

Early Works on Ohio Birds by J. P. Kirtland

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Ed. Note: Because they are both rare and valuable, we present here Jared P. Kirtland's two most important works on the birds of Ohio: his 1838 list of the state's birds, plus annotations, and an ornithological report of 1840.

The first presentation consists of Kirtland's list, and annotations to many of the species therein, derived from pp 161-166 and pp 177-187 respectively of his "Report on the Zoology of Ohio"; to these are added marginal notes Kirtland inscribed in his personal copy of Nuttall's Manual of Ornithology (1832-1834) over the succeeding three decades. Published in 1936 by Christy, the marginalia supply new information from the author of the 1838 list, and add species (indicated here by three asterisks) as well. As informal personal notes, they were of course not intended for publication; nevertheless, they add considerably to our knowledge. Here Kirtland's marginalia are enclosed in [brackets], and we add for those species new to the 1838 list the Latin and English names as given and ordered by Nuttall in his Manual, as the names by which Kirtland knew them. We have supplied modern equivalents, when they differ, of both Latin and English names for each entry; except for these and editorial matter indicating errors in the printed text and adding modern nomenclature—each here enclosed in {braces}, plus a few explanatory footnotes--all the words are Kirtland's. Retained are inconsistent spellings and punctuations in the original publications.

The second work presented is his report of bird observations, mostly from the northeastern part of the state, published three years after the first. It, too, first appeared in a source now difficult to find, though Wheaton rescued it from obscurity by reprinting it in his Report (1882, pp 216-220). It is reproduced as it appeared there, again within {braces} modern equivalents of names for some of the species treated, as well as a few explanatory footnotes. We are indebted to Harold Mayfield, Ohio's eminent ornithologist and authority on Kirtland and the warbler that bears his name, for some introductory remarks.

Introducing Jared Potter Kirtland by Harold F. Mayfield

Ornithology in Ohio is fortunate to have inherited a solid foundation left by Jared Potter Kirtland (1793-1877), who prepared the first checklist of the birds of the state in 1838. Dr. Kirtland was a man of many talents who illuminated everything he touched. He was a physician (medical consultant), teacher, and legislator. He is famous as the father of prison reform in Ohio.

He studied birds before prism binoculars were invented and most birds were identified down the barrel of a shotgun. In those days many ornithologists were physicians. Most of them visited patients in their homes, traveling many miles each day, often on country roads by horse and buggy. Many of them were alert to the wild creatures they saw in the woods and fields they passed. At home they had books and dissecting instruments for preparing specimens, and so they left evidence of their findings.

Dr. Kirtland visited many parts of the state and corresponded with naturalists across the land. He was regarded as an authority on all of the animals of the region, particularly the birds and fishes. He made fundamental discoveries about the mussels.

When a strange warbler visited his orchard near Cleveland on 13 May 1851, he sent it to Spencer F. Baird at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, who published a formal description, naming it the Kirtland's Warbler in his honor.

From A Catalogue of the Mammalia, Birds, Reptiles, Fishes, Testacea, and Crustacea in Ohio, by Jared P. Kirtland, M.D. Assistant Geologist, and Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Medical College of Ohio at Cincinnati. In Mather, W.W. 1838. Second Annual Report on the Geological Survey of Ohio, pp 157-200. Samuel Medary, Columbus.

1. *Cathartes aura* Illiger. {Turkey vulture *Cathartes aura*} The turkey buzzard is common during the summer, but does not continue in the northern parts of our State during the winter. It formerly nested in considerable numbers on the banks of the Big Beaver, near the line of Pennsylvania and Ohio, within the limits of the former State. Its numbers have greatly diminished within a few years. [Occasional. In 1810 were very common in large flocks. Hundreds. 1863 saw several at White Sulphur Springs, Delaware Co. Not seen now at Cleveland.]

2. *Falco fulvus* Lin. {Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*} The golden eagle occasionally visits the shores of Lake Erie, and perhaps the Ohio River. Mr. Dorfeuille has seen a specimen taken within the limits of this State.

3. *Falco leucocephalus* Lin. {Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*} White-headed Eagle. The bald eagle is both a summer and winter resident.

4. *Falco Washingtonianus* Audubon. Washington's hawk.¹ Dr. Ward informs me that he once saw a well marked specimen of the Washington eagle on the hills adjacent to the Ohio river. Audubon discovered a pair on Green river in Kentucky. If it be a true species, we probably are entitled to its admission into the list of Ohio birds. [Occasional in Ohio. Common on the upper Lakes. Saw one on beach at Cleveland in 1842.]

5. *Falco haliæetus* Lin. {Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*} Fish-hawk. [In 1823 common at Poland. Now rare, occasional.]

6. *Falco peregrinus* Gmel. {Peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*} The great-footed hawk. I once shot a specimen of this beautiful hawk hovering over my orchard in pursuit of a flock of hens. It is the only one I have ever met with. [Once killed a specimen at Poland and one at Cleveland. Latter in Mr. Winslow's cabinet.]

7. *Falco sparverius* Lin. {American kestrel *Falco sparverius*} The sparrow-hawk. This handsome and harmless bird spends only the summer with us, during which it destroys large numbers of snakes, mice and reptiles, but never, I believe, makes any intrusion on our poultry yards. [Common. Winters at Cincinnati. Occasionally winters at Rockport.]

8. *Falco Columbarius* Lin. {Merlin *Falco columbarius*} The pigeon-hawk. The true pigeon-hawk is rare, but may be seen early in autumn following the flocks of birds that are gathering for their migrations. [Occasionally seen at Cleveland. 1843 killed a young male. Probably nest on Kidney farm. Is seen during winter.]

9. *Falco palumbarius* Lin. {Northern goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*} I have never met with the goose-hawk, but insert it on the authority of Audubon, who says that "it is found in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and at the Falls of Niagara," of course in Ohio. [Occasional. Mr. Case has one. Prof. Darby has a specimen killed here 1869.]

¹ Now regarded as a mistaken assessment of immature forms of the bald eagle.

10. *Falco Pennsylvanicus* Wilson. {Broad-winged hawk *Buteo platypterus*} The broad-winged hawk is common, and breeds in the northern sections of the State. It is the mildest and most gentle in its manners of any of the hawk family. [Common. A few seen every season, 1869.]

11. *Falco velox* Wilson. {Sharp-shinned hawk *Accipiter striatus*} The sharp shinned hawk is equally common with the preceding species, and is the greatest plunderer of the flocks of hens and young turkies that is to be met with among the predaceous birds.

12. *Falco furcatus* Lin. {Swallow-tailed kite *Elanoides forficatus*} A few years since the swallow-tailed hawk was to be seen, during the summer, in considerable numbers in Portage and Stark counties. From some unknown cause it has, of late, ceased to visit those localities. They were probably the northernmost verge of its summer migrations, and the late cold and wet seasons have driven it back into warmer climates. [Formerly common in Portage Co. Still common on the prairies. 1863. One killed near Bucyrus, Crawford Co. None in Ohio in 1869. Nested near Portsmouth in 1850.]

13. *Falco Sancti-Johannes* Gmel. {Rough-legged hawk *Buteo lagopus*} The black hawk is a rare visitor. I have seen only one specimen. [Once saw them passing over in the spring by thousands. A few seen every winter 1864. A second flight seen in 1866 in the spring, thousands.]

14. *Falco borealis* Gmel. {Red-tailed hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*} The red-tailed hawk. This beautiful hawk spends the whole year with us, and may be easily distinguished from any other species both by its plumage and its horrid and unearthly scream. It is comparatively rare. [Nests occasionally on my farm in Rockport—becoming rare 1864. None in 1869.]

15. *Falco hyemalis* Gmel. {Red-shouldered hawk *Buteo lineatus*} The red-shouldered hawk is also a permanent resident with us, and much more common than the red-tailed. [Common at Poland in 1835—nesting. C. Pease, Jr. killed one in Rockport 1863.]

16. *Falco cyaneus* Lin. {Northern harrier *Circus cyaneus*} Marsh hawk. I have never met with this species, but am informed by Dr. Sager, assistant geologist of the Michigan geological board, that he has taken them on the Maumee river. [Formerly plenty, rare in 1864, in Rockport. None in 1869.]

17. *Falco buteodes* Nuttall {sic}. {Red-shouldered hawk *Buteo lineatus*} The short winged hawk. It is a matter of surprise that this species should have escaped the attention of naturalists until it was discovered by Nuttall {sic}, as it is the largest and one of the most common of the hawks in the northern part of Ohio. [Common, is the young of the Red-tailed.²]

18. *Falco Cooperii* Aud. {Cooper's hawk *Accipiter cooperii*} Cooper's hawk. I killed a pair of this delicate looking hawk in Trumbull County in the autumn of 1837, the only specimens I have ever seen. There seems to be considerable perplexity among naturalists in arranging the several members of this family. It can

² In Nuttall (1832) and elsewhere, the immature red-shouldered hawk was regarded as a separate species, the "winter buzzard." Later the truth of the matter was recognized, but Kirtland here apparently compounds the error in correcting Nuttall's text. He would no doubt have caught this apparent slip of the pen had the statement been intended for publication.

be easily obviated by attention to their habits, notes and plumage at different ages and stages of moulting. Their specific characters are distinct and well marked.

19. *Strix nyctea* Lin. {Snowy owl *Nyctea scandiaca*} Snow owl. The large white owl sometimes visits this State during severe and long continued cold weather. [A few seen every winter 1864.]

20. *Strix Asio* Lin. {Eastern screech-owl *Otus asio*} Mottled owl.

21. *Strix Virginiana* Gmel. {Great horned owl *Bubo virginianus*} Great horned owl. The great horned owl evidently has increased among us within a few years, probably deriving increased means of support from our domestic fowls. It is a bold depredator, but can be easily entrapped. [1864. Still common in my woods.]

[*** *Strix otus* Lin. {Long-eared owl *Asio otus*} Long-eared owl. Occasional.]

22. *Strix brachyotos* Gmel. {Short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*} During the past winter, which was severe and continued, the short-eared owl frequently visited the orchards and barn yards, and was easily taken. A flock located themselves in the immediate vicinity of Warren, Trumbull county. [1864. Common at Cleveland.]

23. *Strix nebulosa* Lin {Barred owl *Strix varia*} Barred or round-headed owl. [1864. Still common.]

24. *Strix Acadica* Gmel. {Northern saw-whet owl *Aegolius acadicus*} Little screech owl. Both this species and the *S. asio* exist among us, but they are commonly blended together as one under the name of *Screech Owl*.

25. *Psittacus Carolinensis* Lin. {Carolina parakeet *Conuropsis carolinensis*} The Parakeets do not usually extend their visits further north than the Scioto, though I am informed on perhaps doubtful authority, that thirty years since flocks of them were sometimes seen on the Ohio at the mouth of Big Beaver, thirty miles below Pittsburgh. [Were very common at Cincinnati at its first settlement. A few were found at Portsmouth as late as 1830.]

26. *Coccyzus Americanus* Bonaparte. {Yellow-billed cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*} Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

27. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* Bonaparte. {Black-billed cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*} Black-billed Cuckoo.

28. *Picus auratus* Lin. {Northern flicker *Colaptes auratus*} Golden-winged Woodpecker.

29. *Picus pileatus* Lin. {Pileated woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus*} Pileated Woodpecker. [Very common in Ohio in 1823. Have seen only 3 about Cleveland.]

30. *Picus erythrocephalus* Lin. {Red-headed woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*} Red-headed Woodpecker. [Growing scarce {sic} in Ohio in 1864.]

31. *Picus varius* Lin. {Yellow-bellied sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*} The yellow-bellied and the red-headed woodpecker are the only species of this genus that forsake us during winter—all the others are permanent residents. [Has evidently increased of late years. 1864.]

32. *Picus Carolinus* Lin. {Red-bellied woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*} Red-bellied woodpecker. [Still common at Cleveland 1864.]

33. *Picus villosus* Lin. {Hairy woodpecker *Picoides villosus*} Hairy Woodpecker.

34. *Picus pubescens* Lin. {Downy woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*}. The sapsucker. This small bird is one of the most destructive enemies of our orchards. While they are visited by the other species to capture innumerable small insects and worms

that infest and injure the trees, this bird appears to be intent on destroying the trees themselves, which it is sure to accomplish in the course of a year or two by encircling their bodies by a series of punctures through the bark. I am inclined to believe with the popular opinion that it does it for the sake of sucking the juices of the trees. It has long been known to people of observation that it always selects those trees in a sugar or maple grove that furnishes the sweetest sugar water, and it has its favorite trees in our orchards, and appears to select them without reference to age, thriftiness or any evident circumstance, but most likely according as they afford palatable food. While the visits of all the other species should be encouraged, even though they should occasionally mutilate or purloin a little fruit, it becomes the farmer and horticulturalist to carry on a war of extermination against the sap-sucker.

35. *Picus medianus* Swainson. Little woodpecker. The small woodpecker.³ I have long been familiar with this small species, and considered it a non-descript, till I recently found it noticed in the appendix to Nuttall's {sic} Ornithology at the close of the 2d vol.

36. *Alcedo alcyon* Lin. {Belted kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon*} King-fisher.

37. *Sturnus Ludovicianus* Lin. {Eastern meadowlark *Sturnella magna*} Meadow Lark.

38. *Icterus Baltimore* Daudin. {Baltimore oriole *Icterus galbula*} Baltimore Oriole.

39. *Icterus spurius* Bonap. {Orchard oriole *Icterus spurius*} Spurious Oriole. [1864 Has become common, was formerly very rare.]

40. *Icterus Phæniceus* Daud. {Red-winged blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*} Red-winged Blackbird.

[*** *Icterus icterocephalus*, Bonap. {Yellow-headed blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*} Yellow-headed Troopial. [One killed at Cincinnati.]

41. *Icterus pectoris* Temmick {sic}. {Brown-headed cowbird *Molothrus ater*} The cow-bunting is admitted into our catalogue on rather doubtful authority. [1864. Abundant, formerly rare.]

42. *Icterus agripennis* Bonap. {Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*} Rice-bunting. [Common at Rockport.]

43. *Quiscalus versicolor* Vieillot. {Common grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*} Crow Black-bird. The black bird is one of the species against which the efforts not only of idle boys, but of our farmers are directed on account of its habits of attacking the Indian corn at the time it is sprouting from the ground. It is somewhat vexatious, to be sure, to have this injury done to our corn crops; but before the farmer engages in the warfare against these birds, he should take into consideration the fact that they save ten times the amount of corn they destroy. They pick up thousands of insects that would do far greater damage.

There are only two short periods while the black birds remain with us that they eat vegetable food: in the spring when the corn is sprouting from the ground, and in autumn when it is mature. The remainder of their summer's sojourning is spent in rendering us the most essential aid. On opening the stomachs of these and many other insectivorous birds, they will be found to contain great numbers of worms,

³ Nuttall had abandoned this "species," and included it as a form of downy woodpecker, as early as the second edition (1840) of his *Manual*.

bugs, and small reptiles; sometimes as many as fifty or sixty may be discovered in the stomach of one individual.

The farmer should recollect that in destroying even one of these birds he is committing a direct injury on his own property as well as injuring community at large. This cause, if no other, should induce parents and guardians who have the charge of idle boys to restrain them from waton {sic} destruction of the feathered tribes. [1864. Rapidly decreasing.]

44. *Quiscalus ferrugineus* Bonap. {Rusty blackbird *Euphagus carolinus*} Rusty Grackle. [A few killed every spring.]

45. *Corvus corax* Lin. {Common raven *Corvus corax*} The raven sometimes spends the winter as far north as the south shore of Lake Erie. [Occasional. 1864 becoming very rare.]

46. *Corvus corone* Lin. {American crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*} From careful attention to the habits of the crow for many years, I am fully convinced that, like most of the smaller species of birds, it does the farmer far more service by destroying various insects, than injury by its depredations on the corn fields. [Common. 1864 rapidly increasing.]

47. *Corvus cristatus* Lin. {Blue jay *Cyanocitta cristata*} Blue Jay.

[*** *Bombycilla garrula* Viell. {Bohemian waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*} Waxen chatterer. Once saw a flock at Cleveland. Common in 1844-5 during winter. 1864 Numerous at Rockport in Jany. Jan'y & Feb. 1864 Large flocks on mountain ash trees, East Rockport. Killed and mounted 2 dozen.]

48. *Bombycilla Carolinensis* Briss. {Cedar waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*} Cedar-bird

49. *Caprimulgus vociferus* Wil. {Whip-poor-will *Caprimulgus vociferus*} The whip-poor-will was formerly common in the northern counties of the State during summer, but for the last three years its notes are rarely if ever heard. The coldness of the weather has probably prevented its reaching so high a latitude.

50. *Caprimulgus Virginianus* Briss. {Common nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*} Night-hawk.

51. *Cypselus pelagius* Tem. {Chimney swift *Chaetura pelagica*} Chimney Swallow.

52. *Hirundo purpurea* Lin. {Purple martin *Progne subis*} Martin. [In 1823 common in Ohio. 1864 rarely seen about Cleveland.]

53. *Hirundo rufa* Gmel. {Barn swallow *Hirundo rustica*} Barn Swallow.

54. *Hirundo fulva* Viell. {Cliff swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*} Congregations of the cliff or republican swallow are now common at the west. In the spring of 1815 a few were first seen by Audubon at Henderson in Kentucky. Four years after, a colony located on the United States buildings at Newport, opposite Cincinnati, and have more recently extended their settlements to several buildings in the west part of the latter city. During the present summer they have built their nests on a barn in the north part of Columbiana county. [1864 becoming common.]

55. *Hirundo bicolor* Viell. {Tree swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*}. White-bellied Swallow.

56. *Hirundo riparia* Lin. {Bank swallow *Riparia riparia*} Sand Swallow.

[*** *Hirundo serripennis* Aud. {Northern rough-winged swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*} Rough-winged swallow. A few seen every summer at the mouth of Rocky River.]

57. *Muscicapa tyrannus* Briss. {Eastern kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*} King-bird.

58. *Muscicapa crinita* Lin. {Great crested flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*} Crested Fly-catcher.

59. *Muscicapa fusca* Gmel. {Eastern phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*} Phoebe.

60. *Muscicapa virens* Lin. {Eastern wood-pewee *Contopus virens*} Wood Pewee.

61. *Muscicapa acadica* Gmel. {Acadian flycatcher *Empidonax virens*}. Small Fly-catcher

62. *Muscicapa ruticilla* Lin. {American redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*} Red-start.

63. *Icteria viridis* Bonap. {Yellow-breasted chat *Icteria virens*} Yellow-breasted Chat.

64. *Vireo flavifrons* Viell. {Yellow-throated vireo *Vireo flavifrons*} Yellow-throated Fly-catcher.

65. *Vireo noveboracensis* Bonap. {White-eyed vireo *Vireo griseus*} White-eyed Vireo.

66. *Vireo gilvus* Bonap. {Warbling vireo *Vireo gilvus*} The warbling vireo, from its small size and retiring habits, escapes the observation of most people, yet it is one of the sweetest of the feathered songsters. Contrary to the usual custom of these birds, a pair once took up their summer residence in an apple tree a few rods from my house, where they nested and reared their young. The male would place himself on the topmost bough of the tree, and from the earliest dawn till the close of day, would pour forth a continued strain of the most melting notes.

67. *Vireo olivaceus* Bonap. {Red-eyed vireo *Vireo olivaceus*} Red-eyed Vireo.

68. *Lanius septentrionalis* Gmel. {Northern shrike *Lanius excubitor*} The butcher bird During the long continuance of the cold in the northern part of our State, this depredator is an occasional visitor, much to the annoyance of the smaller species of birds, which it destroys out of mere wantonness, and leaves their bodies hanging upon the boughs of trees. [Common in winter.]

69. *Turdus polyglottus* Lin. {Northern mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*} The mocking bird frequently visits the Miami valley, but is never seen in the northern counties of the State.

70. *Turdus felivox* Viell. {Gray catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*} Cat-bird.

71. *Turdus migratorius* Lin. {American robin *Turdus migratorius*} Robin.

72. *Turdus rufus* Lin. {Brown thrasher *Toxostoma rufum*} Brown thrush.

73. *Turdus mustelinus* Gmel. {Wood thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*} Wood Thrush.

74. *Turdus minor* Gmel. {Hermit thrush *Catharus guttatus*} Hermit Thrush.

75. *Turdus wilsonii* Bonap. {Veery *Catharus fuscescens*} Wilson's Thrush.

76. *Sylvia aurocapilla* Bonap. {Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus*} Golden crowned Thrush.

77. *Sylvia coronata* Latham. {Yellow-rumped warbler *Dendroica coronata*} The yellow-rump warbler. I have watched with much care for several years the numerous family of small birds comprised in the genus *Sylvia*, and am happy to be able, by my own observations, to lay before the public so complete a list of its species. Not one

is admitted on doubtful authority. I have prepared specimens of all that are enumerated.

A majority of them remain with us only a few days during spring, on their way to the north, where they rear their young. On their return in autumn they do not often stop. A few species, however, spend the summer in this State and retire to the south early in autumn. The yellow-rumped warbler is of the former character. It is one of the most numerous in the spring, but soon disappears.

78. *Sylvia maculosa* Latham. {Magnolia warbler *Dendroica magnolia*} The black and yellow warbler is very rare; it is sometimes seen in company with the preceding species. It soon retires to the north. [Very common at Cleveland.]

79. *Sylvia maratima* {sic} Wilson. {Cape May warbler *Dendroica tigrina*} The Cape May warbler, Nuttall {sic} says, has "only been seen near the swamps of Cape May, in New Jersey, and near Philadelphia." I have succeeded in securing three specimens. Its habits are similar to those of the other transitory warblers. I discovered it picking insects from the cherry blossoms.

80. *Sylvia pardalina* Bonap. {Canada warbler *Wilsonia canadensis*} The Canada flycatcher was rather common about a cranberry marsh in Trumbull county, during most of the month of May of the present year.

81. *Sylvia virens* Lath. {Black-throated green warbler *Dendroica virens*} The black-throated green warbler is a rare visitor during a few days each spring. It may generally be discovered searching for insects at the opening buds of the sugar trees.

82. *Sylvia Blackburniæ* Lath. {Blackburnian warbler *Dendroica fusca*} The Blackburnian warbler. Few of this family equal this bird in the beauty of its plumage. Its stay with us is short, but it often appears in considerable numbers.

83. *Sylvia Nove Boracensis* Lath. {Waterthrush sp *Seiurus* sp⁴} The water thrush appears about our small streams early in the spring, and a few continue during the whole of the summer, though most of this species pass on to the north.

84. *Sylvia icterocephala* Lath. {Chestnut-sided warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*} The chestnut-sided warbler which Audubon met with only in one instance, was rather common in Trumbull county during the last spring. I am inclined to believe it nested in our cranberry marshes, as I saw it on the first of June busily engaged in catching small insects and warbling its mild and soft notes.

85. *Sylvia castanea* Wil. {Bay-breasted warbler *Dendroica castanea*} The bay-breasted warbler. This is esteemed one of the rarest of the Sylvias. I have however succeeded in taking great numbers during their short visits. They are generally found among the highest limits of our forest trees, early in May.

86. *Sylvia striata* Lath. {Blackpoll warbler *Dendroica striata*} The black-poll warbler is rather common about the orchards while the apple trees are in flower. It however remains but a few days.

[*** *Sylvicola pinus*, Jard. {Pine warbler *Dendroica pinus*} Pine warbler. Common in Oct 1843 near Cleveland.]

87. *Sylvia varia*. {Black-and-white warbler *Mniotilta varia*} The black and white creeper spends the summer with us, and is common.

⁴ Little notice was taken at the time of the difference between northern and Louisiana waterthrushes, and it seems best to regard this as waterthrush sp.

88. *Sylvia æstiva* Lath. {Yellow warbler *Dendroica petechia*} The yellow warbler is another summer resident. It may often be seen weaving its thready nest on the extreme limbs of fruit trees.

89. *Sylvia Americana* Lath. {Northern parula *Parula americana*} The delicate, parti-colored warbler, in some instances, spends the summer with us. I have repeatedly seen them feeding their young in the month of July.

90. *Sylvia Canadensis* Lath. {Black-throated blue warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*} The black-throated blue warbler. This comely looking *Sylvia* is tolerably plenty for a few days in the spring. Its common resort at that time, is the retired forest, particularly the shadowy evergreens.

91. *Sylvia agilis* Wil. {Connecticut warbler *Oporornis agilis*} I have taken only a solitary specimen of the Connecticut warbler, and am not familiar with its habits.

92. *Sylvia trichas* Lath. {Common yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*} The Maryland yellow-throat breeds in bushy marshes, and its notes are to be heard almost incessantly, in such situations, during the summer.

93. *Sylvia azurea* Stephens. {Cerulean warbler *Dendroica cerulea*} The cœrulean warbler must be rare, as I have never met with it except in one instance.

94. *Sylvia cœrulea* Lath. {Blue-gray gnatcatcher *Polioptila cœrulea*} Blue-gray Fly-catcher.

95. *Sylvia Wilsonii* Bonap. {Wilson's warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*} The black-capt warbler. This bird, which Audubon has classed with the muscicapa or fly-catchers, partakes more of the *Sylvias*. I have therefore adopted Bonaparte's arrangement of it. It was common, during the last spring, about the cranberry marshes, where it continued till the middle of May.

96. *Sylvia vermivora* Lath. {Worm-eating warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus*} The worm-eating warbler. This species may be seen, during the spring, engaged in seeking food in wet marshes and on the borders of small streams.

97. *Sylvia solitaria* Lath. {Blue-winged warbler *Vermivora pinus*} The blue-winged yellow warbler. I have obtained only one specimen of this delicate warbler, and remain ignorant of its habits. [May 11th 1843. Killed one, in north woods.]

98. *Sylvia petechia* Lath. {Palm warbler *Dendroica palmarum*} Yellow-red-poll Warbler

99. *Sylvia chrysoptera* Lath. {Golden-winged warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*} The golden-winged warbler is one of the most delicate and showy of the genus, as well as among the most rare. I captured a few in May last, on the verge of a cranberry marsh. It is only a transitory visitor in Ohio.

100. *Sylvia peregrina* Wil. {Tennessee warbler *Vermivora peregrina*} The plain Tennessee warbler was common for two or three days in our orchards while in bloom during the last spring, but its visit was not prolonged beyond that time.

101. *Sylvia rubracapilla* {sic} Wil. {Nashville warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla*} I took a solitary specimen of the Nashville warbler in my garden during the last spring, the only one I have ever seen. It was engaged, like most of the members of this family, in catching insects.

[*** *Vermivora celata*, Jard. {Orange-crowned warbler *Vermivora celata*} Orange-crowned vermivora. Taken by Mr. Winslow at Cleveland, autumn of 1841.]

102. *Saxicola sialis* Bonap. {Eastern bluebird *Sialia sialis*} Blue Bird.

103. *Anthus spinoletta* Bonap. {American pipit *Anthus rubescens*} Though the brown lark is probably abundant, at times, in Ohio, I have taken only one specimen. It stops with us while on its way to the north, and on its return.

104. *Regulus calendula* Step. {Ruby-crowned kinglet *Regulus calendula*} Ruby-crowned Wren. I have repeatedly taken this and the two succeeding species of wrens, but I consider it questionable whether they are more than varieties. If they be specifically distinct, there is still another species not described, in which the crown is destitute of the colored feathers. I have taken several with this plain character.

105. *Regulus cristatus* Viell. {Golden-crowned kinglet *Regulus satrapa*} Golden-crested Wren.⁵

106. *Regulus tricolor* Nuttall {sic}. {Golden-crowned kinglet *Regulus satrapa*} Three-colored Wren.

107. *Troglodytes Ludovicianus* Bonap. {Carolina wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*} The great Carolina wren was common at Cincinnati during the last winter. I have not seen it north of that city.

108. *Troglodytes palustris* Bonap. {Marsh wren *Cistothorus palustris*} Marsh Wren.

109. *Troglodytes Europæus* Leach. {Winter wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*} Winter Wren.

110. *Certhia familiaris* Lin. {Brown creeper *Certhia americana*} Brown Creeper

111. *Sitta Carolinensis* Briss. {White-breasted nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*} White-breasted blk. capt Nuthatch.

112. *Sitta Canadensis* Lin. {Red-breasted nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*} Red-bellied Nuthatch.

113. *Sitta pusilla* Lath. {Brown-headed nuthatch *Sitta pusilla*} The brown headed nuthatch. I once killed a specimen⁶ in the northern part of Ohio, though it is usually not seen north of Virginia.

114. *Trochilus colubris* Lin. {Ruby-throated hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*} Humming Bird.

115. *Parus bicolor* Lin. {Tufted titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*} Tom-Tit.

116. *Parus atricapillus* Lin. {Black-capped chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*} Black-capt Titmouse.

117. *Alauda alpestris* Lin. {Horned lark *Eremophila alpestris*} The shore lark is frequently seen late in autumn on the shore of Lake Erie, in the vicinity of Cleveland, and in once instance I met with it in Trumbull county during winter.

118. *Emberiza nivalis* Lin. {Snow bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*} The snow bunting visits us only during the most intense cold weather, when it is compelled to leave its northern haunts in search of food. It may then be seen gathering scattered seeds by the road side or about our barns and gardens. A late voyager gives an account of his having examined a burial crib containing the body of a dead infant,

⁵ This and the following are recognized today as the female and the male, respectively, of the golden-crowned kinglet.

⁶ This specimen has not been located. Wheaton (1882), Dawson (1903), and Jones (1903) accept the report; Peterjohn et al. (1987) do not, saying it is "without sufficient details" (p. 31). The species was added to the official state list in 2002 based on one seen by many observers in Geauga Co. Nov 2001-Jan 2002. Barrows (1912), in discussing a Michigan report, cites this Ohio report in support, but also mentions confusable plumages of *S. canadensis*.

deposited according to the customs of some of the northern Indians. A white snow bird had constructed her nest on the neck of the corpse, and was quietly sitting on her eggs. No one who has read that account can see this delicate looking bird shivering in our winter blasts, without bringing the impressive incident to mind. [Saw one at Rockport Oct 27th 1845.]

119. *Tanagra rubra* Lin. {Scarlet tanager *Piranga olivacea*} Scarlet Tanager.

120. *Tanagra aestiva* Gmel. {Summer tanager *Piranga rubra*} The summer red bird is occasionally seen in the southern parts of Ohio, and I have in one instance met with it as far north as Trumbull county.

121. *Fringilla cyanea* Wil. {Indigo bunting *Passerina cyanea*} The indigo bird is a summer resident in all parts of the State, and enlivens our gardens by its constant chatterings.

122. *Fringilla Americana* Bonap. {Dickcissel *Spiza americana*} The black-throated bunting. My authority for admitting this species into our catalogue is perhaps not sufficient. I however believe it to be an occasional visitor of this State.

123. *Fringilla leucophrys* Tem. {White-crowned sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*} and *F. Pennsylvanica* so closely resemble each other, that they are often considered the same species. By a little attention they can be distinguished from each other. They are both common for a few days in the spring, but neither remain during summer.

124. *Fringilla Pennsylvanica* Lath. {White-throated sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*} White-throated Sparrow.

125. *Fringilla graminea* Gmel. {Vesper sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus*} Bay-winged Bunting.

126. *Fringilla melodia* Wil. {Song sparrow *Melospiza melodia*} Song Sparrow.

127. *Fringilla hyemalis* Lin. {Dark-eyed junco *Junco hyemalis*} Snow Bird. The lead-colored snow bird which is seen in such numbers during the winter, does not forsake the State entirely during summer. It breeds in great numbers in the dark beech woods of the Connecticut Western Reserve, and with the approach of cold weather gathers about yards and gardens.

128. *Fringilla passerina* Wil. {Grasshopper sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*} Yellow-shouldered Finch.

129. *Fringilla Canadensis*. Lath. {American tree sparrow *Spizella arborea*} Tree Sparrow.

130. *Fringilla socialis* Wil. {Chipping sparrow *Spizella passerina*} Chipping Sparrow.

131. *Fringilla pusilla* Wil. {Field sparrow *Spizella pusilla*} Field Sparrow.

132. *Fringilla palustris* Wil. {Swamp sparrow *Melospiza georgiana*} Swamp Sparrow.

133. *Fringilla tristis* Lin. {American goldfinch *Carduelis tristis*}. Yellow bird.

134. *Fringilla linaria* Lin. {Common redpoll *Carduelis flammea*} The lesser red poll. Two winters since a large flock of this very rare bird continued in my garden and the adjacent fields for nearly three months, and finally disappeared at the approach of mild weather. I have never met with the species at any other time. Some of the males were as richly tinged with carmine, as the most showy of the purple finches.

135. *Fringilla iliaca* Merrem. {Fox sparrow *Passerella iliaca*} Fox-colored Sparrow.

136. *Fringilla erythrophthalma* {sic} Lin. {Eastern towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*} Towhe Bunting.

137. *Fringilla cardinalis* Bonap. {Northern cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*} The cardinal gross-beak. This handsome bird was hardly known on the Western Reserve until within the last three or four years. It has now become common and is a winter resident there.

[*** *Coccothraustes vespertinus* Cooper. {Evening grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus*} Evening grosbeak. 1 killed at Rockport by C. Pease jr., in March. Is now in my collection 1864. I saw a flock there.]

138. *Fringilla Ludoviciana* Bonap. {Rose-breasted grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*} The rose-breasted gross-beak is not only a showy and splendid bird, but one of the most animated songsters. During the spring and early summer months, the vicinities of the cranberry marshes are constantly serenaded by it. We have no bird that sings with so much hilarity. Its notes are not as various as those of the mocking bird, but far surpass them in animation. It sings at all hours of the night as well as during the day. If it were a native of Europe, I am confident its reputation would stand much higher than the nightingale, as it combines so much beauty of plumage with its musical talents.

In the south part of Ohio it is rarely seen, but is a common bird on the shores of Lake Erie and in the adjoining counties.

139. *Fringilla purpurea* Gmel. {Purple finch *Carpodacus purpureus*} The purple finch. I presume this high-colored finch must occasionally breed in Ohio, as I saw several at Kinsman on the last of June of the present year. [Breeds at Kinsman O. Occasionally visits Rockport in winter and spring.]

[*** *Corythus enucleator*, Bonap. {Pine grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*} Pine Finch. Several were killed in Feb 1843 in the vicinity of Cleveland. A few since.]

140. *Loxia curvirostra* Lin. {Red crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*} Common Crossbill. I have not succeeded in obtaining a specimen of the cross-bill, but I believe it is sometimes seen in the county of Ashtabula. [1864 Jany. C. Pease killed a male, apparently mated with a female, with a white-winged female (vid specimens).]

[*** *Loxia leucoptera* Gmel. {White-winged crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*} White-winged crossbill. Saw a male at Rocky River. C. Pease killed a female Jany 1864.]

141. *Columba Carolinensis* Lin. {Mourning dove *Zenaida macroura*} Mourning Dove.

142. *Columba migratoria* Lin. {Passenger pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius*} Passenger Pigeon.

143. *Meleagris gallopavo* Lin. {Wild turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*} Wild Turkey. [A few remaining at Rockport. For sale daily in Cleveland.]

144. *Perdix virginiana* Lath. {Northern bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*} Quail or Partridge {sic}. [Rare at Rockport for several years. Common again 1863.]

145. *Tetrao umbellus* Lin. {Ruffed grouse *Bonasa umbellus*} Ruffed Grouse. [A few left in 1864.]

146. *Tetrao cupido* Lin. {Greater prairie-chicken *Tympanuchus cupido*} Prairie-Hen {sic}. The prairie hen is found in considerable numbers in the northwestern parts of our State. [A few about Sandusky Bay in 1847.]

147. *Tetrao Canadensis* Lin. {Spruce grouse *Falciennis canadensis*} Spotted Grouse. I have been informed that a bird⁷ answering the description of the Canada grouse {sic} has been killed on the shores of Lake Erie, but have not been able to obtain a specimen, or even any very authentic account of it.

[*** *Charadrius arenaria* Illiger. {Sanderling *Calidris alba*} Sanderling plover. Very common at Cleveland Sept 1829. Also is occasionally seen flocks upon the sand-beach in the spring.]

148. *Charadrius semi-palmatus* Bonap. {Semipalmated plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*} The ringed plover is occasionally seen in the vicinity of Lake Erie and sometimes in the interior of the State. [Common at Cleveland early in Sept 1839.—Still more common in 1840, both in the spring, and fall.]

149. *Charadrius vociferus* Lin. {Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*} Killdeer.

150. *Charadrius pluvialis* Lin. {American golden-plover *Pluvialis dominica*} The golden plover frequently visits us both in its northern and southern migrations. [Common at Cleveland Sept 1839. On the 10th of Sept 1840 immense flocks passed over the City, going to the South. A few visited the beach for several days afterwards.]

[*** *Charadrius melodus* Ord. {Piping plover *Charadrius melodus*} Piping ringed plover. Killed one on the beach at Cleved. Sept 17th 1839.—also another in the spring of 1840. Very rare.]

151. *Charadrius helveticus* Bonap. {Black-bellied plover *Pluvialis squatarola*} Black-bellied Plover. This bird is called the black-bellied killdeer, and is sometimes seen in company with the common species. [Killed one at Cleveland Sept 17th 1839 in company with some Golden Plovers. Distinguished by its general form and 4th toe. Visited Cleveland 10 Sept 1840 in considerable numbers, with the Golden Plover.]

152. *Streptilas interpres* Ill. {Ruddy turnstone *Arenaria interpres*} Turnstone. Dr. Sager informs me that the turnstone visits the shores of Lake Erie, and I once saw a specimen taken at the west, but I believe not in the limits of Ohio. [Very common at Cleveland Sept 1839. Occasionally seen in Sept 1840.]

153. *Grus Americana* Tem. {Sandhill crane *Grus canadensis*} Hooping or Sandhill Crane. The sand-hill or whooping crane, the adjutant bird, occasionally visits Ohio. Dr. Ward informs me that two were killed near Roscoe, in Coshocton county in 1837, and the Hon. Calvin Pease also informs me that he once saw a flock of them in Fairfield county in this State⁸.

154. *Ardea Herodias* Lin. {Great blue heron *Ardea herodias*} Great Heron. [Common. Nests in Boardman on the Yellow Creek. Plumage varies with age and season.]

155. *Ardea egretta* Gmel. {Great egret *Ardea alba*} or great white heron, has been repeatedly taken in Ohio. Dr. Ward has seen it in the vicinity of Chillicothe, and Dr.

⁷ Wheaton (1882) mentions this report, only to discount it (p. 445).

⁸ Ornithologists of the time, including Audubon, routinely regarded immature and adult forms of cranes as separate species. Most likely Kirtland speaks here of the sandhill crane *Grus canadensis*.

Hildreth has furnished me with a specimen taken near Marietta. [One was killed in Marietta in 1838 and the skin sent to me by Dr. Hildreth.]

[*** *Ardea candidissima* Wils. {Snowy egret *Egretta thula*} Snowy Heron. One was killed at Montgomery {Montgomery's?—Christy's gloss}].

156. *Ardea discors* Wil. {Black-crowned night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*} The night heron. Dr. Ward informs me that a fine specimen was taken on the Scioto a few years since.

157. *Ardea minor* Wil. {American bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*} American Bittern. The brown bittern seems not to be well known at the west; I have, however, specimens of both the old and young, and conclude it breeds on the lake shore, as I saw a number of the half grown young in a marsh at the mouth of the Cuyahoga river on the 1st of July of the present year.

158. *Ardea virescens* Lin. {Green heron *Butorides virescens*} Green Heron.

159. *Ardea exilis* Wil. Least Bittern. [Common at Cleveland. Breeds in the marsh in Ohio City.]

160. *Numenius longirostris* Wil. {Long-billed curlew *Numenius americanus*} The long-billed curlew is an occasional visitor. [A flock visited Cleveland in August 1840.]

161. *Numenius Hudsonicus* Lath. {Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*} Esquimaux curlew.⁹ A specimen of the Esquimaux {sic} curlew, taken in the vicinity of Cincinnati, is contained in Dorfeuille's {sic} museum. I have one in my own collection presented me by Mr. Hayden from Cleveland. [Mr. Hayden furnished me with a specimen killed at Cleveland in the spring of 1838.]

162. *Tringa semipalmata* Wil. {Semipalmated sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*} Semipalmated Sand-piper.

[*** *Pisobia fuscicollis* {sic} {White-rumped sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*} [I have one specimen from Boardman and a second killed in Ohio City.]

163. *Tringa Schinzii* Brehm. {Dunlin *Calidris alpina*} Schinz's Sand-piper.¹⁰ I succeeded in taking two specimens of this rare sand piper in Poland, in September, 1837.

[*** *Tringa subarquata* Temm. {Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*} Cape Curlew. I killed a solitary specimen near Vinton's Distillery, in Ohio City in the fall of 1839. It was in company with Dunlin's.]

164. *Tringa rufescens* Viell. {Buff-breasted sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*} Buff-breasted Sand-piper. [Killed 3 or 4 at Cleveland Sept 1829. A flock was also seen in Sept 1840 in Ohio City.]

165. *Tringa Wilsonii* Nutt. {Least sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*} Wilson's Sand-piper.

166. *Tringa semi-palmatus* Tem. {Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*} Audubon considers the willet as exclusively confined to the sea coast, notwithstanding Say

⁹ Wheaton presumes the whimbrel is meant here. Audubon (1840-44) stated in his account for "Hudsonian Curlew" that it had "until a few years ago always been confounded with Esquimaux Curlew." *N. hudsonicus* he reserved for the former, at the time considered distinct from the European whimbrel *N. phaeopus*. Nuttall, Kirtland's customary source, called *N. hudsonicus* the Esquimaux Curlew.

¹⁰ The dunlin was treated in 1838 as a species separate from the common "red-backed sandpiper." Currently races of *C. alpina* include *hudsonia* and *pacifica* in the New World, and *schinzii*, among others, in the Old. See the 1841 text below, where Kirtland notes "large flocks" only two years later.

saw it in Missouri. On the first day of July of the present year, a flock of more than twenty were seen at Cleveland on the shore of Lake Erie, and continued their visits for several subsequent days. I succeeded in taking one, and have no hesitation in classing it among our Ohio birds. [Not uncommon at Cleveland in the spring, and the young appear here as early as the 3d of July (1840).]

167. *Totanus melanoleucus* Viell. {Greater yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*} Great Yellow-shanks.

168. *Totanus flavipes* Viell. {Lesser yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*} Lesser Yellow-shanks.

169. *Totanus Bartramius* Tem. {Upland sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*} Bartram's tattler. I am informed by Dr. Ward that it is sometimes seen in the Scioto valley.

170. *Totanus chlorypygius* Viell. {Solitary sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*} Solitary Tattler. [Common. Breeds in Trumbull Co.]¹¹

171. *Totanus macularius* Tem. {Spotted sandpiper *Actitis macularia*} Spotted Sand-piper.

172. *Limosa fedoa* Viell. {Marbled godwit *Limosa fedoa*} A fine specimen of the marbled godwit was shot at Youngstown in 1837, which I have prepared in my cabinet. This is the only one I have met with in Ohio.

173. *Limosa Hudsonica* Swain. {Hudsonian godwit *Limosa haemastica*} Specimens of the Hudson godwit have been taken near Cincinnati, and one is now in the possession of Mr. Dorfeuille.

174. *Scolopax grisea* Gmel. {Short-billed dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*} Red-breasted snipe. [In Sept 1840 a large flock were seen by me in Cleveland. I shot 5 out of seven.]

175. *Scolopax Wilsonii* Tem. {Wilson's snipe *Gallinago delicata*} Snipe.

176. *Scolopax minor* Gmel. {American woodcock *Scolopax minor*} Woodcock.

177. *Rallus Virginianus* Lin. {Virginia rail *Rallus limicola*} Virginia Rail. This species of rail breeds in our marshes.

178. *Rallus Carolinus* Lin. {Sora *Porzana carolina*} Carolina Rail. One was taken near Fairport, in the county of Geauga, during the spring of 1837.

179. *Rallus nove boracensis* Bonap. {Yellow rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis*} The yellow-breasted rail, Mr. Robert Buchanan informs me, has been occasionally seen in the vicinity of Cincinnati.

180. *Gallinula chloropus* Lath. {Common moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*} The gallinule, though considered a southern bird, sometimes extends its visits as far north as Trumbull county, in Ohio. One was taken during the last spring at Warren, and is so nearly domesticated that it associated with the poultry in a barn yard. Dr. Ward informs me that it has been taken in Coshocton county, and Dr. Sager that it visits Michigan.

[*** *Fulica americana*, Gmel. {American coot *Fulica americana*} Cinereous coot. Common, probably breeds in the marsh in Ohio City.]

[*** *Phalaropus hyperboreus* Lath. {Red-necked phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*} Hyperborean phalarope. Homer Blake killed one on the Lake near the pier in 1839.

¹¹ Not now considered an Ohio breeder, though its late departures and early arrivals, both during June, persuaded ornithologists of Kirtland's day that it nested here.

On the 12th Sept 1840 I shot one on the south end of Vinton's Distillery in Ohio city. Both were young birds.]

181. *Phalaropus Wilsonii* Sabine. {Wilson's phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*} Wilson's phalarope. I once met with a flock of this rare bird on Mill creek, in the township of Boardman, in Trumbull county.

182. *Recurvirostra Americana* Lin. {American avocet *Recurvirostra americana*} The avocet. This unique bird has been killed by sportsmen in the vicinity of Cincinnati.

183. *Sterna aranea* Wil. {Gull-billed tern *Sterna nilotica*}¹² Marsh Tern. I am indebted principally to Audubon and Nuttall {sic} for my authority in classing this and the other species of Teras {sic} and gulls among our Ohio birds. Further investigation will probably add some other species of these genera to our list. [I killed one at Cleveland on the 8th Sept 1840.]

184. *Sterna hirundo* Lin. {Common tern *Sterna hirundo*} Great Tern.

185. *Sterna nigra* Lin. {Black tern *Chlidonias niger*} Black Tern.

186. *Sterna arctica* Temm. {Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*} Arctic Tern. [Killed two at Cleveland in the spring of 1840.]

187. *Sterna Dougallii* Montfort. {Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii*} Roseate Tern.

188. *Larus capistriatus* {sic} Temm. {Bonaparte's gull *Larus philadelphia*} Brown masked Gull.

189. *Larus atricilla* Lin. {Laughing gull *Larus atricilla*} Black-headed Gull. [Occasionally seen. Two killed at Poland.]

190. *Larus argentatus* Brunrick. {Herring gull *Larus argentatus*} Herring Gull.

191. *Larus marinus* Lin. {great black-backed gull *Larus maritima*} Black-backed Gull.

192. *Larus zonorhynchus* Swain. {Ring-billed gull *Larus delawarensis*} Ring-billed Mew Gull.

[*** *Lestris parasitica* Temm. {Parasitic jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*} Arctic jaeger. A specimen of Richardson's Jaeger was taken by Williams & Wright, attacking Wright's hens at Rockport. Oct 25th 1857. It was a young bird.]

194. *Anser hyperboreus* Pallas. {Snow goose *Chen caerulescens*} Snow-goose. The snow goose occasionally visits the shores of Lake Erie in its migrations. [One was killed at Sandusky—in possession of Mr. Case.]

195. *Anser albifrons* Bechst. {Greater white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*} The white-fronted goose I insert on the implied authority of Audubon.

196. *Anser Canadensis* Viell. {Canada goose *Branta canadensis*} Canada Goose. I learn from Dr. Ward that the wild goose frequently spends the winter in the Scioto valley, and becomes so tame as to visit the corn fields in pursuit of food.

197. *Anser bernicla* Bonap. {Brant *Branta bernicla*} The Brant goose is not unfrequently seen passing over us in the spring of the year, and it is frequently seen on the lake shore during a few days in the spring.

¹² Kirtland admitted to personal difficulties in distinguishing among the Laridae (Christy 1936, p. 86). Based on this admission, and what we know of the distribution of certain species, his inclusion of gull-billed, Arctic, and roseate terns in his catalog deserves skepticism. Wheaton (1882) omits all three, as well as the jaeger.

198. *Anas clypeata* Lin. {Northern shoveler *Anas clypeata*} The shoveler duck receives its name from the form of its bill. It occasionally stops for a few days in our waters during spring, while on its way to the remote northern regions.

199. *Anas strepera* Lin. {Gadwall *Anas strepera*} The Gadwell is one of the rarest of the migratory ducks that visits this State. It is sometimes seen about the small lakes in the northern parts of Ohio. [I killed two at Cleveland in 1839.]

200. *Anas acuta* Lin. {Northern pintail *Anas acuta*} The Pintail is an equally rare and still more shy species that sometimes visits our streams and lakes.

201. *Anas boschas* Lin. {Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*} This beautiful species is the stock from whence was derived our domesticated variety of ducks. It is known as the mallard or green-head. In its native condition it is one of the wildest of the duck family, and its powers of vision are more acute than in any bird with which I am acquainted. It sometimes remains in this State during the whole year.

202. *Anas Americana* Gmel. {American widgeon *Anas americana*} The American Widgeon is an elegant bird, and one of the species that should be domesticated, to enlarge our stock of poultry. It visits our streams in considerable numbers on its way to the north.

203. *Anas obscura* Gmel. {American black duck *Anas rupripes*} The dusky or black duck is one of the largest of this family of water birds. Its flesh is delicate and much esteemed for eating. I have no doubt it might be profitably domesticated. It is frequently seen in this State both in spring and autumn.

204. *Anas sponsa* Lin. {Wood duck *Aix sponsa*} The bride, summer or wood duck, is a resident in every part of the State during most of the year. The male exceeds in delicacy, brilliancy and beauty of plumage, any other Ohio bird. This species is naturally tame and is easily domesticated. Its flesh is esteemed for food.

205. *Anas discors* Lin. {Blue-winged teal *Anas discors*} The blue-winged teal sometimes visits our streams in great numbers. Its flesh is excellent for the table, but its size is too small to make it of much importance.

206. *Anas crecca* Lin. {Green-winged teal *Anas crecca*} The American or green-winged teal is much more rare than the blue-winged. It is equally esteemed as an eatable bird.

207. *Fuligula rubida* Bonap. {Ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*} The ruddy duck is only an occasional visitor of this State. I have seen only too {sic} specimens of it. The flesh is said to be highly valued for the table.

208. *Fuligula vallisneria* Steph. {Canvasback *Aythya valisineria*} Canvassed-backed Duck. The noted canvass-back duck has been seen in a few instances in this State, about the lakes and streams in which the wild rice abounds. I know no reason why it might not be advantageously domesticated.

209. *Fuligula ferina* Steph. {Redhead *Aythya americana*} Red-headed Duck. The pochard, or red-head, is so nearly allied in color to the canvass-back that they are often mistaken, one for the other. It is a more frequent visitor of our borders, and is highly valued for the table.

210. *Fuligula marilla* Steph. {Scaup sp *Aythya marila/affinis*} The blue-bill¹³ is often seen in the spring and autumn, and is the most tame of any of this family. Its

¹³ As ornithologists of the day did not routinely distinguish between greater and less scaups, it seems wise to regard this entry as scaup sp.

flesh is not very palatable, but would, without doubt, improve, if reared among our domestic poultry.

211. *Fuligula rufitorques* Bonap. {Ring-necked duck *Aythya collaris*} Ring-necked Duck. The ring-neck is a visitor early in the spring. Its flesh is hardly eatable.

212. *Fuligula clangula* Bonap. {Common goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*} Golden-eyed Duck. The golden-eye is an extremely rare species.

213. *Fuligula albeola* Bonap. {Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*} Butter-ball. This harmless and neat little species is very abundant during the fall and spring, and though of no value for eating, is killed in great numbers by boys and idle gunners merely because it can be easily approached.

214. *Mergus merganser* Lin. {Common merganser *Mergus merganser*} The goosander is the largest of the duck family that visits our waters. It frequently remains even in the southern parts of the State during the whole of winter, and I believe occasionally breeds there, as I once observed an old one with her young on the shore of Lake Erie in the month of January 1810. There is so great a difference in the appearance of the male and female, that they are often taken for different species.

215. *Mergus cucullatus* Lin. {Hooded merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*} The hooded merganser is one of the earliest visitors that approaches us from the south with the first appearance of spring. Its plumage is showy and handsome.

216. *Mergus serrator* Lin. {Red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*} Red-breasted merganser. This species of merganser is more beautiful. It is the last of the migratory species of duck to visit us in spring, and makes but a short tarry. Like the other species of merganser, its flesh is not eatable.

217. *Cygnus musicus* Besch. {Tundra swan *Cygnus columbianus*} Swan.¹⁴ The swan is not unfrequently seen both on the Ohio and the shores of Lake Erie during spring and fall.

218. *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Lin. {American white pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*} The pelican is an occasional visitor.

219. *Podiceps cristatus* Lath. Crested Grebe.¹⁵ I have seen within our limits all the species of this family enumerated in this catalogue.

220. *Podiceps rubricollis* Lath. {Red-necked grebe *Podiceps grisegena*} Red-necked Grebe. [Occasionally visits our waters.]

221. *Podiceps cornutus* Lath. {Horned grebe *Podiceps auritus*} Horned Grebe. [A large flock visited the Mahoning River in the spring of 1938. I killed several specimens.]

¹⁴ Probably the tundra swan, though trumpeter swans occurred in Ohio as rare migrants at the time.

¹⁵ It is puzzling that Kirtland, and Nuttall and Audubon before him, could have included this Old World species in the American avifauna. Neither Nuttall nor Audubon includes the western/Clark's grebe complex in American lists, yet both offer diagnostic illustrations of *P. cristatus*.

222. *Podiceps carolinensis*. {Pied-billed grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*} Pied Grebe.
 223. *Colymbus glacialis* Lin. {Common loon *Gavia immer*} The loon, or great northern diver, frequently visits our rivers during the spring. It seems to rise with great difficulty when it attempts its flights from the water, but when on land its efforts are entirely unsuccessful. I have known several instances during the last fifteen years when they have been picked up on land a short time after a heavy storm, having probably been driven either from the Ohio river or the lake by the violence of the wind.

II

Am. Journ. Sci. and Arts, XL, 1841, 19-24. Art. II. Fragments of Natural History, by J. P. Kirtland, M.D., Prof. Theo. and Prac. Phys., Medical College of Ohio.

"I write that which I have seen."—LE BAUM

No. II--ORNITHOLOGY

The feathered tribes of our country have been so thoroughly investigated by Wilson, Bonaparte, Nuttall, Audubon, and Townsend, that the young ornithologist can hardly expect to meet with a new species, unless it be some straggler or accidental visitor from other parts of the world. An ample field, is however, furnished him in which he may successfully employ his talents. The habits of some of our most interesting birds are but very imperfectly understood. If we take for instance the Migratory Sylviæ, we can obtain but little more than their names and scientific characters from these authors—and in regard to their habits, less than we have been able to discover by our own observations.

On investigating the subject, it may perhaps be discovered that in some instances, errors have been imbibed and perpetuated by mistaken accidental movement of individual birds under unusual circumstances, for the common habits of the whole species.

The term of life of no one person is of sufficient duration to allow him to complete a full history, even of our American species, from his own researches and observations; such a work must be the production of the joint labor of several ages and many individuals. Many facts remain to be supplied before it can be successfully completed. The opportunities for observing the movements, and obtaining a correct history of the habits and characters of the rare birds, are only occasional and fortuitous, and are as likely to fall in the way of one who knows not how to improve them, as of one who possesses the talent for correct observation that distinguishes the author of the "Birds of America."

It is not to be expected that the public generally will ever turn aside from their usual pursuits to make observations on matters relating to natural science. The energies of some idle gunner may, perhaps, be aroused sufficiently by the appearance of a new or rare bird to induce him to destroy its life; the carcass will be gazed upon with a momentary curiosity and then cast underfoot.

In every community their {sic} are, however, some individuals who have a natural taste for matters of this kind. If they would improve the opportunities as they

occur for making themselves familiar with the rare birds, and would communicate the results of their observation to the public through the medium of some suitable publication, any deficiency in the history of our American birds would soon be supplied. Entertaining this view, I am induced to offer for the pages of the Journal of Science, the following extracts from my notes and memorandums, made during the last three years.

A flock of Bohemian wax-chatterers (*Bombycilla garrula*,) consisting of fifty or sixty individuals, was frequently seen in a marsh at the old mouth of the Cuyahoga river, near the city of Cleveland during the month of March of the present year. They were usually engaged in feeding on the pulps and seeds of the swamp rose, and as they were mistaken by the sportsmen for the common cherry bird (*B. carolinensis*) they were permitted to pursue their occupation without interruption.

I procured a fine specimen which is preserved in my cabinet; another is in the cabinet of Prof. Ackley of this city.

We believe this to be the first instance in which this bird has been taken within the United States, or has been known to visit us in any considerable numbers; though we learn from the appendix to Nuttall's Ornithology, and also from Peabody's Report on the Birds of Massachusetts, that the younger Audubon once pursued an individual of this species in that State.

Nuttall says, "the wax-chatterer, hitherto in America, seen only in the vicinity of the Athabasca river, near the region of the Rocky mountains in the month of March, is of common occurrence {sic} as a passenger throughout the colder regions of the whole northern hemisphere. In spring and late in autumn they visit Northern Asia or Siberia and Eastern Europe in vast numbers, but elsewhere are only uncertain stragglers{".

Their size, markings, and habits readily distinguish them from the cherry or cedar bird. Justice is by no means done to their colors and beauty of form, in the figure given of the species by Bonaparte, in the third volume of his American Ornithology.

An hyperborean phalarope (*Phalaropus hyperboreus*) {red-necked phalarope *P. lobatus*} was shot on Lake Erie, near the pier of Cleveland harbor, last November, by a young man in my employment, while pursuing a wounded gull.

The phalarope was a young bird in winter plumage. It is preserved in my cabinet. Little could be learned of its habits. It was a solitary individual, and when first discovered was resting on the water, where it seemed to be as much at home as any of the gulls with which it was associating.¹⁶

The yellow throated gray warbler (*Sylvia pensilis*) {yellow-throated warbler *Dendroica dominica*} must be considered not a rare annual visitor, even to the northern parts of Ohio, though Mr. Audubon informs his readers that "they confine themselves to the southern States, seldom moving further towards the middle district than North Carolina," and "do not ascend the Mississippi further than the Walnut Hills;" and Mr. Nuttall says, that they "very rarely venture as far north as Pennsylvania." I have in my possession a specimen that I shot on the banks of the Mahoning river, in Trumbull county, on the 5th of May, 1839; and during the last week in April of the present year, I killed three near the Cuyahoga river, three miles from Lake Erie. Early in July I saw an old one feeding her young on the banks of the Mahoning. They were two-thirds of their full size, and were perched on a small bush over the water. A full-grown individual was seen on the first of August on the shore of the Lake within the limits of the city. In every

¹⁶ The date suggests this may have been a red phalarope *P. fulicaria*.

instance in which I have met with them, they seemed to have a strong predilection to the vicinity of water, and were generally engaged in capturing insects.

The *Sylvia rara*¹⁷ {cerulean warbler *Dendroica cerulea*} is common in the woods about the banks of the Cuyahoga, during spring and summer. Its habits are accurately described by Audubon.

The same locality is a favorite resort and breeding place for the purple breasted gross-beak (*Fringilla ludoviciana*) {rose-breasted grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*}.

A flock of unusual birds, which I suppose to be the willow wrens (*Sylvia trochilus*)¹⁸ was discovered in September, 1839, on the shore of the Lake, near this city. They made only a momentary stop, for on firing at one of their number as they were settling down upon a bunch of thistles, the remainder suddenly darted away over the Lake and disappeared. The characters of the specimen taken, agree with the description of the Willow Wren. They are said to be far more common in Europe than in the United States.

The Florida gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) {common moorhen *G. chloropus*} is not described by ornithologists as a western bird. Mr. Audubon says, "none are to be seen in the western country." Bonaparte informs his readers that "in the middle and southern United States it appears to be quite accidental; for, although a few well authenticated instances are known of its having been seen and shot even as far north as Albany, in the State of New York, it has escaped the researches of Wilson, as well as my own."

Mr. Nuttall gives us to understand that "in the middle and northern States, it appears to be quite accidental." Notwithstanding this weight of authority to the contrary, I am disposed to consider this bird as one of our annual visitors, and not as a mere straggler in these parts.

I have the best authority for saying that several pairs reared their young in a marsh not more than a mile from this city, during the last summer, and I know of at least half a dozen specimens that were shot there during the last spring. Broods of the young have been repeatedly seen during the summer.

A mature male and female were recently sent me from Fairport, Geauga county, by the Hon. Ralph Granger, and I am assured by a gentleman that one has been taken alive in the vicinity of Buffalo, in the State of New York. Another was taken at Warren, in Trumbull County, two years since, and became so far domesticated as to run about the barnyard in company with the fowls during the summer, but at the approach of autumn suddenly disappeared.

The late Dr. Ward informed me that he had occasionally met with them in Roscoe, Coshocton County, and Dr. Sager assures me that they visit Michigan. I have repeatedly heard of them in other sections of the western States.

In their habits they are so retiring and secluded that they may escape even the most active and sagacious observer.

The buff-breasted sandpiper (*Tringa rufescens*), which seems to be a rare species in most parts of our country, was seen in the vicinity of this city in three different instances during the last autumn. I secured two specimens, one of which I presented to the New York Lyceum of Natural History; the other is retained in my own collection. This bird was unknown to Wilson and Bonaparte, and also to Mr. Audubon, until he

¹⁷ *S. rara* was the name given to the female cerulean warbler by Wilson, in error.

¹⁸ It is uncertain to what species Kirtland refers here. The willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* of the Old World has never been recorded in the United States.

received a specimen from England. It seems to be extremely shy and wary in its habits, and when watched by a gunner, will skulk behind some little hillock or tufts of grass. The individuals seen by myself were on a sandy flat, not immediately contiguous to water. In one instance Dr. Terry met with it in the public highway near this city.

The dunlin, ox-bird, or purre (*Tringa alpina*), visited us in large flocks during three or four weeks last autumn, and it has again appeared in a few instances the present spring. I have specimens preserved both in the summer and winter plumage.

Mr. Audubon informs his readers that he has never found one far inland.

The Cape May warbler (*Sylvia maritima*) visits the northern parts of Ohio in small numbers every spring. A solitary individual may be seen here and there, busily employed in catching insects about the cherry and apple trees at the time they put forth their blossoms.

According to Mr. Nuttall, it "has only been seen near the swamps of Cape May, in New Jersey, and near Philadelphia."

The chestnut-sided warbler (*Sylvia icterocephala*) is not uncommon with us for a few days in spring, and in one instance I saw a pair in a cranberry marsh in Boardman, Trumbull county, on the first day of June. The male was warbling its soft notes from the top of a young maple, and the female skipping about in the bushes below. I am convinced they were preparing for nesting in that vicinity. Its note is rather loud, but soft and pleasant to the ear. Mr. Audubon seems to have met with it only in one instance.

The bay-breasted warbler (*Sylvia castanea*), is still more common with us in the spring, and in some seasons protracts its visit for two or three weeks. Its favorite resort is the tops of the highest beech trees, at the time the buds are bursting into leaves.

The willet (*Totanus semipalmatus*), Mr. Audubon says, "are very seldom met with far inland," and "I have very little doubt that those seen by Mr. Say on the banks of the Missouri, had accidentally visited that country."

This bird is a common visitor to the shores of Lake Erie, both in the spring and autumn. On the 3d of July, 1838, I shot an old specimen from a flock of more than twenty individuals, that were in the habit of visiting the marsh in Ohio City, at the mouth of the Cuyahoga, for a number of days in succession.

The young birds appeared here on the first of July of the present year, and considerable numbers have been shot by the sportsmen.

A few years since, they remained here during the whole of the summer, and probably reared their young in the neighborhood. They are very abundant about some of the upper lakes.

The marbled godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) occasionally visits the shores of Lake Erie and the Ohio river. The Hon. Mr. Granger has furnished me with a beautiful pair, killed near his residence at Fairport. Several young specimens were shot in this vicinity about the first of August of the present season. They were associating with a flock of long-billed curlews (*Numenius longirostris*).

The Hudson curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) {whimbrel *N. phaeopus*} has been taken in a few instances in Ohio. I have a specimen in my cabinet that alighted in the garden of Mr. A. Hayden, of this city, and was shot by him three years since. Another was taken in the vicinity of Cincinnati.

The piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) I have seen in two instances on the shore of Lake Erie, and have specimens in my cabinet both in their winter and summer plumage.

Mr. Audubon informs his readers that they never proceed any distance inland, even {“} along the sandy margins of our largest rivers.”

CLEVELAND, OHIO, June 4, 1840.

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