all May trips. In the fall they leave during the first half of September. During later August and early September they frequent the marshes in large flocks and are to be found in the early mornings in the corn fields or flying over in large compact bodies towards the end of the Point and from thence across the lake. At this season, from sunrise to about ten o'clock,

there is a steady stream of Blackbirds and Bobolinks, all making in the same direction. When they reach the end of the land they do not hesitate as do the Jays but, unless threatened by real danger from hawks or other enemies, continue their flight unhesitatingly from the time they leave their marshy roosting-grounds till they reach the other shore. When we have seen them they, too, have always taken a course that would take them some distance to the east of Pelee Island, and apparently they cross the lake at one sustained flight and do not follow the island stepping stones across.

In 1905 flocks of about one hundred and twenty-five were seen September 6, and a few more the morning of the 7th. In 1906 flocks of several hundreds each were seen September 16-18, and we found them very abundant August 24 when we arrived in 1907. They reached their maximum of abundance the 27th, after which they decreased, though, when we left September 6, there were still a few to be seen. Our latest date is September 18, 1906.

110. **Molothrus ater.*—Cowbird.

The Cowbird has been common on all visits except that of March 9 and 10, 1907. Through the first of September they are to be seen making the early morning start for across the lake with the other blackbirds and the Bobolinks. There were great numbers October 29, 1905.

111. **Agelaius phœniceus.*—Red-winged Blackbird.

A common breeder on the marshes. It was still common October 29, 1905, in mixed flocks with other Blackbirds and was present in immense numbers October 14-15, 1906, when the morning migrations were especially heavy. Gardner wrote us several times during the winter of 1906-07 that fifty or so were wintering on the Point and we found a number present March 9-10 the following spring when the lake and marshes were still completely ice-bound.

113. **Sturnella magna.*—Meadowlark.

The Meadowlark is fairly common on the Point in the cultivated sections in the spring, but it is rare to see any in the fall on the Point proper, though at the same time they are usually almost abundant on the adjoining mainland. Keays reports seeing several September 19, 1901, and one was noted September 13, 1905, and several the following October 29 along the eastern sand dune. According to Gardner, a few remained all the winter of 1906-07 on the frozen marshes.

114. **Icterus spurius.*—Orchard Oriole.

It was rather a treat to us to find this beautiful species abundant on our first visit, May 13-14, 1905, and we have found them equally so on all subsequent May trips. They are, in fact, one of the com-

monest species on the Point, outnumbering the Baltimore perhaps two to one. One or more are seldom out of hearing, and their voice is always pleasant to the ear, while their forms, in all their various plumages, can be seen darting away through the trees on either hand the whole length of the Point as we follow along the road. The farmers are well acquainted with both the orioles and call this species the "Oriole," while the Baltimore is generally known as the "Golden Robin." The fruit growers of the neighborhood regard them as rather injurious to their small fruit, because they puncture large numbers of hanging grapes. Though they were as numerous as usual as late in the season as June 1, 1907, we do not think that many individuals regularly breed on the Point, as very few nests, either new or old, have been observed in late fall when such objects are very conspicuous.

The Orchard Oriole leaves in the fall a little earlier than the Baltimore. In 1905 none were present September 3. When we arrived September 1, the following year, they had likewise left, though the Baltimore was still common. In 1907 we saw two, August 26, which forms our latest date.

115. **Icterus galbula*.—Baltimore Oriole.

One of the commonest birds of the Point. His brilliant livery can be continually seen flashing from tree to tree, while his full rich voice makes the fine spring air melodious. They have been more than common on all spring visits and in all September trips, except that of 1905, when they seemed to have left a little earlier than usual. September 1 to 3, 1906, they were quite common and singing daily. One of these days we heard a little fragmentary song from one that was unlike anything we had ever heard before. Had either of us been musicians we could have imitated it perfectly. It sounded so human that at first we thought it was a boy whistling, having the same quality and timbre. It was as if some one was absent-mindedly whistling the fragments of an air, with many breaks and missing notes, as if busy with other thoughts. It was very pretty, indeed, and we suppose that it was uttered by the young male, though we could not make out this point for a certainty. We heard the almost full spring song several times. When we returned to the Point the 15th the Orioles had all gone. The fall of 1907 we saw several each day until September 2, when the last one was noted. Keays lists the species as late as September 20 in 1901. This must be regarded, however, as an exceptionally late date.

116. *Euphagus carolinus*.—Rusty Blackbird.

As is to be expected, the Rusty Blackbird is but a migrant at the Point. We have met it in flocks October 20, 1905, and the 14th and 15th of the same month in 1906. If it was present March 9 and 10,

1907, we failed to make it out among the flocks of other blackbirds seen then.

117. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus.*—Bronzed Grackle.

Found commonly on nearly all visits. There were fewer September 4 to 15, 1905, than usual, but October 14 to 15, 1906, they were in great flocks and, in the early morning, when the flocks passed over towards the end of the Point, all squeaking together, they made considerable din. Gardner reports that a few remained all the winter of 1906-7, and when we arrived March 9 a few were seen. There were large flocks present when we arrived August 24, 1907, and they remained without perceptible change in numbers to when we left September 6.

118. *Hesperiphona vespertina.*—Evening Grosbeak.

March 9, 1907, Mr. Wilkinson, of Leamington, who drove us out to the Point, told us of a number of birds he had seen a short time before that tallied so well with the descriptions of this bird that there could hardly be any doubt as to what he meant. When we got out to Gardner's he told us substantially the same thing and described them as "about the size of a robin and yellow and black, and the hen birds were a sort of grayish." He had seen them about a mile from his place, along the road, about the first of March. A number of them were killed by boys, but we were unable to get sight of any specimens or their remains. While there we hunted carefully for them in hopes that some might still remain, but without avail.

119. **Carpodacus purpureus.*—Purple Finch.

In comparison with our Detroit dates in fall this species arrives at the Point very early. October 29, 1905, about eight birds were seen, but none during the September visit. In 1906 five were seen or taken September 17, and at least thirty the 19th. Their numbers dropped suddenly then to three and one the next two succeeding days. October 14 there were great numbers and flocks of from five to a dozen were met with continually all over the wooded sections of the Point. All were either full red birds or else olive colored; none observed were in mixed or transition plumage. The dull olive colored birds sang constantly, but the red ones never. Their songs were considerably varied, but the most characteristic might be rendered, "Pe-a-we—to-te-te-to."

In 1907, W. E. Saunders saw one in the red cedar at the extreme end of the Point, August 28. This was a most unusually early bird.

120. **Loxia leucoptera.*—White-winged Crossbill.

November 14, 1907, we received a box of birds from friends on the Point. Among them was one White-winged Crossbill. On skinning it no marks of violence could be found and it was most likely picked up dead. It was quite fresh and could not have been dead more

than a few days. Asking Gardner about the species later, he said that about that time he noticed considerable flocks of small red birds that he was unacquainted with on the Point. The White-winged Crossbill is a much rarer visitor in this section than its relative the American. See Auk, XXIV, 1907, p. 145.

121. *Astragalinus tristis.*—American Goldfinch.

Seen without exception every day we have been on the Point. Less common in late fall and early spring than at other times. October 29, 1905, but one was noted, though on the 14th and 15th of the same month in 1906, they were common. March 9-10, 1907, we noted several, and three on the successive days. At all other times it has been common.

HYPOTHETICAL.

Spinus pinus.—Pine Siskin.

March 10, 1907, we saw two or three finches that we were quite certain were Pines, but as we failed to collect them and the light was very poor for glass work, we could not be absolutely certain of our identification. The following June 1st Saunders reported hearing two on the inner edge of the woods that fringe the east shore beyond the crossroad. Mr. Saunders is quite certain of his identification, and as this was a most peculiar spring, with all the migrations more or less disorganized, we accept even this late record without any very great mental reservation.

INTRODUCED.

Passer domesticus.—House Sparrow.

Point Pelee is no more free from this "Undesirable citizen" than the adjoining territory. Fortunately for the Point, it is not abundant far from towns, but there is always a fair-sized flock to each group of farm buildings.

122. **Passerina nivalis.*—Snowflake.

Of course the Snowflake is but a winter migrant on the Point. October 29, 1905, we found a few on top of the eastern sand dune along the lake shore the whole length of the Point. They did not occur in large flocks, but in singles and pairs scattered along here and there. Through the winter of 1906-07 Gardner reported large flocks of them on the marshes, but when we arrived there March 9 he told us that he had seen the last about a week previous.

123. **Poœcetes gramineus.*—Vesper Sparrow.

Not a uniformly distributed bird, but locally common, more especially late in the fall (October). They are usually common in the weedy corners of the waste fields near the end of the Point; and here, and in like places, we have always been able to find them on all visits except that of March 9 and 10, 1907, which was, of course,

too early. September 1 to 3, 1906, they were unusually abundant for this time of the year. October 29, 1905, they were still common and more uniformly distributed than we have seen them at other times.

124. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna.*—Savanna Sparrow.

A common migrant, and likely a sparse breeder, as it nests more or less commonly along the Canadian side of the St. Clair Flats and, to a lesser extent, in the neighboring territory of Michigan. It is most commonly found along the top of the dunes of the east shore where, May 13, 1905, and again September 11 and 12 of the same year, we found a number. October 29, none were seen, though the whole of the east shore was tramped over, and they had evidently left. In 1906, we saw none in May or during the first three days of September; but in neither of these visits was much attention paid to the east shore where they were most likely to be found. On the return visit, from the 15th to the 22d of September, the species was present on its accustomed grounds and we found them in great numbers distributed all over the marsh the 19th. October 15 they were still common. None were noted in 1907 on any of our visits, May 30 to June 1, and August 24 to September 6. During the latter trip, however, we did not work the marshes and, though we did not find them about its edges as usual, we are unable to state that they were not in its interior.

125. *Coturniculus savannarum passerinus.*—Grasshopper Sparrow.

Some years ago this species was more common and of more general distribution in this locality than it is now. Personally we have not met with it on the Point, though we have found a few pairs scattered over the fields in the neighborhood of Amherstburg, at the mouth of the Detroit River. Saunders says (Auk iv, 1887, p. 248), "The Grasshopper Sparrow breeds in Southwestern Ontario, where I have found it in different localities, notably at Pt. Pelee, where I heard it singing in early June and was comparatively common. . . . In June, 1884, there were numbers of pairs breeding in the cultivated meadows and fields." The status of the bird has certainly changed since the above observations were made, together with that of two other species of somewhat like habitat, namely, the Lark Sparrow and the Dickcissel, of which more under their respective headings. We have looked diligently for the Grasshopper Sparrow in all likely places and it is not probable that it has been overlooked.

126. *Ammodramus henslowii.*—Henslow's Sparrow.

May 24, 1906, Saunders saw and heard several near the east base of the Point, in the damp meadows bordering the marsh. May 30, 1907, in going over the same grounds we listened and looked carefully for them, but either it was during one of their periods of silence, such as the species is given to, or else they were not there this

season, for we discovered no indication of their presence. Their usual "se-sllick" note, though unobtrusive in volume or pitch, has great carrying power; and is too distinctive not to be heard or recognized when the observer is acquainted with it and is listening for it.

127. *Chondestes grammacus.*—Lark Sparrow.

The Lark Sparrow seems to be another species that has retreated from its range of late years in this section and the adjoining parts of Michigan. Saunders found some numbers of them on the Point in 1884, and again May 14, 1905, he saw two in the cultivated fields by the roadside. Though we have looked carefully for the species since, we have not been able to locate it.

128. **Zonotrichia leucophrys.*—White-crowned Sparrow.

May 13, 1905, this fine sparrow was very common all over the Point, but especially so about the clumps of cottonwood along the east beach, where it was the commonest of the land birds there present. We met the species again October 14-15, 1906, but other visits have been either too early or too late to catch it on its migrations on the Point.

129.* *Zonotrichia albicollis.*—White-throated Sparrow.

A common and regular migrant. May 13 and 14, 1905, four and one were seen on their respective days, but on neither of the trips of May 21 or 30 of the two succeeding years were any noted. In the fall of 1905 a few were noted, beginning September 14, and the next year ten were observed the 15th of the same month and were still common October 14 and 15, when we made the last trip of the year. Our latest date on the Point in 1907 was September 6, but none put in an appearance before we left.

130. **Spizella monticola.*—Tree Sparrow.

A common and regular migrant and, if we can judge from reports, it must winter in considerable numbers, as during the winter of 1906-07 Gardner spoke repeatedly of seeing large numbers of "Bush Sparrows." March 9-10, 1907, we saw large flocks in the weedy edges of the fields. The day was cold and bleak, and the chorus of the combined flocks made a very cheering sound, when such cheer was welcome indeed.

131. **Spizella socialis.*—Chipping Sparrow.

On all May and September dates the Chipping Sparrow has been more than common. It frequents the road side mostly, and whether that runs through cultivated fields, pine groves or red cedar thickets, the Chipping Sparrow is invariably to be found in numbers along its length. In point of numbers it must out-rank those of all the other sparrows combined. It was common October 14-15, 1906, and even as late as October 29, 1905, it was present in some numbers.

This latter is a very late date for the species, judging by our experience in the adjoining sections of Michigan, where they usually have all disappeared by the middle of the month.

132. **Spizella pusilla.*—Field Sparrow.

Common on all May visits. In the fall the species is rather local in its distribution, but is very partial to the weedy spots in the waste clearings near the end of the Point. Until the fall of 1907 we pretty generally overlooked this species in the autumn until the secret of its distribution was discovered, when we daily found it common from August 24 to September 6, when we left. Our latest date is October 13, 1906.

133. **Junco hyemalis.*—Slate-colored Junco.

A regular and common migrant. On our earliest visit, March 9, 1907, there were several present, and May 13, 1905, we noted one solitary late bird. We have no other spring records. In September, 1906, the first was noted the 17th, and two days later four more. They were abundant the following October 14-15, and the 20th, in 1905. Keays noted their first arrival September 18, in 1904. In his letters Gardner described the bird very well and reported its presence at various times during the winter of 1906-07.

134. **Melospiza cinerea melodia.*—Song Sparrow.

Not as common as would naturally be expected. While present during all visits except that of March 9, 1907, it never seems to be a prominent bird in the landscape. This was especially true May 20-21 when, until its scarcity was noticed and we commenced a special search for it, it nearly escaped our observation. It has been much commoner during the late October trips than at any other time.

135. **Melospiza lincolnii.*—Lincoln's Sparrow.

May 14, 1905, two were met with in a brush pile in a slashing but, as usual with the species, when the birds were in sight they were too close to shoot, and when at a sufficient distance to collect nicely they were not to be seen. This species is one of the most persistent skulkers that we have. They frequent dense brushy masses and, when collectors are around, generally keep to their deepest recesses. Usually, however, when approached, they will hop to some commanding position and view the intruder for an instant. Then, if the observer is bent on taking specimens, is the time to shoot, but it must be done instantly, for the next second the bird will be gone deep in the tangle, and it is rarely seen again. On the other hand, though difficult to shoot, it is one of the easiest birds to trap, and does not seem to have the least suspicion that strange combinations of sticks or springs can harbor any danger. On its migrations we have never heard it utter any distinctive note, and as it so closely resembles the Song Sparrow in appearance, it is not an easy bird to identify

during the brief hurried glance that it allows us, unless the conditions of light and situation are excellent. In general, however, it can often be told by the evener and grayer cast of the back, lacking the more conspicuous longitudinal streaks of the former bird. Of course, when a clear view of the breast is obtained, with its ochraceous band, fine spotting high up on the breast, and the lack of the heart mark so conspicuous in nearly all plumages of the Song Sparrow, it is easily identified. September 20, 1906, Saunders took one bird from amongst some Song Sparrows in a brush pile in Gardner's yard.

136. *Melospiza georgiana*.—Swamp Sparrow.

Though a common breeder on the St. Clair Flats and an abundant and regular migrant locally in our territory about Detroit, our records for the species on the Point are few and not perfectly satisfactory. Keays lists two seen September 19, 1901. We have two not very convincing sight records, October 15, 1906, and June 1, 1907. Neither of these birds were seen well enough for us to be perfectly positive of our identification. We searched the marshes carefully for them September 10, 1905, the 19th, 1906, and October 15, 1906, but without avail. At the time of the latter date they should have been very common, as we find great hosts of them in such places at this date about Detroit.

137. **Passerilla iliaca*.—Fox Sparrow.

On but one occasion have our visits fallen within the dates of the migrations of the species. October 14-15, 1906, several were seen. At least seven the first day and one the next.

138. **Pipilo erythropthalmus*.—Towhee.

Not very common during spring dates. Very few seen May 13-14, 1905, and but moderately common the 20th and 21st, and 30th and 31st of the same month of the two succeeding years. Quite common the first half of September and one seen as late as October 29, 1905. In 1906 but one was seen the first three days of September, and but two from the 15th to the 22d, but October 14-15 it was common. From August 24 to September 6, 1907, from one to fifteen were seen every day. Our earliest spring date is March 9, 1907, when one was taken in the still snow-filled woods. We were inclined to regard this as a wintering bird, but as the next week there were several to be seen about Detroit, it is not at all clear that it was not an early migrant. Our latest date is October 20, 1905.

139. **Cardinalis cardinalis*.—Cardinal.

Point Pelee and its vicinity boasts of being the only locality in the Dominion of Canada where the Cardinal is regular and common. The status of this species has been dwelt upon at some length in the Auk, XXIV, 1907, p. 146, by the authors and the data therein giv-

en seems to indicate that half a century ago the species was more or less common in Southeastern Michigan, but since then has retreated from its range and is only now resuming it. The history of the Point Pelee observations point in the same direction. Dr. Brodie says, "I visited Point Pelee July, 1879. . . . I formed a speaking acquaintance with several people and all had a story to tell about a 'visitation of war-birds' a few weeks previously. From descriptions given there was no doubt these 'war-birds' were Cardinals. . . . From diligent inquiries it appeared the birds were not rare summer visitants, but this season they were unusually numerous. I heard nothing that suggested the presence of females, the birds were all red."

Saunders made his first ornithological visit to the Point in late August and early September, 1882, and another in May and June of 1884, and again in September of 1900. In none of these did he discover any Cardinals. It was not until the next year, in September, when Keays visited the Point that the bird was again brought to notice. See Auk, XIX, 1902, p. 205. On that occasion the residents said that it had put in an appearance on the Point about four years previous. This last statement has since been corroborated in a certain degree by Gardner, who states that his acquaintance with the Cardinal has only been of a few years' duration; that he does not remember it as a boy, but that since some had been caught and caged by a woman on the Point, he has known the species very well and does not think that he could have overlooked it if, in the past, it had been as common as it is now. It is strange that so showy and loud whistling a bird could have been overlooked by so acute an observer as Saunders, if at the time of his visits it was as numerous as it now is, more especially as one of the visits was made in late spring before the song period had quite passed. The spring of 1907 he and Taverner were on the Point at this time and then Cardinals whistled from every hand. The evidence certainly points to the conclusion that the Cardinal occupied the Point until at least 1879, and then for a space, until about 1901, deserted the locality to a greater or less extent. It is quite common now and it would be impossible for any field naturalist to visit the Point without making its acquaintance. On all our spring visits it has been seen perched on some isolated cedar top in the warm sunshine, whistling loud and long and making patches of intense red against the dark background. They appear to be pretty well distributed over the Point, from the base to its extreme end.

In the fall they are more difficult to find. They then frequent the densest tangles in little flocks which seem to be original broods, for there are usually one or two adults and three or four juvenile birds in the company. They are intensely curious and skulk about just out of sight, uttering little clicks and cheeps that seem ridiculous from so large a bird with such fine vocal powers. We have found

them common on all visits, and without doubt they winter on the Point. March 9-10, 1907, they were in full song.

140. **Zamelodia ludoviciana*.—Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was fairly common May 14, 1905, but was not seen at all May 20-21, 1906, and but two from May 30 to June 1, 1907. We have met it but once in the fall. From September 18 to 21, from one to seven were noted each day. They were very difficult to find, keeping well up in the tops of the high trees and hidden in the leaves, and the only indication of their presence was the sharp grosbeak click that occasionally came to us from somewhere overhead. Even after hearing one it was most difficult to locate it and we spent hours in the aggregate, standing under the large walnut trees, with our necks bent back, staring into the foliage, trying to locate from which quarter the sounds came. It was only in the early morning that any were noted at all. In short, this fall it was noted that, though from sunrise for a few hours certain parts of the woods would be filled with warblers and other birds, later in the day there would hardly be one in sight or to be found, and it always remained a mystery where so many birds could spend so many hours of the day without their presence being detected.

132. **Cyanospiza cyanea*.—Indigo Bunting.

Common on nearly all our visits, October 29, 1905, and March 9-10, 1907, being the only dates when we failed to note them. October 14, 1906, three late birds were seen, and a juvenile with nestling down still plentifully attached to the feathers, was taken.

133. **Spiza americana*.—Dickcissel.

The Dickcissel is another bird that, after extending its range into Southeastern Michigan, retreated again. Its history at the Point closely parallels its career in Michigan, at least as far as its recession is concerned. Personally we have not met it on Pelee, though we have looked closely for it. Saunders reports that it was common enough in 1884, and says of it,—Auk 11, 307.—"June 1, 1884, W. L. Bailey, Mr. A. P. Saunders and W. E. Saunders found several Black-throated Buntings about two miles from the end of Point Pelee in a meadow—first Canadian record. Subsequently, in extending our search, we found one or more pairs in every field. . . . These birds were observed in every locality on the Point, and on the return drive they were heard constantly till we had gone three miles into the mainland and then no more were noted." Saunders also informs us that he met them again September 10, 1900, and says, "We saw five Dickcissels, but did not secure any. They were in the weed fields on the dry side of the east and west ditch and perhaps half a mile from it." The next fall, 1901, Keays did not note the bird, nor has it been seen on the Point since.

[Reprinted from THE WILSON BULLETIN, June, 1908.]

THE BIRDS OF POINT PELEE.

BY P. A. TAVERNER AND B. H. SWALES.

(Continued from Vol. XIX, p. 153.)

142.† **Piranga erythromelas.*—Scarlet Tanager.

We have found the Scarlet Tanager common on all May visits. In the fall it has not been as numerous as the abundance of other species would lead us to anticipate. From September 4 to 15, 1905, we saw but five, all on the 5th. The next year one was seen September 1 and none on the succeeding visit in the middle of the same month. However, on October 14 three were secured or taken. In 1907 from August 26 to September 2 one or two were noted each day. In all probability it is a more or less common summer resident.

143. **Progne subis.*—Purple Martin.

The Purple Martin has always been present on the occasions of our May trips about the streets of Leamington, where a colony or colonies continue to hold out. Swales, in his trip from May 1 to 4, 1908, discovered from ten to several there, while at the same time they had not arrived in any numbers in Detroit. Our fall dates have usually been a little late for this species, which usually leaves these localities before the end of August.

In the fall of 1905 Lynds Jones' work among the outlying islands

†Owing to a mistake of the writer, the numbering of some of the last species in the previous installment of this list is incorrect. This is the proper number of this species in its sequence in the list.
P. A. T.

drew to a close just about the time when we first installed ourselves on the Point, September 4. In regard to this species, he says:

"Crossed in great numbers from Pelee Island via Middle and Kelly's to Marblehead, during my stay on Pelee Island."

The species had practically gone when we arrived as we saw but five stragglers sailing southward over the marsh on the 5th.

In 1906, no fall birds were noted, but the following year, August 24, the flight had not yet passed, though from the reports of the residents, it was then considerably diminished in numbers. One was seen the day of our arrival, but none the next. On the 26th 18 were noted. That night the steadily blowing wind that had so far succeeded in keeping the mosquito pests in the dense bush, died down and they sallied forth to our camp hungry after a three-days' fast. Mosquito netting was but a slight impediment to their flight; dope but made them mad, and smudge smoke goaded them to frenzy and but added vigor to their attack. We lay on the beach, close to the water's edge, wrapped in our blankets until we nearly smothered. We sat in the smoke of the fire until our eyes ran, and in desperation three of us gathered up our field traps in the dark and started out towards the end of the Point. We arrived there just as the first faint tint of gray was showing on the eastern horizon and climbed to the top of the tower that has been before mentioned, in the hope that the mosquito pests would not ascend to that altitude. Though we were disappointed in this, there were compensations that really amply repaid us for all our night of trouble and the long tramp out in the dark.

The day broke grey and cloudy. At first there was silence, broken only by the sharp monotone of our little tormentors, the water lapping the shore, or the rude, harsh sounds of our noisy feet upon the wooden floor. Then an occasional bird note cut sharp and clear through the surrounding gloom as a Wood Pewee or a Chipping Sparrow awoke. It grew lighter, and the nearby red cedars stood solidly out from the misty background, and a few little peeps came down from high overhead, warning us that either the night migrations were not yet over or that those of the morning were just begun. As it became lighter and the mist became slightly luminous, we were aware of occasional shadows passing swiftly by us, but so dim and evanescent as to be felt rather than seen. There was no sunrise, but, as the landscape grew brighter, the species of the passersby could be made out with some degree of certainty; and the bird notes came up to us rather oftener as bird after bird awakened and added its quota to the Martin chorus. The passing birds, few at first, increased in numbers. Bank Swallows passed swiftly by and a few Rough-wings, but most of them were Barn Swallows that came along in widely scattered groups of five or six; climbing up invisible aerial wave slopes, pausing a moment at the top, and then coasting

down the other side in long easy curves, with a swinging turn now to this side and now to that as if deflected by easily avoidable obstacles, invisible to us. Once in a while a Chimney Swift came busily by on rapidly beating wings like a great sphinx moth. All were making southward and away over the lake.

After it had been light for about half an hour, an occasional Martin appeared on the landward horizon, grew in apparent size, until by the refraction of the morning mists it seemed as large as a small hawk, passed us, and was swallowed up in the fog over the water on the farther side. They came oftener and oftener, until there was a steady stream of them coming down the Point, not in regularly organized flocks, but singly, and in ones and twos and half dozens. Standing there in the early morning half light it was most impressive. The mist lay below us and covered the ground with soft diaphanous billows. Through it the sharp conical red cedars pushed up half their length, sharp and clear cut in the foreground, but growing dimmer in the distance until they melted away into the vague horizon. The sky was leaden in color. Through the mist came the Martins. We were elevated to their plane of flight and were alone with them. On they came, bird after bird, on their strong bowed wings, out of the nebulous north, cutting strong and black against the neutral background. Without hurry or haste, calm, dignified and determined, they held a true course and swerved neither to one side or the other. With no apparent concerted action, but as if each one was filled with a like but independent impulse of migration and was urged on and on, south, ever south, by an inward monitor that ruled supreme.

It was only a flight of migrating Martins, and tame enough in the telling, but the reality was impressive indeed. The empty grayness of the vacant landscape and the succession of impassionate birds, all hastening under a mysterious impulse from a region of unknown extent to the north and converging to this one little spit of sand projecting out into the waters, on their way to a softer climate, in anticipation of colder times as yet in the future. It gave the impression of a never-ending procession passing from one unknown to another. Summer was past, winter was coming, the season was advancing and could be no more retarded than the order of the stars could be altered. Word had gone forth and had been received by each and every individual. No Fiery Cross was necessary — Nature had willed it, and that was sufficient, the clans obeyed and it had come to pass. Imagination reached forth and saw them gathering from the whole mysterious northland. Some were working down the rugged shores of Georgian Bay, passing from headland to headland or island to island; others passing over the scorched sand plains of northern Michigan, and all were headed in the same general direction and, with the same deliberate, steady and unhurried flight, the migrations were proceeding as inevitably as fate.

We watched them for some time, then, after collecting a few almost as fast as we could load and fire, returned to camp for breakfast. All day long when we looked up we could see the same steady stream making south over the land, while during the warmer parts of the day, the higher region of the air was filled with them, one above the other as high as the eye could reach, circling about hither and thither, preparatory to proceeding. A hundred birds could be so counted during most of the day; but this could not have been the culmination of the migration, for we were informed that the day previous to that of our arrival, on the 23d, one of the residents killed seventeen at one shot. This must have been a great flock, and we saw nothing like it during our stay.

After this we saw but occasional Martins each day until September 5, when another smaller flight occurred. At this time we counted them at the end of the Point, and they passed over at about the rate of ten every fifteen minutes. From our station at camp we judged that they continued at about the same rate all day. During the previous flight there were double this number passing, and perhaps treble would be closer to the mark. The former flight was composed mostly of adults of both sexes with a few juvenile males. The latter were all females, a few adult. No males at all were seen during our period of observation at the end of the Point when nearly all passed close enough to us to make this point practically certain.

The first flight was undertaken in a light breeze blowing from the south, but the latter was in the teeth of a good brisk wind, bathing the whole beach with a line of white breakers extending for some distance from shore. In spite of this the martins and swallows sailed steadily out to sea without a moment's hesitation or appearing even to notice the stress. At the same time we noticed other species, notably Cedarbirds, essay the passage, but after thorough testing of conditions, concluded it too strenuous and returned for more favorable times.

From statements made by several of the residents living in the vicinity of the lower part of the Point the spring flight of the martins about the middle of April, 1907, must have been even more extensive than the fall flight. They relate how the birds, overtaken by the cold, raw weather that prevailed, clustered in immense numbers at night in all available out-houses, where they covered every possible perching place, completely lining the walls, floors, etc., especially in a deserted barn. We have not been fortunate enough to be present on the Point during the period of the spring flight.

144. *Petrochelidon lunifrons.*—Cliff Swallow.

Though never very common we have found a limited number of Cliff Swallows on most of our seasonable visits. Several seen May 13, 1905. Two September 11 of the same year in company with a

mixed flock of Barn and Bank Swallows. Several May 20, 1906, and about five September 1, 1906, on the telegraph wires at the base of the Point. None noted the May-June trip of the following year, but from August 24th to the 31st, from two to ten were seen each day, but none in September. Not noted May 1-4, 1908, when Wallace and Swales made a trip. This is by no means an abundant species in this section. Its reddish tan rump makes a conspicuous and certain field mark when the bird is in flight.

115. **Hirundo erythrogastra*.—Barn Swallow.

A common summer resident. Common on all May dates. In 1905 the last were noted September 5, when considerable numbers were seen. In 1908 they were common the first three days of September, and about twenty-five were noted the 15th, and about ten the 19th. In 1907 they were still common and migrating heavily up to the time of our leaving, September 6.

116. **Iridoprocne bicolor*.—Tree Swallow.

The Tree Swallow we have found practically common on all May dates. In the fall it has never been abundant. In September, 1905, a few were noted daily from the 4th to 11th, on which latter date several flocks were observed passing over. September 18, 1906, three were seen, making our only record for the locality that season. In 1907 from one to eighteen were noted from August 24th to the 30th, and no more after that. There has been a considerable diminution in the abundance of the fall flocks of this species in this section of late years.

147. **Riparia riparia*.—Bank Swallow.

Common on all May visits. In 1905 the last fall flock was noted September 11. In 1906, common the first three days of September, and not seen during our return visit in the middle of the month. In 1907, great numbers were seen the latter end of August from the 24th, irregularly diminishing to the time of our departure, September 6, when but several were noted. A few seen May 2, 1908.

118. **Stelgidopteryx serripennis*.—Rough-winged Swallow.

One of the many interesting events of our fall trip of 1907 was the number of Rough wings seen migrating from August 24 to September 2. They were generally mixed in with large flocks of Bank Swallows, and nearly every time we closely scrutinized the latter we found numbers of the former among them. We counted and estimated the number of Rough-wings seen on these various days as 20, 100, 15, 4, 2 and 10. If the same proportion of this species existed in all the flocks of Bank Swallows the number of this usually rare species that passed over the Point must have been very great.

We found by repeated trials, verified by the capture of specimens, that careful attention could always separate the two species, whenever the conditions of observation were at all favorable. A closely discriminating eye can tell them by the difference in flight, as Saunders several times demonstrated. To the less acute, the soft brownish suffusion over the throat and breast of the Rough-wing, instead of the sharply defined breast bar of the Bank and the slightly more reddish cast (more appreciable in life than in museum specimens) are quite sufficient to separate the two species. The slightly superior size of *serripennis*, though sometimes quite apparent, is not always sufficiently marked for ready recognition.

Though quite a number were taken, all were juveniles and without the characteristic roughness on the primaries that gives them their distinctive name. Seemingly, this peculiar feather specialization is only acquired with age, and we have spring birds that are entirely without it and others on which it is but slightly marked. Swales saw several May 2, 1908, in company with numbers of Barn Swallows.

149. **Ampelis cedrorum*.—Cedar Waxwing.

Common on nearly all visits except those of October in 1905 and 1906. It seems also to be present during the winter in considerable numbers, and Gardner reported them at various times during the winter of 1906-7 and 1907-8. We saw large flocks March 9-10, 1907. September 5, 1907, we saw a flock start out over the lake with the evident intention of crossing, but the stiff south wind proved too strong for them and they returned. Very common May 1-3, in large flocks, distributed all over the Point.

HYPOTHETICAL.

Lanius borealis.—Northern Shrike.

Though this species undoubtedly occurs, we list it "hypothetical" for the sake of consistency as we have no absolutely authentic record of its occurrence. Gardner, on being shown a Migrant Shrike, reported having seen, in the winter, birds like it but larger.

150. **Lanius ludovicianus migrans*.—Migrant Shrike.

Of late years we have found this species almost scarce about Detroit, nor has it been common on the Point. From August 21 to September 6, 1907, we noted single individuals several times; once near Sturgeon Creek, at the Barge, again about half way out, in the vicinity of some old hennery building; and on two or three occasions, in the deserted fields near the end of the Point. September 6, 1907, a juvenile was brought to us by one of the residents. We have seen them on no other occasions.

151. **Vireo olivaceus.*—Red-eyed Vireo.

Practically common on all seasonable visits. They were not yet present May 1-4, 1908, but have been observed on all other May dates. In September, 1905, they were common until the 8th, then one was seen the 11th, and no more up to the date of our departure, the 15th. In September, 1906, they were numerous during our visit the first three days of the month, but on our return the 15th, there were none noted until the 17th, when from one to four were seen each day to our departure. Some remained well into October, and several were noted the 14th of that month. From August 21th to September 6th, 1907, they were seen every day, their numbers culminating the 20th. The next day but one was observed, and from then on to the day of our departure but scattered individuals were seen.

152. **Vireo philadelphicus.*—Philadelphia Vireo.

Apparently a regular and not uncommon spring and fall migrant, although we never observed it on the Point until September 1, 1906, when a male was secured and one again on each of the two succeeding days. On the return visit, the same month, two or three were seen or secured each day from the 17th to the 21st. The following spring, 1907, five were observed May 31 and four the next day. None were recognized during the fall trip of August 21-September 6, 1907. On this last occasion, however, all the early fall migrations were over a week late and consequently the great probability is that they had not yet arrived. In the fall the Philadelphia Vireo can be distinguished, under favorable circumstances, with no great difficulty, owing to the comparatively bright yellow underparts that serves at once to distinguish it from either the Red-eyed or Warbling Vireos with which it is apt to be confused. In the spring its likeness to the Warbling is most confusing, and then even an experienced eye should be aided by the ear. Of course with the bird in the hand, the absence of the rudimentary or "bastard" first primary is always an easy and conclusive test of the Philadelphia.

153. **Vireo gilvus.*—Warbling Vireo.

The Warbling Vireo has always been a common bird along the western or wooded sections of the Point on all May visits, except those of May 1-4, 1904, and May 31-June 1, 1907. From this latter date we argue that it is not a common summer resident. Our only fall date is September 3, 1906, when a few were noted. This Vireo rarely lingers in this section after the first of September.

154. *Vireo flavifrons.*—Yellow-throated Vireo.

Though a common summer resident and still more numerous migrant in the Detroit vicinity, strangely enough, it seems to be a rare bird on the Point. Our few records are not thoroughly satisfactory.

having been but cursory sight identifications made by various members of our parties under not very favorable conditions, and unaware of the scarcity of the species in this particular locality. May 14, 1905, we listed three, September 1-2, 1906, several, and August 29, 1907, one.

155. **Vireo solitarius.*—Blue-headed Vireo.

May 14, 1905, this was a common bird on the Point and we were seldom out of sight or hearing of one or more during our whole tramp from the camp to the base of the Point. That fall one was taken September 13, which was likely the first of the migrants. The next year (1906) we noted none in May; the 20-21st being rather late for them in a normal year. That fall (1906) one and two were detected September 18 and 19. The spring of 1907 being phenomenally late, one bird was seen May 31 and another June 1. For the fall migrations of that year we have but one date and one individual, August 31, which is, according to our experience, unusually early. The white eye ring and loral stripe, standing out from the clear gray of the head, make a field recognition mark not easy to mistake.

156. **Mniotilta varia.*—Black and White Warbler.

May 14, 1905, a practically normal spring, but two were noted. The following year, May 20-21, was too late for them and none were observed, but the spring of 1907, which was remarkable for its lateness, we saw five, May 31. A few were noted May 3 and 4, 1908. It has been present and more or less common during all our fall dates, except those of October. In 1905, a few were seen from September 4 to 8, after which none were observed until the 13th, when a large flight arrived, and they were common for the day, but left that night and but three were noted the next morning. In 1906 nothing worthy of note was observed either in number or fluctuations of number during our two trips to the Point, though they were considerably more numerous on the first than on the later visits. They were already present on our arrival August 24, 1907, and remained in fairly constant numbers until we left, September 6.

157. **Helminthophila pinus.*—Blue-winged Warbler.

September 2, 1906, Taverner had the pleasure not only of adding this species to the Pelee list, but of making a primal record for the Dominion when he took a juvenile of indeterminate sex in a grape vine tangle near the east shore at the end of the Cross Road. The specimen is numbered No. 662 in his collection. The next day he shot what he thought was another, but was unable to find it in the dense shrubbery.

158. *Helminthophila chrysoptera.*—Golden-winged Warbler.

This is another species common all summer in the Detroit vicinity, but rather rare on the Point. Fortunately, though no specimens have been taken, they have been seen under circumstances that make identification certain. May 21, 1906, one was noted. August 31, 1907, another was seen by Taverner near camp, and September 2 the same observer noted one along the east shore in the vicinity of the Cross Road.

159. **Helminthophila rubricapilla.*—Nashville Warbler.

Likely a more or less common and a regular migrant, though our records for the species are few and more or less scattered. One May 13, 1905, and three September 6 of the same year. The next fall five, one, eight, six and one were enumerated September 1, 18, 19, 20 and 21, but none on the spring trip of May 20-21. One was noted May 31, 1907, among the late warblers of that abnormal spring, but up to the time of our departure in the fall, September 6, they had not put in an appearance. The spring of 1908, Swales noted one each day, May 2 and 3.

160. **Helminthophila peregrina.*—Tennessee Warbler.

A regular and not uncommon migrant, spring and fall. Ten noted May 14, 1905, May 20-21, 1906, which is normally late for them, none were seen, but May 31 and June 1, 1907, when so many late warbler records were made, two rather questionable birds were noted. None were listed May 1-4, 1908.

In the fall it is one of the earliest warblers to arrive. On August 26, 1907, one was taken; an arrival date that seems about normal, as we can closely parallel it with Detroit dates. We saw but one other this season, on the 29th. The preceding year they were still present in some numbers the first three days of September, and in full song. One was noted September 4, 1905, and another the 14th. The species remains quite late and we have a record of an individual, October 14, 1906.

161. **Compsothlypis americana usneæ.*—Northern Parula Warbler.

Conversely to the cases of the Golden-winged Warbler and the Yellow-throated Vireo, cited before, this species seems to be a rather common migrant on the Point, at least in spring, while it is very rare at Detroit at all seasons. May 14, 1905, which is our only spring date strictly within its regular migrational season, we found it very common the whole length of the western wooded shore. None were observed May 20-21, 1906, but in the abnormally late spring of 1907 we saw one May 30, and three June 1. The fall of the same year one was taken August 28, giving us our only fall date.

162. **Dendroica tigrina.*—Cape May Warbler.

This species, long classed as one of the rarest of the warblers, has proved itself during our work at the Point to warrant a hardly less strict term than scarce and, at times, has been almost common. We have never detected its presence in spring, but that is likely because the dates of our spring work on the Point have never fallen within those of the height of the warbler migrations. In 1905, three were taken September 8, and ten seen or taken the 13th, in the red cedar thickets near the end of the Point and the presence of more strongly suspected. In 1906, two were taken or observed September 17, and an equal number the next day. In 1907, from one to four were noted or captured each day from August 29 to September 2. Among the specimens so gathered, we obtained an almost complete series of fall plumages—from the young of the year to adults of both sexes. In life there is something peculiarly characteristic in the appearance of a faint, hidden copper spot that can only be distinguished in some juvenile females on parting the feathers, but is present in all specimens so far examined.

163. **Dendroica æstiva.*—Yellow Warbler.

Common on all May visits except that of 1908 when but two were observed on the 3d. The season, however, was very late, the weather inclement and all warblers were behind in their appearance. The Yellow Warbler is one of the earliest warblers to depart in fall, and consequently we have, until 1907, been late for it on our autumn trips. About Detroit it is not common to see them after the first of August, and often the last ones are observed about the middle of July. However, from August 21 to 29, we saw one or two each day, and once as many as six, then no more were noted until September 2, when the last two were noted. Several times in May we have found a number of peculiar, unmarked and much worn green plumages among them. May 20-21, 1906, we were particularly struck with their numbers. They invariably haunted the ground and brush piles, acting more like members of the genus *Geothlypis* than *Dendroica*. Several were taken for Connecticuts, from their peculiar skulking actions, and suffered in consequence. Although their kind was singing all around them they uttered nothing but commonplace little peeps. Their plumage was worn and soiled, and all taken proved to be females with poorly developed ovaries.

164. **Dendroica caerulescens.*—Black-throated Blue Warbler.

A common spring and fall migrant. May 13-14, 1905, was about the culmination of their migration and they were abundant in all the wooded sections of the Point. The next year, May 20-21, was a little late for them and consequently but few were seen. During the abnormal spring of 1907, six and four were seen May 31 and

June 1 respectively. None were seen May 14, 1908. In the fall they seem to occur in greatest abundance about the first week of September. In 1905 they were common from September 4 to 13, after which their numbers suddenly dropped off to nothing. The next year they were present in limited numbers the first three days of the month, and on our return visit from the 15th to 22d, several to fifteen were noted each day, the latter number being reached but once, the 20th. As late as October 1 ten were noted. They had not put in an appearance on the Point in 1907 up to the time of our departure September 6. A valuable field mark for this species is the white spot at the base of the folded primaries, that is present to a more or less marked degree in nearly all plumages. This is one of the few warblers of which the fall juveniles are almost indistinguishable in plumage from the spring adults.

165. **Dendroica coronata.*—Myrtle Warbler.

May 14, 1905, this species was common on the Point and, though we failed to notice any May 20-21, 1906, one was seen each day of May 30 and June 1, 1907. This late date, however, means very little from a migrational standpoint for, as has been before mentioned, it was an abnormal spring and many birds remained long after their usual time for departure had passed. May 13, 1908, it was fairly common on all three days spent on the Point. In 1905 but one individual was observed October 29, as they had not yet arrived up to the time of our departure on the former trip, September 15. The following year the first fall migrant was noted September 20, and more the next two succeeding days, and were quite numerous October 14 and 15. None were detected the fall of 1907 to the date of our leaving, September 6.

166. **Dendroica maculosa.*—Magnolia Warbler.

But two seen May 2, 1908, but common on all other May trips. Six were noted as late as June 1, 1907. September, 1905, it was fluctuatingly common from the 4th to 15th, common the first three days of the month in 1906, but very variable in numbers from the 16th to 21st, when it only reached numbers to be designated common the 20th. Several were noted each day from August 27th to our departure September 6, 1907.

167. **Dendroica caerulea.*—Cerulean Warbler.

Although the Cerulean Warbler is a common migrant, and not uncommon breeder on the adjacent Michigan side of the international boundary, it was far from numerous at any season when we have been at the Point. In the spring we have seen but a few individuals, May 11, 1905, and 20, 1906. It is an early migrant in fall and usually passes through this latitude the latter part of August. September

4, 1905, one was taken, and in 1907 a few were seen each day from August 26 to 29, when the last evidently departed.

168. **Dendroica pensylvanica.*—Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Common spring migrant and regular, but in more limited numbers, in the fall. May 14, 1905, it was common, but we saw none May 20-21, 1906. Among the other extraordinary occurrences of the spring of 1907 was the great numbers of this species noted June 1. We estimated the numbers seen that day as 150. In the fall we noted a few at the beginning and end of our stay, September 4-15. One each day September 3, 18 and 19, 1906, and several were noted daily between August 29 and the time of our departure, September 6, 1907.

169. **Dendroica castanea.*—Bay-breasted Warbler.

A common spring and fall migrant. May 14, 1905, it was almost abundant and was certainly the most common warbler migrant on the Point. May 20-21, 1906, was a little late for their normal migration, but the abnormal spring of 1907 saw them still present in considerable numbers June 1. None were noted May 14, 1908. In the fall we have seen them in fair numbers on all of our September trips, in 1907 as early as August 26. They generally come in company with the Black-polls, which rather outnumber them in abundance, and which they so closely resemble in fall as to make the separation of the two species sometimes most difficult even to the most expert. It is rare, however, though it is sometimes said to occur, that a trace of the spring buff is not to be observed on the sides of the adults or a warm ochraceus suffusion is not noticeable on the sides of the juveniles of the species. The lack of the faint streaks on the breast, which usually show up on the Black-poll in life out of all proportion to their intensity as observed in dry skins, is diagnostic. The under-tail coverts of the Bay-breast are also cream color, while in the Black-poll they are pure white. The color of the feet is said to be of value in separating the two species, it being stated that, in the Bay-breast these parts are dusky, while in the Black-poll they show a more yellowish brown color. This may be somewhat helpful in fresh birds, but in dry skins the difference, according to our series of specimens, is so slight and variable as to be of little use in determining the specific designation.

170. **Dendroica striata.*—Black-poll Warbler.

The peculiar spring distribution of this bird in this and adjoining sections of Michigan was touched upon by the authors in the Auk, 1907, p. 146-7. It is a very rare spring migrant at Detroit and, up to 1907, no spring records had been made for the county. At Port Huron, at the foot of Lake Huron, it is more common. It is abun-

dant in fall in both localities. At Pelee, it is a more or less common and regular spring migrant. May 14, 1905, a bird supposed to be of this species was shot and lost in the underbrush by Swales, near the base of the Point. The next year, May 21, the identification of this bird received verification, when several were taken or seen in about the same locality. May 30-June 1, 1907, we saw several each day. In the fall it has always been a very abundant migrant, and we have found it common on all September visits. September 3, 1906, was notable for a great wave of this species that came in the preceding night. As an unusual feature, there were [illegible], if any Bay-breasts, among them. In 1907 the first was [illegible] latest date is September 21, 1906, when the [illegible] our departure.

171. **Dendroica blackburniæ*.—Blackl[illegible]

May 14, 1905, the Blackburnian W[illegible] deciduous and red-cedar woodland. [illegible] was a little late for them and we [illegible] June 1, 1907, they were very common. [illegible] mated the number seen as one hundred. It has not often been observed as abundant in the fall as in the spring. A few [illegible] September, 1905, on the 4th, 5th and 11th. In 1906 we listed [illegible] on the 17th and 20th of the same month. The first was seen, 1907, August 26, and from then on, until the day of our departure, September 3, several or more were noted almost daily.

172. **Dendroica virens*.—Black-throated Green Warbler.

Common May 14, 1905, but not observed May 20-21, 1906. In 1907 it broke all records by remaining until June 1, upon which date numbers were seen. Not noted May 1-4, 1908. September 4, 1905, it was present upon our arrival, and remained through our visit (until the 15th) in varying numbers. In 1906, it was not noted until September 18, after which several were observed each day until we left, the 21st. One was noted October 15 of the same year, but none put in an appearance in 1907 to the date of our departure, September 6.

173. **Dendroica palmarum*.—Palm Warbler.

Along the crest of the eastern sand dunes, where over the stunted cottonwoods offered any cover, we found this species fairly common, May 13, 1905, but observed none the following day along the wooded shores of the west side. This and May 3-4, 1908, when it appeared quite common, are the only times we have met with the Palm Warbler on the Point in spring. Either real scarcity of numbers or its skulking habits and quiet coloration cause it to pass through unobserved. This is not a warbler that is commonly met with in the fall.

One was taken September 5, and another seen each day of the 13th, 14th, and 15th, 1905. In the waste fields near the end of the Point. It has not been noted on any other occasion.

171. **Dendroica discolor.*—Prairie Warbler.

September 5, 1905, Klugh took a juvenile male of this species in the dense thickets back of the eastern shore, just beyond the cross-road (see Auk XXIII, 1906, p. 105), making the third recorded specimen of the species for Ontario. This is our only record for the Point, though Saunders thought that he heard one singing September 20, 1906, and Taverner thought that he recognized another individual September 6, 1907, that he failed to secure, on the same grounds where Klugh took his. It may be found to be a regular though rare migrant on the Point.

175. **Seiurus aurocapillus.*—Oven-bird.

Surprisingly scarce in spring. This was an unexpected condition to meet anywhere in this section, for the Oven-bird is one of the commonest summer woodland residents we have. May 14, 1905, we saw but one, and none the 20th-21st of the same month, 1906. May 31 and June 1, 1907, when all migrations were so disorganized, five and eight were noted on the respective days. None were noted the first three days of May, 1908, by Swales and Wallace, though it is true that they were then hardly to be expected as at that time they had not as yet arrived about Detroit. From this data we conclude that but few, if any, breed on the Point, and that practically all seen there are migrants. In the fall they are tremendously common. September 5-15, 1905, they were noted nearly every day, but were more common during the early days of the visit. In 1906 they were common the first three days of September, but a few were noted on the 18th, 20th and 21st. The fall of 1907 but two individuals were seen August 30 and 31. These may have represented breeding birds as the season was late and it was evident the migrants of this species had not yet arrived.

176. **Seiurus noveboracensis.*—Water Thrush.

The Water Thrush is, in all probability, a regular, if not a common spring migrant though we have met it but once during the vernal migrations, May 15, 1905, when several were seen along the inside of the western road on the edge of the marsh. Dr. Brodie reports that, during his July trip of 1879, Water Thrushes were "very common." Judging from adjoining Michigan standards this was rather surprising, as it is with us but a scarce migrant, and has yet to be discovered breeding with us. On our arrival at the Point, September 1, 1905 there were considerable numbers present, most of which left the night of the 5th, for after that date but few singles

were noted until the 10th, when the last was observed. September 2 and 3, 1906, but one and two were seen on the respective days, and none on the return dates in the middle of the month. One of the interesting features of the fall trip of 1907 was the unprecedented number of this species present. We arrived August 21, and the 26th several were noted, and the next day the species became abundant, remaining so until the 1st of September, when there was a falling off in numbers, increasing to several the 3d and two the 4th; the species seem, then to have departed. During the height of their abundance they were the most conspicuous bird on the Point, and were seen in all kinds of places, and at all times. They were in the low, damp spots in the woods, in the high walnut timber, and in the red cedar thickets. They were common everywhere. We found them in the last outlying brush pile near the end of the final sand spit, and in patches of weeds and cottonwoods along the eastern sand dune, near Grubb's fish house. It was no uncommon sight to have four or five in the same field of vision, besides others that could be heard and not seen. Indeed it was rare when we could get out of sight or hearing of at least one individual, for any appreciable length of time. They uttered no song, but constantly gave vent to their characteristic short "chup." It is not improbable that this flight of Water-Thrushes is of somewhat regular occurrence on the Point. Brodie's statement before quoted rather substantiates this. As has been before mentioned, the migrations were late in starting in the fall of 1907, and this would explain why we had not met the species commonly before, in other years.

177. **Seiurus motacilla*. Louisiana Water-Thrush.

Contrary to our expectations we have found this species the rarer of the two Water-Thrushes on the Point. In adjoining Michigan localities this is the common form as migrant, and the only breeder, as so far recorded. On the Point, however, we regard it as quite rare. Our only date for the species in the locality being one seen by Saunders, August 28, 1907.

178. **Geothlypis agilis*. Connecticut Warbler.

It seems to be the general impression among the ornithologists of this section that the Connecticut Warbler has much increased in numbers in the last decade or so. However that may be, whether due to real greater abundance or to observers knowing better where to seek and what to look for, they have advanced their apparent status from one of the rarest to a barely scarce species. This is true not only of Pelee, but of other surrounding territory. Saunders was the first to call attention to the number of Connecticuts on the Point when he reported them as "Quite common for a few days in June [1884] (Auk II, 1885, 1307) as a ground feeder in dray places where

on above trip several were procured." He also states in private correspondence that he found them "Quite common May 30 to June 4, 1884," thus locating the dates more exactly. May 14, 1905, we saw two on our walk in along the east road. May 20-24, 1906, none were observed; but the 30th of the same month the succeeding spring three were noted. In the fall we have found the species still more abundant. In September, 1905, six and two were noted or taken the 5th and 6th, and another one the 10th. The first three days of September, 1906, it was almost common and we were able to secure as many specimens as we had any desire for. They haunted the damp tangle bordering the eastern beach near Gardner's and along the Cross-road, and were still more frequently met with in the beds of Jewel-weed, closely adjoining, in the open spots of the woods. By remaining quiet in such places we were able to observe this interesting species at will. Though naturally shy when we were moving about, when the observer remained perfectly quiescent they would approach almost within reach of the hand. As far as we heard, they remained very quiet, uttering but the most commonplace little cheeps and those but rarely. On our return visit the middle of the same month we noted but two single individuals on the 17th and 18th. The fall of 1907, though we were present the first few days of September, the time of their great abundance the preceding year, owing to the general lateness of the early migrations, they had not put in an appearance, as a species, up to the date of our departure, September 6, though one was observed by Wood in a brush pile at the base of the final sandspit September 1st. This fall there were no such masses of Jewel-weed anywhere to be seen, and this may have had something to do with their non-appearance, the early migrants, missing the congenial quarters of last year, passed on across the lake without lingering.

179 **Oporornis philadelphia*. Mourning Warbler.

The Mourning Warbler is a rather uncommon migrant. In fact, of late years, it has decreased so as to be even less common than the preceding species. This condition, however, is not peculiar to Point Pelee, but applies equally to our Detroit stations. None were noted May 13-14, 1905, and but one May 21, of the succeeding year. May 31 and June 1, 1907, however, we were more fortunate and five and one were noted on the respective days. They sang freely with a song much similar in quality to that of the Connecticut, but hardly as throaty and differently accented. Fall dates on this species are difficult to get and greatly to be desired. We always suspected that they slipped through very early and so passed unobserved. This has been corroborated by the data we have been able to gather the last two years at Pelee. Kenyon noted one September 17, 1905, and we took another September 3, 1906, with the Connecticut in the Jewel

weed before spoken of. In 1907 two were taken August 27, one the 30th, and another the 31st. The last one was observed September 2. Seeing that the migrations were late this year, it is more than likely that the Mourning Warbler normally passes through about the third week in August, and it is one of the earliest migrants to be looked for in fall.

The juvenile fall Mourning Warbler closely resembles the young Connecticut, but can be readily distinguished from it by the yellow and greyish suffusion over the throat and foreneck.

180. **Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*.—Northern Yellow-throat.

The Yellow-throat has been common on all May visits, but of peculiar occurrence in fall. In 1905 six were observed on the first day of our arrival, September 4, and then no more until the 14th, when they became common. In 1906, they were very common the first three days of September, but on our return trip they were far less abundant, and but two or three were noted the 15th, 17th, 18th, and six the 19th. One was still present this year as late as October 11. From August 24 to September 6, 1907, none were observed at all. The only obvious explanation of this erratic procedure is that either few or no Yellow-throats breed on the Point, or else that the summer residents depart early in the fall, and that at the time of our arrival and stay in 1907 the migrants had not yet arrived. This species remains with us usually until well into October, but all our fall data at Pelee points to the conclusion that there is a strong migrational movement among them, beginning the latter part of August.

181. **Icteria virens*.—Yellow-breasted Chat.

Point Pelee is the only locality in Canada where the Yellow-breasted Chat is any more than a rare accidental straggler. How far its range here extends inland we are unable to state, as our work has never extended inland beyond the base of the Point. The first observation on the Chat in Canada was likely made here, as Dr. Brodie says of his July trip of 1879,—"A specimen recently killed was brought to me by school children. The bird had flown in through an open window of the school and was killed against the glass in an opposite window." June 6, 1881, Saunders secured specimens as recorded by Macoun in his Birds of Canada. May 13, 1905, we found several pairs in a waste clearing, grown up to bushes, near the base of the Point and secured one and the next day another by the road along the edge of the marsh on the east side. May 20-21, 1906, two and one were observed or taken beyond Card-net's place on the respective days. May 31, 1907, three more were observed in about the same locality. Swales and Wallace saw one May 3, 1908. This is a species that departs early in the season and

drifts away so quietly as to be rarely noted on the fall migrations. In the spring no bird could be noisier or more conspicuous in its chosen haunts, but by the middle of July it relapses into silence and is seldom noted thereafter. We have consequently never seen the species on any of our fall trips, as it likely departed considerably before our earliest autumn trip.

182. **Wilsonia pusilla.*—Wilson's Warbler.

A regular and not uncommon migrant, spring and fall. May 13-14, 1905, none were seen; in 1906 one was observed May 20; and eight May 31, 1907. September 6, 1905, seven were noted. They increased to common on the 8th, and then diminished to one the 15th the day of our departure. In 1906, one and one was present September 1 and 3, and two more the 20th. The species put in an appearance in 1907 August 12, and gradually increased in numbers until September 1, when fifteen were listed. They were still present in some numbers when we left the 6th.

183. **Setophaga ruticilla.*—American Redstart.

Practically common on all seasonable visits, except that of May 1, 1908, when most birds were late in arriving, and this was one that had not as yet put in an appearance. The only peculiarity in their numbers as noted at the Point is the usual great increase the first few days of September over later conditions. In 1905 they were much more common September 5 and 6 than they were thereafter. In 1906 they were very abundant the first three days of the month, but on the return trip, the 15th-21st, we saw none until the 17th, and then they were but fairly common, to our departure. In 1907 they were present on our arrival August 24, increasing gradually to common the 28th, and remained so with small fluctuations until our departure, September 6.

[To be continued.]

[Reprinted from THE WILSON BULLETIN, September, 1908.]

THE BIRDS OF POINT PELEE.

BY P. A. TAVERNER AND B. H. SWALES.

(Continued from page 96.)

181. **Anthus pensilvanicus.*—American Pipit.

Doubtless of regular occurrence on the Point, both spring and fall, but owing to the seasonal occasions of our trips, we have noted it but once, October 15, 1906, when a few scattered individuals were observed along the top of the eastern sand dunes.

185. **Mimus polyglottos.*—Mockingbird.

May 20, 1906, while Swales and Fleming were walking in along the road on the west side of the Point, on the homeward trip, a Mockingbird was flushed opposite a newly planted orchard. Fleming secured the bird, which proved to be a male with well developed testes. It is now in his collection. Search was made for a possible mate, but without avail. (*Auk XXIII*, 1906, p. 344.)

186. **Galeoscoptes carolinensis.*—Catbird.

Common, with but one exception, on all May, August and September trips. August 15 and 16, 1908, it was surprisingly scarce, but one being noted the latter date. It was still present in some numbers October 14, 1906.

187. **Toxostoma rufum.*—Brown Thrasher.

Common on all spring visits except, as would be expected, that of March, 1907. May 1-3, 1908, their combined chorus was one of the features of the trip. This, despite low temperature and a heavy fall of snow, combined with a bitter gale blowing in off the lake.

The Brown Thrasher is considerable of a mimic, and on the Point has acquired some of the call notes of the Yellow-breasted Chat, sev-

eral times leading us merry chases after what we thought was that bird.

August 15-16, 1908, Brown Thrashers were but fairly common and probably represented the breeding population of the Point. The year previous, from the 24th of the same month on, they were much more abundant and, usually from the first of September to the appearance of the Sharp-shin flight, the species has been abundant. As soon as the hawks come the great bulk of them suddenly thin out. We have met with but little evidence that the *Accipitres* really catch any great numbers of them, but they are so harried and worried that they keep well within their favorite strongholds in the jumper beds that grow between the red cedars near the end of the Point. When the Sharp-shins are about in any numbers, it is with great difficulty that the Thrashers can be made to forsake this scrub. When they are finally forced to break cover, they make a quick dash to the next nearest chump, flying low, barely skimming the ground and immediately bury themselves in its innermost recesses. At such times they seem much less afraid of man than of hawks. This bird seems to remain considerably later in the fall on the Point than in adjoining Michigan stations. October 11, 1906, we were surprised to note at least twenty individuals at a considerably later date than anything we can find in our Detroit notes.

188. **Thryothorus ludovicianus* Carolina Wren.

This is another interesting species upon which Point Pelee bases its claim to originality among the Canadian faunas. The Carolina Wren is found regularly and commonly here, and in but few other localities in the Dominion. In August, 1901, Lynds Jones found the species on East Sister Island (*Will. Bull.*, 1901, pp. 70-71), but it was not until the fall of 1905 that it was added to the list of mainland birds. September 5 of that year Klugle took one and saw another. The next day four were observed or taken, and others noted the 7th, 8th, and 11th. Among these were two juveniles of different ages, and apparently belonging to separate broods. The youngest had the nestling down still attached to the plumage, and was evidently raised on the Point (*Auk*, XXIII., 1906 [1, 1050). In 1906, we noted three May 20 and took one in the same locality, where they had been seen the preceding fall. May 21 Saunder found three on the mainland just east of the base of the Point. In the fall they were noted September 1, 2, 3, and 19, and October 11. In 1907 single birds were heard or seen March 30 May 31, June 1 and August 29 and 30. In 1908 we found them scattered all over the end of the Point, from the Cross-Road out and singing vigorously August 15-16. Hitherto we had observed them but in a limited area on the east side near the end of the Cross Road.

It will be seen from this that the species is well established on the

Point. They frequent the densest jungle and are more often heard than seen. They flit from brush to brush just ahead of the excited collector bent on establishing an incontestable record, in a most provoking manner, leading him through mud-holes, tangle and bracken, keeping just out of gun shot, and usually out of sight, but enticing him on with explosive cries of encouragement. They frequent the higher branches of the trees to a greater extent than any other of our wrens and are often observed at considerable elevations. The song we have most frequently heard in both fall and spring could be written "pre—o—o—o—o." The first sylable uttered quickly and with a silvery roll, and the "o's" distinctly separate, with decided intervals between, and delivered with an explosive quality like the sound of large drops falling from a height into a still pool below. The whole uttered hurriedly and bubblingly, in the same metre as the song of the House Wren. This song is perfectly distinct, and like nothing else to be heard in the Transition Fauna woods. As before stated, August 15, 1908, the Carolina Wrens sang far more freely than we have heard before. In repertoire they are as versatile as a Thrasher and a Catbird combined and rival, if not surpass, the Chat in ability to make "funny noises."

189. **Troglodytes aedon*.—House Wren.

Common on all May visits and to be found in almost all kinds of localities, though perhaps the brush grown fences in the neighborhood of Gardner's farm buildings were the most favored. But few were noted during the early days of September, 1905, though by gradual increase they became common the 14th. Common all through September, 1908, and until October 14-15, when a number were noted. Not as many as usual seen August 24-September 6, 1907, and more were listed August 15-16, 1908. It is evident from this that the migrant birds arrived about the last of August and first of September, reaching their maximum the middle of the later month.

190. **Olbiorchilus hiemalis*.—Winter Wren.

Noted but once in the spring, May 1-2, 1908, when single birds were noted each day. In 1905, the first fall birds were noted September 11 and 15, the last days of our stay. In 1906 they were present when we arrived, September 15, and became almost common by the 17th, after which their numbers dwindled, though a couple were seen the 21st, when we departed. This last day one fellow became much interested in our tent and camping equipment. It explored the former several times thoroughly, searching every crevice. It examined our methods of packing, and sampled the crumbs of our commissary gleaning from the cracks of the table, and seemed generally pleased with himself and us. Finally it flew to a neighboring brush pile and scolded us as we took down the tent and piled the

things into the wagon. Eight were seen October 14, 1906. Of course none have been seen during the August trips.

191. **Cistothorus stellaris.*—Short-billed Marsh Wren.

May 14, 1905, Saunders found a small colony of about half a dozen birds in the marsh bordering the dyke and secured one specimen. Frequent search since has failed to reveal the species again, but, as it ... extremely local in distribution and retiring in habit, it could be easily overlooked in the vast extent of marsh to be surveyed.

192. **Telmatodytes palustris.*—Long-billed Marsh Wren.

A common species on all the marshes. They had hardly arrived in force May 13, 1905, nor the 21st of the same month of the succeeding year. May 31, 1907, however, they were present in numbers, and May 1-3, 1908, Swales found a number that had been driven out of their low lands by the high water up into the bushes among the tree trunks of the higher levels, where they conducted themselves in the unaccustomed habitat much after the manner of Winter Wrens. We have found them more or less common, though secretive, and rather hard to find on all fall visits. Then they seem partial to most circumscribed areas of marsh, and keep well down in the cat tails, seldom venturing far in flight and uttering but the most commonplace and noncommittal notes. Our latest date is October 15, 1906, when six were observed, though Gardner reported the presence of Wrens in the marsh several times during the winter of 1906-07. However the specific designation of these winter Wrens remains in doubt.

193. **Certhia familiaris americana.*—Brown Creeper.

Not noted in the spring until 1908, owing to the lateness of date of our visits. May 1 of the above year one was observed, and at least fifteen the 3d. Not noted the fall of 1905, until September 15, when one was seen and another the next day, the date of our departure. In 1908 the species put in an appearance September 17, and from then on until we left, the 21st, from three to eight were listed each day. They were common October 15, 1906, and even more numerous the 29th of the same month the previous year. Probably some remain through the winter.

194. **Sitta carolinensis.*—White-breasted Nuthatch.

This species, though met with on nearly all visits, has never been very common. Usually a few scattered individuals have made the day's record. Our date of greatest abundance was October 14, 1906, when ten were listed. Likely but few breed on the Point as our May dates are meager. Our fall dates are conflicting, but seem to indicate that the migrants arrive irregularly from the last of August to the middle of September.

195. **Sitta canadensis.*—Red-breasted Nuthatch.

The erratic appearance of this species in Southeastern Michigan and neighboring Ontario stations has been commented on by the writers elsewhere (*Auk XXIV*, 1907, p. 147). It is usually a scarce migrant, though some years very abundant. We have met with it in spring but once, May 31 and June 1, 1907, when eight and seventeen were noted respectively. This was a very unusually late spring, which accounts for their presence at this time. It was also the spring following their great fall abundance of 1906, which may have had something to do with their rather unusual numbers. In 1905 but three were noted October 29. The following year, when it will be remembered reports of their exceeding abundance came in from many localities, they were present and common September 1 to 3, and on our return trip from the 15th to 21st they were still more numerous. The culmination of their abundance, however, was reached October 14 and 15, when they were easily one of the most abundant birds on the Point and found in all conceivable localities except the marshes. Especially were they numerous in the waste fields near the end of the Point, where they crowded the dead and dry mullein stalks in such numbers as to be perceptible from some distance as blue masses. We have met with the species at the Point at no other times, but Saunders reports it as "very common September 8 to 10, with the Kinglets," and Keays noted from two to four daily from September 17 to 21, 1901.

196. **Penthestes atricapillus.*—Chickadee.

March 9-10, 1907, the Chickadee was common. One noted May 11, 1905, and another June 1, 1907. These are our only spring dates. September 5 and 7, 1905, and October 29 of the same year constitute our only fall dates. Our experience with the species at Detroit leads us to believe that it is more migrational than is generally supposed. They are common through the winter, but about the first of April the great bulk of them depart, leaving but a few scattered summer residents behind. They appear again about the end of August, though not becoming generally common until well into October. They are a good bird to listen for when searching for fall warblers. Their cheery voice can be heard some distance and the following of it up often leads one to a nice little bunch of other species with which they are fond of keeping company.

197. *Regulus satrapa.*—Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Met with but twice in the late fall, October 29, 1905, and October 13-15, 1906.

198. **Regulus calendula.*—Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

We have noted this species but once in spring, May 13-14, 1905, when but a few were seen. In the fall it has been rather irregular.

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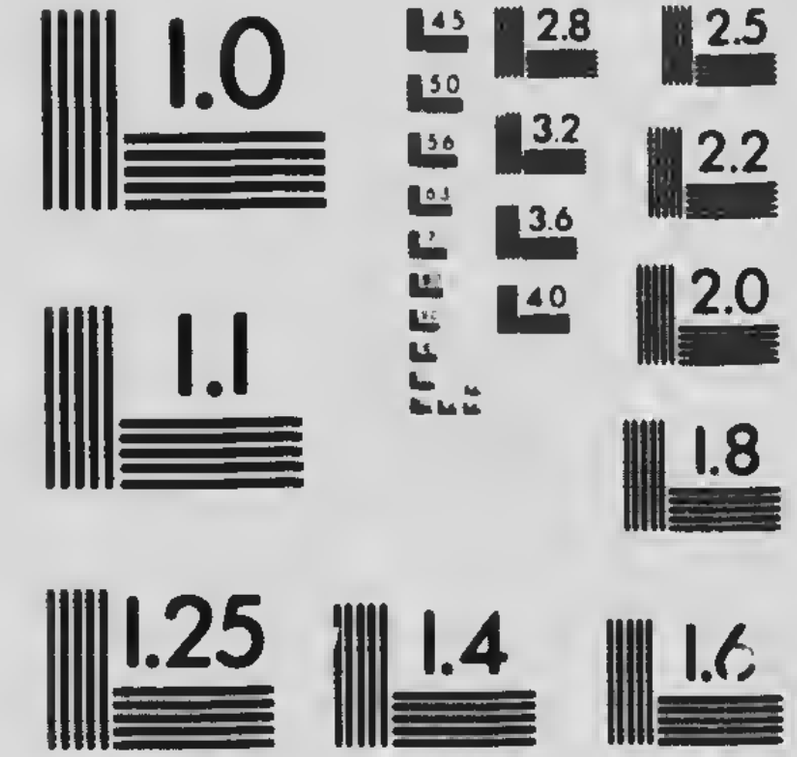
(ANSI and ISO TEST CHART No 2)



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September 8, 1905, Klugh noted a few individuals, and the next year it put in an appearance September 17, increasing to common on the 20th, remaining so until our late visit, October 14, when there were still numbers present. The Ruby-crown has quite a distinctive habit of flitting its wings while pausing for a moment between its short flights from bough to bough in the trees. By this little trait it can often be recognized from the Golden-crown, when phases of plumage render it almost indistinguishable from that species. It usually reserves its vocal efforts for the silent northern woods; but once in a while it does favor us Southerns with a few extracts of its part in the wild northern symphony; and we are surprised at so much richness of tone, sweetness of melody and strength of voice combined in so small a compass.

199. **Polioptila caerulea*—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

May 14, 1905, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was common on the Point. We did not meet it in spring again until May 31, 1907, when two were noted August 25. They became common the next day, remaining fluctuatingly so until September 2, after which they gradually thinned out to the time of our departure the 6th. The morning of the 5th we were stationed on the lookout tower at the end of the Point when we saw a couple flying outwards, working from tree to tree, and at last vanishing in the last bush towards the final sand-spit. There was a heavy head wind blowing, bathing the shores with a line of breakers, against which Swallows and Martins were making steady and calm headway. Evidently the Gnatcatchers tried the passage also, for a few minutes later we saw them returning down the wind from over the water as if unable to make it. They came in, facing the wind and blowing backwards. When they reached the land they turned a little off the wind, increasing their efforts at the same time. The result was that they held their own in the direction in which the wind was blowing, but were carried gradually over sideways to the shelter of some heavier hard-wood trees, into which they plunged and, we presume, rested. We mention this little episode, as it may have some bearing on the present "Beam Wind" theory of migration. We have often taken advantage of this very same maneuver in rowing a boat across the course of a heavy wind or current. Hold the boat a little more than three parts facing the stress and work just hard enough to keep from being swept away and you will be surprised at the rapid progress made in a direction at right angles to that of the antagonistic force, and at a remarkably small expenditure of labor. That birds should take equal advantage of so obvious a principle is not surprising, and it may be one of the explanations of their apparent preference for migrating with a "Beam Wind." It would have an additional advantage also of blowing their feathers down closer to the body at all times and

avoiding the disconcerting occasional accident of tray scurries of wind blowing up in under the plumage and disarranging it, a proceeding that it is easily seen would be uncomfortable in all cases, and probably dangerous in many.

200. **Hylocichla mustelina*.—Wood Thrush.

Common May 14, 1905, and one May 20, 1907. Not seen at other times in spring. In fall we noted one September 13, 1905, and one each day of September 1, 2, and 19 and 20, 1906. In 1907 but two were seen September 29. The comparative rarity of this species is rather peculiar. There is plenty of promising looking ground, but it does not seem to be occupied. They likely migrate through in considerable numbers, but we have never managed to be there the right dates for this. The summer resident population of Wood Thrushes on the Point is evidently scanty.

201. **Hylocichla fuscescens*.—Wilson's Thrush.

Fairly common on nearly all visits. May 14, 1905, two seen, May 21, 1906, several; May 30-June 1, 1907, several each day. Usually common through the first part of September. Last seen in 1905, September 13, and one individual lingered the succeeding year as late as the 20th. In 1907 we saw them almost daily from August 24 to September 2, after which none were noted, though we remained until the 6th.

202. **Hylocichla alicia*.—Gray-cheeked Thrush.

This does not appear to be quite as common a species as the next on the Point. The two birds are, however, so much alike in appearance that it takes considerable attention and good opportunity in the way of light to separate them. As it is not always practicable to follow up and scrutinize every thrush flushed in the woods error in the records of these two species may at any time creep in. A few of either species might easily escape notice among numbers of the other. In spring we have positively identified this species but once, May 30-June 1, 1907, when we estimated their numbers at 25 and 6 respectively, and took specimens for full verification of so late a date. This spring was, however, so abnormally late that nothing in that line was any great surprise. May 21, 1906, we saw several that we thought might be referable to this species, though optical and other conditions precluded exact determination of this point. September 8, 1907, they put in their first appearance, becoming common at once together with the Olive-back and with them varying daily from none to common, irregularly to the date of our departure the 16th. In 1906 they were not to be found among the large numbers of Olive-backs present September 1-3, though we looked carefully for them. On the return visit, September 15-21, we

listed from one to several each day. The 18th a large number of Olive-backs came in and with them the Gray-cheek, and became very common for that day and the next. In 1907 two doubtful birds were noted September 4.

203. **Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni.*—Olive-backed Thrush.

Common May 14, 1905, and a few seen May 21, 1906. The late dates of May 30-June 1, 1907, saw them quite common, about equaling in numbers the preceding species. In September, 1905, the first arrived the 6th, becoming very common the 8th. It disappeared that night, but gradually increased again to the 13th, when it fairly swarmed all over the place, then slowly decreased in numbers to the end of our stay, the 16th. Our September 1-3 trip of 1906, found it already very common. On our return trip, September 15, it was not observed until the 17th, became common again the next two days, and again dwindled to one on the 21st, when we left. In 1907, in fall, but two birds were noted, September 4, whose exact specific status could not be determined. This and the preceding species are so nearly alike in outward appearance as to be readily mistaken, one for the other. With good light and fair opportunity, however, the ochraceous suffusion on the side of the face of this species as contrasted with the ashy appearance to the same parts of the other constitute a recognition mark that is not readily mistaken. The difference between them seems much more marked in live than in dry museum specimens. These two species suffer greatly during the Sharp-shinned Hawk flights as mentioned before. During the periods of this Hawk's abundance little scattered piles of thrush feathers can be found every here and there through the underbrush.

204. **Hylocichla guttata pallasii.*—Hermit Thrush.

October 29, 1905, and October 14-15, 1906, are the only times we have been at the Point during the migration period of the Hermit Thrush. On both occasions they have been common.

205. **Planesticus migratorius.*—American Robin.

Common on all May dates. March 9-10, 1907, the first relay had already come and passed on as Gardner reported having seen several the 7th, which were certainly not in evidence to us. They were irregularly common during the early days of fall, but became abundant later when the wild grapes were ripe. During our early September dates they have usually been rather scarce for so common a bird, but October 29, 1905, and October 14-15, 1906, they were present in great numbers. Along in the afternoon of the latter date we observed a flock of this species start out from the end of the Point, headed across the lake for the Ohio shore.

206. **Sialia sialis.*—Bluebird.

May 13-14, 1905, the Bluebird, though common on the main-land, was not seen on the Point at all. May 21, the following year, but few were noted. March 9-10, 1907, however, they were already present in considerable numbers, though they had not as yet put in an appearance at Detroit, from whence we came. May 31, 1907, we saw but one on the Point. In early fall our experience has invariably been the same—Bluebirds scarce, rare, or absent on the Point proper, while common on the adjoining main-land. October 29, 1905, however, they were there in numbers amply sufficient to make up for deficiencies at other times. They were spread all over the end of the Point, and in along the eastern shore, as far as the cotton-wood trees extended. Here numbers were feeding on the bare sand with the Prairie Horned Larks. It was in the waste clearings beyond Gardner's place, however, that the greatest numbers were found. Here they were in flocks almost as dense as blackbirds. When flushed from the ground they generally flew to some of the numerous clumps of bushes growing here and there in the open and, when they lit and were viewed from a little distance, they were in sufficient numbers to give to the whole bush a decidedly blueish cast. We are informed by several witnesses that the winter of 1906-7 they wintered on the Point in some numbers and through the winter of 1907-8, Gardner wrote us several times of the presence of about six individuals in the neighborhood of his place. We have never known the species to winter with us about Detroit.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

Species added to list since publication of the foregoing pages.

207. **Uria lomvia.*—Brünnich's Murre.

The occurrence of this species upon the Great Lakes constitute almost as great a problem as that of the great migratory irruption of the Sand Grouse in Europe. Normally of a purely Arctic habitat, its most southern breeding ground being Cape Wolstenholme, at the entrance to Hudson Bay, it has at irregular intervals in the late fall appeared on our inland lakes in great numbers. The first record flight occurred in the winter of 1893-4. Since then the last of November and first of December has seen greater or less numbers of them nearly every year on the lower lakes. The interesting part of it is that of all that so reach us none seem to survive more than a week or so. Once out of their northern waters they all seem to starve to death and are picked up on the shores in all stages of emaciation. We have various records of the species on the Detroit River from the great flight of 1896, and undoubtedly at that time

they occurred at the Point, but of that we have no record. The last of November, 1907, a number were taken on the Detroit River, and December 10 we received a bird from Gardner at the Point. He informs us that several were seen on the lake in the morning. In the afternoon but one remained, and it appeared weak and unable to fly. The next morning it was found dead and washed ashore on the beach. For further details of the occurrence of this bird see Fleming.—*Proc. IVth, Int'nl Cong.*, 1905, pp. 528-43.

208. **Larus delawarensis*.—Ring-billed Gull.

Probably owing to the practical difficulty of separating this species from the larger Herring Gull the Ring-bill had, up to the fall of 1907, escaped our observation. However, that year, August 25 and to the time of our departure, September 6, we found them very common. Several were taken and proved to be juvenile birds, and all seen seemed to be in the same plumage. If anything it was rather more numerous than the Herring Gull, with which it constantly associated. We had every opportunity to study the two species together and found that about the only practical distinction that could be made between them in life was that of size, and then only when both were present and close enough together to allow of close comparison. The young Herring Gull having the same appearing ring on the bill as this species renders that mark of little reliability in juvenile birds. The tail of the former in immature stages is practically all fuscus, while in the Ring-bill it is mostly light at the base with a broad bar across near the end. This, however, is only observable from the upper surface, and so is seldom available as a field mark. August 15-16, 1908, we found quite a number already at the Point, so they must return early in August from their breeding grounds on Lake Huron.

209. *Merganser serrator*.—Red-breasted Merganser.

Under the head of American Merganser we stated that undoubtedly both species of *Merganser* occurred, but that *americanus* was the only one of which we had so far received authoritative data. Since that writing, however, we have been enabled to add this species definitely to our list, and at the same time added another interesting episode to our Pelee experiences.

May 1-3, 1908, the weather was very severe for that time of the year. A strong gale prevailed through the 1st and 2d, with a heavy snow storm through the afternoon of the latter date. The water was very high and the outer end of the Point was submerged for a distance of about half a mile, its outer tip bathed in raging surf, dashing great masses of feathery spume high in the air. Just around the end of the Point and just beyond the line of the most troubled water lay a mixed flock of ducks and grebes not more than fifty feet from the

shore. The seas swirling about the point were piling in here heavily on the shore, but undisturbed by the neighboring commotion and the wild tossing of the water under them they sat motionless on the surface, each with its head under its wing, and to all appearances fast asleep. Under cover of the heavy juniper scrub fringing the shores, Swales was enabled to creep up to the sleeping flock within easy gun range, and, with field glasses, watch them at close quarters. There were about twenty-five male Red-breasted Mergansers, a few Ruddys and Buffleheads in the flock, and with them, but keeping well bunched together, were a much larger number of Horned Grebes. While watching them the wonder grew as to how, while motionless, seeming sound asleep, they managed to keep the same relative distance from shore without being washed in on the beach on the one hand or carried away by the drift of the water on the other. For several hours, or as long as we observed them, they lay here, tossing about on the rough water, apparently oblivious to the whole world, but remaining stationary as though anchored in place.

This same spring the species was unusually common on the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair during late April and early May. It is usually a rather scarce species, but during these dates more were brought in to the taxidermist's establishments of the city than during any previous year of which we have any record.

LIST OF SPECIMENS RECEIVED, CONFIRMATORY OF EYE OR OTHER IDENTIFICATIONS GIVEN IN FOREGOING PAGES.

Larus philadelphia—Bonaparte's Gull.

Juvenile male taken by Taverner, August 15, 1908. About six were seen at that time, all in same phase of plumage.

Harelda hyemalis.—Old-squaw.

Male in full winter plumage, picked up dead on the shore, March 31, 1908, by Gardner and sent to us.

Rallus elegans.—King Rail.

Two specimens received from Gardner April 22, 1908.

Cathartes aura.—Turkey Vulture.

Received one bird from Gardner, April 24, 1908. See *Auk*, XXV, 1908, p. 328. It had been killed not more than two days' previous.

CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY.

Since writing the introductory and opening pages of this list, over a year has passed, and considerable data has been gathered that there seems no practical way of including under its proper heading. Some of the most important of this we have included

in supplementary lists and some of it falls naturally under this head. The remainder contains little of great importance, taken alone, and will have to wait a possible future publication, when a further accumulation of data warrants a reconsideration of the whole matter.

Since the last trip mentioned in the introduction, May 31, 1907, was made, three more visits have been paid to the Point, as follows:

August 24, 1907, in company with W. E. Saunders, Norman A. Wood, and J. S. Wallace, we established camp in the old situation marked "Camp Coues" on the accompanying map. This year, however, camping was not all roses, as it had been previous seasons. The days were beautiful, but the nights were rendered unbearable by the presence of clouds of mosquitoes. Nor was there any escape from them. They were of an unusually late and voracious brood, and smoke that made the eyes run and breath gag but stimulated their energy. Mr. Wood was the Moses who led us out of our difficulty, and we are afraid that without him camp would have been immediately struck until after frost. Acting upon his example and advice, we betook ourselves to a neighboring barn and, climbing up in the mow, laid ourselves down in the sweet new hay. Though great gaping cracks opened in the walls all around us there was not a single mosquito there. We think this worthy of mention as it may be the means of helping some other poor field collector to much needed rest. Mr. Wood is authority for the statement that there are never any mosquitos in hay mows, and as far as our experience goes we heartily endorse it and pass the good word along.

August 28, Saunders and Wallace left us and Swales departed the 31st, leaving Wood and Taverner, who remained until September 6. During this time we worked all parts of the outer Point except the marsh lands; paying special attention to the extreme end and the migrations therefrom. The shooting season opened the 1st of September and we examined the bags made by the hunters, questioned them closely, and received some good material in the way of specimens and notes from them. We were on the ground rather earlier this fall than we

had been before. The migrations were late in starting, and consequently we were able to observe occurrences of the earlier migrations that we had heretofore missed. We judge that at this time the migrations were about a week later than normal and this should be remembered in connection with the dates of the preceding list. The great bulk of the earlier wader migrants were still present when we arrived, and we found considerable numbers of other species that we had not previously noted or had seen but few stragglers of in the fall. On previous visits most of the shore birds observed had been juveniles but this season we found a good many adults among them.

The warblers as a family had not yet come down in their usual fall abundance up to the time when we left. Some species, it is true, were unusually common, such as the Mourning Warbler and Water-Thrush, but at no time were there any such numbers of many species of this family as were noted September 4 and 5, 1905, or 1 to 3, 1906.

On the whole, gauged by the results obtained, this was one of the most important trips we have made and substantiated in striking manner many of our ideas of the migrational importance of Point Pelee. Of this more anon.

The next visit to the Point was made by Swales and Wallace, May 1-3, 1908. The weather was most unseasonably cold and stormy during these days. A heavy gale blew all the first two days with a blinding snow storm the forenoon of the latter. The waters of Lake Erie were very high and a good part of the Point was under water. This had a most interesting effect on the marsh dwellers who were driven from their usual habitats well into the wooded sections. Rails were found running around among the red cedars near the end of the Point and the Marsh Wrens invaded the haunts of the Winter Wrens. On the marsh itself, where usually is seen nothing but an all-covering and all-concealing mass of reeds and cat-tails was open water over which Gallinules and Coots paddled and cackled and laughed in the broad light of day, laying bare some of their most hidden life-history secrets. The Bitterns, both American and Least, unable to reach the muddy bottom or find stable footing in their usual haunts,

were congregated along the steep shores by the road and here, unincumbered by the impedimenta of vegetable growth, could be watched with ease as they pursued the tenor of their daily economy unsuspicious of prying eyes. Warblers were scarce, a few only of the early ones being observed. This was also true at that date at adjoining localities. The late, cold spring held nearly everything back and species usually expected early in the month were not noted until the middle, and then, in many cases, rushed through so quickly as to give us but the most fleeting view of them as they passed. On the other hand Brown Thrashers were very common and when the morning of the 3rd broke bright and clear, their combined chorus, punctuated by the clear whistling of the Cardinals and the occasional chuckle of the Chat, made an impression not soon to be forgotten. The presence of a number of Whipoorwills, considering the condition of the weather, was a surprise. The Whipoorwill is a much more hardy bird than its close relative, the Nighthawk, and is much more often seen in early spring and late fall; but in spite of this we were hardly prepared to find so many of them during this early-April-like weather. Their usual fastnesses of the jumper tangle had been invaded by water and many of them were forced out into the most unlikely places, even into the middle of the waste clearings, among the dried grasses and mullein stalks toward the end of the Point.

Another trip was made, August 15-16, 1908, by Wallace and Taverner. We planned in this case to study the Point avifauna just before the begining of the migrations, but in this were disappointed, as the migrations were then already well under way. A number of warblers were already present, among them the Canadian, Mourning and the Water-Thrush, and another Prairie Warbler was added to our list of Pelee specimens. The flycatchers were already in force, the Pewees almost in their full fall numbers and the Kingbirds gathering. Bobolinks were passing over towards the south; also flocks of Cowbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds. Great flocks of Swallows, Barn, Bank, Tree and Rough-winged, were congregating at the end of the Point, and the 15th a flock of one hundred Martins was seen resting on the ridge of the fish house near the

end of the Point. Next day they were gone, having presumably continued their way. The east beach was not thoroughly worked and not many waders were seen. With the exception of the Spotted Sandpiper all seen under conditions by which age could be judged were adults. The Sanderling taken proving to be an old bird whereas heretofore on seasonally later dates, all were juvenile. The most conspicuous feature, however, was the number of Carolin Wrens singing. Up to this date we have found them in but one limited locality, but these days they were all over the end of the Point. On the whole, this visit was considerable of a surprise. Though nothing very startling was observed, the data obtained on the early beginnings of the fall migration were of considerable interest.

These last three trips added considerably to our knowledge of Point Pelee, especially in its migrational aspects and has verified many of our previous ideas, and suggested others before not thought of. One fact they have accentuated in a marked degree,—the "wave" like form of many of the migrations. Indeed we almost feel tempted to generalize by saying that nearly all species can at one time or another of the season be found here in such numbers as to constitute a "wave". In such manner we have so far noted the following species that are not usually regarded as gregarious; nor would we care to so designate them even after our experience with them here. Every indication goes to show that they are not drawn together as social collections, but rather by a community of interest, and their gatherings are rather the result of each individual, moved by common conditions, making for the same crossing place of the lake and arriving simultaneously. Detail of such occurrences can be obtained under their respective heads in the list.

Sharp-shinned Hawk.—Sept., 10-17, 1905; Sept. 15-22, 1906.

Northern Flicker.—Sept. 11, 1905; Sept. 15-22, 1906; Aug. 26-Sept. 6, 1907.

Whippoorwill.—Sept. 13, 1907; Aug. 1-3, 1908.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird.—Aug. 1-3, 1906.

Kingbird.—Aug. 24-29, 1907; Aug. [illegible].

Wood Pewee.—Sept. 4-8, 1905; Sept 1-3, 1906; Aug. 24-Sept. 6, 1907; Aug. 15-16, 1908.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.—Sept. 9-13, 1905; Aug. 29, 1907.

Least Flycatcher.—Aug. 28-29, 1907.

Orchard Oriole.—All May trips excepts that of 1908.

Baltimore Oriole.—All May trips except that of 1908.

Black-poll Warbler.—Sept. 3, 1906.

Water-Thrush.—Aug. 27.-Sept. 2,1907.

Red-breasted Nuthatch.—Oct. 14, 1905.

Gray-cheeked Thrush.—Sept. 11-13, 1905.

Olive-backed Thrush.—Sept. 13-15, 1905; Sept. 1-3, 1906.

Robin.—Oct. 29, 1905.

Bluebird.—Oct. 29, 1905.

Besides these, that have occurred in such absolute numbers as to warrant a loose designation of "flight" to their occurrence, we have at various times found the following so relatively numerous that, taking into consideration their usual rarity, we are almost justified in including them in the above list.

Duck Hawk.—Seen on nearly all September trips.

Pigeon Hawk.—Sept. 17, 1901; May 13, 1905; Sept. 16-19-21, 1906; Aug. 31, 1907; May 1, 1908.

American Goshawk.—Oct. 21-Jan. 18, 1906.

Philadelphia Vireo.—Sept. 19-20, 1906.

Blue-headed Vireo.—May 14, 1905.

Cape May Warbler.—Sept. 13, 1905; Aug. 29-Sept. 2, 1907.

Connecticut Warbler.—Aug 28-31, 1907.

Mourning Warbler.—Aug. 28-31,1907.

Of other species that are known and expected to travel in flocks we have met the following in unusual numbers.

Blue Jay.—Oct. 14, 1906.

Blackbirds, all species.—Aug. 27-30,1907; all Sept. dates, and especially Oct. 15, 1906.

Crow.—Oct. 14, 1906.

Bobolink.—Sept. 5, 1905; Sept. 18, 1906; Aug. 27-31, 1907; Aug. 15, 1908.

Purple Martin.—Aug. 26-Sept. 5, 1907; Aug. 15, 1908.

Barn Swallow.—Aug. 15-16, 1908, and all early Sept. dates.

Bank Swallow.—Aug. 15-16, 1908, and all early Sept. dates.

Rough-winged Swallow.—Aug. 24-27, 1907; Aug. 15-16, 1908.

Purple Finch.—Sept. 19-Oct. 14, 1906.

The above classification is, of course, loose and arbitrary, but is sufficient, and is mainly intended to call attention to certain facts pointing to the importance of Pelee as a migration route that might otherwise pass unobserved in the general list. Another fact, not strictly ornithological, but bearing on this same subject, struck us as of peculiar interest. Each September we have witnessed great gatherings of the common Milkweed or Monarch Butterfly, *Anosia plexippus*. They gather on the trees in hundreds. September 12, 1905, we found a cottonwood on the east beach whose lee was so covered with them as to appear red instead of green. In 1907 we noted in company with them large numbers of *Papilio cresphontes* and *P. troilus*. The Monarch is a well known migrant, but the other two are not, as we are aware, supposed to migrate at all. However all of these species were almost invariably observed flying in a most determined manner out the point; and on fine days there was a constant stream of them starting out from the end of the Point and making their way towards the opposite shore, following the same route taken by the majority of the bird migrants.

Another fact that has been well brought out by the work on the Point among the waders, the departure of the adults before the juveniles. The earlier birds of this class in the fall are almost invariably old birds, the birds of the year arriving generally just as the former are leaving or sometimes after they are gone. Thus, the only time we have found adult Sanderling and Semipalmated Plover in fall was Aug. 15, 1908. Both these species, previous years, but seasonally late in date, have been common but all have been juveniles. Up to the end of August the greater percentage of the Black-bellied Plover seen are old birds. From the first of September on, such are rare and the juveniles common.

It is also evident that the fall migrations commence a good deal earlier than is usually suspected. The first movement in this direction to be detected is the arrival of the first shore birds

beginning with the Solitary Sandpiper the end of the first week in July. By the middle of the month the Yellow Warblers begin to thin out. With us at Detroit this is all the migration phenomena we observe until the end of August when the first of the warblers arrive. Any increase in the number of birds previous to this date is generally ascribed to their greater activity after their nidification duties are over. At Pelee, however, it is evident that by the middle of August several species of land birds have come down from further north. Aug. 15-16, 1908, the following migrants of this class were present.

Kingbird, gathering and already in usual numbers.

Olive-sided Flycatcher.—two.

Wood Pewee.—in large numbers.

Bobolink.—Passing down the Point in flocks of five hundred daily.

Purple Martin.—large flock.

Barn Swallow
Bank Swallow
Tree Swallow
Rough-winged Swallow
} In large flocks and passing out towards the end of the Point.

Black and white Warbler.—several daily.

Water-Thrush.—One.

Prairie Warbler.—One taken.

Mourning Warbler.—One taken.

Canadian Warbler.—Several.

That these early dates indicate earlier migrations at Pelee than elsewhere we do not believe. In other localities a few or even many of the above species, spread over a broad front could and probably would pass through unobserved. Here it is different; the conformation of the land brings these earliest few migrants to a small focus, where observation of them is easier.

The presence of the above species in late summer is hardly less interesting than the absence of others at the same time. The Northern Yellow-throat is common during the spring months but is scarce in late August or absent altogether. We observed none Aug. 15, 1908, or from the 24th on in 1907. Early September usually brings in great numbers again. Consulting our S. E. Michigan data we should say that there was

no migrational activity in this species until the beginning of October but this experience at the Point indicates that they start moving the first of September and what seems to us like a stationary population is,in reality, a steady stream of migrants.

Like data points in the same direction with other species. Blue Jays as a species are permanent residents yet the middle of October, 1906, we saw them in large numbers crossing the lake. Blackbirds also migrate heavily from the last of August or earlier while the species seems to remain stationary in point of numbers until late in the fall, and they sometimes winter with us. Cedar Waxwings we have always suspected to be migratory though generally listed as not so; but we were hardly prepared to find them migrating the first of September; or the Robins and Bluebirds the middle of October, nearly a month before they are, as a species, due to leave us.

The Carolinian tendencies of the fauna have been previously enlarged upon in their botanical relations in the Description. The same tendency is markedly shown in the ornithology as the following list of species will demonstrate:

Cardinal.—common resident.

Carolina Wren.—regular and not uncommon resident. On our last visit almost abundant.

Yellow-breasted Chat.—common summer resident.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.—common migrant and likely regular breeder.

Orchard Oriole.—very common migrant and without doubt a common breeder.

Cerulean Warbler.—common migrant and likely breeds.

Besides these there are three other species of a more or less southern general distribution which were once common but are now rare or extinct on the Point. Their decrease, however, does not seem to be due to local causes as the same might be said of them in other surrounding territory.

Lark Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow and Dickcissel.

To this list of Carolinian birds might be added two stragglers —Mockingbird and Chuck-wills-widow.

The latter is of course a wanderer pure and simple, but the former had every indication of being perfectly at home and

there is no apparent reason why it might not have formed a permanent colony, especially as there is another old report of the bird from the not distant locality of Chatham.

Taking into consideration the irregular and intermittent character of the work done on the Point, the number of rarities there taken is significant. Such rare, irregular, or wandering species are far more apt to be seen on a main branch of the migrational current than along a small side stream or dead water bayou. In this list can be placed:

Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Chuck-wills-widow, Henslow's Sparrow, Blue-winged Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Duck Hawk, and Pigeon Hawk. Of these the Chuck-wills-widow and the Blue-winged Warbler form primal records for the Province and the Mockingbird the only absolutely incontestable one for that species. All these throw into prominence the importance of the locality as an ornithological observa ory.

The absence of some species has been of almost as much interest as the presence of others. Among the most striking of these are the following:

Yellow-throated Vireo.

This is a very common summer resident and migrant along the whole southeastern shore of Michigan. It is rare on the Point and has only been noted occasionally. It increases in numbers again to the eastward and seems to reach its centre of abundance in Ontario about London where, however, it is but fairly common.

Tufted Titmouse.

This species is a more or less regular and not uncommon fall, spring, and winter visitor along the Michigan boundary line as far as the St. Clair Flats. On Belle Isle, in the Detroit river opposite the City of Detroit, it occurs commonly every winter, and likely nests sparingly all over this district, though, so far an Ann Arbor record (*Auk*, 1908-322) is the only affirmative data we have on the subject. As yet there are no Ontario records for the species at all, although it must almost necessarily sometimes wander over across the international bound-

ary line. It is common on the Ohio shore across from Pelee, and why it has not crossed over with the Cardinal and Carolina Wren is one of the interesting problems of distribution.

Green-crested Flycatcher.

The Green-crested Flycatcher has much the same general distribution on the American side of the line as the Tufted Titmouse, and like it, has never been taken in Ontario. There are ample and most promising looking woods for it all over the Point but in spite of a close scrutiny of almost every small flycatcher seen, it has escaped our observation so far.

Golden-winged Warbler.

This is one of the commonest summer residents among the warblers on the Michigan side of the International line, and an almost abundant migrant, but we have met with it but very sparingly at the Point.

On the other hand, there are cases where the tables are reversed, and there are a number of species more or less common on the Point that we, on the Michigan side of the line, seldom see. We will leave out most of the shore birds as they are plainly governed by the topographical surroundings, naming only:

Golden and Black-bellied Plover.

These have been mentioned before by the writers. (*Auk* 1907, p. 140). We have met the Golden Plover twice on the Point. There are several good records for the species in numbers on the Ontario side of Lake Ontario, but very few of them for adjoining Michigan localities. The Black-bellied is a little more common with us but is still but an irregular straggler; while at the Point it is both regular and common.

American Goshawk.

This species we have also enlarged upon in this connection in the before-cited paper. The flight of this species the fall of 1906, that extended over eastern Ontario and invaded Point Pelee in considerable numbers, seemed hardly to extend beyond the International boundary in Michigan, but few birds penetrating beyond the first tier of counties.

Black-poll Warbler.

This was also treated of in the before-mentioned citation.

This species at the Point is a common spring and fall migrant. On the Michigan side, in our locality, it is a common fall migrant but very rare in spring. Up to 1907, indeed, it had never been taken in this vicinity. However, May 19 of that year one was taken by Taverner at Pearl Beach, near the St. Clair Flats, and the succeeding year another May 16 at Detroit.

White-crowned Sparrow.

We have invariaby found the White-crowned Sparrow a common spring and fall migrant at the Point, but of late years, since 1904, it has been either rare or absent in our notes along the Michigan side of the line. It was more common this last spring of 1908, but in nothing like the numbers we have been accustomed to see in the past.

These are rather peculiar cases and seem to indicate that the source of the Point Pelee avifauna is distinct from that of the adjoining Michigan stations. The water chain joining lakes Huron and Erie seems to form a sharp dividing line between the two areas. This in the fall migrations is easily explained by the plausible theory that the two sections are traversed by migrational streams from opposite sides of Lake Huron. The dissimilarity of the spring migrants and summer residents can be explained in no such obivious manner. According to more or less currently accepted theories of Glacial drainage migration routes, it may be that Southeastern Michigan receives its migrant life by way of the old Maumee glacial drainage channels while Pelee is supplied by other routes: perhaps continuing along the Ohio river, past the mouth of the Wabash and up the Sicoto to the head waters of the Sandusky, then down that stream to Lake Erie and so across to Point Pelee. This is as yet purely conjectural through lack of further data on the subject. It suggests, however, an important line of work and one that is well worth following up.

And now the end of the work before us has come. That which was begun as a short informal list has, thanks to the generous editor of the Bulletin and the forebearance of the reader, lengthened out far beyond the original intentions of the writers as the data increased and the importance of the locality seemed to demand. No one is better aware of the manifold shortcom-

ings of the work than we are. With the time, means, and ability at our disposal we have done our best, and if we have only succeeded in calling the attention of some of the ornithological public to what seems to us to be one of the most promising fields of migrational and distributional investigation we shall feel that we have accomplished our end.

[CONCLUDED.]