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BIRD RECORDS FROM THE VICINITY OF LAKE  
ST. MARYS, MERCER AND AUGLAIZE  
COUNTIES, OHIO

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Because of the lack of comprehensive studies on the birds of this area, and the scarcity of Ohio records for some of the species observed at the St. Marys area, I am presenting data based on occasional or chance observations which I made during the years 1938 through 1957.

ANNOTATED LIST

One Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata* (Pontoppidan), was recorded. It was killed on one of the ponds at the St. Marys Fish Farm, Auglaize County, on April 9, 1957, in the act of feeding on yearling largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides* (Lacépède).

The Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps grisegena holbollii* Reinhardt, was observed in this area in 1943 and reported by Clark (1944). A second individual was observed each day from April 4 through April 30, 1955, on the Fish Farm.

On May 8, 1956, three White Pelicans, *Pelicanus erythrorhynchos* Gmelin were seen flying across Lake St. Marys. On May 13, 1956, one was found feeding in the largemouth breeder pond in the Fish Farm. All efforts to frighten it away failed and it was killed to prevent loss of the bass. It is in the collection of Mr. Otto Ehrhart, Antwerp, Ohio.

Four Snowy Egrets *Leucophoyx thula thula* (Molina) were found in the Fish and Game Reserve at the southwest corner of Lake St. Marys Mercer County, on September 29, 1941, and one on October 27 of the same year. Another was seen in the same area on April 8, 1956. The birds recorded in 1941 occurred during a large visitation of Common Egrets *Casmerodius albus egretta* (Gmelin).

On November 5, 1955, I was called to the minnow hatchery near the Fish and Game Reserve to see three distinct sizes of Canada Geese of which *Branta canadensis interior* Todd and two *Branta hutchinsii* (Richardson) were distinct. The third size appeared to be *Branta canadensis parvipes*. Twelve *Branta canadensis*

*hutchinsii* (Richardson) were found in the Fish and Game Reserve on October 20, 1956, and one was brought to me on November 11 of that year. It weighed 2 lb and 14 oz.

Two Yellow Rails *Colurnicops noveboracensis* (Gmelin) were seen on the Fish Farm on March 31, 1952. One was captured, given to Mr. Otto Ehrhart, Antwerp, Ohio, and is a part of his collection.

Piping Plovers *Charadrius melodus* Ord were recorded twice, one on May 3, 1943, and one on April 27, 1954. Both were observed on the mud flats of the lake.

Ruddy Turnstones *Arenaria interpres morinella* (Linnaeus) were observed by the author in groups of two to seven on May 15, 1953, September 15, 1954, and June 5 and 15, 1955.

Willetts *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus* (Brewster) were found in spring from May 13 (1952) to June 2 (1952) and in southward flight from August 5 (1955) to November 2 (1953). Usually only single individuals were seen; but four were found on the Fish Farm on September 11, 1953.

Stilt Sandpipers *Micropalama himantopus* (Bonaparte) were recorded in spring on April 3, 1941 (2 birds), one on May 8, 1955, and one on May 23, 1957. This species is rare in spring, but is a regular fall migrant in the area. A specimen, Ohio State University Museum No. 7903 collected by me on September 2, 1949, at the lake, Auglaize County, reveals much of the spring coloration, an unusual condition for this season of the year.

Eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers *Tryngites subruficollis* (Vieillot) were seen on September 3 and two on September 11, 1955. They were found on the hard clay dredge fill along the new stone wall at the east end of the lake.

Two Marbled Godwits *Limosa fedoa* (Linnaeus) were observed on the mud flats behind the stone wall at the east end of the lake on May 27, 1955.

A Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* (Linnaeus), collected by the author on May 26, 1946, at the lake in Auglaize County, is specimen No. 7902 in the Ohio State Museum collection.

The American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* Gmelin was considered by the late F. B. Magill of St. Marys, Ohio, to be an occasional visitor at the area prior to 1900. On October 14, 1954, four were photographed by Messers Harold Wascko and Melville Silvers at the fish farm. Mr. Ken Allen, a game management employee of the Ohio Division of Wildlife saw one at the lake, Mercer County, on September 27, 1961.

Seven Wilson's Phalaropes *Steganopus tricolor* Vieillot have been seen on the fish farm by the author: one on June 9, 1952, one on May 2 and three on May 4, 1954, one on August 21 and one on August 27, 1955.

Five Northern Phalaropes *Lobipes lobatus* (Linnaeus) were found in the fish farm ponds, one on September 21, 1953, one on October 10, 1954, one on August 27 and two on September 11, 1955.

A Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* Linnaeus was found at the fish farm from November 5 through 12, 1952.

On October 23, 1944, a group of 12 Smith's Longspurs *Calcarius pictus* (Swainson) were observed feeding in the barren bottom of a four acre pond on the fish farm. One of the birds was shot, but was so mutilated that the specimen was not retained. Accompanied by Emerson Kemsies, Milton B. Trautman collected a specimen at the fish farm on April 3, 1954, which is now in the University of Cincinnati Museum as No. 5794. This specimen was described by Kemsies (1961) as *Calcarius pictus roweorum*, a new subspecies.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Clark, C. F. 1944. Summer occurrence of Holboell's Grebe. The Wilson Bull. 56(3): 169.  
 Kemsies, E. 1961. Subspeciation in the Smith's longspur, *Calcarius pictus*. Canadian Field-Nat. 75(3): 143-149.