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TWELVE HUNDRED MILES OF WINTER BIRDS

CHAS. J. SPIKER

During January of the present year (1930) I had occasion to drive from New Hampton, Iowa, to Canastota, New York, a distance in direct line of perhaps not over a thousand miles, but with the inclusion of side trips and an occasional detour, about two hundred miles was added. I left New Hampton at noon, January 16th, and arrived at Canastota the evening of January 25th. A list of the birds seen enroute was closely kept. Most of those observed were seen from the road as I was driving along, but some were added when I would stop for a day or two to visit with friends and to take an occasional excursion into the fields and woods.

The weather was what might have been expected during January, although there was a great variance in temperature. On the night of January 17th, the mercury reached 26 degrees below zero, while through Indiana and Ohio the registration was about zero, and I finished up in New York with the temperature at almost ten above. There was about a foot of snow on the ground much of the way, but I drove through Indiana and Ohio a few days after a series of heavy rains which had filled streams bank full with water. It was evident that a mild winter had been enjoyed in northern Indiana and Ohio for a few species were found wintering there that ordinarily migrate.

The roughest driving was found about Dubuque, Iowa, Galena, Illinois, and Warsaw, New York, while the most level was found from Chicago across Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania into western New York. Wherever the way was hilly there was considerable timber, and where level, there were almost no trees. As a consequence, the variety of birds found was considerable.

Digressions from continuous driving occurred at Winthrop, Iowa, where I stopped from the evening of the 16th, to the morning of the 19th, at Williamsport, Ohio, where I spent half a day beyond remaining over night, and at Interlaken, New York, where I stopped from the evening of the 23rd to the morning of the 25th. The bird list was affected very little by the second stop, but at Winthrop and at Interlaken a day each was spent in the field,

which resulted in some species being found which would not have been added otherwise. On the 18th, accompanied by a friend, I spent the afternoon at the grounds of the State Hospital at Independence, Iowa, and the 24th was spent along Cayuga Lake, at Taughannock Falls, New York.

The smallest number of individuals was found on the 17th, which was very cold, and I was out of the house but once during the day, to take a walk up to the village of Winthrop. The largest number found was on the 21st, when I drove from Montpelier, Ohio, to Williamsport, Ohio, the way taking me through some hilly portions as well as prairie country, and with the weather sufficiently mild as to bring about some activity among the birds seen along the road.

The total number of species listed for the trip was 34 and I shall itemize them to show how they were distributed, with a summarizing table at the close for the sake of comparison of daily records.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*. Seen along Lake Michigan at Chicago, and at Auburn and Syracuse, New York.

American Merganser *Mergus americanus*. Seen along Lake Michigan at Chicago, and on Cayuga Lake, New York.

Black Duck *Anas rubripes*. Found only at Cayuga Lake.

Quail *Colinus virginianus virginianus*. Three individuals at the State Hospital grounds, Independence, Iowa.

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus torquatus*. Seen commonly in Iowa and New York, but none in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio or Pennsylvania.

Mourning Dove *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*. Five individuals flew across the road in front of me at Brushy Prairie, Indiana on the 20th, and the next day saw three about a barn near Montpelier, Ohio.

Marsh Hawk *Circus hudsonius*. Two in Iowa, and one in Ohio.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter velox*. Saw one perched in the top of a dead tree near Willoughby, Ohio. Stopped and got out of the car to make identification.

American Goshawk *Astur atricapillus atricapillus*. Saw one at Williamsport, Ohio.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo borealis borealis*. A pair near Geneseo, New York.

Rough-legged Hawk *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*. Saw three individuals on the 19th during the drive through Illinois.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*. Two individuals found in a swale on the 18th, on State Hospital grounds, Independence.

Screech Owl *Otus asio asio*. One specimen, red phase, dead in the road near Elbridge, New York.

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus villosus*. Found only when stops were made, viz., Winthrop, Iowa and Interlaken, New York. None seen from the car while driving.

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus medianus*. One or two seen nearly every day while driving.

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. One flew into a tree beside the road just west of South Bend, Indiana.

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Centurus carolinus*. One flew to a pole beside the road at East Dubuque, Illinois.

Prairie Horned Lark *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. Small flocks seen from Iowa to Ohio.

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata cristata*. Not common; seen only from Iowa to Indiana.

Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*. Common on the entire trip.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Seen first near Burlington, Ohio, and common from that point on east.

Bronzed Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*. An individual flew along parallel with the car for a short distance at West Salem, Ohio.

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator leucura*. Found six individuals drinking at a small stream at Trumansburg, New York, on the 24th; four more at Auburn, New York, next day.

English Sparrow *Passer domesticus domesticus*. Very common in towns and cities but less so in rural districts.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*. Flocks seen in Iowa, Indiana, Ohio and New York.

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*. Seen from Iowa to Indiana.

Tree Sparrow *Spizella monticola monticola*. Common along the entire trip wherever brush and trees existed.

Slate-colored Junco *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*. Seen only in Iowa.

Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*. Found in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio; last seen at Williamsport, Ohio.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*. Seen only on digressions, at State Hospital Grounds, Independence, Iowa, and at Taughanock Falls, New York.

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*. One individual only, at State Hospital grounds, Independence, Iowa.

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*. Two individuals seen along the road near Mansfield, Ohio.

Chickadee *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*. Common bird all along the trip.

Robin *Planesticus migratorius migratorius*. A flock of about sixty seen in a park just east of Ripley, New York, along Lake Erie.

Table showing number of each species seen by days, with total number of each seen.

	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	TOTAL
1. Herring Gull					8				2	20	30
2. American Merganser					3				5		8
3. Black Duck									13		13
4. Quail			3								3
5. Ring-necked Pheasant	11		1	3				3		10	28
6. Mourning Dove					5	3					8
7. Marsh Hawk	1			1		1					3
8. Sharp-shinned Hawk							1				1
9. American Goshawk							1				1
10. Red-tailed Hawk								2			2
11. Rough-legged Hawk				3							3
12. Short-eared Owl			2								2
13. Screech Owl										1	1
14. Hairy Woodpecker		4	2						1		7
15. Downy Woodpecker	1		1	1		2	1		2		8
16. Red-headed Woodpecker					1						1
17. Red-bellied Woodpecker				1							1
18. Prairie Horned Lark	15			26		32	6				79
19. Blue Jay			2	4	2						8
20. Crow	22	2	6	77	4	24	1	10	19	550	715
21. Starling						400	14	190	50	100	754
22. Bronzed Grackle							1				1
23. Pine Grosbeak									6	4	10
24. English Sparrow	80	30	25	425	240	500	85	85	160	100	1730
25. Snow Bunting	1			30		20			1	30	82
26. Lapland Longspur			6			50					56
27. Tree Sparrow		6	1	5		40	30		2	15	99
28. Slate-colored Junco	1		2	3							6
29. Cardinal		1	2	3	1	2	2				11
30. White-breasted Nuthatch			3						8		11
31. Red-breasted Nuthatch			1								1
32. Tufted Titmouse							2				2
33. Chickadee	1	6	4	4	1		1		11	1	29
34. Robin								60			60
Totals	133	49	61	586	265	1074	145	350	280	831	3774

NEW HAMPTON, IOWA.