

PRELIMINARY SKETCH OF THE AQUATIC AND SHORE BIRDS OF THE KANKAKEE REGION.

Beginning with the plovers and ending with the ducks, the following list includes all the birds commonly alluded to as aquatic and shore birds so far reported to me from the Kankakee Valley, or identified by me in that region. It is by no means a complete list, and scientific arrangement is not attempted, the field notes being given with very slight revision simply with a view to their preservation so that they may be used in a future complete report on the natural history of the Kankakee region. A systematic catalogue ought not to be thought of in connection with incomplete notes, but a simple field sketch will be of interest in many ways to all who are students of nature, and it will serve to attract attention to a region singularly rich in material for the note-books of such students.

The field plover, or bull head (*Charadrius dominicus*), common on wet meadows near the Kankakee in spring and autumn. A great table delicacy and much sought after for the market by "pot-hunters."

Kildeer plover (*Egialites vociferus*), plentifully distributed over all the open dryer spaces.

Wilson's plover (*Æ. Wilsonius*), one specimen killed some years ago. Not very common near the Kankakee.

Ring-necked plover (*Æ. semipalmatus*), rather common at one time, it is reported, but not so now.

Wilson's phalarope (*Steganopus Wilsoni*), seen on the marshes, and killed in the autumn.

The woodcock (*Philohela minor*), the most precious of all our game birds, is met with in the open bogs and boggy woods all along the Kankakee and its tributaries. It is often called big snipe and bogsucker.

Jack-snipe, or Wilson snipe (*Gallinago Wilsoni*), is very common in spring and autumn, affording fine sport in the latter season, and much shot in the former. Wet meadows and prairie bogs.

Stilt, sandpiper (*Micrapolama himantopus*), not common, occasionally seen some years ago.

Stint, or least sandpiper (*Actrodomas bairdi*), is seen in compact flocks on the wet meadows in spring and autumn.

Grass snipe, or little jack-snipe (*A. maculata*), drops in, it is said, but I have not identified it.

American dunlin (*Pelidna Americana*), one specimen killed in spring out of a considerable flock.

Ruddy plover, sanderling (*Calidris arenari*), seen on English lake. Not common. Probably quite rare.

Godwit, or marlin (*Limosa fæda*), one specimen killed a few years ago, one seen in 1887.

Green sandpiper (*Ryacophilus solitarius*). One bird killed years ago. Reported as seen occasionally during migration.

Grass plover, or prairie pigeon (*Bartramia longicauda*), not common; rare, perhaps, but seen in mid-summer 1885.

The white ibi's (*Endocimus albus*) is reported. I have not found it.

Great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), found everywhere along the Kankakee and its tributaries in summer and autumn. It is especially numerous on the marginal marshes of English Lake.

White heron (*Herodias egretta*), one bird seen on English Lake.

Snowy heron (*Garzetta candidissima*), quite common on small ponds and lagoons of the whole Kankakee region in summer.

Little blue heron (*Florida cærulea*), not common, but often seen on marshes.

Green heron (*Butorides virescens*), common on all the waters.

Night heron or squawk (*Nyctiaridia grisea-naevia*), often seen.

Bittern, Indian hen, or thunder-pumper (*Botanrus mugitans*), common, seen everywhere in the grassy bogs and marshes.

Dwarf bittern, least bittern (*Ardetta exilis*), common. Often mistaken for green bittern.

Whooping crane (*Grus Americana*), one or two seen, but quite uncommon.

Sandhill crane (*Grus pratensis*), not seen, though reported.

Virginia rail (*Rallus Virginianus*), one bird killed, not common.

Marsh hen (*R. elegans*), scarce. A few seen during the spring of 1875. One noted as this bird, October 1886, but not taken.

Oortolan, or crake (*Porzana Carolina*), rather frequently seen, possibly it breeds here.

Yellow crake (*P. noveboracensis*), occasionally seen.

Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*), not common, but is occasionally killed. Can scarcely be called rare here.

Coot (*Fulica Americana*), found in the worst marshes where the grass and weeds are very thick and tall in a slush of water and bog-mud. It is sometimes called crow-duck, more often mud-hen.

Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*), rather common on the Kankakee, numerous on the tributaries.

(I insert here the marsh blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*); because it is the bird oftenest seen in all the grassy marshes of the whole Kankakee region. It swarms everywhere.)

The whistling swan (*Cygnus Columbianus*), was seen, but no bird taken.

Wild goose (*Anser albifrons gambeli*), one bird killed in 1876, frequently seen in spring.

Common wild goose (*Bernicla canadensis*), quite numerous in spring and fall, large flocks settling down for a week or ten days.

White brant (*Chen hyperboreus*) is seen in considerable flocks flying over, but rarely alighting.

Mallard, or green-head (*Anas Boscas*), common on the Kankakee and adjacent waters in spring and autumn. Large flocks.

Pin-tail duck (*Dofila acuta*), often seen on river.

Wigeon, or bald-pate (*Mareca Americana*), not common, but occasionally seen.

Teal (*Querquedula*), both green-winged, *Q. crecca*, and blue-winged, *Q. discors*, rather common from spring to late autumn. They breed in grassy, wet tussocks.

Shoveler duck (*Spatula clypeata*), frequently seen on the Kankakee.

Wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), very plentiful on the Kankakee and its tributaries.

Scaup duck (*Fulix affinis* and *F. collaris*), both species rather common in spring and autumn. A few appear to breed here.

Whistler, or golden-eye (*Clangula glaucium*), not common, but noted frequently.

Buffle-head, or butter-ball (*C. albeola*), is quite numerous in spring and autumn. A showy duck, but not first-rate for the table.

Hooded merganser (*Mergus cucullatus*), rather scarce; but seen frequently.

Diedapper, or dipper (*Podilymbus podicipes*), very common.

The eared grebe (*Podicipes [auritus] californicus*), seen on the Kankakee only once. Probably rare.