LIST OF BIRDS OF DOVER

BY

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Extract from History of Dover, Mass., by Frank Smith, 1897
BIRDS.

The following list of birds is not designed to be a contribution to ornithology, but to present in brief form as correct and complete an enumeration of the bird-fauna of Dover as it is practicable to procure at the present time, and thereby stimulate observation. It is the result of personal observations made during many years, partly in Dover, but more largely in those portions of Sherborn, Natick, and Wellesley immediately adjoining, and, in addition, of verbal notes communicated by other persons living in the vicinity. Owing to the lack of resident observers a list of local records would of necessity be so meagre as to be of little use, and would give an erroneous impression of the fauna. Persons desirous of obtaining fuller information on this subject should consult the "Annotated List of Birds of Wellesley and Vicinity," published by the author of the present list.

All of the species enumerated have been noted within a short distance, nearly all within a mile, of the town boundaries, and most of them in the town itself. Additional species, chiefly of the water-birds and shore-birds, doubtless occur from time to time, records of which in the immediate vicinity I have been unable to secure.

The economic importance of birds is often overlooked even by those who are most benefited. They are one of nature's most efficient means for keeping in check the myriads of injurious insects with which the agriculturist has to contend. As a class, even the predaceous birds—the hawks and owls—do vastly more
good than harm, destroying multitudes of field-mice and other small rodents of the farm, though individuals often merit and receive condemnation and punishment at the hands of the irate poultry-raiser.

In addition to their economic importance the birds appeal most forcibly to our æsthetic sense. The wooing and mating, and building of the nest, the eggs—dumb miracles of life, the rearing of the brood, the instinct that draws them irresistibly to dare the perils of the unknown in extended journeys at the appointed time,—these have appealed to the sympathies of mankind since the remotest ages. In their cries find expression all the gladsomeness of day and the weirdness of night, the freedom of the plain and the mystery of the forest, the hopefulness of dawn, the serenity and trust of evening, the yearning of spring and the melancholy of autumn. In their silence is death.

Holbœll's Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Colymbus holbœllii. Occasional on river; migrant.


Loon, Urinator imber. Frequently seen on neighboring ponds in fall and spring.

Dovekie, "Little Auk," Alle alle. A number were seen after a severe storm a score of years ago.

American Herring Gull, Larus argentatus smith-

1The terminology and sequence of species is that adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union.
sonianus. A large gull, probably of this species, was found dead in the west part some years ago.

Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*. Has been taken on neighboring ponds.

Tern, *Sterna* sp. (?) Examples are occasionally seen about neighboring lakes after hard storms.

Greater Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*. A specimen was taken on the Cheney estate several years ago.


Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*. Scarce. Has been taken on the river in spring.

Mallard, *Anas boschas*. Has been taken in former years, now rare.


Baldpate, *Anas americana*. Has been taken on neighboring ponds.

Green-winged Teal, *Anas carolinensis*. Formerly common on the river in fall, but now scarce.


Canada Goose, Wild Goose, *Branta canadensis*. Usually seen in numbers when migrating. Occasionally a flock alights in the river or neighboring lakes.

Bittern, "Stake-driver," *Botaurus lentiginosus*. A not uncommon summer resident.

Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*. Common along the river in spring and late summer.

American Egret, White Heron, *Ardea egretta*. Mr. A. L. Babcock, of Sherborn, states that a specimen of this species was killed by Mr. Abram Bigelow on the river some years ago.

Green Heron, *Ardea virens*. Common along the river in summer.

Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax nevius*. Frequently seen in spring and summer.

Virginia Rail, *Rallus virginianus*. Not uncommon. Summer resident, but seldom seen until fall.


Florida Gallinule, *Gallinula galeata*. Rare.

American Coot, *Fulica americana*. Not uncommon in fall.


Yellowlegs, *Totanus flavipes*. Occasional after storms in summer.

Solitary Sandpiper, *Totanus solitarius*. Common in midsummer along the river.


Killdeer, *Ægialitis vocifera*. Rare. Has been seen in former years.

Bob-white, Quail, *Colinus virginianus*. Common resident.


Marsh Hawk, *Circus hudsonius*. Summer resident. Rather common, especially in spring and fall.


Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus.* Very rare. One specimen shot and another seen, at South Shermere, some years ago.

Pigeon Hawk, *Falco columbarius.* Scarce.

American Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius.* Occasionally seen.

American Osprey, Fish Hawk, *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.* Frequently seen along the river.

American Barn Owl, *Strix pratincola.* Accidental. One specimen taken several years ago and now in museum of Wellesley College.


Short-eared Owl, *Asio accipitrinus.* Rather rare.

Barred Owl, *Surnia nebulosum.* Scarce, but occasionally seen in fall.

Saw-whet Owl, *Nyctala acadica.* Not common. Resident, or winter visitor.


Snowy Owl, *Nyctea nyctea.* Rarely seen, in fall or winter.

American Hawk Owl, *Surnia ulula caparoch.* Very rare, but has been taken in this vicinity.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus.* Common summer resident.

Black-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus erythropthalmus.* Common summer resident.
Belted Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon*. Not uncommon summer resident.

Hairy Woodpecker, *Dryobates villosus*. Not uncommon visitor in fall and winter.

Downy Woodpecker, *Dryobates pubescens medianus*. Common resident.


Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*. Frequently seen in migrations.


Flicker, Golden-winged Woodpecker, *Colaptes auratus*. Common summer resident. A few pass the winter.


Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*. Abundant summer resident.


Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Very common summer resident.

Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*. Scarce and somewhat local summer resident.


Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Contopus borealis*. Formerly rather common, now rare.

Wood Pewee, *Contopus virens*. Common summer resident.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, *Empidonax flaviventris.* Not uncommon migrant.

Least Flycatcher, "Chebec," *Empidonax minimus.* Very common summer resident.

Horned Lark, *Otocoris alpestris.* Rarely seen in spring and fall.

Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata.* Abundant resident.

American Crow, *Corvus americanus.* Common resident.

Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus.* Common summer resident.


Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna.* Common summer resident.

Orchard Oriole, *Icterus spurius.* Rare summer resident.

Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula.* Common summer resident.

Rusty Blackbird, *Scolecophas carolinus.* Common migrant, especially numerous in fall.


Evening Grosbeak, *Coccothraustes vespertinus.* Several specimens were taken just across the river in South Natick and Wellesley early in 1890, during an incursion of this species from the West.


Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus.* Common summer resident. Sometimes a few winter.


Redpoll, *Acanthis linaria*. Common but irregular winter visitor.

American Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis*. Common resident.

Pine Siskin, *Spinus pinus*. Rare fall and winter visitor.


Savanna Sparrow, *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*. Common migrant, most numerous in fall.

Grasshopper Sparrow, Yellow-winged Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. Rare summer resident.


Tree Sparrow, *Spizella monticola*. Common in colder months.

Chipping Sparrow, Chippy, *Spizella socialis*. Abundant summer resident.

Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*. Common summer resident.

Slate-colored Junco, Black Snowbird, *Junco hyemalis*. Abundant transient visitor in fall and spring, less common in winter.


Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*. Common in spring and fall.


Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*. Casual. Several specimens have been seen, but some were doubtless escaped cage-birds.


Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga erythromelas*. Common summer resident.

Purple Martin, *Progne subis*. Scarce, local, summer resident.

Cliff Swallow, Eaves Swallow, *Petrochelidon limitronis*. Scarce, local, summer resident.

Barn Swallow, *Chelidon erythrogastera*. Abundant summer resident.


Bank Swallow, *Clivicola riparia*. Locally common summer resident.

Cedar Waxwing, Cedarbird, *Ampelis cedrorum*. Common summer resident. Frequently occurs in winter.

Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*. Common summer resident.

Warbling Vireo, *Vireo gilvus*. Common summer resident.

Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*. Locally common summer resident.


White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo noveboracensis*. Rare summer resident.


Northern Parula Warbler, *Compsothlypis americana usnea*. Common in spring.

Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*. Rare migrant.

Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica aestiva*. Common summer resident.


Myrtle Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*. Abundant migrant.

Magnolia Warbler, *Dendroica maculosa*. Rather common in spring.

Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*. Plentiful in spring, less common as a summer resident.

Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*. Rare migrant.


Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*. Common summer resident.

Pine Warbler, *Dendroica vigorsii*. Common summer resident.

Yellow Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*. Common migrant.

Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor*. Locally common summer resident.

Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*. Very common summer resident.


Maryland Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*. Abundant summer resident.


Catbird, *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. Abundant summer resident.


House Wren, *Troglodytes aëdon*. Scarce. Occasionally one is seen in spring.

Winter Wren, *Troglodytes hiemalis*. Occasionally seen in fall and winter.
Short-billed Marsh Wren, *Cistothorus stellaris.* Locally common summer resident.

Long-billed Marsh Wren, *Cistothorus palustris.* Locally common summer resident.

Brown Creeper, *Certhia familiaris americana.* Not uncommon in colder months.


Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis.* Irregular in colder months, sometimes common in late fall.

Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus.* Abundant resident.


One specimen taken in Wellesley, near Chéney estate, in fall.


Wood Thrush, *Turdus mustelinus.* Rather common summer resident.


Robin, *Merula migratoria.* Abundant summer resident. Sometimes a few winter.

Bluebird, *Sialia sialis.* Common summer resident.