

BIRDS OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY, II

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This is the second of a series of papers dealing with birds of Tippecanoe County and intending especially to show the changes in the avifauna during the past forty years.

All notes, unless it is stated otherwise, refer to observations made within the boundaries of the county by the writers. Records of the former Purdue Bird Club, the Biology Department of Purdue, D. R. Burtsfield, F. A. Burtsfield, F. C. Dowelbower, Mrs. F. C. Dowelbower, M. W. Gardner, and F. C. Test has also been used, to whom the writers wish to express their thanks for the material contributed. In the list to follow credit is given to the observer for specific records. Particular effort has been made to give only authentic data. There is always, however, an element of uncertainty in all sight records, and such records of unusual note are given only when made by reliable observers and there is no doubt in the minds of the writers as to their correctness.

The following list is incomplete, to be finished later, and follows the order and nomenclature of the 1931 American Ornithologists' Union check-list to which the numbers in parentheses refer.

1. *Gavia immer immer* (Brünnick). Common Loon. (7.) This interesting bird is probably a regular and uncommon migrant along the Wabash River, although the following notes are the only definite records we have of it. There is a mounted adult loon in the Purdue Museum with a label saying that it was killed in 1906 on the Wabash River near Lafayette. Another mounted specimen there, an immature bird, bears the label "Killed on Wabash River, Lafayette, 1913." There are no recent records, though a bird was shot Oct. 31, 1931, just north of Tippecanoe County on Shafer Lake in White County by Arthur Haley (D. R. Burtsfield).

2. *Colymbus nigricollis californicus* (Heermann). Eared Grebe. (4.) On April 30, 1927, a bird, identified as belonging to this species, was seen on Ross's Pond by the junior writer. It was studied for several minutes with low power glasses at a distance of about 100 yards, the yellow "ears" being plainly visible. This sight record is the only one available for the species, thus indicating the eared grebe to be a very rare migrant or accidental species here.

3. *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps* (Linnaeus). Pied-billed Grebe. (6.) Twenty-five years ago this grebe was considered as fairly common, arriving about the last of March. At the present time it is a regular and fairly common spring and fall migrant, flocks of eight to a dozen being often seen. The earliest spring date of arrival is March 25, 1929, when one was seen by D. R. Burtsfield. The main movement is in the first half of April with a few stragglers being recorded for the latter part. The fall migration occurs usually in the latter part of September

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and continuing into November. First and last dates are Aug., 1891 (9 seen by F. C. Test) and Nov. 16, 1929 (1 by D. R. Burtsfield). We know of no records of its nesting here, but it would not be surprising if it is found to do so.

4. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Gmelin. White Pelican. (125.) This species is an accidental visitor. The only record we have for the county is a specimen reported to have been killed on the Wabash River Sept. 29, 1895, by Lon Gardner, a saloon keeper in Lafayette. Louis A. Test talked to Mr. Gardner soon afterward but the bird was not seen. The disposition of the specimen is not known, although a mounted specimen in the Purdue Museum about which we have been unable to get information may be this one.

5. *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Lesson). Double-crested Cormorant. (120.) This bird is a very irregular and rather rare visitor in this locality. There is a mounted male bird in the Purdue Museum with the following label: "Shot in March, 1880, from amid a flock of wild ducks on a bayou of Wildcat Creek in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, by Dan Müller, who donated same to Purdue University". Another mounted specimen there, either a female or young, was killed on the Wabash River near Lafayette in 1908.

Our only recent records are from the notes of D. R. Burtsfield, who reports the double-crested cormorant from Headley's Lake on Oct. 13, 1928, and Nov. 16, 1929.

6. *Ardea herodias herodias* Linnaeus. Great Blue Heron. (194.) Formerly a "tolerably common" migrant and summer resident (Purdue Bird Club notes, 1904), the great blue heron is now quite uncommon, though regular, as a migrant and almost rare as a nesting bird. The earliest spring date is March 22, 1903, and 1904, the latter part of March and first of April evidently being the usual time of arrival. In the nineties about a dozen pairs nested in the large sycamores and elms on a small island in the Tippecanoe River, on the Van Natta farm north of Battle Ground, but this colony has long been extinct. The most recent breeding record is of a pair which raised their young in 1930 on an island in the Wabash ten miles below Lafayette (D. R. Burtsfield). The birds begin to congregate in August, six being seen at Headley's Lake Aug. 7, 1930, by D. R. Burtsfield, and our latest date is Oct. 19, 1928.

7. *Casmerodius albus egretta* (Gmelin). American Egret. (196.) In the spring of 1890 H. N. McCoy reported seeing one of these beautiful birds in Springvale Cemetery, which is on the outskirts of Lafayette near Wildcat Creek and on a hill above the old Erie Canal. Probably on the basis of this record the species was listed in 1904 as a rare migrant. With the influx of these birds in 1930 a number stopped in Tippecanoe County, from one to fourteen being seen at Headley's Lake between Aug. 7 and Sept. 7 by D. R. Burtsfield and the writers. A pair was observed on the Tippecanoe River at the northern edge of the county (Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Dobelbower), and 17 (Possibly some were little blue herons.) were reported to F. C. Dobelbower as staying in the old Erie Canal bed near the Wildcat Creek. One was reported at Headley's Lake (R. Jordan) July 20, this year (1931), and was seen by the

writers at the same place on Aug. 2 and 18, and again on Sept. 9, probably the same bird being present during the intervening time. Its status thus seems to be that of a very irregular late summer visitor.

8. *Florida caerulea caerulea* (Linnaeus). Little Blue Heron. (200.) The writers have never observed this bird in the county, but there is one sight record for it. Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Dobelbower report seeing a pair in the summer of 1930 on the Tippecanoe River near Big Rock about 12 miles from Lafayette. Tippecanoe County would seem to be within its range, and it may not be as rare as these records would indicate. It is also entirely possible that a few were in a flock of "white herons" reported seen during the same summer about a pond in the old Erie Canal bed.

9. *Butorides virescens virescens* (Linnaeus). Eastern Green Heron. (201.) In former years a common summer resident, this well-known little heron has adapted itself to nesting in small patches of woods and old orchards and has held its own in the struggle for existence. One or more can be seen along nearly every creek in the county during spring and summer. Sets of eggs have been taken May 16, 1895, and May 30, 1898, by L. A. and C. D. Test. It is also a common migrant. The earliest and latest dates are, respectively, April 17, 1902 (O. L. Foster and D. A. Hale), and Sept. 27, 1929 (D. R. Burtsfield). These are probably not far from the usual times of arrival and departure.

10. *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli* (Gmelin). Black-crowned Night Heron. (202.) Fortunately this gregarious heron has increased in the past 30 years. In 1904 the Purdue Bird Club regarded it as a rare migrant, and now it is probably an uncommon and regular migrant and summer resident. No nests have been located, but having been seen June 8, 1929 (D. R. Burtsfield), July 9, 1931, and all through Aug. and part of Sept., 1930, it seems probable that it nests somewhere in the county. At dusk every day during Aug. and Sept., 1930, a flock of about 30 birds would silently and suddenly appear at Headley's Lake to fish. Our earliest spring date is April 3, 1904 (A. F. Ganier).

11. *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Monlagu). American Bittern. (190.) Due to the small number of suitable habitats in the county this very interesting bird is only an uncommon migrant with the possibility of its breeding here, though we have no summer records. Purdue Bird Club notes for 1904 list it as uncommon and question its breeding here. Spring records are twice as plentiful as those of fall, the first being April 23, 1903 (M. L. Fisher), and the last, May 15, 1923 (M. L. Fisher). The fall dates are Sept. 9 and 14, 1931, and Oct. 19, 1928.

12. *Icobrychus exilis exilis* (Gmelin). Eastern Least Bittern. (191.) We know of only two records for this secretive bird—May 22, 1904 (A. F. Ganier), and two seen at Ross's Pond by the writers early in May, 1926. Probably this species is more common than this scarcity of data seems to indicate and may be called an uncommon, rather than rare, migrant. The 1904 record bears the notation "uncommon." As with the larger species, there is a possibility of its nesting here.

13. *Cygnus columbianus* (Ord.). Whistling Swan. (180.) Seems to be of rare or accidental occurrence in the county. We have one sight record, only. Nov. 6, 1931, F. A. Burtsfield while hunting ducks at

Headley's Lake saw a large white bird, which he is confident was a swan, feeding on the lake. He watched it for some time and says it was a large white bird, and as it tipped up in feeding he could distinctly see its black feet. As Mr. Burtsfield is quite familiar with water fowl it hardly seems likely that he could be mistaken.

14. *Branta canadensis canadensis* (Linnaeus). Common Canada Goose. (172.) Fairly common migrant in spring and fall, seen mostly in flight. The numbers seen in flight have not decreased greatly in the past 25 years but the birds rarely stop here. On the morning of November 14, 1931, F. A. Burtsfield while hunting at Headley's Lake saw and shot a single goose, which was seen by the writers. In the afternoon of the same day another single goose was seen on the same pond and shot. These are the only recent specimens we know of which have been taken in the county.

15. *Chen hyperborea atlantica* Kennard. Greater Snow Goose. (169a.) Rare migrant. Our only record for this rare Indiana bird is a beautiful mounted specimen on exhibition in the main hall of Jefferson High School, Lafayette. Measurements of this bird by D. R. Burtsfield and F. H. Test indicate it to be of this sub-species. A metal label bears the inscription, "——— shot on Wabash River by Alva O. Reser, Oct. 30, 1922". Inquiry disclosed that it was killed while floating alone on the river about three miles above Lafayette.

16. *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* Linnaeus. Common Mallard. (132.) This duck is a fairly common migrant but the county seems to be out of its regular line of flight. "Flocks of 50 to 100 were common 30 year ago but recently the flight is in small flocks of six to twenty" (F. C. Dobelbower). Mallards are apt to be found in spring and fall on all streams and ponds in the county. They are not known to nest in the county. There are many more fall, than spring, records. An early spring date is March 12, 1930 (D. R. Burtsfield). Early and late fall dates are October 18, 1930 (F. A. Burtsfield), and December 15, 1928 (D. R. Burtsfield). A female bird with many albino wing feathers was once seen on Headleys' Lake by S. R. Esten and the writers.

17. *Anas rubripes tristis* Brewster. Common Black Duck. (133.) Less common than the Mallard but a few are seen almost every year. "Have decreased 40 per cent in the last 25 years." (F. C. Dobelbower). Seems to be more common in fall than spring. A spring date is March 27, 1931, and an early fall date is September 14, 1931. Birds are frequently seen in October and November, our latest date being Nov. 11, 1931, when four were seen (D. R. Burtsfield). They are not known to breed in this county.

18. *Chauleasmus streperus* (Linnaeus). Gadwall. (135.) Not a common duck in this county and usually seen singly or in pairs. Estimated it has decreased 30 per cent in the past 25 years (F. C. Dobelbower). It has been killed on Ross's Pond in the past two years. An early spring record is March 15, 1930, and a fall record is October 29, 1928 (D. R. Burtsfield). It is not known to nest.

19. *Mareca americana* (Gmelin). Baldpate. (137.) Not common. Single birds and pairs are observed during the migrations, though flocks of a dozen or so are sometimes seen. They are estimated to have

decreased 25 per cent in the past 25 years, (F. C. Dobelbower). It is not known to breed. There are many more spring than fall dates. All the spring dates are in March. An early date is March 14, 1930 (D. R. Burtsfield). A fall date is September 9, 1931, when two were seen at Headley's Lake.

20. *Dafila acuta tzitzihou* (Vieillot). American Pintail. (143.) Spring and fall migrant but not very common, though a few are seen each year. Is not uncommon at Headley's Lake and Whitsel's Pond. Spring and fall records are about equal. Large flocks are rarely seen now though F. C. Dobelbower says flocks of 400 used to be common, and estimates these birds have decreased 50 per cent in the past 25 years.

An early spring record is February 28, 1931, and a late record, April 13, 1930. Fall records are August 13, 1931, and November 7, 1928 (D. R. Burtsfield).

21. *Nettion carolinense* (Gmelin). Green-winged Teal. (139.) Migrant in spring and fall. Not common. Not known to breed. Most of the dates are in the fall when the birds are seen in small flocks. A spring date is March 27, 1931, while an early fall date is August 18, 1931. A late date is November 3, 1931. Dobelbower says it has decreased 40 per cent in the past 25 years, but F. A. Burtsfield says it seems to be holding its own.

22. *Querquedula discors* (Linnaeus). Blue-winged Teal. (140.) Spring and fall common migrant, apparently more common in spring. It passes south rather earlier in the fall than most of our ducks. Many of our records are from Headley's Lake. The earliest spring record is March 24, 1929, and the latest April 29, 1925. An early fall record is August 30 (D. R. Burtsfield) and the late date is October 3, 1928 (D. R. Burtsfield). F. C. Dobelbower estimates that these birds have decreased 40 per cent in the last 25 years.

23. *Spatula clypeata* (Linnaeus). Shoveller. (142.) Migrant, rather uncommon, but a few are usually found each year. It has been taken along the old canal near Wildcat Creek.

A spring date is March 27, 1929 (D. R. Burtsfield), and a fall date is Nov. 3, 1928 (D. R. Burtsfield).

24. *Aix sponsa* (Linnaeus). Wood Duck. (144.) Summer resident, never very common. In the last twenty years it has been quite rare but at present seems to be slowly increasing under protection. There are two mounted birds, both adult males, in the Purdue Museum, one bearing a label "Killed 1914 near Lafayette on prairie" and the other "Killed on Wabash River near Lafayette, 1907".

Recent dates are June 28 and 29, 1930 (D. R. Burtsfield), in different localities and September 19, 1931, when a male in full plumage was seen at Headley's Lake.

25. *Nyroca americana* (Eyton). Redhead. (146.) Migrant, usually late in the fall. Now uncommon, though 25 years ago there were large numbers migrating through here (F. C. Dobelbower). It has been taken at Headley's Lake. A male, mounted, in the Purdue Museum has a label which is almost destroyed but has part of the word "Lafayette" visible on it.

26. *Nyroca collaris* (Donovan). Ring-necked Duck. (150.) Migrant, not uncommon. It is frequently found in company with the scaup but usually arrives and leaves somewhat earlier. Only a half dozen or less are seen together at one time. The spring records are more numerous. Early and late spring records are February 21, 1930 (D. R. Burtsfield), and March 27, 1931. Fall records are October 26, 1929, and November 11, 1931 (D. R. Burtsfield).

27. *Nyroca valisineria* (Wilson). Canvasback. (147.) Rare migrant, as this is not in the usual line of migration. Has been shot by F. C. Dobelbower and F. A. Burtsfield, the latter getting two at Headley's Lake in 1929, one November 2 and the other November 16. There are no spring records.

28. *Nyroca marila* (Linnaeus). Greater Scaup Duck. (148.) Regular migrant, apparently not common but probably often confused with the Lesser Scaup. The only definite record is one shot November 15, 1929 (D. R. Burtsfield).

29. *Nyroca affinis* (Eyton). Lesser Scaup Duck. (149.) Probably our most abundant duck. Is an abundant spring and fall migrant but is not known to breed. Flocks of 15 to 40 are commonly seen, usually on one of the ponds. Spring records are the most numerous. The earliest spring record is March 1, 1929, and the latest April 19, 1930. Early and late fall dates are August 20, 1929 (D. R. Burtsfield), and November 24, 1928 (D. R. Burtsfield). F. C. Dobelbower estimates that this duck has decreased 50 per cent in the last 25 years, while F. A. Burtsfield thinks it is holding its own.

30. *Glaucionetta clangula americana* (Bonaparte). American Golden-eye. (151.) Migrant and possible winter resident, seemingly not common as there are only a few records. An early date is January 17, 1931, and a late spring date is March 30, 1931. The only fall record is December 8, 1928 (D. R. Burtsfield). These records seem to indicate that the Golden-eye is a winter resident, probably staying on the swifter streams. A mounted adult male in the Purdue Museum is labelled "Lafayette, Indiana".

31. *Charitonetta albeola* (Linnaeus). Bufflehead. (153.) This duck seems to be a rare spring and fall migrant, and, perhaps, at times a winter resident. There are only two dates, March 17, 1929, and November 22, 1930, both by D. R. Burtsfield.

32. *Clangula hyemalis* (Linnaeus). Old Squaw. (154.) This interesting duck is a very rare winter visitor. Our only record is of one D. R. Burtsfield and the junior writer saw swimming among the numerous ice-cakes on the Wabash River just at the edge of Lafayette on Feb. 23, 1929. Several minutes were spent in watching it until it flew downstream.

33. *Erismatura jamaicensis rubida* (Wilson). Ruddy Duck. (167.) Regular but not common migrant; seems to be more frequent in spring as there are few fall records. The earliest spring record is February 28, 1930 (D. R. Burtsfield), and the latest spring record is April 19, 1930. The only fall date is November 3, 1928 (D. R. Burtsfield). A skin of a female taken on a pond near the junction of the old canal and the Wildcat Creek in the spring of 1890 is in our collection. F. C.

Dobelbower estimates this duck has decreased 30 per cent in the past 25 years.

34. *Lophodytes cucullatus* (Linnaeus). Hooded Merganser. (131.) Migrant, not common, and possibly rare winter resident. All records are for late fall or spring. Early and late spring records are March 27, 1931, 4 males and 4 females; April 9, 1926; November 22, 1930 (D. R. Burtsfield) is a fall date. All birds were on the Wabash River, occasionally near town, and singly or in very small groups.

35. *Mergus merganser americanus* Cassin. American Merganser. (129.) Not uncommon winter resident locally. Does not breed. Seems to be particularly common on the Tippecanoe River near the Van Natta farm where it seems to remain during the winter in flocks of from 10 to 50. The earliest fall record is Dec. 27, the birds being seen on this date in both 1929 and 1930. The latest spring date is April 12, 1923, when 24 were reported at Ross's Pond (C. A. Behrens). It is estimated to have decreased 25 per cent in the last 25 years, (F. C. Dobelbower).

36. *Mergus serrator* Linnaeus. Red-breasted Merganser. (130.) Accidental summer visitor. The record for the county is a sight record, June 23, 1930, when a single adult male was seen feeding in the Wabash River in 2½ feet of water, 75 feet from shore, at Ross Camp by D. R. Burtsfield, who studied it carefully for some time. It is probably also a rare migrant and winter resident though there are no records available for it as such.

37. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis* Wied. Turkey Vulture. (325.) Summer resident, but not very common, this county being too near the northern limit of its range. Nests are occasionally found in the county but they are not common, and there have been none reported for a number of years. In the summer of 1902, C. D. Test and the senior writer found a nest with two young under the top of a fallen tree on a ridge between two wooded ravines leading down to the Wabash River just south of the State Soldiers' Home. May 10, 1903, a set of two eggs was collected from the same nest and is now in our collection.

The turkey vultures usually arrive early in March and leave in October. An early spring date is February 28, 1931, and a late fall date October 26, 1929.

38. *Ictinia mississippiensis* (Wilson). Mississippi Kite. (329.) This rather rare bird should perhaps be placed on a hypothetical list, as the only possible record we know for it is the following note published by Amos W. Butler in his "Birds of Indiana". "Mr. Chas. Drury writes me of a specimen of a Mississippi Kite which was sent to him from Lafayette several years ago, which he supposes was killed near that place." We have been unable to obtain more information concerning this record.

39. *Accipiter velox velox* (Wilson). Sharp-shinned Hawk. (332.) Notes by L. A. Test in 1904 say of this species: "Not common; a few seen each year. Not known to breed." Due to its habits, it is probably more common than records indicate, but as we have only two definite dates for the past few years—April 19, 1925, and March 15, 1930—it can be no more than quite uncommon. Probably it is a year-round resident.

40. *Accipiter cooperi* (Bonaparte). Cooper's Hawk. (333.) Notes of 1904 list the Cooper's Hawk as not uncommon and say that it breeds. Our observations of the last few years indicate that it is now rather uncommon, though of more frequent occurrence than the sharp-shinned hawk. No nesting records are known but it almost certainly is a resident.

41. *Buteo borealis borealis* (Gmelin). Eastern Red-tailed Hawk. (337.) Formerly the most common hawk about here, being abundant and breeding commonly, this big bird has suffered from the ignorance of farmers and hunters. It is now barely a tolerably common resident.

42. *Buteo lineatus lineatus* (Gmelin). Northern Red-shouldered Hawk. (339.) As in the case of practically all other hawks this one has decreased considerably in numbers from its former status as a fairly common resident. It is now uncommon, being seen mostly in the winter but probably breeding, at least in small numbers. The cutting off of considerable areas of timber in the past forty years, combined with constant persecution, has played havoc with all of the woods-loving species of hawks.

43. *Buteo platypterus platypterus* (Vieillot). Broad-winged Hawk. (343.) One of the rarest of our hawks now, although formerly it was considered "not common". There are but few records. The skin of a male taken April 19, 1892, is in our collection. The specimen was taken in a rather open tract of woods less than a mile south of West Lafayette.

44. *Buteo lagopus s. johannis* (Gmelin). American Rough-legged Hawk. (347a.) This hawk has been considered rare in the county but a number of records for 1931 seem to indicate that it was common this year, as in many parts of the state. Most of the records are for late winter and early spring.

The following are 1931 dates: January 3, dark phase near Romney; January 4, light phase found dead near Battle Ground; January 15, light phase near Mulberry; January 15, dark phase near Mulberry; February 10, light phase near Mulberry; March 27, dark phase near Lafayette. The skin of a male in the Purdue Museum is labelled Lafayette, Indiana, March 13, 1899. In our collection is a skin of a large and very dark specimen of the black phase captured alive in the southern part of this county or northern part of Montgomery County in the fall of 1905.

45. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus* Townsend. Northern Bald Eagle. (352a.) This fine bird is occasionally seen and taken in the county but will have to be considered rare. It is of irregular occurrence, mostly seen during the late fall or winter. D. R. Burtsfield reports one near Battle Ground, November 8, 1930, while one was observed by the writers January 4, 1931, along State road 43 at the northern edge of the county. This bird was an adult with the white head and tail. F. C. Dobelbower says eagles were seen in some numbers on the Wea Plains about 1900.

No local specimens are available for measurements but as all our records are for winter it is probable that this northern sub-species is the one seen.

46. *Circus hudsonius* (Linnaeus). Marsh Hawk. (331.) Considered as common thirty years ago, being "seen principally in spring

and summer on the prairies" but not definitely known to breed, this graceful hawk has, most unfortunately, been persecuted as a "hen-hawk" until it is now only tolerably common, as a winter resident. We have no summer records; so it probably does not nest in the county. Single individuals are almost always seen, usually beating back and forth above fields surrounding a pond or a stream. One bird was seen to swoop two or three times at some ducks on Ross's Pond but they paid little attention to him. Most of our marsh hawks have left for their nesting grounds by the middle of March, March 30, 1931, being the latest date. Their appearance in fall is early in August, the earliest available record being Aug. 7, 1931.

47. *Falco sparverius sparverius* Linnaeus. Eastern Sparrow Hawk. (360.) This beautiful little hawk is a common bird in the county and seems to be a permanent resident. It breeds commonly and many are seen during the winter. They frequent the railroads and highways where they are most commonly seen sitting on the telephone poles. It is not uncommon to see them hunting for English sparrows around the buildings on the Purdue Campus.

48. *Bonasa umbellus umbellus* (Linnaeus). Eastern Ruffed Grouse. (300). The authors, personally, have never observed this bird in the county, but it is said formerly to have been a resident. As the forests were cut off and gradually disappeared the ruffed grouse disappeared with them. Undoubtedly the bird nested here but we have no records.

49. *Tympanuchus cupido americanus* (Reichenbach). Greater Prairie Chicken. (305.) Formerly a common resident in the prairie region of the county but now very rare, though probably not quite extinct. In the early nineties it was still fairly common on the Wea Plains near Farmers Institute, and the senior writer has even flushed birds on the Purdue University Campus. A mounted male bird in the Purdue Museum bears the label "Killed near Lafayette, Indiana, 1909".

There are probably still two or three small coveys in the southeastern part of the county. Mr. F. A. Bolteron writes to Mr. Sidney R. Esten under date of February 19, 1930: "* * * a few exist about three miles to the southwest of South Raub on a farm tilled by John Beck. About six years ago this flock numbered 40 birds. Their numbers have been very much depleted lately." F. C. Dobelbower says that six were reported from southwest of Romney in the fall of 1931. The prairie chicken will probably soon be extinct in this county.

50. *Colinus virginianus virginianus* (Linnaeus). Eastern Bob-white. (289.) Formerly was a very common summer resident and almost every farm had a covey or two but now much less common than 30 or 40 years ago. While they are still not uncommon in the county, flocks are now widely scattered and they seem to have become noticeably fewer in the past five or ten years. They are resident and probably do not wander far from the nesting place. In the collection of the writers is a set with 27 eggs taken 10 miles south of Lafayette near Farmers Institute, May 24, 1891. These fine game birds are rapidly growing scarcer, and unless something is done to help give them more protection they will soon become rare in this county.

51. *Phasianus colchicus torquatus* Gmelin. Ring-necked Pheasant. (309.1.) Our only knowledge of this introduced bird is the following, obtained from F. C. Dobelbower. "There have been about 300 released in Tippecanoe County in the last three years. This year (1931) the State released 140 three-fourths grown pheasants. The balance was released by local Waltonians from eggs from the Division of Fish and Game." Dobelbower says that individuals are occasionally seen in the northwestern section of the county. As yet, they have probably had very little, if any, effect upon the county avifauna.

52. *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris* Vieillot. Eastern Turkey. (310a.) Probably formerly occurred in this county but if so has not been seen here for at least 50 years. We have no records, but as Prof. Evermann reports them as common in Carroll County as late as 1870, they probably were also found in Tippecanoe County until about that time.

53. *Rallus elegans elegans* Audubon. King Rail. (208.) Formerly this bird was considered as a migrant, occasionally breeding (F. C. Test). At the present its status seems to be about the same. No nests have been found, but it almost certainly does breed here as it has been seen May 30, and June 15 and 29, 1930, by D. R. Burtsfield, and on July 9, 1931, by L. A. Test, each time at the Willow Pond. Our only other record is of one seen by M. L. Fisher on April 29, 1923. This species is probably more common than the small number of records indicates.

54. *Rallus limicola limicola* Vieillot. Virginia Rail. (212.) This rail also has apparently been little affected in frequency by civilization, seeming to concentrate in the few marshy spots left, and being a tolerably common and regular migrant. Butler writes in his "Birds of Indiana" that it is much more common in spring than in fall. Here, our late records indicate the opposite to be true, although F. C. Test says that formerly it was not an uncommon migrant, especially in spring. Our only spring date is for May 14, 1929, and the early and late fall dates are Aug. 28 and Sept. 25, 1929 (D. R. Burtsfield).

55. *Porzana carolina* (Linnaeus). Sora. (214.) This is the most common of our rails in the county at the present time, although it was recorded as "not common" in 1904. It is noticed particularly in the fall when several may often be flushed in a few minutes at Ross's Pond or Whitsell's Pond. Consequently, we shall term it a rather common and regular migrant, there being here, also, the possibility of its nesting though no nests have been found. Our only spring date is May 5, 1904 (E. C. Salisbury), while those of fall run from Aug. 28 to Sept. 28 (both dates in 1929, and by D. R. Burtsfield).

56. *Gallinula chloropus cachinnans* Bangs. Florida Gallinule. (219.) Up to recently little seems to have been known about the Florida gallinule though F. C. Test listed it as a regular migrant several years ago without giving any specific records. However, there is a mounted specimen in the Purdue Museum labelled "Killed on Wabash River at Lafayette, Indiana, 1910". At the present it is probably still a regular, though little-observed, migrant and occasionally nests.

On May 30, 1930, D. R. Burtsfield located at the Willow Pond a nest

of this species containing three eggs. It was built of dead calamus leaves in the form of a platform raised about eight inches above the ground, which was wet but had no standing water on it, and short runways led up to the nest. The nest was placed among the calamus, which completely surrounded the open part of the pond, and about 15 feet from open water. No gallinules were seen on this visit. On June 9, Burtsfield and the junior writer visited the pond, finding the nest in the same condition as before, and located two more nests; one, on the same side as the first and approximately 35 yards from it, contained one egg, and the other, across the open water about 45 yards from each of the others, had eight eggs in it. This latter was perhaps slightly better built than the other two but all were similar in construction and situation. On June 15 there were five eggs in each of the first two nests and still eight eggs in the third. The last visit, by Burtsfield, on June 29 revealed that the first two nests were deserted, perhaps due to the cattle pastured in the surrounding field, and the other contained one dead chick and several fragments of egg shells. On none of the visits were the adult birds seen. During June both of the writers and Burtsfield were out of town, and the nests could be visited only a very few times, unfortunately. From the positions and build of the nests and comparison of the shell fragments with eggs in our collection we think the identification correct.

57. *Fulica americana americana* Gmelin. American Coot. (221.) Considered as a "not common" migrant in earlier years, the coot is at times rather uncommon and in other years, as in 1929, quite common, though seen regularly in spring and fall every year. Migration dates for spring and fall are: March 23 (D. R. Burtsfield) and May 14, 1929, usually arriving about the first of April; Sept. 19, 1929, and Oct. 28, 1928 (both by D. R. Burtsfield). One was seen at the Willow Pond June 9, 1930, by Burtsfield and F. H. Test. Perhaps this bird nested there, although we have no definite nesting records for the county.

58. *Charadrius melodus* Ord. Piping Plover. (277.) Rare migrant. The only record is for Headley's Lake, September 18, 1895. It is possible they have been confused with the semipalmated plover, which is not uncommon at Headley's Lake in the fall.

59. *Charadrius semipalmatus* Bonaparte. Semipalmated Plover. (274.) Migrant, not uncommon in the fall, when it is frequently seen at Headley's Lake with killdeer and semipalmated sandpipers. All of our records are for the late summer. A skin in our collection is from a specimen taken at Headley's Lake September 2, 1929. An early date is August 19, 1929 (D. R. Burtsfield).

60. *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus* (Linnaeus). Killdeer. (273.) Common summer resident and abundant locally during late summer and fall. These birds congregate in considerable numbers at Headley's Lake during August and September. They usually arrive in February and become common in March. In the fall they generally leave in October or early November. The earliest date of first arrival is February 5, 1927, and the latest February 26, 1924 (H. J. Roberts). For the fall the latest date is November 19, 1931.

61. *Pluvialis dominica dominica* (Müller). American Golden Plover. (272.) Rare, though formerly not uncommon during migrations. We have very few definite records. It was reported April 14, 1904, by A. F. Gainer. F. C. Dobelbower has "not seen one since 1908", but F. A. Burtsfield saw a flock in the spring of 1927. It evidently has decreased greatly in numbers in the past 25 years.

62. *Squatarola squatarola* (Linnaeus). Black-bellied Plover. (270.) We have no definite records, but F. C. Dobelbower reports large flocks 30 years ago and while not now common he thinks it has increased some in the past 10 years.

63. *Philohela minor* (Gmelin). American Woodcock. (228.) Migrant and summer resident; formerly common but now rather rare. Woodcock used to nest rather commonly in the county 40 years ago, and there is a set of four eggs in our collection taken April 16, 1890, by F. C. Test in a swampy woods one and a half miles northwest of West Lafayette. Other records are March 28, 1903, and April 7, 1904. A few may still be found about the bayous along the Wabash River. The bird needs special protection if it is not to be completely exterminated in this county.

64. *Capella delicata* (Ord). Wilson's Snipe. (230.) Fairly common migrant and also a rare winter resident as there is one winter record Dec. 26, 1929, but it is not known to breed in the county. It sometimes occurs in large flocks, a flock of 50 being seen April 13, 1929. Our earliest spring record is March 15, 1930, and the latest spring record May 12, 1902 (C. P. Smith). The earliest fall date is August 30, 1930 (D. R. Burtsfield).

65. *Bartramia longicauda* (Bechstein). Upland Plover. (261.) We have few records on the upland plover though apparently it is fairly common during the spring migration, when it is usually seen in large flocks. There are no records of its breeding. The earliest spring date is April 4, 1923 (E. J. Kohl), and the latest April 24, 1929 (D. R. Burtsfield). Several large flocks have been observed in the past year or two by F. A. Burtsfield and F. C. Dobelbower, and they think these birds are more common than a few years ago.

66. *Actitis macularia* (Linnaeus). Spotted Sandpiper. (263.) This well known little sandpiper is a common summer resident throughout the county, where it may be found along any of the streams. It arrives in April and leaves the latter part of September or early in October. The earliest spring date is April 24, 1904 (A. F. Gainer) and the latest fall date, Oct. 5, 1895.

67. *Tringa solitaria solitaria* Wilson. Eastern Solitary Sandpiper. (256.) Migrant, fairly common; may possibly nest. Most of the records are for late summer and fall but it is not uncommon in the spring along ditches and small streams. The earliest spring date is April 25, 1925. In the summer there is a sight record for July 9, 1931, when eight were seen. Other early summer dates are July 13, 1930, and August 2, 1930 (D. R. Burtsfield). The latest fall date is September 28, 1929 (D. R. Burtsfield), and the latest spring date is April 29, 1928 (M. W. Gardner).

68. *Totanus melanoleucus* (Gmelin). Greater Yellow-legs. (254.) Migrant, not very common. Most of the records are for summer and fall when it is not uncommon at Headley's Lake with killdeer and yellow-legs. The only spring record is April 16, 1904 (A. F. Ganier). For summer and fall there are several records, the earliest July 13, 1930 (D. R. Burtsfield) and the latest Oct. 21, 1895, both at Headley's Lake. Skins of specimens taken at Headley's Lake are in our collection.

69. *Totanus flavipes* (Gmelin). Lesser Yellow-legs. (255.) Common migrant, apparently more common during fall migration than in the spring, judging from the records. In August and September they are often quite common at Headley's Lake where with killdeer and pectoral sandpipers they feed on the mud flats. The earliest spring date is July 13, 1930, when D. R. Burtsfield reported it common at Headley's Lake. The latest fall record is October 26, 1929, when one was observed (D. R. Burtsfield). There is no record for its breeding in the county.

70. *Pisobia melanotos* (Vieillot). Pectoral Sandpiper. (239.) Common fall migrant and less common spring migrant. Large flocks are sometimes seen in the spring. It is one of the commonest species at Headley's Lake in the late summer and fall. Early and late spring dates are March 20, 1930, and April 27, 1929. Birds sometimes are seen in midsummer, July 13, 1930, fairly common (D. R. Burtsfield), but are most common the latter part of August through September. The latest date is Nov. 23, 1929.

71. *Pisobia minutilla* (Vieillot). Least Sandpiper. (242.) Migrant, not common; usually seen in the fall. We have no spring records, but it may occur here then. It has been taken at Headley's Lake. The earliest fall record is August 19, 1929, and the latest, September 22, 1929, both by D. R. Burtsfield. On the first of these dates it was reported as common.

72. *Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus* (Say). Long-billed Dowitcher. (232.) Migrant but not common. There are few records for this bird, but it may be more common than it appears. There are but two records for 1930, August 22, and September 3, both for Headley's Lake, and a single individual was seen each time. On the latter date the specimen was obtained and is now in our collection. None were taken in several years collecting at Headley's Lake during the nineties, and it may be the bird is becoming more common. Measurements of the previously mentioned specimen seem to agree more closely with those of this form than the eastern sub-species.

73. *Micropalama himantopus* (Bonaparte). Stilt Sandpiper. (233.) Rare migrant. The only record for the county, which is also the only record for the state, is of a specimen taken at Headley's Lake, Oct. 10, 1892. The skin of this specimen was formerly in our collection but is now in the collection of A. W. Butler of Indianapolis. The identification of the skin was made at the Smithsonian Institution.

74. *Ereunetes pusillus* (Linnaeus). Semipalmated Sandpiper. (246.) Common migrant. Apparently much more common in fall than in spring, as all records for the county are for summer and fall. During August and September it is usually common at Headleys' Lake and along the flats of the Wabash River in company with yellow-legs and Pectoral

Sandpipers. There is no evidence that it breeds here. The earliest summer record is July 13, 1930 (D. R. Burtsfield), when they were reported very common at Headley's Lake. Our latest date is September 20, 1929, also at Headleys' Lake, when one was seen (D. R. Burtsfield). Skins taken at Headleys' Lake are in our collection.

75. *Tryngites subruficollis* (Vieillot). Buff-breasted Sandpiper. (262.) Rare migrant. The only record for the county and the first for Indiana was a specimen shot at Headley's Lake, September 10, 1892. The skin of this specimen is now in the collection of A. W. Butler at Indianapolis.

76. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* Coues. Herring Gull. (51a.) Formerly, and at the present, herring gulls can be regarded as infrequent regular visitors to this region, being seen at irregular intervals from the middle of February to the middle of April. Usually they are found feeding singly or in twos and threes along the Wabash and Tippecanoe Rivers and at Headleys' Lake, and rarely a small flock will be present.

77. *Larus delawarensis* Ord. Ring-billed Gull. (54.) This smaller species of gull is considerably less common and more irregular here than the herring gull. We have positive records for only five dates, March 28, 1903, Jan. 8, 1927, Jan. 16, 1931, March 28, 1931 and March 29, 1931, a single bird being seen each time; all are sight records. There is the possibility that some observers have mistaken it for the similar herring gull, and thus it may be more common than records show.

78. *Sterna hirundo hirundo* Linnaeus. Common Tern. (70.) This species will have to be listed as a rare visitor as we have only one record for the county. May 22, 1931, a flock of 15 with one black tern was observed in the late afternoon, flying up and down the Wabash River between the Sanitarium and the bridges at Lafayette. They were watched for some time through glasses and there seems to be no question as to the identification. The common tern may prove to be a more frequent migrant than our records show.

79. *Chlidonias nigra surinamensis* (Gmelin). Black Tern. (77.) The black tern has never been a common bird but it is occasionally seen along the river or at some of the ponds in the county. There are a number of records, mostly for late spring and summer. It is not known to breed in the county, but the summer records may indicate that it does so occasionally.

Early and late dates are May 2, 1924, at West Lafayette, and Aug. 30, 1930, when they were reported as common. July 9, 1929, a single specimen was seen by D. R. Burtsfield flying over the Wabash River at Ross Camp, fifteen miles south of Lafayette. The Dobelbowers report two birds near Otterbein, July 6, 1929.

80. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis* (Linnaeus). Eastern Mourning Dove. (316.) Abundant summer resident and less common winter resident. Most of our doves migrate south in the late fall, but almost every winter a few remain with us, usually in the neighborhood of chicken yards and hog pens. The migrants begin to arrive from the south in February and by the last of the month or early in March are common. An early date is February 16, 1931, and a late fall date is

October 27, 1928 (D. R. Burtsfield). Typical winter dates are December 30, 1920; December 22, 1928, seventy-three seen; December 27, 1929, eight seen; January 3, 1925, fifteen seen. That some of the doves migrate south in early fall is evidenced by the fact that an individual banded at West Lafayette, April 19, 1925, was killed at Cameron, Texas, October 14 of the same year.

They begin nesting early and several broods are usually raised in a season. Nests have been seen with the brooding female surrounded by snow. One early date is April 17, and an extremely late date September 21, 1926, when young left the nest. Doves seems to be increasing rather than decreasing.

81. *Ectopistes migratorius* (Linnaeus). Passenger Pigeon. (315.) Formerly abundant in this county during the migrations, as they were throughout all of Indiana, but now for many years extinct. Some may possibly have nested in the county. Forty years ago they were rare migrants. Our last authentic record for the county is of a young male shot September 8, 1892, in the low, more or less wooded country two miles northwest of West Lafayette, known as the "Swamp." This bird, which was alone, was shot by C. D. Test and the senior writer. It seemed to be tired and was easily approached, flying only from one limb to another of the same tree when frightened. The skin is in the collection of the writers.

82. *Coccyzus americanus americanus* (Linnaeus). Yellow-billed Cuckoo. (387.) This species is a regular summer resident, though somewhat uncommon due to cutting off the heavy timber. Its notes are distinctive, but secretive habits make it quite easily overlooked. The birds arrive from the south usually in May, at times early, and at other times late, in the month. Our earliest date is May 7, 1903 (M. L. Fisher and C. P. Smith). Records of its fall departure are very scarce, October 13, 1896, being our only late fall date.

In our egg collection is a set of six eggs taken by C. D. and L. A. Test near Lafayette, July 8, 1890, and another set of three taken here June 12, 1891.

83. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (Wilson). Black-billed Cuckoo. (388.) Our scarcity of records indicates that the black-billed cuckoo is a very uncommon summer resident, though probably quite regular. It certainly is considerably less common than the yellow-billed cuckoo. The spring arrival is evidently at the same time as that of the more common species, our earliest date again being May 7, 1897. The only fall record we have is September 2, 1929 (D. R. Burtsfield), but this is probably not the usual time of departure.

A set of two eggs in our collection was taken here July 11, 1902, by C. D. and L. A. Test.

84. *Tyto alba pratincola* (Bonaparte). Barn Owl. (365.) The barn owl is resident and breeds, but is apparently rather rare. There are occasional reports of this bird, mostly from the southwestern part of the county, but its appearance seems to be somewhat irregular. In the spring of 1890 two young were taken in the county, and in August of the same year an adult was captured alive by F. C. Test, C. D. Test and the senior writer in a maple near the bank of the Wabash River about

a mile south of the Big Four Railroad bridge. This latter bird was kept captive for a year. Its skin is now in our collection. November 10, 1894, one was picked up dead near South Raub and brought to the University by Elmer Waters. April 28, 1923, one was reported by G. L. Hoge of the South River Road.

85. *Otus asio naevius* (Gmelin). Eastern Screech Owl. (373m.) This common little owl breeds and is a resident everywhere in the county, both the red and gray phase being found in about equal numbers. It is found in both town and country, frequently spending the day in barns or in the vines climbing on dwellings. Skins of both color phases are in our collection.

86. *Bubo virginianus virginianus* (Gmelin). Great Horned Owl. (375.) This, largest of our resident owls, used to be fairly common in the county when there were extensive areas of dense woods. As these woods have been cut off the horned owls have become much less common and at present might almost be considered rare. They are residents and breed. The senior writer was one of a party which in March of 1890 took a young horned owl in down from a nest in a hollow of a beech tree in the dense woods one and one-half miles northwest of West Lafayette on the edge of the "Swamp." A. F. Ganier reports a nest with young in the spring of 1905 about five miles west of Lafayette. January 3, 1931, a dead horned owl was found hanging on a fence a few miles south of Lafayette.

87. *Nyctea nyctea* (Linnaeus). Snowy Owl. (376.) This beautiful owl is probably a rare winter visitor in the county. The writers themselves have never seen a specimen in the county. Butler writes of it having been reported from Tippecanoe County, February 20, 1891, by Moffitt. L. J. J. Owens told of having seen one which had been captured alive near Chalmers, just over the White County line, about November 25, 1905. One of the Purdue University students reported seeing one in January, 1906, but this report was not confirmed.

88. *Strix varia varia* Barton. Northern Barred Owl. (368.) The barred owl is a resident, probably rare, for there are very few records. It is a denizen of the deep woods, and as the woods disappear this owl will naturally become less common. The only recent record is that of a recently killed specimen found hanging on a fence five miles north of Lafayette, January 4, 1931.

89. *Asio wilsonianus* (Lesson). Long-eared Owl. (366.) This owl used to be fairly common in the county, particularly in the deep woods of the "Swamp." It was a resident and nested. During the winter, especially, it was common, but we have seen none for some years, and there are no recent records. The clearing of the "Swamp" has probably forced them to other parts.

90. *Asio flammeus flammeus* (Pontoppidan). Short-eared Owl. (367.) This owl was not uncommon in the county, particularly in the "Swamp," thirty-five or forty years ago, but with the cultivation of this land they seem to have become much less common. The records were mostly for the winter months, and they may not have nested. The only recent records are March 15, 1930, when one was seen at Whitsell's Pond by D. R. Burtsfield and F. H. Test, and a dead bird found by D. R.

Burtsfield hanging on a fence near Ash Grove in the northern part of the county.

91. *Cryptoglaux acadica acadica* (Gmelin). Saw-whet Owl. (372.) Probably rare and not known to breed. The only record we have for the county is of a specimen taken in a thicket of small second growth oaks in January, 1890. The skin of this specimen was formerly in the collection of H. N. McCoy and has been given by him to the Richmond (Ind.) High School.

