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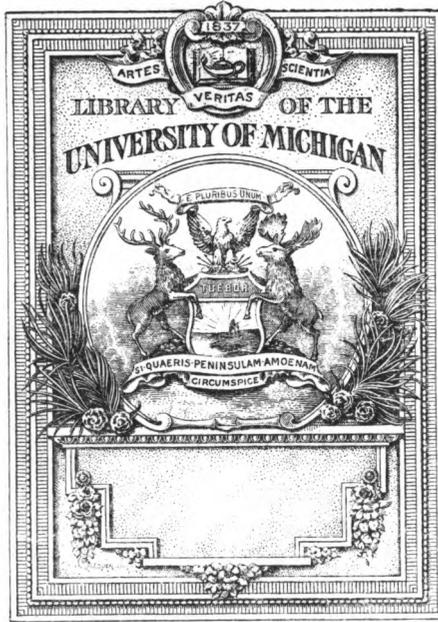
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Annotated List of the
Birds & Mammals
of Washtenaw County,
Michigan

By Adolphe B. Covert

1881



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AUTHOR'S EDITION.

ANNOTATED LIST

OF THE

BIRDS AND MAMMALS

OF

WASHTENAW COUNTY,

MICHIGAN.

BY ADOLPHE B. COVERT.

EXTRACTED FROM THE HISTORY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY,

MARCH, 1881.

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CHAPTER V.

NATURAL HISTORY.

BY ADOLPHE B. COVERT.

BIRDS.

This catalogue of 252 birds includes with a few exceptions those species only which are well established and known to appear every season. All species mentioned here have been taken in the county except one (*Dendroica dominica*). Some species have been mentioned which may never appear again, as for instance the Summer Red-bird (*Pyrranga aestiva*), still it may yet become a common summer resident. The Connecticut warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) apparently entered the State but a few years ago, and a few years hence will be a common migrant here. It will be seen from the following list that our birds may be divided into three classes—those feeding entirely on animal matter, those whose food consists entirely of vegetable substances, and those which eat both. The latter class is the greatest, and the class feeding on animal matter is larger than the vegetarians. Although this list gives upward of 100 species not heretofore accredited to this county, it must not be regarded as complete, as I am confident that many more will yet be added to it.

There is a peculiar interest attached to the avifauna of this State which has not received the attention from ornithologists which it deserves. We have no systematic work, and but few lists of the birds of this State; but with such men as Dr. H. A. Atkins, of Locke, Ingham county; Dr. Morris Gibbs, of Kalamazoo; Hon. D. Darwin Hughes, Mr. W. H. Hughes and Charles W. Gunn, of Grand Rapids; W. H. Collens and Mr. Charles Mummery, of Detroit; Jerome Trombly, of Petersburg; and Mr. A. H. Boies, of Hudson, these difficulties which now beset our path will soon be swept away.

Family TURDIDÆ.

- 1 *Turdus migratorius*.—Robin. Spring, summer and fall resident; sometimes remains all winter, very abundant.
- 2 *Turdus mustelinus*.—Wood Thrush. Summer resident; common.
- 3 *Turdus pallasi*.—Hermit Thrush. Abundant spring and fall visitor; has been found breeding.
- 4 *Turdus swainsoni*.—Olive-backed Thrush. Very common in spring and autumn.

- 5 *Turdus fuscescens*.—Wilson's Thrush. A common spring visitor; sometimes nests with us.
- 6 *Mimus carolinensis*.—Catbird. Summer resident; very abundant.
- 7 *Harporhynchus rufus*.—Brown Thrush. Thrasher. A common summer resident.

The Robin and Catbird frequent the orchards and gardens, nesting about the door-yards, and prefer these places to the woods. The Brown Thrush is found in thickets of hazel brush, briars, etc., which skirt old fences and the edge of woods, and generally nest in brush heaps. The remainder of the family are confined to the woodland. Their food consists of beetles, grasshoppers, snails, spiders, caterpillars, etc., together with small fruits and berries.

Family SAXICOLIDÆ.

- 8 *Sialia sialis*.—Bluebird. A very abundant spring, summer and fall resident. It is found everywhere, nesting in bird-houses, fence posts, decayed trees, and feeds on winged insects, worms, grasshoppers, spiders and a scant proportion of berries.

Family SYLVIADÆ.

- 9 *Regulus calendula*.—Ruby-crowned Kinglet; is a spring and fall visitor, and is frequently found in winter.
- 10 *Regulus satrapa*.—Golden-crowned Kinglet; is abundant in spring and fall.
- 11 *Poliophtila cerulea*.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; is a summer resident. Very common.

These sub-families are, strictly speaking, woodland birds, seldom found elsewhere. The Kinglets nest to the north of us, while the Gnatcatcher frequents our woods, building its nest on the high branches of the different oaks, "a structure which cannot fail to excite our wonder and admiration. Excepting the Hummingbird's nest none can compare with this exquisite specimen of bird architecture, cunningly contrived to combine elegance with comfort, artfully rendered substantial without sacrifice of good taste, and ingeniously screened from observation by the same means that are employed for its ornamentation. True to its aspirations, the bird nestles high in trees, usually at least 20 yards from the ground, placing the fabric among slender twigs, to which it is woven, often at the extremity of a bough which sways with the wind. To insure the safety of its contents during the motion to which it is thus subjected, it is built remarkably deep, and contracted at the orifice, so that the cavity is somewhat purse-shaped, and the general shape outside is like that of a truncated cone. It seems large for the size of the bird; it is sometimes three and a half inches in height, and nearly as many in width at the base, with a diameter of two inches at the brim. The walls are closely and warmly matted or felted.

with the softest vegetable material, the decomposed fiber of various plants, thistle-down and the like substances, in some cases woven with spider's web. The structure is artistically finished with stucco-work of lichens all over the outside, which serves the double purpose of perfecting its beauty and making it resemble a natural excrescence. In such an elegant cradle eggs are laid, to the number of four, five, or even six, measuring scarcely three-fifths of an inch in length and less than half an inch in their greatest diameter; white in color, speckled and dashed, generally over the whole surface, with several shades of reddish or umber brown and lilac. In such a secure home as this the Blue-gray Flycatcher usually rears its brood unmolested; it has little to fear except from the Cowbird and from the ornithologist, against which enemies no art avails. The parasitic bird might have its own excuse to offer, could its motive be called in question; the other may apologize, after a fashion, by averring that even this slight sketch of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher's life could not be finished had the nest never been rifled."—(Coues.) The food of these delicate and beautiful little fairies of our woods consists mainly of small caterpillars, mosquitoes, eggs of insects, etc.

Family PARIDÆ.

12 *Parus atricapillus*.—Titmouse or Black-capped Chickadee. Feeds upon insects, seeds, crumbs, meat, berries, etc., and generally nests in the wood, where it makes its home for the greater part of the year, but during the winter it is seen about our doors feeding on the crumbs from the table.

Tufted Titmouse (Vard)
Family SITTIDÆ.

13 *Sitta carolensis*.—White-bellied Nuthatch; is a very common resident.

14 *Sitta canadensis*.—Red-bellied Nuthatch. A quite rare spring and fall migrant; still some springs I find this bird very common.

These birds are found in woodlands and orchards; their nests are built in holes in trees. Their food consists of ants, spiders, eggs of insects, and seeds.

Family CETHIADÆ.

15 *Certhia familiaris*.—Brown Creeper. A common spring, fall and winter resident; sometimes remains with us during the summer, and breeds. It is a woodland bird, seldom frequenting orchard or shade trees, and feeds on insects, small beetles, seeds, etc.

Family TROGLODYTIDÆ.

16 *Thryothorus ludovicianus*.—Carolina Wren. A very rare straggler from the South.

- 17 *Thryothorus bewickii*.—Bewick's Wren. But one specimen of this bird has been shot in this county to my knowledge (a male, June 3, 1878).
- 18 *Troglodytes ædon*.—House Wren; is a common summer resident, but very local. We find this bird very common in some portions of the county and very rare in others.
- 19 *Anorthura troglodytes*.—Winter Wren; is a common spring and fall visitor, often remaining with us during the open winters.
- 20 *Telmatodytes palustris*.—Long-billed Marsh Wren. A common summer resident of our marshes, building a large globular nest of coarse sand grass. This is generally suspended to reeds or the stems of the different flags.
- 21 *Cistothorus stellaris*.—Short-billed Marsh Wren. A common summer resident, generally found inhabiting low meadow lands. The birds of this family feed on spiders, grasshoppers, insects, their eggs, snails, moths, etc.

Family ALAUDIDÆ.

- 22 *Eremophila alpestris*.—Horned Lark. Winter resident; sometimes breeds. I have found the nest the latter part of winter when snow was still on the ground.
- 23 *Eremophila alpestris*, var. *leucolæna*.—Horned Lark. A common resident, but during our coldest weather it often withdraws to the South; breeds in April and nests on the ground. These birds frequent barren and gravelly fields, feeding on seeds and insects. When the ground is covered with snow they may be seen feeding in barn-yards, on the droppings of the stock.

Family MOTACILLIDÆ.

- 24 *Anthus lodovicianus*.—Titlark. An abundant migrant in late fall and early spring, frequenting the same localities and subsisting on the same food as the preceding. Late in the fall, in the town of Pittsfield, I have often found the birds in flocks of a thousand.

Family SYLVICOLIDÆ.

- 25 *Mniotilta varia*.—Black and White Creeper. A very common summer resident, nesting on the ground, generally beside a fallen log.
- 26 *Parula americana*.—Blue Yellow-backed Warbler. Migrant, not very common, generally found in the tree-tops of our swamps and heavy timber land.
- 27 *Helminthophaga pinus*.—Blue-winged Yellow Warbler. Summer resident, very rare.
- 28 *Helminthophaga chrysoptera*.—Blue Golden-winged Warbler. A very common spring and fall migrant, frequently remaining all summer, breeding in low, damp woods.

- 29 *Helminthophaga ruficapilla*.—Nashville Warbler. A remarkably common migrant.
- 30 *Helminthophaga celata*.—Orange-crowned Warbler. A not very common migrant.
- 31 *Helminthophaga peregrina*.—Tennessee Warbler. A very common migrant, coming to us in late spring and early fall.
- 32 *Dendræca æstiva*.—Yellow Warbler. A very common summer resident. Breeds about our gardens in shrubs and low trees.
- 33 *Dendræca virens*.—Black-throated Green Warbler. A very common migrant.
- 34 *Dendræca cærulescens*.—Black-throated Blue Warbler. A very common migrant.
- 35 *Dendræca cærulea*.—Blue Warbler. A very common summer resident breed, nesting in the tops of tall trees.
- 36 *Dendræca coronata*.—Yellow-rumped Warbler. A remarkably common migrant. Probably two-thirds of our warblers found in the woods in early May are Yellow-rumps. This bird is also a rare summer resident.
- 37 *Dendræca blackburniæ*.—Blackburnian Warbler. A common spring and fall visitor.
- 38 *Dendræca striata*.—Black-poll Warbler. The last of our warblers to arrive in the spring when it comes in immense numbers. Every tree-top seems to contain two or three. Early in September this bird again returns to us on its way to its winter home.
- 39 *Dendræca castanea*.—Bay-breasted Warbler. A not very common migrant; still I have never failed to find it about the middle of May when on the way to its summer haunts.
- 40 *Dendræca pennsylvanica*.—Chestnut-sided Warbler. A common summer resident, breeds generally, building its nest in hazel brush.
- 41 *Dendræca maculosa*.—Black and Yellow Warbler. A common spring visitor, sometimes stays with us all summer.
- 42 *Dendræca tigrina*.—Cape May Warbler. Not common; comes to us in May when the apple-trees are in flower. I have found more specimens in orchards than elsewhere.
- 43 *Dendræca discolor*.—Prairie Warbler. I have never taken but few, and regard the bird as rare in this State.
- 44 *Dendræca dominica*.—Yellow-throated Warbler. I cannot learn that this bird has ever been shot in this county, still I have taken it in other portions of the State and I think it will yet be detected here. *Sycamore Bend Dec 25-1806-Quind. ♂.*
- 45 *Dendræca kirtlandii*.—Kirtland's Warbler. Of this rare bird but eleven specimens have ever been taken by naturalists. Of this number I have had the pleasure to secure two,—both specimens being shot in the town of Scio on May 15, 1875, and May 16, 1879, respectively.
- 46 *Dendræca palmarum*.—Yellow Red-poll Warbler. Common in spring and fall.

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47 *Dendroeca pinus*.—Pine-creeping Warbler. Rare summer resident in this county; common in other portions of the State.

48 *Sciurus auricapillus*.—Golden-crowned Thrush or Oven Bird. Very common summer resident, frequents rather low, open woods or groves.

49 *Sciurus naevius*.—Water Thrush. Not a common summer resident; breeds.

50 *Sciurus motacilla*.—Large-billed Water Thrush. A very common summer resident, breeds abundantly in swampy timber lands.

51 *Oporornis agilis*.—Connecticut Warbler. I have secured one specimen in this county, May 17, 1880. I find no record of any ever being shot in this State before 1879, and I think the bird will yet be common here, as we have suitable localities for it. It is a very beautiful songster.

52 *Geothlypis trichas*.—Maryland Yellow-throat. A very common summer resident.

53 *Geothlypis philadelphia*.—Mourning Warbler. This handsome bird is rare in this county. I have a record of but three specimens; still it is common in other sections of the State.

54 *Myiodictes mitratus*.—Hooded Fly-catching Warbler. In my investigation I have found this bird to be a very rare summer resident, but I think it will yet be found common in some portion of the county.

55 *Myiodictes pusillus*.—Black-capped Fly catching Warbler. Very common during the spring and autumn; some remain with us all summer.

56 *Myiodictes canadensis*.—Canada Fly-catching Warbler. A very common migrant, frequently remaining all summer.

57 *Setophaga ruticilla*.—Redstart. A very common summer resident.

This interesting family, the second largest of North American birds, is mostly confined to the woodland, though a portion may be observed during spring and fall in the gardens and shade trees of towns and cities. Their principal food consists of insects, of which they devour a countless number. Birds of the genera Mniotilta and Parula are creeping warblers; those of the genus Helminthophaga are worm-eating warblers; of the genus Dendroeca are wood warblers; of the genera Sciusus, Oporornis and Geothlypis are ground warblers; of the genera Myiodictes and Setophaga are fly-catching warblers,—beautiful little winged genera coming to us in May when all nature is adorned in the brightest livery. "They visit the orchard when the apple and pear, the peach, plum and cherry are in bloom, seeming to revel carelessly amid the sweet-scented and delicately-tinted blossoms, but never faltering in their good work. They peer into the crevices of the bark, scrutinize each leaf, and explore the very heart of the buds, to detect, drag forth, and destroy those tiny creatures, singly so insignificant but yet collectively a scourge, which prey upon the hope of the fruit-grower, and which, if undisturbed, would bring his care to nought.

8 - Yellow-breasted Chat. A. A. May 21-88-

Family TANAGRIDÆ.

- 58 *Pyrranga rubra*.—Scarlet Tanager. Summer visitor, very common.
Pyrranga aestiva.—Summer Red-bird. I find a record of but one specimen being shot in this State; that specimen I had the pleasure of securing. It was a fine male, taken on July 13, 1879. This bird must be regarded as a rare accidental visitor from the South.

Family HIRUNDINIDÆ.

- 60 *Hirundo horreorum*.—Barn Swallow. Very common summer resident.
 61 *Tachycineta bicolor*.—White-bellied Swallow. Common summer resident.
 62 *Petrochelidon lunifrons*.—Cliff or Eave Swallow. Common summer resident.
 63 *Cotyle riparia*.—Bank or Sand Swallow. A common summer resident in suitable localities.
 64 *Progne purpurea*.—Purple Martin. Formerly a common summer resident, but is being driven out by the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

Birds of this family feed exclusively upon winged insects, and the amount of good done by them must forever remain unknown.

Rough-winged Swallow,
 Family AMPELIDÆ.

- 65 *Ampelis garrulus*.—Bohemian Waxwing. A very rare visitor, coming to us from the North. I have never met the bird but once, when I secured three specimens, Dec. 12, 1869.
 66 *Ampelis cedrorum*.—Carolina Waxwing or Cherry Bird. A common resident, breeding in August and September.
 The food of these birds consists of fruit, such as apples, cherries and berries of the mountain ash and juniper. In the spring they feed on beetles, moths, and caterpillars.

Family VIREONIDÆ.

- 67 *Vireo olivaceus*.—Red-eyed Vireo. An abundant summer resident, frequenting our orchards.
 68 *Vireo philadelphicus*.—Brotherly-love Vireo. A very rare migrant.
Vireo gilvus.—Warbling Vireo. A common summer resident.
 69 Probably two-thirds of the small birds seen about our apple-trees throughout the summer are of this species. Too much cannot be said in their favor.
 70 *Vireo flavifrons*.—Yellow-throated Vireo. A common summer resident of our woods and groves.
 71 *Vireo solitarius*.—Solitary Vireo. A not common migrant generally, although some seasons it is very common.

72 *Vireo noveboracensis*.—White-eyed Vireo. I now regard this bird as a rare summer resident, although a few years ago it was quite common.

The birds of this family are found mostly in the woodlands. The Warbling Vireo is quite common in towns and cities, and the White-eyed Vireo is found along our streams, inhabiting the thickets; their food consists almost wholly of insects, of which caterpillars form a large portion.

Family LANIDÆ.

73 *Collurio borealis*.—Great Northern Shrike, or Butcher-bird. A not common winter resident. This bird also sometimes remains with us to breed. I have found it nesting here twice.?

74 *Collurio ludovicianus*.—Loggerhead Shrike. A common summer resident, sometimes remaining all winter.

75 *Collurio ludovicianus*, var. *excubitorides*.—White-rumped Shrike. Summer resident, common.

The Shrikes or Butcher-birds form a small but interesting family of bold and spirited birds, quarrelsome among themselves. Their habits in some respects resemble those of the birds of prey; their food consists of large insects, mice and small birds. They are noted for impaling their prey on thorns or sharp twigs and leaving it sticking there, but for what purpose yet remains a mystery to ornithologists. Taken as a whole I regard the bird as beneficial.

Family FRINGILLIDÆ.

76 *Pinicola enucleator*.—Pine Grosbeak; is an occasional winter visitor. My last record of his presence was in the winter of 1874-'75.

77 *Carpodacus purpureus*.—Purple Finch. A very common migrant.

78 *Curvirostra leucoptera*.—White-winged Crossbill. A rare winter visitor.

79 *Curvirostra americana*.—Red Crossbill. A very rare winter visitor. My only records are March 18 to 27, 1869, and winter of 1874-'75, when they were common.

80 *Ægiothus linarius*.—Red-poll Linnet. A very irregular winter visitor, but very common with us.

81 *Ægiothus linarius*, var. *exilipes*.—American Mealy Red-po l. Rare, always found associating with the last.

82 *Chrysomitris pinus*.—Pine Linnet. A winter visitor from the North.

83 *Chrysomitris tristis*.—Goldfinch or Yellow-bird. A very common resident.

84 *Plectrophanes nivalis*.—Snow Bunting. A common, but irregular winter visitor.

85 *Plectrophanes lapponicus*.—Lapland Longspur. Winter visitor. Common.

- 86 *Passerculus savanna*.—Savanna Sparrow. A common migrant.
- 87 *Poecetes gramineus*.—Bay-winged Bunting. A very common spring, summer and fall visitor.
- 88 *Coturniculus passerinus*.—Yellow-winged Sparrow. A rare summer resident.
- 89 *Coturniculus henslowii*.—Henslow's Sparrow. A very rare summer visitor.
- 90 *Melospiza lincolni*.—Lincoln's Sparrow. A very rare migrant.
- 91 *Melospiza palustris*.—Swamp Sparrow. A common migrant, but rare summer resident.
- 92 *Melospiza melodia*.—Song Sparrow. A common spring, summer and fall resident.
- 93 *Junco hyemalis*.—Snowbird. A very common winter resident. Has been known to breed.
- 94 *Spizella monticola*.—A common winter resident.
- 95 *Spizella socialis*.—Chipping Sparrow. A very common summer resident.
- 96 *Spizella pusilla*.—Field Sparrow. A common summer resident.
- 97 *Spizella pallida*.—Clay-colored Sparrow. A very rare migrant.
- 98 *Zonotrichia albicollis*.—White-throated Sparrow. A very common migrant. Have found it nesting here once.
- 99 *Zonotrichia leucophrys*.—White-crowned Sparrow. A common migrant.
- 100 *Chondestes grammaca*.—Lark Finch. A rare, but very regular, migrant.
- 101 *Passer domesticus*.—English Sparrow. This detestable bird is an imported resident. A few pair first made their appearance here in 1873: the streets of Ann Arbor are now overrun with them, and they are gradually making their way to the country. Wherever they locate they drive out the martin, blue-bird, swallows, sparrows, etc. They are a seed-eating bird, and in portions of Europe do great damage to the crops of the farmer. In some of the Eastern States a bounty has already been placed on their heads, and the Legislature of Michigan would do a wise thing by making an effort to exterminate this growing evil now.
- 102 *Passerella iliaca*.—Fox Sparrow. A very common spring and fall visitor.
- 103 *Euspiza americana*.—Black-throated Bunting. A few years ago this bird was regarded as a rare summer visitor. In the spring of 1877 they made their first appearance in considerable numbers, since which time they have grown quite common.
- 104 *Goniaphea ludoviciana*.—Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Summer resident. Common. Is found breeding along our water courses, in low trees and shrubs, and nesting in orchards.
- 105 *Cyanospiza cyanea*.—Indigo Bird. An abundant summer resident, frequenting low woodlands overrun with briars.
- 106 *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*.—Towhee Bunting or Chewink. An abundant spring, summer and fall visitor; frequently remains all winter.

This is the great graminivorous family, the largest of North American birds. They are gregarious and feed entirely upon seed, except during the breeding season. Those which are residents all the year and those which are summer residents only subsist during the breeding season and feed their young almost exclusively on insects. At other times their food consists of the seeds of grass and weeds. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak is the only bird known to feed on the potato bug; and the White-crowned Sparrow feeds on the grape-vine flea-beetle. The common Yellow-bird or Goldfinch prefers the seeds of the thistle and lettuce. The Purple Finch is fond of oily seed. I had a flock of twenty-two remain with me about two weeks this fall, and feed on the seeds of the sunflower which had grown up near the back door of my home. The Fox Sparrow and Chewink scratch the ground for hibernating insects and snails. The English Sparrow feeds on the seeds contained in the droppings of animals. The Cross-bills feed on the seeds contained in pine cones.

Family ICTERIDÆ.

- 107 *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.—Bobolink. An abundant summer resident.
- 108 *Molothrus pecoris*.—Cow-bird or Cow Blackbird; a summer visitor. Frequents old pasture land and the edge of woods. Like the European Cuckoo it builds no nest, but lays its eggs in the nest of smaller birds, such as Warblers, Vireos and Sparrows.
- 109 *Agelaius phœniceus*.—Red-winged Blackbird. Abundant summer visitor.
- 110 *Sturnella magna*.—Meadow Lark. A common summer visitor.
- 112 *Sturnella magna*, var. *neglecta*.—Western Meadow Lark. Not a rare visitor, from the West.
- 112 *Icterus spurius*.—Orchard Oriole. Summer resident, very common. Generally nests in the orchards; still have found it nesting in swamps and woods.
- 113 *Icterus baltimore*.—Baltimore Oriole. Summer resident. Abundant.
- 114 *Scolicophagus ferrugineus*.—Rusty Grackle. Common. Remains with us about two weeks in the spring.
- 115 *Quiscalus purpureus*.—Crow Blackbird. A very common summer resident.

This family is decidedly gregarious, with the exception of one or two species. Even during the breeding season, when the flocks of Sparrows are broken up and each family lives in independence, the Starlings still associate together. Their bill of fare is composed of various insects, such as caterpillars, May-flies, beetles, moths, crickets, spiders, grasshoppers, etc. Also feed on grains, such as seeds of weeds, corn, oats, wheat, etc. The Cow-bird destroys the eggs and young of other birds. The Orioles feed to a large extent during the breeding season on hairy caterpillars. I have known a sin-

gle pair of these birds to destroy an entire nest of the caterpillars of the codling moth in a single day. The Orioles are the least graminivorous of the family; but in return for their watchful care over the orchard and garden, they take their tithe of the first and finest small fruits. They have also a liking for green peas, of which they generally secure their share.

Family CORVIDÆ.

116 *Corvus corax*.—Raven. Some years ago was quite common, now very rare. The last specimen secured was in 1878.

117 *Corvus americanus*.—Crow. Very abundant. Can hardly be called resident, as they withdraw to the south during the coldest part of winter.

118 *Cyanurus cristatus*.—Blue Jay. This beautiful and well known bird is a common resident.

This is the omnivorous family feeding on eggs, grubs, fruits, reptiles, young birds, mice, moles, corn, caterpillars, acorns, carrion, offal, etc. Taking the year through, I think the amount of good done by these birds more than overbalances the damage.

Family TYRANNIDÆ.

119 *Tyrannus carolinensis*.—King-Bird. Abundant summer resident. Frequents orchards and the edge of woodland.

120 *Myiarchus crinitus*.—Great Crested Fly-catcher. Abundant summer resident of our woodland. This bird has a characteristic habit of using the cast-off skin of snakes as a part of its nest.

121 *Sayornis fuscus*.—Pewee or Phœbe bird. A common summer resident, nesting in open buildings and under bridges.

122 *Contopus borealis*.—Olive-sided Fly-catcher. A rare migrant. Nesting to the north of us.

123 *Contopus virens*.—Wood Pewee. Summer resident. Abundant. A bird of the orchard and woodland.

124 *Empidonax acadicus*.—Acadian Fly-catcher. Summer resident. Rare. Has been found nesting several times.

125 *Empidonax traillii*.—Traill's Fly-catcher. A not common summer resident. Has been found nesting.

126 *Empidonax minimus*.—Least Fly-catcher. A very common summer resident.

127 *Empidonax flaviventris*.—Yellow-bellied Fly-catcher. A common migrant, but rare summer resident.

The food of this family consists almost wholly of winged insects, which it captures on the wing. The King-bird and the Pewee are found in open places; the remainder of the family consists of woodland birds.

Family CAPRIMULGIDÆ.

128 *Antrostomus vociferus*.—Whippoorwill. Common summer resident.

129 *Chordeiles virginianus*.—Night-hawk. A very common summer resident.

The Whippoorwill and Night-hawk capture their prey on the wing. They are nocturnal in their habits. The Whippoorwill is a bird of the woods, while the Night-hawk affects more open places, nesting in pasture lands and frequently in corn-fields. They feed on grasshoppers, moths, flies, beetles, winged insects, etc.

Family CYPSELIDÆ.

130 *Chaetura pelagica*.—Chimney Swift, or Chimney Swallow. A very common summer resident. Nests in unused chimneys, barns, and frequently in hollow trees. It feeds on small winged insects, which it captures on the wing.

Family TROCHILIDÆ.

131 *Trochilus colubris*.—Ruby-throated Humming bird. This beautiful little gem of emeralds and rubies is a very common summer resident, coming to us in May, nesting the latter part of June, and leaving for its winter home in September. As a child, I always had a passion for the Humming-bird. It ever caused a thrill of delight when one of these glittering creatures, with its soft hum of flight, came out of repose all suddenly, hanging a sapphire stilled upon the air; for here no wings are seen, as, like a quick, bright thought, it darts, is still, and then away! "Of all animated beings" says Buffon, "the Humming-bird is the most elegant in form and brilliant in color. The stones and metals, polished by art, are not comparable to this gem of nature; she has placed it in the order of birds, but amongst the tiniest of the race she has loaded it with all the gifts of which she has only imparted a share to other birds; agility, nimbleness, grace and rich attire all belong to this little favorite. The emerald, the ruby and the topaz glitter in her garb, which is never soiled with the dirt of earth, for, leading an aerial life, it rarely touches the turf, even for an instant. Always in the air, flying from flower to flower, it shares their freshness and their splendor, imbibes their nectar, and only inhabits those climes in which they are unceasingly renewed. The Humming-bird seems to follow the sun, to advance, to retire with him, and to fly on the wings of the wind in pursuit of an eternal spring." The food of the Humming-bird consists of small beetles, spiders and winged insects, which are captured in the corolla of flowers.

Family ALCEDINIDÆ.

132 *Ceryle alcyon*.—Belted King-fisher. A common summer resident in suitable localities. The food of this bird consists of fish.

Family CUOULIDÆ.

- 133 *Coccygus erythrophthalmus*.—Black-billed Cuckoo. An abundant summer resident. A bird of the woods, but frequently seen in the orchards.
- 134 *Coccygus americanus*.—Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Not a common summer resident; rarely breeds. These birds feed upon hairy caterpillars, moths, young birds, eggs, berries, beetles, etc.

~~Pileated Woodpecker~~ Family PICIDÆ.

- 136 *Picus villosus*.—Hairy Woodpecker. Common resident.
- 136 *Picus pubescens*.—Downy Woodpecker. Common resident.
- 137 *Picoides arcticus*.—Arctic Black-backed Woodpecker. I can record but one specimen of this arctic bird for Washtenaw county; Jan. 26, 1881, a male.
- 138 *Sphyrapicus varius*.—Yellow-bellied Woodpecker. Very common during migrations; some remain all summer.
- 139 *Centurus carolinus*.—Red-bellied Woodpecker. Very common resident. Breeds in heavy timber.
- 140 *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.—Red-headed Woodpecker. Generally a common resident; but during a portion of some winters withdraws to the South.
- 141 *Colaptes auratus*.—Golden-winged Woodpecker. A common resident.

The food of this family consists largely of wood-boring insects, also fruit, green corn and berries. The Red-headed and Golden-winged are frequently on the ground in search of ants. The Yellow-bellied suck the sap from apple and other trees, and have been known to do great damage in some parts of America; but as they remain with us but a short time during migrations, our fruit-growers need have no fear. Some claim that the trees visited by them seem to be benefited.

Family STRIGIDÆ.

- 142 *Strix flammea*, var. *americana*.—Barn Owl. A rare straggler from the South. The last specimen seen was in the spring of 1879.
- 143 *Bubo virginianus*.—Great Horned Owl. A common resident.
- 144 *Scops asio*.—Screech Owl. Resident, very abundant.
- 145 *Otus vulgaris*, var. *wilsonianus*.—Long-eared Owl. Common resident.
- 146 *Brachyotus palustris*.—Short-eared Owl. Very abundant resident.
- 147 *Syrnium nebulosum*.—Common resident. ^{Barn Owl}
- 148 *Nyctea nivea*.—Snowy Owl. Not a very rare visitor. He comes from the North some winters.
- 149 *Surnia ulula*, 12 var. *hudsonica*.—Hawk Owl. A rare winter visitor.

150 *Nyctale tegmalinii*, var. *Richardsonii*.—Sparrow Owl. A rare winter visitor. Only two specimens have been secured.

151 *Nyctale acadica*.—Acadian Owl. A very common winter visitor, and quite a common resident. Found nesting once here, May 23, 1879.

The owls are the nocturnal family of raptorial birds. Their food consists of rats, mice, squirrels, rabbits, quail, partridges, small birds and large insects. The Snowy Owl catches fish; the Barred Owl, frogs; and the Great Horned Owl is the thief in the night that visits the poultry yard. All of the smaller species must be regarded as highly beneficial.

Swallow-tailed Kite Family FALCONIDÆ.

152 *Circus cyaneus*, var. *hudsonius*.—Marsh Hawk. A common summer resident. Nests on the ground.

153 *Elanus leucurus*.—White-tailed Kite. A very rare straggler from the South. Two specimens secured.

154 *Accipiter fuscus*.—Sharp-shinned Hawk. A very common migrant; a few remain all summer.

155 *Accipiter cooperi*.—Cooper's Hawk. Resident. Abundant.

156 *Astur atricapillus*.—Goshawk. A rare winter visitor.

157 *Falco columbarius*.—Pigeon Hawk. A rare migrant.

158 *Falco sparverius*.—Sparrow Hawk. A very common summer resident.

159 *Buteo borealis*.—Red-tailed Hawk. Resident. Abundant.

160 *Buteo lineatus*.—Red-shouldered Hawk. Resident. Common.

161 *Buteo pennsylvanicus*.—Broad-winged Hawk. Very common during migrations; an uncommon summer resident.

162 *Buteo swainsonii*.—Swainson's Hawk. A very rare resident. *missed*
Found breeding once, May 5, 1880, when the eggs and female were secured.

163 *Archibuteo lagopus*, var. *sancti-johannis*.—Rough-legged Hawk or Black Hawk; very common in the fall.

164 *Pandion haliaetus*.—Fish Hawk. A common migrant; has been known to breed.

165 *Haliaetus leucocephalus*.—Bald Eagle; a not common migrant.

This is the diurnal family of birds of prey. Their food resembles that of the last. The species which commonly invade the barn-yard comprise the Cooper's, Goshawk, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and the Broad-winged. These carry off chickens and ducks with surprising boldness. The Fish Hawk subsists entirely on fish. The Bald Eagle feeds on dead animals, carrion and fish: of the latter he is largely a dependent on the Fish Hawk.

Family CATHARTIDÆ.

166 *Cathartes aura*.—Turkey Buzzard. A rare summer resident; but in July and August this bird becomes quite common. These

are birds that have probably passed the duties of incubation in the South and have come North on an autumnal visit. They feed entirely upon carrion and offal.

Family COLUMBIDÆ.

- 167 *Ectopistes migratorius*.—Wild Pigeon. An abundant migrant. Sometimes breeds.
- 168 *Zenædura carolinensis*.—Carolina Dove. Resident most of the year. Abundant.
- The food of this family consists of various grains, berries, acorns, beech-mast, wheat, corn, buckwheat, etc.

Family MELEAGRIDÆ.

- 169 *Meleagris gallopavo*.—Wild Turkey. Formerly a common resident; now very rare. The food of the Wild Turkey consists of various grains, acorns, nuts, grapes, berries, grasshoppers and large insects.

Family TETRAONIDÆ.

- 170 *Cupidonia cupido*.—Prairie Hen. Once a common resident; now very rare.
- 171 *Bonasa umbellus*. Ruffed Grouse or Partridge. A very common resident.
- 172 *Ortyx virginianus*.—Quail or Bob-white. A common resident.
- Corn, wheat, rye, buckwheat, oats, various seeds, berries, worms and insects form the food of this family. They also at times eat the leaves and buds of various plants, together with grapes and chestnuts.

Family CHARADRIDÆ.

- 173 *Squatarola helvetica*.—Black-bellied Plover. A rare migrant.
- 174 *Charadrius fulvus*, var. *virginicus*.—Golden Plover. A common migrant.
- 175 *Egialitis vociferus*.—Kildeer Plover. Abundant summer resident.
- 176 *Egialitis semipalmatus*.—Semipalmated Plover. A common migrant.
- 177 *Egialitis melodus*.—Piping Plover. A rare migrant.
- This family feed on small mollusks, aquatic insects, beetles, grasshoppers, etc.

Family PHALAROPODIDÆ.

- 178 *Steganopus wilsonii*.—Wilson's Phalarope. A common migrant. Found nesting once.
- 179 *Lobipes hyperboreus*.—Northern Phalarope. A rare migrant.

Family SCOLOPACIDÆ.

- 180 *Philohela minor*.—Woodcock; an abundant summer resident.
 181 *Gallinago wilsonii*.—American Snipe; is an abundant migrant, and has been known to breed.
 182 *Macrorhamphus griseus*.—Red-breasted Snipe. A rare migrant.
 183 *Micrapalama himantopus*.—Stilt Sandpiper. A very rare migrant; but three specimens have been secured, May 4, 1877.
 184 *Ereunetes pusillus*.—Semipalmated Sandpiper. Migrant. Abundant.
 185 *Tringa minutilla*.—Least Sandpiper. Migrant. Abundant.
 186 *Tringa maculata*.—Pectoral Sandpiper. Common migrant.
 187 *Tringa alpina*, var. *americana*.—Red-backed Sandpiper. A not common migrant.
 188 *Tringa canutus*.—Red-breasted Sandpiper. Common migrant.
 189 *Totanus semipalmata*.—Willst. Common migrant.
 190 *Totanus melanoleucus*.—Tall-tale or Greater Yellow-legs. Abundant migrant and quite a common summer resident.
 191 *Totanus flavipes*.—Lesser Yellow-legs. Abundant migrant.
 192 *Totanus solitarius*.—Solitary Sandpiper. Summer resident; quite common.
 193 *Tringoides macularius*.—Spotted Sandpiper. An abundant summer resident.
 194 *Actiturus bartramius*.—Upland Plover. Abundant summer resident.
 195 *Tryngites rufescens*.—Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Not a common migrant.
 196 *Numenius longirostris*.—Long-billed Curlew. A rare migrant But one specimen has been taken.
 This is the family of Shore-birds or Waders. They feed on small mollusks, aquatic insects, crustaceans and grasshoppers.

Family ARDEIDÆ.

- 197 *Ardea herodias*.—Great Blue Heron. A common migrant; is a resident in some parts of the county.
 198 *Ardea egretta*.—Great White Heron. A rare summer visitor.
 199 *Ardea virescens*.—Green Heron. Summer resident. Common.
 200 *Mystiardea grisea*, var. *nevia*.—Night Heron. A common summer resident in some portions of the county.
 201 *Botaurus minor*.—Bittern or Indian Hen. A common summer resident.
 202 *Ardetta erilis*.—Least Bittern. A common summer resident.

Family GRUIDÆ.

- 203 *Grus americanus*.—Whooping Crane. A very rare straggler. On June 8, 1877, three specimens were observed at Geddesburg, and one secured.

204 *Grus canadensis*.—Sandhill Crane. A rare migrant. I do not think it breeds in the county; still it may. This bird nests on the ground.

Family RALLIDÆ.

- 205 *Rallus longirostris*.—Clapper Rail. A very rare migrant for this county. I have (November 5, 1880), male and female.
 206 *Rallus elegans*.—King Rail. A rare summer resident.
 207 *Rallus virginianus*.—Virginia Rail. A common summer resident.
 208 *Porzana carolina*.—Carolina Rail. A common summer resident.
 209 *Porzana noveboracensis*.—Yellow Rail. A rare migrant.
 210 *Porzana jamaicensis*.—Black Rail. One specimen only has fallen under my notice from this county; this specimen was brought me June 4, 1880.
 211 *Gallinula galeata*.—Florida Gallinule. Summer resident. Not rare.
 212 *Fulica americana*.—Coot. Abundant summer resident.

Family ANATIDÆ.

- 213 *Branta bernicla*.—Brant Goose. A common migrant.
 214 *Branta canadensis*.—Canada Goose. A common migrant.
 215 *Anas boschas*.—Mallard Duck. A common migrant; often breeds.
 216 *Anas obscura*.—Black Duck. Abundant migrant; often breeds.
 217 *Dafila acuta*.—Pintail. Migrant. Not very common.
 218 *Chaulelasmus streperus*.—Gadwall or Grey Duck. A rare summer resident.
 219 *Mareca americana*.—American Widgeon. A common migrant.
 220 *Querquedula carolinensis*.—Green-winged Teal. A common summer resident.
 220 *Querquedula discors*.—Blue-winged Teal. Abundant migrant. May bird.
 221 *Spatula clypeata*.—Shoveller or Broad-bill. Summer resident; not common.
 222 *Aix sponsa*.—Wood Duck. Summer resident; not rare.
 223 *Fuligula marila*.—Big Black-head. Quite a common migrant.
 224 *Fuligula affinis*.—Little Black-head. Quite a common migrant.
 225 *Fuligula collaris*.—Ring-necked Duck. Common migrant.
 226 *Fuligula ferina*, var. *americana*.—Redhead or Pochard. Migrant. Common.
 227 *Fuligula vallisneria*.—Canvas-back Duck. Migrant. Not common.
 228 *Bucephala clangula*.—Golden-eye Duck. Migrant. Common.
 229 *Bucephala albeola*.—Butter-ball Duck. A very common migrant.

- 230 *Harelda glacialis*.—Long-tailed Duck. A rare migrant.
 231 *Campylæmus labradorius*.—Labrador Duck. One specimen taken at Delhi Mills, April 17, 1872.
 232 *Erismatura rubida*.—Ruddy Duck. Migrant. Quite common.
 233 *Mergus merganser*.—Goosander or Fish Duck. Common migrant.
 234 *Mergus serrator*.—Red-breasted Merganser. A not very common migrant.
 235 *Mergus cucullatus*.—Hooded Merganser. A common migrant.

Dorelle's Great Cormorant, Saline, 2nd
 Family LARIDÆ.

- 236 *Larus argentatus*.—Herring Gull. Common migrant.
 237 *Larus delawarensis*.—Ring-billed Gull. Common migrant.
 238 *Larus atricilla*.—Laughing Gull. Migrant. Common.
 239 *Larus philadelphia*.—Bonaparte's Gull. Migrant. Abundant.
 240 *Zema sabinei*.—Fork-tailed Gull. A very rare accidental visitor. One specimen was secured Nov. 17, 1880.
 241 *Sterna anglica*.—Marsh Tern. Not a common migrant.
 242 *Sterna hirundo*.—Wilson's Tern. A common migrant.
 243 *Sterna forsteri*.—Forster's Tern. Migrant. Abundant.
 244 *Sterna macroura*.—Arctic Tern. Migrant. Not common.
 245 *Sterna superciliaris*.—Leaste Tern. Migrant. Not common.
 246 *Hydrochelidon fissipes*.—Black Tern. Migrant, quite common.

Family COLYMBIDÆ.

- 247 *Colymbus torquatus*.—Loon. A common migrant and a quite common summer resident.
 248 *Colymbus arcticus*.—Black-throated Loon. Very rare. A specimen was taken April 21, 1880.

Family PODICIPIDÆ.

- 249 *Podiceps griseigena*, var. *holbollii*.—Red-necked Grebe. Transient, rare.
 250 *Podiceps cornutus*.—Horned Grebe. Migrant. Abundant.
 251 *Podiceps auritus*.—Eared Grebe. One specimen was taken during the winter of 1879, at Saline, and one specimen at Independence Lake, April 29, 1880. *Alton Mus., see Basson's, 1912*
 252 *Podilymbus podiceps*.—Pied-billed Grebe. A common summer resident.

MAMMALS.

Family VESPERTILIONIDÆ.—*Vespertilio noveboracensis*.—New York Bat. Quite common.—*V. subulatus*.—Brown Bat. Very abundant.

Family SORICIDÆ.—*Blarina brevicauda*.—Mole Shrew. Very common; is more often found in the vicinity of gardens where it has been searching for earth-worms.

Family TALPIDÆ.—*Scalops aquaticus*.—Common Mole. Quite common, more often found in wet lands than elsewhere.—*Scalops argentatus*.—Silvery Mole. I must catalogue this little mammal as very rare. I have had but one specimen in the past six years.—*Condylura cristata*.—Star-nosed Mole. Very abundant, in fact the most abundant mole in this part of the State.

Family FELIDÆ.—*Lynx rufus*.—Wild Cat. At rare intervals a wild cat is reported in this county. I have not myself taken one, neither have I ever seen one taken in this county.

Family CANIDÆ.—*Vulpes fulvus*.—Red Fox. Very abundant and affords exciting sport during the winter months for our sportsmen.—*Vulpes fulvus*, var. *argentatus*.—Black Fox. Very rare; the last specimen seen was taken in the township of Pittsfield in the winter of 1878.—*Vulpes virginianus*.—Gray Fox. Rare; have nearly all left this part of the State.

Family MUSTELIDÆ.—*Putorius cicognanii*.—Small Brown Weasel. Abundant.—*P. richardsonii*.—Little Ermine. I regard this beautiful little mammal as very rare. I have had but one specimen.—*P. noveboracensis*.—White Weasel. Very common.—*P. pusillus*.—Least Weasel. The only specimens of this mammal I have had were brought this winter, 1881.—*P. longicauda*.—Weasel. One specimen of this mammal has been taken, February 27, 1880; it was then in the brown coat.—*P. vison*.—Mink. Very common, hundreds being caught by trappers every year.—*Lutra canadensis*.—Otter. A solitary individual has been known for some years in the chain of lakes in the northern part of the county of which Portage, Base, Strawberry, etc., form a part.—*Mephitis mephitis*.—Skunk. Very abundant.

Family URSIDÆ.—*Procyon lotor*.—Raccoon. Very common. We have also a nearly black variety, which is quite common, and usually every season we hereof white "coons" being taken.

Family SCIURIDÆ.—*Sciurus ludovicianus*.—Fox Squirrel. Very abundant.—*S. carolinensis*.—Gray and Black Squirrels. Very common.—*S. hudsonius*.—Red Squirrel. Very abundant.—*Pteromys volucella*.—Flying Squirrel. Very common, but being nocturnal in its habits is not generally seen.—*Tamias striatus*.—Chipmunk. Very abundant.—*Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*.—Striped Gopher. Common, frequents sandy fields.—*Arctomys monax*.—Woodchuck. Altogether too common to please the farmers in some sections of the country.

Family MURIDÆ.—*Jaculus hudsonius*.—Jumping Mouse. Very rare in most sections, still I know of some sections where this mouse can always be found.—*Mus musculus*.—Common Mouse. This is a too common mouse to please the good housewife.—*Mus decumanus*.—Brown Rat. Very abundant.—*M. rattus*.—Black Rat. Very rare. I have had but one specimen, which was caught at the

Michigan Central R. R. Depot.—*Reithrodon humilis*.—Harvest Mouse. Quite common. I had an albino specimen brought me some years ago, which is in the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.—*Hesperomys leucopus*.—Deer Mouse. Common; lives in the woods, nesting in hollow trees.—*H. Michiganensis*.—Michigan Deer Mouse. Abundant, frequently found in barns and out-buildings.—*Arvicola riparia*.—Meadow Mouse. Abundant.—*A. austerus*.—Short-tailed Meadow Mouse. Abundant.—*Fiber zibethicus*.—Muskrat. Very common.

Family CERVIDÆ.—*Cervus virginianus*.—Deer. Once common, but has passed to the northern part of the State; the last one seen in this county, was in the autumn of 1879.

Family LEPORIDÆ.—*Lepus sylvaticus*.—Common Rabbit. Very abundant.

Wauzig Hore *Moss*



