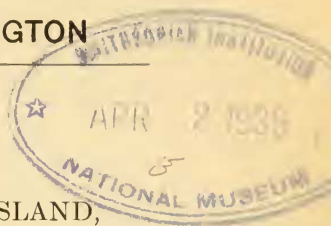


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



NATURAL HISTORY OF PLUMMERS ISLAND,
MARYLAND.

IV. BIRDS.¹

BY A. K. FISHER.

The accompanying list of 186 species and 4 additional sub-species is a synopsis taken from an extensive manuscript in which statements as to the habits and occurrence of the various species are given in detail. It includes all forms that have been reported on the property of the Washington Biologists' Field Club from the first records of the Club to October, 1935. Species that have been found nesting on the mainland property are indicated by one asterisk, and those recorded breeding on the island proper by two asterisks.²

Gavia immer immer, Common Loon.

Adult seen at west end of island, June 2, 1907.

Gavia stellata, Red-throated Loon.

One seen off island October 30, 1904.

Colymbus auritus, Horned Grebe.

Casual spring and autumn migrant; earliest April 14, latest October 27.

Podilymbus podiceps podiceps, Pied-billed Grebe.

Once seen near ferry.

Phalacrocorax auritus auritus, Double-crested Cormorant.

One seen at lower end of island, May 6, 1917.

Ardea herodias herodias, Great Blue Heron.

Ice permitting, this species may be seen any time of year. Most frequent April 1-October 14.

¹For Nos. I, II, and III of this series, see Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xlviii, 1935, pp. 115-137.

²Editor's Note.—The author does not concur in the nomenclature, nor, in part, in the classification followed, which has been made to conform with the fourth (latest) edition of the Check-list of North American Birds of the American Ornithologists' Union, published in 1931.

- Casmerodius albus egretta*, American Egret.
Casual, one seen July 24, 1926.
- Florida caerulea caerulea*, Little Blue Heron.
Casual in July and August.
- Butorides virescens virescens*, Eastern Green Heron.*
Frequent April 23–September 9. June, 1906, a pair seen repeatedly at the west end of the island.
- Nycticorax nycticorax hoaccli*, Black-crowned Night Heron.
Occasionally seen along river banks, April 4–November 6.
- Branta canadensis canadensis*, Common Canada Goose.
Recorded in migration flights in spring and autumn.
- Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*, Common Mallard.
Casual; usually in early spring, but occasionally in fall.
- Anas rubripes tristis*, Common Black Duck.
Seen occasionally in spring, more rarely in fall.
- Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*, American Pintail.
May 2, 1920, seven noted.
- Nettion carolinense*, Green-winged Teal.
October 5, 1910, about ten seen below ferry.
- Querquedula discors*, Blue-winged Teal.
May 6, 1907, a pair seen in Sycamore Cove.
- Aix sponsa*, Wood Duck.**
Common summer resident, March 1–October 26, nesting at times on island. Young seen as early as May 7.
- Nyroca valisineria*, Canvas-back.
One in river at island, and a flock seen flying, February 23, 1930.
- Nyroca marila*, Greater Scaup Duck.
Three seen May 27, 1906.
- Nyroca affinis*, Lesser Scaup Duck.
Male collected April 14, 1912.
- Glaucionetta clangula americana*, American Golden-eye.
Small flocks seen in January and February, 1930.
- Charitonetta albeola*, Buffle-head.
Seen April 14 and November 10, 1912.
- Clangula hyemalis*, Old-squaw.
Adult male seen November 29, 1931.
- Lophodytes cucullatus*, Hooded Merganser.
Migrant—Spring and autumn; earliest March 19, latest November 21.
- Mergus merganser americanus*, American Merganser.
Casual. December 11 to March 19.
- Mergus serrator*, Red-breasted Merganser.
Casual. January 11–May 7.
- Cathartes aura septentrionalis*, Turkey Vulture.*
Common resident.
- Coragyps atratus atratus*, Black Vulture.
Resident; first seen January, 1920. Gradually increasing in number.
- Accipiter velox velox*, Sharp-shinned Hawk.
Not uncommon.

- Accipiter cooperi*, Cooper's Hawk.
A number killed on property.
- Buteo borealis borealis*, Eastern Red-tailed Hawk.
Occasionally seen between August 23 and April 20.
- Buteo lineatus lineatus*, Northern Red-shouldered Hawk.*
Not uncommon. Pair breeding west of property.
- Buteo platypterus platypterus*, Broad-winged Hawk.
Seen on four occasions, one collected.
- Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*, Southern Bald Eagle.
Seen flying up and down river.
- Circus hudsonius*, Marsh Hawk.
Seen April 9, 1916, February 24, 1918, and March 14, 1920.
- Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*, Osprey.
Not uncommon.
- Falco peregrinus anatum*, Duck Hawk.
Seen February 19 and 26, 1922, and in January, 1923.
- Bonasa umbellus umbellus*, Eastern Ruffed Grouse.
Formerly common, but last seen September 20, 1913.
- Colinus virginianus virginianus*, Eastern Bob-white.**
Resident. Two coveys have lived on the property since it was first occupied by the Club. Small young seen.
- Phasianus colchicus torquatus*, Ring-necked Pheasant.
Three on island, October 20, 1935.
- Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*, Wild Turkey.
A flock seen on the island just before Club was established.
- Fulica americana americana*, American Coot.
One seen near ferry April 30, 1911.
- Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*, Killdeer.*
Summer resident. February 22–October 15. Nest in cornfield, June 18, 1916.
- Squatarola squatarola*, Black-bellied Plover.
One seen October 26, 1919.
- Philohela minor*, American Woodcock.*
Summer resident, March 10–November 25. Probably has nested on property.
- Actitis macularia*, Spotted Sandpiper.**
Summer resident, April 2–October 28.
- Tringa solitaria solitaria*, Eastern Solitary Sandpiper.
Migrant, April 28–May 20, August 24–September 7.
- Totanus flavipes*, Lesser Yellow-legs.
One flying over May 5, 1935.
- Larus argentatus smithsonianus*, Herring Gull.
Casual, February 10–March 6.
- Larus delawarensis*, Ring-billed Gull.
Northward in March in large, circling flocks.
- Larus philadelphia*, Bonaparte's Gull.
Flocks were seen April 30, 1900, and March 25, 1922.
- Sterna hirundo hirundo*, Common Tern.
A flock seen May 13, 1923.

Hydroprogne caspia imperator, Caspian Tern.

One seen May 5, 1918.

Chlidonias nigra surinamensis, Black Tern.

Immature birds seen in August, 1906.

Zenaidura macroura carolinensis, Eastern Mourning Dove.**

Common summer resident, February 6–December 24.

Coccyzus americanus americanus, Yellow-billed Cuckoo.**

Summer resident May 3–October 7. Young seen on several occasions.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus, Black-billed Cuckoo.

Migrant. May 13–24, September 7–October 5.

Tyto alba pratincola, Barn Owl.**

Resident. Nest with seven eggs found May 3, 1928.

Otus asio naevius, Eastern Screech Owl.**

Resident. Often seen and heard from 1905 to 1909. Not seen since 1915. Young in nest, spring, 1909.

Bubo virginianus virginianus, Great Horned Owl.

Resident in Virginia. Heard occasionally on island.

Strix varia varia, Northern Barred Owl.**

Resident and breeding on island.

Asio wilsonianus, Long-eared Owl.

One seen March 5, 1922.

Antrostomus vociferus vociferus, Eastern Whip-poor-will.

Casual in summer, April 9–September 19; possibly breeding.

Chordeiles minor minor, Eastern Nighthawk.

Casual in summer, May 5–September 16.

Chaetura pelagica, Chimney Swift.**

Summer resident. April 13–October 9. Nest July 5, 1908.

Archilochus colubris, Ruby-throated Hummingbird.**

Summer resident, May 3–September 12. Four nests found.

Megaceryle alcyon alcyon, Eastern Belted Kingfisher.

Summer visitor, March 11–November. Casually in winter in open years.

Colaptes auratus luteus, Northern Flicker.**

Summer resident, occasional in winter. Nest first found in 1905.

Ceophloeus pileatus pileatus, Southern Pileated Woodpecker.

Occasional. Seen on island and main shore several times.

Centurus carolinus, Red-bellied Woodpecker.**

Resident. First seen October 7, 1906. Nest found April 8, 1917.

Sphyrapicus varius varius, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Spring and autumn migrant. Occasionally seen in winter.

Dryobates villosus villosus, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker.**

Resident. Rather common. Young seen June 26.

Dryobates pubescens medianus, Northern Downy Woodpecker.**

Resident, breeding. At least four pairs live on island; young seen repeatedly.

Tyrannus tyrannus, Eastern Kingbird.

Casual in summer, April 25–August 20. Female feeding young back of Lock 11, July 23, 1933.

- Myiarchus crinitus boreus*, Northern Crested Flycatcher.*
 Summer resident, April 23–September 12. Undoubtedly breeds.
- Sayornis phoebe*, Eastern Phoebe.**
 Summer resident, March 1–October 23. Nesting on porch of cabin almost every year since 1904.
- Empidonax flaviventris*, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.
 Collected in May.
- Empidonax virescens*, Acadian Flycatcher.**
 Summer resident, May 13–September 12. Breeding.
- Empidonax minimus*, Least Flycatcher.
 Casual spring migrant.
- Myiochanes virens*, Eastern Wood Pewee.**
 Summer resident, April 20–October 12.
- Otocoris alpestris praticola*, Prairie Horned Lark.
 Rare. Heard January 12 and November 23, 1919.
- Iridoprocne bicolor*, Tree Swallow.
 Casual migrant, April 4–August 11.
- Riparia riparia riparia*, Bank Swallow.
 Casual visitor, spring and late summer.
- Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*, Rough-winged Swallow.*
 Summer resident, April 2–August 22, breeding at Lock 11.
- Hirundo erythrogaster*, Barn Swallow.
 Summer visitor, April 13–August 28.
- Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons*, Northern Cliff Swallow.
 Casual, May, June and August.
- Progne subis subis*, Purple Martin.
 Summer visitor, April 1–September 7.
- Cyanocitta cristata cristata*, Northern Blue Jay.**
 Resident. Nest, May 1, 1910.
- Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*, Eastern Crow.
 Present in winter.
- Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus*, Southern Crow.*
 Resident. Nested on main shore, 1916.
- Corvus ossifragus*, Fish Crow.
 Casual visitor.
- Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis*, Carolina Chickadee.**
 Common resident.
- Baeolophus bicolor*, Tufted Titmouse.**
 Common resident.
- Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*, White-breasted Nuthatch.**
 Not uncommon resident.
- Sitta canadensis*, Red-breasted Nuthatch.
 Irregular migrant, usually in April and September.
- Certhia familiaris americana*, Brown Creeper.
 Not uncommon migrant, October 7–April 23.
- Troglodytes aëdon aëdon*, Eastern House Wren.*
 Summer visitor, April 23–October 16.
- Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*, Eastern Winter Wren.
 Winter visitor, October 7–April 25.

- Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*, Carolina Wren.**
Resident, breeding.
- Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*, Eastern Mockingbird.*
Once nested in shrubbery back of Lock 11.
- Dumetella carolinensis*, Catbird.**
Summer resident, April 25–October 16.
- Toxostoma rufum*, Brown Thrasher.*
A casual summer visitor.
- Turdus migratorius migratorius*, Eastern Robin.
Common during migrations and at times in winter.
- Turdus migratorius achrusterus*, Southern Robin.*
Breeds. Present April to October.
- Hylocichla mustelina*, Wood Thrush.**
Summer resident, April 20–September 30.
- Hylocichla guttata faxoni*, Eastern Hermit Thrush.
Regular migrant, casual in winter, October 16–April 6.
- Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*, Olive-backed Thrush.
Migrant, April 29–May 31, September 5–October 5.
- Hylocichla minima aliciae*, Gray-cheeked Thrush.
Migrant, May 9–May 27, October 2.
- Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*, Veery.
Migrant, April 9–June 2, September 5.
- Sialia sialis sialis*, Eastern Bluebird.**
Resident.
- Poliotila caerulea caerulea*, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.**
Summer resident, March 30–September. Several nests found.
- Regulus satrapa satrapa*, Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet.
Winter visitor, October 6–April 21.
- Corthylio calendula calendula*, Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet.
Migrant, March 25–May 5, October 1–October 22.
- Anthus spinoletta rubescens*, American Pipit
Number seen on muddy shore, March 25, 1906.
- Bombycilla cedrorum*, Cedar Waxwing.**
Rare resident. Common some seasons in autumn.
- Lanius ludovicianus migrans*, Migrant Shrike.
Specimen secured at west end of property.
- Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*, Starling.**
Regular in occurrence. First observed August 31, 1919. May 7, 1931
one entered nesting hole in sycamore.
- Vireo griseus griseus*, White-eyed Vireo.**
Summer resident, April 26–October 2.
- Vireo flavifrons*, Yellow-throated Vireo.**
Summer resident, April 23–September 19.
- Vireo solitarius solitarius*, Blue-headed Vireo.
Migrant, April 9–May 5, October 20–November 5.
- Vireo olivaceus*, Red-eyed Vireo.**
Summer resident, April 27–October 14. One of the most abundant
breeding birds.

- Vireo philadelphicus*, Philadelphia Vireo.
Autumn migrant, September 5–October 5.
- Vireo gilvus gilvus*, Eastern Warbling Vireo.
One, April 25, 1926.
- Mniotilta varia*, Black and White Warbler.**
Summer resident, April 11–October 6.
- Helmitheros vermivorus*, Worm-eating Warbler.*
Rare summer resident, April 26–August 14.
- Vermivora chrysoptera*, Golden-winged Warbler.
Migrant. Several collected May 5 to 7; recorded August 28, 1921.
- Vermivora pinus*, Blue-winged Warbler.
Rare spring migrant; seen August 28–September 5 in fall.
- [*Vermivora lawrencei*, Lawrence's Warbler.
One secured May 12, 1907.]
- Vermivora peregrina*, Tennessee Warbler.
One secured September 5, 1921; one seen May 20, 1928.
- Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla*, Nashville Warbler.
One seen May 24, 1917.
- Compsothlypis americana pusilla*, Northern Parula Warbler.
Regular in migration.
- Compsothlypis americana americana*, Southern Parula Warbler.**
Summer resident. April 18–October 7.
- Dendroica aestiva aestiva*, Eastern Yellow Warbler.
Seen occasionally in May.
- Dendroica magnolia*, Magnolia Warbler.
Migrant, May 7–May 30, August 29–October 9.
- Dendroica tigrina*, Cape May Warbler.
Collected in May; seen October 6, 1911.
- Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*, Black-throated Blue Warbler.
Migrant, April 30–May 30, September 5–October 14.
- Dendroica coronata*, Myrtle Warbler.
Common migrant, rare in winter, September 28–May 9.
- Dendroica virens virens*, Black-throated Green Warbler.
Migrant, April 18–May 26, September 9–October 7.
- Dendroica caerulea*, Cerulean Warbler.*
One collected May 29, 1902. One seen May 5, 1935.
- Dendroica fusca*, Blackburnian Warbler.
Migrant, April 23–June 2, August 22–September 12.
- Dendroica pensylvanica*, Chestnut-sided Warbler.
Migrant, May 1–30, August 14–October 14.
- Dendroica castanea*, Bay-breasted Warbler.
Migrant, April 27–May 30, August 27–October 3.
- Dendroica striata*, Black-poll Warbler.
Migrant, May 17–June 9, September 7–October 14.
- Dendroica pinus pinus*, Northern Pine Warbler.
Occasional in April.
- Dendroica discolor discolor*, Northern Prairie Warbler.*
Uncommon summer resident.

- Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*, Yellow Palm Warbler.
Migrant in spring, March 28–May 13.
- Seiurus aurocapillus*, Oven-bird.**
Summer resident, April 23–October 2.
- Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*, Northern Water-thrush.
Migrant, April 18–June 2, August 7–September 15.
- Seiurus motacilla*, Louisiana Water-thrush.
Summer visitor, April 10–July 10.
- Oporornis formosus*, Kentucky Warbler.**
Common summer resident, April 30–September 16.
- Oporornis agilis*, Connecticut Warbler.
Seen October 11, 1908; adult male collected May 17, 1909.
- Oporornis philadelphia*, Mourning Warbler.
Four specimens taken in May.
- Geothlypis trichas trichas*, Maryland Yellow-throat.**
Summer resident, April 24–September 24.
- Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*, Northern Yellow-throat.
Found in migration.
- Icteria virens virens*, Yellow-breasted Chat.**
Summer resident, April 26–September 1.
- Wilsonia citrina*, Hooded Warbler.*
Summer visitor, April 30–September 11.
- Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*, Wilson's Warbler.
Migrant, May and September.
- Wilsonia canadensis*, Canada Warbler.
Migrant, May 6–June 2, August 21–September 12.
- Setophaga ruticilla*, American Redstart.**
Summer resident, April 22–October 2.
- Passer domesticus domesticus*, English Sparrow.
Of regular occurrence near Lock 11. One seen April 20, 1919, at cabin.
- Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Bobolink.
Recorded flying over August 28–September 25.
- Sturnella magna magna*, Eastern Meadowlark.
One seen in big field April 8, 1920. Flying over, two other occasions.
- Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*, Eastern Red-wing.
Small flocks seen March to May, August to September.
- Icterus spurius*, Orchard Oriole.*
Seen on three occasions back of Lock 11.
- Icterus galbula*, Baltimore Oriole.
Not uncommon visitor in May, one June 6, 1926. Family seen on main shore August 7, 1921.
- Euphagus carolinus*, Rusty Blackbird.
Stragglers found in March and October. Once December 8.
- Quiscalus quiscula quiscula*, Purple Grackle.
Casual, sometimes in flocks, February 14–October 9.
- Molothrus ater ater*, Eastern Cowbird.**
Seen May 26, 1907, and May 30, 1927; one taken May 2, 1920. Egg found in ovenbird's nest.

- Piranga erythromelas*, Scarlet Tanager.**
Summer resident, April 23–October 13.
- Piranga rubra rubra*, Summer Tanager.
One September 2, 1934.
- Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis*, Eastern Cardinal.**
Resident.
- Hedymeles ludovicianus*, Rose-breasted Grosbeak.
Migrant, April 30–May 18, September 7–October 3.
- Passerina cyanea*, Indigo Bunting.**
Summer resident, April 27–October 3.
- Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*, Eastern Purple Finch.
Common, October 16–May 26. Abundant in spring migration.
- Spinus pinus pinus*, Northern Pine Siskin.
Reported December 8, 1918, November 14 and 23, 1919, April 25, 1920, and November 6, 1927.
- Spinus tristis tristis*, Eastern Goldfinch.**
Resident.
- Loxia curvirostra pusilla*, Red Crossbill.
Seen February 14, 1909, November 14, 1926, and May 30, 1917.
- Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*, Red-eyed Towhee.*
Summer visitor, April 13–November 4.
- Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*, Eastern Savannah Sparrow.
Seen in big field, April 4, 1926.
- Ammodramus savannarum australis*, Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow.
A pair seen in big field, May 2, 1920.
- Poocetes gramineus gramineus*, Eastern Vesper Sparrow.
Several seen in big field, April 8, 1920.
- Junco hyemalis hyemalis*, Slate-colored Junco.
Winter resident, September 30–May 17.
- Spizella arborea arborea*, Eastern Tree Sparrow.
Winter resident, November 23–April 8.
- Spizella passerina passerina*, Eastern Chipping Sparrow.**
Summer resident, April 23–November 8.
- Spizella pusilla pusilla*, Eastern Field Sparrow.**
Summer resident, March 19–September 24.
- Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*, White-crowned sparrow.
One, October 20, 1929.
- Zonotrichia albicollis*, White-throated Sparrow.
Winter resident, September 27–May 20.
- Passerella iliaca iliaca*, Eastern Fox Sparrow.
Migrant, February 23–April 11, October 9–December 3.
- Melospiza lincolni lincolni*, Lincoln's Sparrow.
One collected, May 9, 1932.
- Melospiza georgiana*, Swamp Sparrow.
Migrant, March 11–May 27, October 9–20.
- Melospiza melodia melodia*, Eastern Song Sparrow.**
Resident, abundant in migration.