

SOME MIGRATION RECORDS ALONG THE CEDAR
POINT SAND SPIT, ERIE COUNTY, OHIO, 1906.

BY LYNDS JONES.

It has been my good fortune to spend the better part of one day each week from October 15 to November 26, along this stretch of sand beach which separates the extensive marshes east of Sandusky from the free waters of lake Erie. The rich fauna of the marshes on the one side and the distinctively open water fauna of the lake on the other, combined with the distinctly land fauna of the sand spit itself, forms a combination unsuspected for interest and value.

The part of the seven and a half mile sand spit traversed varies from about 4 to over 20 rods in width, and from a low sand bank over which the storm waves wash to considerable dunes and ridges perhaps fifteen feet above the surface of the marsh. The sand supports a thicket growth of bushes which are tangled with wild grape vines in luxuriant fruitage, and many trees of considerable size, mostly willows and cottonwoods. A rank growth of coarse grass fronts the lake out of reach of the waves, and the marsh side of the sand is sharply defined by a rank growth of reeds and swamp vegetation. The surface of the marsh, particularly at its eastern end, is nearly covered with dense vegetation, but here and there open water still remains. There are no dry islands in the marsh. At its western end the marsh merges into the open water of the bay.

My route lay from the town of Huron, at the mouth of Huron river, where the marshes are fast disappearing before the onslaught of the dock and land makers in preparation for a mammoth ore dumping ground or else another huge steel works, westward along the beach some six miles, to a little west of the middle of the sand spit proper. The best feeding ground for gulls and shore birds seemed to be the beach in the immediate vicinity of Huron, where quantities of garbage are washed ashore during northerly winds. More or less extensive fields lie immediately south of the marshes, where geese are wont to spend the early morning hours. It has frequently happened that the part of the route between Huron and the

head of the marsh—the beginning of the sand spit—proved the key to the day, for it is across here that many of the birds fly from the lake to the fields and back again. Many ducks passed across the sand spit to and from the marsh and lake, and grebes fed in the surf or mingled with the Coots in the open waters of the marsh.

Tree Sparrows were first seen on the sand spit on October 22, some days before any were noticed elsewhere in the region. White-throated Sparrows were common everywhere in the thickets of the sand spit up to and including October 19, but none were seen there or anywhere else after that date. Savana Sparrows remained until the 23d of October, and were not found elsewhere as late into ten days. Swamp Sparrows were fairly numerous up to October 29, and one was found as late as November 26.

Black Ducks appeared in the marshes in considerable numbers on October 29, and are still (Nov. 26) very numerous. The first Mallards were seen in the marshes October 23, the first Lesser Scaups on the 15th, the first Pintails and American Scaups on the same day, and a female Wood Duck on the 23d. Old-squaw, American Golden-eye, and Ruddy Duck were first found on the lake adjoining the marshes on November 12. A flock of Greater Snow Goose numbering more than 60, and a flock of 30 Blue Goose passed inland on October 29, and a flock of 38 Greater Snow, and of 18 Blue were studied at close range in the snowstorm of November 12, on which date a flock of six Whistling Swans flew low eastward along the sand spit.

Three companies, aggregating 35 individuals of Whistling Swans, were recorded November 19.

Wilson's Snipe lingered in the marshes until October 23, when five were noted. On the beach two Greater Yellow-legs and five Red-backed Sandpipers were found on October 27, and one Sanderling on the 29th, and 14 Killdeers were recorded on November 12. They were gleaning at the water's edge in the rubbish of the beach.

Two King Rails were noted October 15, and one on the 23d. Coots were present in great numbers on November 26, and at that time gave no indications of departure. The last Great Blue Heron was recorded on October 15. His tracks indicated that

he was feeding upon the dead fish cast upon the beach by the storm of the previous week.

A flock of 20 or more Pine Siskins have ranged along the sand spit ever since they were first seen, on October 15. Three White-winged Crossbills, two bright males and one female, were found just east of the eastern end of the sand spit on November 5. Their occurrence in northern Ohio even in midwinter, is rare.

A female Blackburnian Warbler, in excellent condition, was found on the sand spit October 15. Myrtle Warbler was common there up to October 29.

The last House Wrens found anywhere were noted in the shrubbery bordering the marsh, October 15, and three Long-billed Marsh Wrens were found here on November 5, and one was heard singing on November 19.

The last Hermit Thrushes to be found anywhere were seen here October 29, when three were found. Robins are still numerous, and find the abundant crop of wild grapes an easily obtained food supply.

Two Snowflakes were found on the beach on October 29, and every time since then numbers have been seen ranging along the beach.

A single Barn Swallow was hawking over the marshes on October 15, and on the 22d three Tree Swallows were there.

These unusual records, when combined with others less noteworthy, go to show that great possibilities lurk in this thin arm of sand which reaches far out into the waters of lake Erie. It is within reason to presume that there is no other region within such narrow bounds which would prove richer in bird life during the season of southward migration. This, the region west of Sandusky, and the chain of islands stretching across to Point Pelee will prove to be the key to the solution of some problems of migration and northward distribution of our birds..

TWO BIRDS NEW TO LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO.

BY LYND S JONES.

Vireo philadelphicus. Philadelphia Vireo. A single individual was seen on September 21st, and again on the 24th, at



Jones, Lynds. 1906. "Some Migration Records along the Cedar Point Sand Spit, Erie County, Ohio, 1906." *The Wilson bulletin* 18(4), 128–130.

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