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Hoy, A. R. 1852. Transactions of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society, Vol. 2: 321-324

THE BIRDS OF WISCONSIN

Having been carefully studied by Dr. Hoy, of Racine, I have obtained his permission to insert here his "Notes," published in the 6th volume of the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, instead of the catalogue prepared by me. There are some additions and corrections made by Dr. Hoy, and I have added the common names of each species.

I. A. L.

NOTES ON THE ORNITHOLOGY OF WISCONSIN.

BY P. R. HOY, M. D., OF RACINE, WISCONSIN.

With few exceptions, the facts contained in the following brief Notes, were obtained from personal observations made within fifteen miles of Racine, Wisconsin, lat. 42° 49' N.; long. 87° 40' W. This city is situated on the western shore of Lake Michigan, at the extreme southern point of the heavy timbered district, where the great prairies approach near the lake from the west, and is a remarkably favorable position for ornithological investigation. It would appear that this is a grand point, a kind of rendezvous, that birds make during their migrations. Here, within the last seven years, I have noticed 287 species of birds, about one-twentieth of all known to naturalists, many of which, considered rare in other sections, are found here in the greatest abundance. It will be seen that a striking peculiarity of the ornithological fauna of this section is, that southern birds go further north in summer, while northern species go further south in winter than they do east of the great Lakes.

[* Indicates those known to nest within the State.]

VULTURINÆ, (1 species.)

*CATHARTES AURA, Linn. Turkey Buzzard.
 Found occasionally as far north as Lake Winnebago, lat. 44°. More numerous near the Mississippi River.

FALCONIDÆ, (19 species.)

*AQUILA CHRYSÆTOS, Linn. Golden Eagle.
 I have a fine specimen, shot near Racine, Dec. 1853.
 It is a fact worthy of note that this noble eagle, in the absence of rocky cliffs for its eyrie, does occasionally nest on trees. One instance occurred between Racine and Milwaukee, in 1851. The nest was fixed in the triple forks of a large oak.

**SYLVICOLA ÆSTIVA*, Gmel. Summer Yellow Bird.
Abundant.

SYLVICOLA MACULOSA, Lath. Spotted Warbler.

Numerous from the 5th to 27th of May.

SYLVICOLA FLAVICOLLIS, Wilson. —

I shot a single individual of this species near Racine, June 20th, 1848.

**SYLVICOLA VIRENS*, Lath. Black-throated Green Warbler.

Common. A few nest with us. The old males arrive 5th of May, young males and females about the 10th of the same month.

**SYLVICOLA BLACKBURNIÆ*, Lath. Blackburnian Warbler.

One of the most numerous warblers from the 5th to the 20th of May. The old males precede the females about a week. The first arrivals of this species, as well as all others, are in the finest plumage. A few nest with us.

SYLVICOLA KIRTLANDII, Baird. Kirtland's Warbler.

I met one single individual of this recently discovered species, at Racine, May 20th, 1853.

**SYLVICOLA ICTEROCEPHALA*, Lath. Chestnut-sided Warbler.

This beautiful little warbler is extremely abundant. It prefers localities with a dense under-brush, especially hazel, thinly covered with trees. In such situations it is not uncommon to hear the songs of a dozen males at the same time. They construct a nest of blades of grass and thin strips of bark intermingled with caterpillars' web, fixed in a low bush, (generally hazel,) seldom more than two or three feet from the ground; the eggs, 4 or 5 in number, closely resemble those of *S. æstiva*. But one brood is raised in a season—nest from the 10th to the 15th of June. If the nest be approached when the female is in it, she will drop to the ground and hobble along with one wing dragging, uttering at the same time a *peeping* note of distress. I once caught a young bird of this species that had just left the nest; the parent birds, in their alarm for its safety, approached so near to me that I caught the male in my hand. I let them both go, upon which, the joy of the old bird appeared to be greater for the escape of the young fledgling than for his own release.

SYLVICOLA CASTANEA, Wilson.

Arrives in large numbers about the 10th of May; all gone north by the 25th.

SYLVICOLA STRIATA, Lath. Black-poll Warbler.

Equally numerous with the preceding; the two species arrive and depart in company.

SYLVICOLA PINUS, Lath. Pine Warbler.

Not a numerous species with us. Nest in the northern pine forests.

SYLVICOLA DISCOLOR, Vieill. Prairie Warbler

A few are occasionally seen about the middle of May. Rare in Wisconsin.