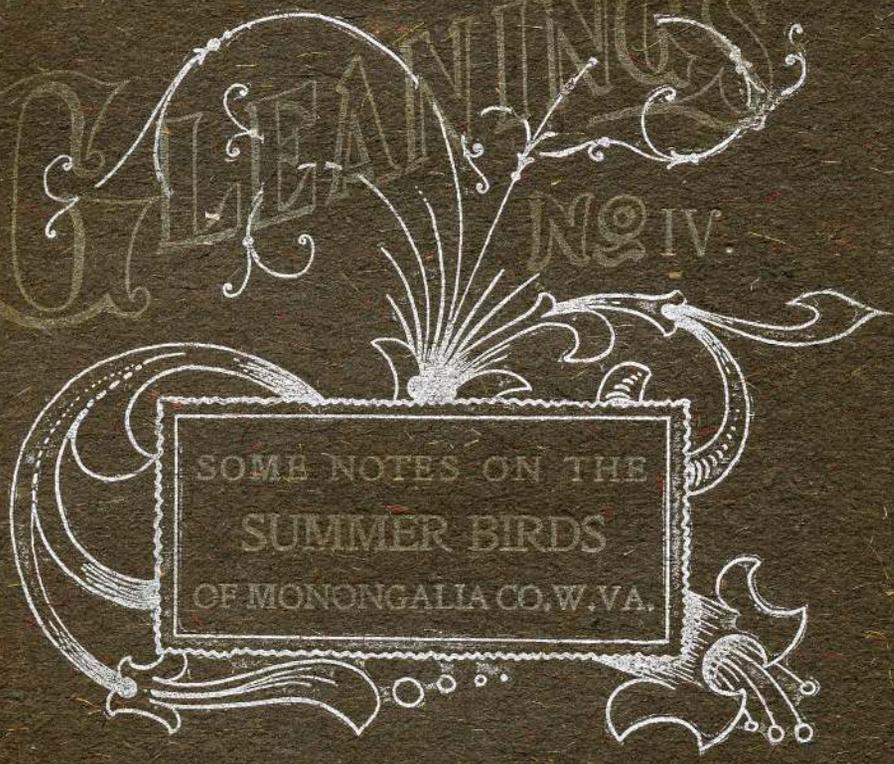


PLATE

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NO. IV.



SOME NOTES ON THE
SUMMER BIRDS
OF MONONGALIA CO., W. VA.

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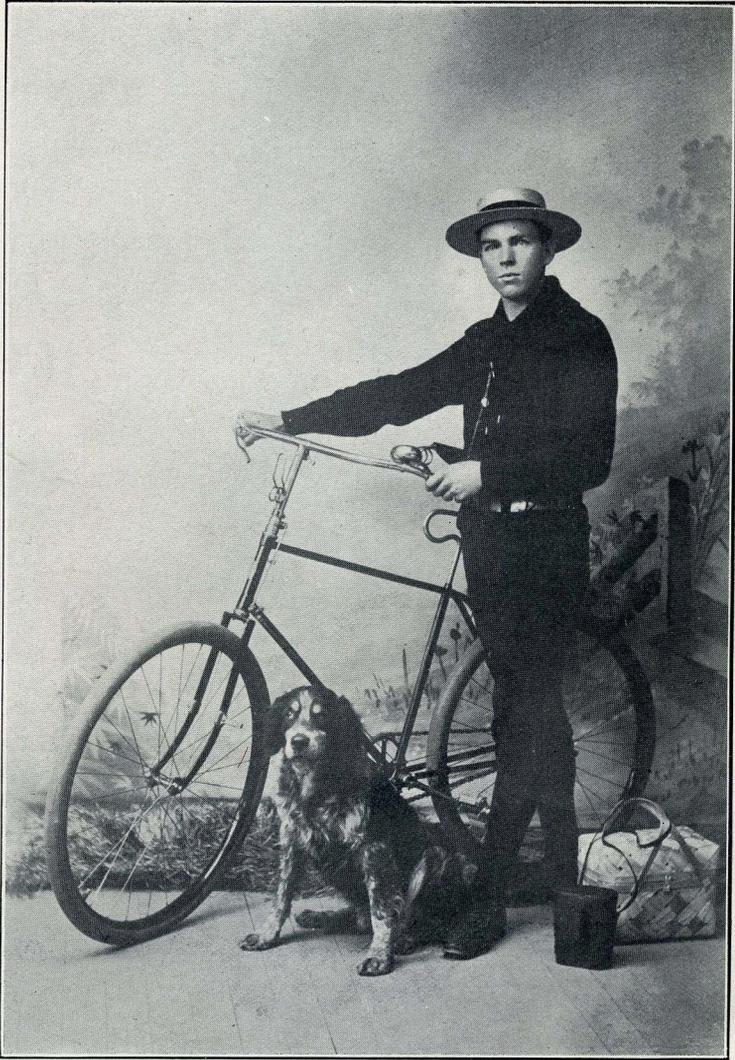


PHOTO BY HAWKINS 1895

THE OUTFIT

GLEANINGS IV.

SOME NOTES

ON THE SUMMER BIRDS

OF

MONONGALIA COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA.

OBSERVATIONS MADE NEAR
BLACKSVILLE AND MORGANTOWN AND ALONG
THE MONONGAHELA RIVER.

By
J. WARREN JACOBS,
Waynesburg, Pa.

1905
INDEPENDENT PRINTING CO.

GLEANINGS.

A series of pamphlets based chiefly on the Author's research in ornithology and ecology and published from time to time as accumulating material and data permit.

GLEANINGS NO. I, 1898, OOLOGICAL ABNORMALITIES.

GLEANINGS NO. II, 1903, THE STORY OF A MARTIN COLONY.

GLEANINGS NO. III, 1904, THE HAUNTS OF THE GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER. 35 c. per copy.

GLEANINGS NO. IV, 1905, SOME NOTES ON THE SUMMER BIRDS OF MONONGALIA CO., W. VA.

15 cents per copy. For sale by the Author.

INTRODUCTION.

The present paper does not aim to set forth a complete list of the summer birds of Monongalia County, West Virginia; but to give brief notes on those observed by the Author at various points within the county.

The Author's original plan was to make several trips to different parts of the county for the purpose of recording notes on the birds found throughout the summer months. The first of these trips was made in 1895, when I investigated a small section south-west of Blacksville. Two years later I made a trip to Morgantown, going and returning by different routes. Here my investigations had to cease and I have been unable ever since to make further trips. For this reason, and to supply several inquiring friends with what little records I have of this virgin territory, I have decided to submit this little pamphlet.

It is with some hesitancy that I publish the half-tone plate of "the outfit" ready to start on a trip across the Mason and Dixon Line to pry into the Avifauna of our neighboring state. But it is in memory of the good old dog, who accompanied me on these trips, that the picture is used.

J. WARREN JACOBS.

Waynesburg, Pa.

February 15, 1905.

Some Notes on the Summer Birds of Monongalia Co., West Virginia.

In the spring of 1895, when I brought into use the bicycle, as a part of my outfit for bird study, I found it so convenient that I concluded to make several trips into West Virginia to record notes on the summer birds of Monongalia County, adjoining Greene County, Pennsylvania, on the south.

Business interests at home, however, intervened to prevent more than two of these trips and these for only a day at a time. Both trips were made to Blacksville, a little town just over the State line, fourteen miles south of Waynesburg, and the run south was made in the evenings.

On the afternoon of May 31, 1895, I prepared to make the first trip. At the suggestion of a member of the family, I allowed the picture of myself and outfit to be taken, and is presented here in memory of my brother's good old dog Fred, an English Setter, a faithful old friend, who accompanied me on many of my trips to the woods and fields, making his last trip in the Summer of 1897, a short time before he went the way of all worldly flesh. He was fourteen years old.

Leaving Waynesburg at 4:45 P. M., I arrived at the Strosnider House, the village inn of Blacksville, at 7:30, having stopped a few minutes at different points along the route to record notes and allow the old dog to rest.

Along the route, and before I reached the State line, I observed thirty-five species of birds. Twenty-three of these were seen in abundance as follows: Cardinal, Catbird, Bronzed Grackle, Song Sparrow, Towhee, Indigo Bunting, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Northern Yellow-throat, Cliff, Bank and Barn Swallows, Warbling Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Green Heron, Wood Thrush and Field Sparrow.

Nine species were observed to be fairly common: Meadow-

lark, Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Vesper Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow Warbler, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper and Chimney Swift.

A single individual of each of the following three species were seen: Golden-winged Warbler, Bob-White and Bluebird.

These birds were all observed near the public road as I passed along, and owing to the rapid rate I was moving, no opportunity was afforded to look into distant timber for Crows, Hawks, etc., and no doubt certain species, such as Woodpeckers, Pewee, Chipping Sparrow, Wrens, Thrashers and others escaped notice, whose presence near the public road should be expected.

On the following morning,—June 1—I started afoot for the woods and fields south of the village, and during the day fifty-one species were observed, and the following records taken:

Butorides virescens GREEN HERON.

A few observed along the Dunkard.

Actitis maculara SPOTTED SANDPIPER.

Common; seen feeding on the sand bars in Dunkard Creek.

Colinus virginianus BOB-WHITE.

A few heard on the briery hillsides.

Bonasa umbellus RUFFED GROUSE.

Heard one drumming in a large woods.

Zenaidura macroura MOURNING DOVE.

Common.

Cathartes aura TURKEY VULTURE.

Bunch of three circling slowly overhead, going eastward along Dunkard Creek.

Falco sparverius SPARROW HAWK.

One heard.

Coccyzus americanus YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.

A few of this species as well as a like number of the next.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.

Ceryle alcyon BELTED KINGFISHER.

Three seen along the Dunkard.

Dryobates villosus HAIRY WOODPECKER.

Noted old bird with brood from nest.

Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola NORTHERN PILEATED WOOD-
PECKER

One heard in a large woods.

Trochilus colubris RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.

Saw one gathering nest material from a white walnut tree,
and another was observed about the flowers of a poplar.

Myiarchus crinitus CRESTED FLYCATCHER.

Frequently heard, but not often seen.

Sayornis phoebe PHOEBE-BIRD.

A few along the rocky ledges of the creek bank.

Empidonax virescens ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.

Abundant in the mixed woods on the steep bank of Dunkard
Creek, and in the wooded ravines to the south.

Cyanocitta cristata BLUE JAY.

The harsh notes of this bird heard occasionally during the
day.

Corvus brachyrhynchos CROW.

Several heard in the woods. Also young were heard.

Molothrus ater COWBIRD.

Common everywhere, seen on the wing.

Agelaius phoeniceus RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.

Common in the meadows in the Dunkard Creek Valley.

Sturnella magna MEADOWLARK.

Common in the low meadows near Dunkard Creek, and in
the grassy hill-side fields.

Icterus galbula BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

Common along the Dunkard.

Pooecetes gramineus VESPER SPARROW.

Seen and heard in the hill-side fields.

Spizella socialis CHIPPING SPARROW.

Common. A nest containing four half grown young found twelve feet up in an apple tree over a public road.

Spizella pusilla FIELD SPARROW.

Noted several nests.

Melospiza cinerea melodia SONG SPARROW.

Common, especially along the small brooklets in the fields.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus TOWHEE.

Noted in places frequented by the next species.

Cardinalis cardinalis CARDINAL GROSBEAK.

Common in the brier fields and the border of woods.

Cyanospiza cyanea INDIGO BUNTING.

Several noted. Saw nest containing three eggs.

Piranga erythromelas SCARLET TANAGER.

Common where timber was found.

Progne subis PURPLE MARTIN.

Colony nesting in a box over the sidewalk in Blacksville.

Riparia riparia BANK SWALLOW.

Several along the creek. A nest containing seven eggs found.

Vireo olivaceus RED-EYED VIREO.

Several observed in the steep wooded hill-side opposite Blacksville, and in other wooded tracts.

Vireo gilvus WARBLING VIREO.

Several heard in the sycamores along the Dunkard.

Mniotilta varia BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER.

Several noted. One pair with food for young was observed on the side of a broad ravine near the edge of a large forest.

Helmitheros vermivorus WORM-EATING WARBLER.

A nest containing four young about a week old, found under an oak root on upper side of wagon road in mixed wood on a hill-side.

Helminthophila chrysoptera GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.

Four heard in a large neglected field.

Compsothlypis americana ussifae NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER.

A male seen in the mixed woods,—spruce, linden, buckeye, oak, etc.—on the steep bank of Dunkard Creek, opposite the village. While the bird appeared rather anxious, I spent but little time looking for a nest owing to it being very late in the afternoon, and time for me to be on my return trip home.

Dendroica aestiva YELLOW WARBLER.

Along the streams.

Seiurus aurocapillus GOLDEN-CROWNED THRUSH.

Several heard in the woods.

Seiurus motacilla LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH.

Three observed.

Geothlypis formosa KENTUCKY WARBLER.

Eight birds seen. Also two nests observed,—one deserted and one just receiving the lining.

Icteria virens YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.

Abundant; heard almost constantly. A nest with two young noted. Old bird was feeding the nestlings.

Setophaga ruticilla AMERICAN REDSTART.

A nest 28 feet up in top of slanting white walnut tree containing four eggs. Other individuals noted.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis CATBIRD.

Common. One nest observed containing three eggs, one of which was pipped.

Sitta carolinensis WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.

Common; heard in the wooded tracts.

Baeolophus bicolor TUFTED TITMOUSE.

Common in the timber.

Parus atricapillus BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE.

Several noted.

Polioptila caerulea BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.

Common in the woodland.

Hylocichla mustelina WOOD THRUSH.

Common in the woods. Saw a completed nest 12 feet up on a horizontal branch of buckeye tree. In another woods I picked up an adult bird partly devoured.

Merula migratoria ROBIN.

Continuously seen throughout the day.

The second trip to this section was made on the evening of June 19, more to ascertain if the Parula Warbler (*C. americana usneae*) bred in the region than to cover new territory. Accordingly my first place to visit the next morning, was wooded hill-side opposite the village where I had seen the male Parula on my previous visit. Approaching the clump of spruce and buckeyes, I was greeted with the notes of the bird, and at once began a search for its hidden nest, which I soon found well concealed among the twigs at the end of a drooping spruce branch, nine feet up and almost over the edge of the water in the creek. The composition was chiefly of fine grasses, with a slight mixture of usnea moss, vegetable fiber and small bits of wool. It contained the fragments of one egg, but in general appeared to have been used, as there was much excrement in the bottom.

About fifty yards from this site I came upon another pendant spruce branch having a suspicious looking ball near the end, which upon examination proved to be a newer nest of this warbler, but was deserted, having two addled eggs of the warbler and one of *Molothrus ater*. This nest was similar to the first, but contained a goodly supply of hickory catkins and hair, as well as some fine rootlets in the lining.

Going over a part of the ground I had previously visited, I found several nests of Acadian Flycatcher, which seems to be a late breeder here for all the eggs were fresh. One nest each of Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Field Sparrow, were found containing two and four young respectively. A Red-winged Blackbird's nest contained one egg, and an Ovebird was observ-

ed feeding her young. A mother Grouse with her brood was seen in the wooded hill-side, opposite Blacksville, and another in a woods a half mile west of the village.

A buggy trip to Morgantown, the seat of Monongalia County, on August 21, 1897, resulted in some observations of value in connection with those already mentioned. The public road I followed crossed the State line about five miles east of where the Blacksville records were taken, and extended in a southerly direction half way across the County.

A greater part of the road is over a very hilly country and through many tracts of woodland. Woodpeckers were met with in all these places, several individuals being in sight or hearing at all times.

After I entered Monongalia County the following birds were observed to be common:

<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	MOURNING DOVE.
<i>Dryobates villosus</i>	HAIRY WOODPECKER.
<i>Dryobates pubescens medianus</i>	DOWNY WOODPECKER.
<i>Centurus carolinus</i>	RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.
<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.
<i>Colaptes auratus luteus</i>	NORTHERN FLICKER.
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	COWBIRD.
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	BRONZED GRACKLE.
<i>Spizella socialis</i>	CHIPPING SPARROW.
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	FIELD SPARROW.
<i>Melospiza cinerea melodia</i>	SONG SPARROW.
<i>Progne subis</i>	PURPLE MARTIN.
<i>Galeoscoptes carolinensis</i>	CATBIRD.
<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	CAROLINA WREN.
<i>Merula migratoria</i>	ROBIN.

Five Cardinals were seen; three Ruby-throated Humming-birds, two Sparrow Hawks, two Blue Jays and one Green Heron.

A Carolina Wren's nest containing five fresh eggs was secret-

ed among the rootlets overhanging the bank at the upper side of the road. The old bird was flushed from the nest.

An old nest of Louisiana Water-Thrush was noted tucked under some projecting moss and sod in the side of the road in a damp piece of woodland.

The next day, August 22, while on the street near the public square in Morgantown I saw a Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola*) crossing over the central part of the town, in the rear of the Court House. There was also a number of Purple Martins in the vicinity of the Court House; and I was told that a number of these birds had nested in the cornice of a building near the public square.

In the evenings, Nighthawks were seen in considerable numbers as the southern movement of these birds was on.

On the 23, I returned home by way of the road paralleling the Monongahela River, and owing to a constant drizzling rain but few records were taken.

Migrant Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*.) One seen on a telegraph wire. Barn and Cliff Swallows were seen in great numbers, one flock alone numbering about a thousand individuals.

