Birds of West Virginia: a Checklist

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A Check-List

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The purpose of this bulletin is to give as nearly complete as possible a check-list of all the birds occurring or known to have occurred in West Virginia. With each species is given a brief statement to show whether it is rare or common, and if common whether generally or locally distributed.

CLASS AVES. BIRDS

SUBCLASS CARINATAE. KEEL-BREASTED, TOOTHLESS BIRDS

ORDER PYGOPODES. DIVING BIRDS

Number of species in North America, 32; in West Virginia, 4.

The order is divided into two suborders. The first (Colymbi) includes grebes having a very rudimentary tail; the second (Cepphi) comprises loons (Gaviidae) and auks, murres, and puffins (Alcidae), with tail short but fully developed. The grebes (Colymbi) and loons (Gaviidae) are represented in West Virginia.

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† The author acknowledges gratefully the assistance in the preparation of the manuscript given by Dr. A. M. Reese and Dr. A. J. Dadisman.

‡ While information from the publications cited in the bibliography (p. 42) has been used freely, the main body of material presented is derived from personal records and field studies of the compiler.

SUBORDER COLUMBI.  GREBES

Number of species in North America, 6; in West Virginia, 3.

FAMILY COLYMBIDÆ. Grebes

1. Holboell's Grebe. Colymbus holbëlli (Reinhardt)

This diver has been listed only a few times in West Virginia.

2. Horned Grebe. Colymbus auritus (Linн.)

This little grebe is strictly a winter visitant. It winters on the Ohio River, where it is fairly common during seasons when ice is not severe. A severe sleet storm forced a large flock of these Horned Grebes to earth near Princeton, November, 1927.

3. Pied-billed Grebe. Podilymbus podiceps (Linн.)

Other common names: Didapper, Dabchick, Hell Diver, Dipper. Most of these common names are applied to the last species, Colymbus auritus.

This is the common didapper found along all the smaller as well as larger water courses within the State. Owing to the scarcity of good breeding sites it is somewhat doubtful if this bird breeds within the State. A solitary individual may appear during the summer months, but it is during the spring months, March and April, and the fall months, October, November, and sometimes early part of December, that this little diver occurs in largest numbers. At this time it is found on practically every stream and pond.

SUBORDER CEPHI.  LOONS AND AUKS

Number of species in North America, 26; in West Virginia, 1.

FAMILY GAVIIDÆ. Loons

Number of species in North America, 5; in West Virginia, 1.

4. Loon. Gavia immer (Bruennich.) Sometimes called Great Northern Diver

This large diver sometimes occurs in large flocks on Lake Terra Alta and on Mountain Lake, Maryland, just across the border, in late fall and early winter migrations. Single birds or pairs of birds are commonly seen on all the larger streams of the State in fall and spring migrations.

ORDER LONGIPENNES.  LONG-WINGED SWIMMERS

Number of species in North America, 47; in West Virginia, 8.

From this order, which includes Skuas and Jaegers, Gulls, Terns,
and Skimmers, members of only one family, the Gulls and Terns (Lari-
dae) have been recorded in West Virginia. These have long, pointed
wings which in most species, when folded, extend beyond end of tail
feathers. They have webbed front toes and a small, free hind toe.

**Family LARIDÆ. Gulls and Terns**

Number of species in North America, 42; in West Virginia, 8.

**SUBFAMILY LARINÆ. Gulls**

Number of species in North America, 26; in West Virginia, 4.

5. **Herring Gull. Larus argentatus** Pontoppidan

This is the large, long-winged, light-colored bird commonly known as "Sea Gull," which is quite common along the Ohio River during open
winters. It often wanders up the larger tributaries and is likely to
appear near any of the larger streams or artificial lakes of the State.


Listed by E. A. Brooks as of doubtful occurrence.

7. **Laughing Gull. Larus atricilla** Linn.

This species is listed by E. A. Brooks on authority of Surber.

8. **Bonaparte's Gull. Larus philadelphia** (Ord.)

There are several records of this species at Leachtown on the Little
Kanawha River, and at Parkersburg. It has been seen on the Monon-
gahela River near Fairmont, and has occurred twice during recent years
at Athens.

**SUBFAMILY STERNINÆ. Terns**

Number of species in North America, 17; in West Virginia, 4.

9. **Caspian Tern. Sterna caspia** Pallas

On October 5, 1929, an adult of this species was taken at Speedway,
Mercer County. Listed by E. A. Brooks as rare on the Ohio.

10. **Common Tern. Sterna hirundo** Linn.

My only record is the taking of a single specimen at my home on
the Little Kanawha River near Leachtown, April 10, 1915. This is
apparently the only record of this species for West Virginia.

11. **Least Tern. Sterna antillarum** (Lesson)

Recorded by E. A. Brooks as having been taken by Sidney Morgan
on the Great Kanawha.
12. Black Tern. Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis (Gmelin)

My only personal record for West Virginia is a single specimen taken on the Little Kanawha River near Leachtown, July 10, 1925. A. J. Dadisman has recorded this species from Field’s Reservoir near Morgantown. E. A. Brooks records the species as having been taken on the Great Kanawha by the Morgan boys and on the Potomac by G. Eifrig.

ORDER STEGANOPODES. Totipalmate Swimmers

Number of species in North America, 20; in West Virginia, 3.

Birds of this order can easily be distinguished from all other swimming birds in having all four toes fully webbed.

Of the six families of the order, two, the Cormorants (Phalacrocoridae) and the Pelicans (Pelecanidae), are known to occur in West Virginia.

Family Phalacrocoracidæ. Cormorants

Number of species in North America, 6; in West Virginia, 2.

13. Cormorant. Phalacrocorax carbo (Linn.)

The only occurrence of this species in the State is that of a single specimen taken on the Ohio River at Parkersburg in late November, 1914.

14. Double-crested Cormorant. Phalacrocorax auritus auritus (Lesson)

My only record of this species is the taking of a large male, November 18, 1922, by S. K. Creel of Parkersburg. This specimen is mounted and is in his private collection.

15. White Pelican. Pelecanus erythrorhynchos Gmelin

Very rare.

ORDER ANSERES. Lamellirostral Swimmers

Number of species in North America, 57; in West Virginia, 30.

The birds of this order have both mandibles fitted along the edges with series of toothlike flutings or projections. These projections or lamellæ form a strainer through which a surplus of water may escape while particles of food are retained. The fleshy tongue is provided with serrations along the edges, which correspond to the lamellæ.
Family ANATIDÆ. Ducks, Geese, and Swans

SUBFAMILY MERGINÆ. MERGANSERS

Number of species in North America, 4; in West Virginia, 3.

16. Merganser. Mergus americanus Cassin

This sawbill duck, or fish duck as it is sometimes called, is fairly common but not abundant on the Ohio River during the winter season. It has been seen and taken on many of the larger streams of the State. It is often found as single individuals or in pairs.

17. Red-breasted Merganser. Mergus serrator (Linn.)

My own observations and personal records show this species to be less common than the larger (Mergus americanus). A few specimens have been seen spending the winter on the Ohio River. On November 6, 1917, a female was taken on the Monongahela River near Morgantown.

18. Hooded Merganser. Lophodytes cucullatus (Linn.)

Flocks composed of six to twelve individuals of the immature of this species are found on the Ohio River during fall migration. It seems that practically all those wintering on this stream are adult birds. During migration, more especially in spring, it commonly occurs on small streams and isolated ponds.

SUBFAMILY ANATINÆ. RIVER DUCKS

Number of species in North America, 15; in West Virginia, 9.

The river ducks obtain their food by tipping up, which enables them to reach bottom in water a foot or two feet deep, or by rooting and dabbling where the water is only a few inches deep.


This large, handsome duck is more commonly seen in all parts of West Virginia than any other "wild duck," with perhaps the exception of Lesser Scaup. E. E. Brooks has found the Mallard nesting at Lake Terra Alta.

20. Black Duck. Anas rubripes (Brewster)

The status of the Black Duck in West Virginia is practically the same as that of the Mallard. Flocks of this species are smaller, seldom exceeding eight or ten individuals. They seem to travel and feed with the Mallards a great deal. They winter on the Ohio River in large numbers when winters are not too severe.

My only record of this species is that of a female taken on a pond near Leachtown, October 20, 1921. The skin has been mounted and now is in the University collection.

Records of other observers show this to be one of the rarest ducks in West Virginia.

22. Baldpate. *Mareca americana* (Gmelin)

This white-headed duck is usually found among flocks of Mallards, Black Ducks, and Pintails, with which it commonly feeds. I have seen and collected a few of this species. Sportsmen report taking a few of these on the Ohio River near Parkersburg.

23. Green-winged Teal. *Nettion carolinense* (Gmelin)

I have shot but one specimen of this beautiful little duck. In addition to this one, one other was sent to me to mount. This is sufficient evidence to show the scarcity of this Teal in the State.

24. Blue-winged Teal. *Querquedula discors* (Linn.)

Some sportsmen have reported this to be the less common of the two species of Teal. My records indicate the opposite. I have collected a considerable number of Blue-winged Teals.

25. Shoveller. *Spatula clypeata* (Linn.)

A beautiful male was collected in a swamp near Leachtown, March 16, 1923. This was the first of the species I had ever seen. A female was taken in the fall of 1922 by S. K. Creel on the Ohio River near Parkersburg. On April 10, 1933, a flock of 15 shovellers occurred along the Bluestone River at Spanishburg.

26. Pintail. *Dafila acuta* (Linn.)

Formerly this handsome duck with the long, slender, graceful neck, gray back, and white breast was common in Wood County during fall and spring migrations. The species was often seen in small flocks, keeping constant company with Mallards and Black Ducks.

27. Wood Duck. *Aix sponsa* (Linn.)

The Wood Duck is the most beautiful of all our ducks. Fifty years ago this duck was found nesting along most of the woodland streams of the State. It built in cavities of large dead-topped trees excavated by Flickers and Pileated Woodpeckers. These trees were usually near or overhanging the stream.

The cutting of the timber along most of the streams destroyed the
ducks' nesting places, and spring shooting, which was formerly allowed, killed off and drove out these beautiful birds until their extinction was feared. It was protected with a permanently closed season, but even then from about 1915 to 1920 it was thought to have disappeared from the State. Recent records show it to be returning to us and perhaps it will again nest in some of the few remaining favorable nesting places.

**SUBFAMILY FULIGULINÆ. SEA DUCKS**

Number of species in North America, 22; in West Virginia, 11.

The Sea Ducks have a large flap on the hind toe. This flap distinguishes them from the River and Pond Ducks (Anatinae), which have no such lobe. The Sea Ducks have larger feet, which better fit them for diving, and they obtain their food by diving instead of tipping or dabbling and rooting as do the River and Pond Ducks.


Duck hunters sometimes report flocks of Redheads on the Ohio River in cold winter weather. These flocks are usually found at the time of or just after the most severe storms, which have driven them down from the Great Lakes. They are frequently seen on the Monongahela River.


Sportsmen about Parkersburg report a few flocks of Canvas-backs on the Ohio. These usually occur during severe winter weather.

30. Scaup Duck. *Marila marila* (Linn.)

Small flocks are sometimes found in late February, March, and early April along the Little Kanawha. They usually occur at flood time, when large expanses of open water give them a chance to keep well away from any approaching danger. They are much wilder than the Lesser Scaup and their diving powers are remarkable.

31. Lesser Scaup Duck. *Marila affinis* (Eyton)

This is the most abundant duck in the State. In spring migration flocks numbering into the hundreds may be seen along the lower Little Kanawha River and the Ohio. During both spring and fall flights it occurs in smaller numbers on all the streams and larger ponds and artificial lakes of the State. It winters on the Ohio.

32. Ring-necked Duck. *Marila collaris* (Donovan)

Single individuals, pairs, or small flocks are fairly common along the Little Kanawha River during spring migration. It is also found at the same place in fall but is not nearly so numerous as in spring. It frequents small ponds oftener than any of the other sea ducks.
33. **Golden-eye. Clangula clangula americana** Bonaparte

I have only two records of the occurrence of this duck in West Virginia. In November, 1917, T. A. Morgan took one specimen on the Monongahela River near Morgantown. This specimen was presented to the University for mounting. I shot a female on the Ohio River at Boaz, December 21, 1922.

34. **Buffle-head. Charitonetta albeola** (Linn.)

Specimens of this species have been received from a number of different parts of the State, and they have observed it on the Ohio River in late fall and early winter in flocks.

35. **Old-squaw. Harelda hyemalis** (Linn.)

The only specimens of this species I have ever handled were a pair, a male and female, taken on the Monongahela River near Morgantown, November 24, 1917, by T. A. Morgan.

36. **Scoter. Oidemia americana** Swainson

E. A. Brooks has published a record of a Scoter taken near Huntington. As far as known, this is the only record of the occurrence of this species in West Virginia.

37. **White-winged Scoter. Oidemia deglandi** Bonaparte

Sidney Morgan took two females on the Great Kanawha, October 29, 1905. Another individual was killed on French Creek, October 25, 1913.

38. **Ruddy Duck. Erismatura jamaicensis** (Gmelin)

While I have seen a number of these little "butter ducks" at various times and have collected several, I never knew them to occur in flocks or be what could be called common at any time. It is a great diver. At times it does not appear to be very wild, as I have often paddled up quite close to it. An interesting thing about this duck is its number of names. Ninety-two distinct names have been given it in the United States and Canada (19).

SUBFAMILY ANSERINÆ. GEESE

Number of species in North America, 13; in West Virginia, 5.

Most geese are intermediate in size between ducks and swans. Their legs are slightly further forward on the body, which enables them to run about on land much better than ducks. They molt once each year instead of twice as do the ducks. They have no speculum.

39. **Snow Goose. Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus** (Pallas)

The only State record of this species is that of T. A. Morgan, published by E. A. Brooks in *Report of Forest, Game and Fish Warden*, 1910, page 131.
40. Blue Goose. Chen caerulescens (Linn.)

The only State record is the specimen in the museum at West Virginia University. It was killed by T. A. Morgan at Morgantown, November 21, 1914.

41. White-fronted Goose. Anser albinon gambeli Hartlaub

The only State record for this species is that of T. A. Morgan, who killed one from a flock of five in the fall of 1893 in the Kanawha River near Poca.

42. Canada Goose. Branta canadensis canadensis (Linn.)

There are very few persons who have not seen and heard the honking of these Wild Geese as they pass overhead in the fall, going south to spend the winter. In the spring the same V-shaped flocks again pass over on their way north to the nesting grounds in the extreme northern states and Canada. Only rarely do they alight in any part of the State to feed.

43. Brant. Branta bernicla glaucogastra (Brehm)

E. A. Brooks lists this species but refers to the record as doubtful.

SUBFAMILY CYGNINÆ. SWANS

Number of species in North America, 3; in West Virginia, 2.

The large body, extremely long neck, and white plumage (of the two listed here) distinguish the swans from ducks and geese. The skin from eye to base of bill (lores) is bare.

44. Whistling Swan. Olor columbianus (Ord.)

This swan has been reported a few times during recent years on the Ohio River. A reliable sportsman of Parkersburg knows of one of these birds being killed in the winter of 1921 near Belleville. E. A. Brooks gives several positive records of the occurrence of this species in the State.

45. Trumpeter Swan. Olor buccinator (Richardson)

A swan in the Capital Annex at Charleston is labeled Trumpeter Swan. It was taken on Letart Island, Ohio River, November 30, 1875. It is sealed in the case so that its identification is somewhat doubtful. This is the only State record.
Order HERODIONES. Herons, Storks, Ibises, etc.

Number of species in North America, 20; in West Virginia, 8.

Members of this order are known as the wading birds. They are long-legged, long-necked, long-billed, and short-tailed. The bill is usually straight and pointed. The wings are long, broad, and rounded. The toes are long and slender. All of this order can perch in trees.

Suborder Ciconiæ. Storks, etc.

Number of species in North America, 2; in West Virginia, 1.

Family CICONIIDÆ. Storks and Wood Ibises

Number of species in North America, 2; in West Virginia, 1.

Subfamily MYCTERIINÆ. Wood Ibises

The members of this subfamily can easily be distinguished from the Bitterns and Herons by the long, cylindrical bill, which is very stout and broad at the base and curved downward toward tip. The head and part of neck are bare of feathers.

46. Wood Ibis. Mycteria americana Linn.

W. C. Rives reports the occurrence of this bird in the State. Probably none has occurred for a long time.

Suborder Herodii. Herons, Egrets, Bitterns

Number of species in North America, 13; in West Virginia, 7.

The waders of this suborder in addition to being long-necked and long-legged are narrow-bodied. The hind toe and its claw are long. The inner edge of middle claw is pectinate. The bill is usually wedge-shaped, narrow, and pointed.

Family ARDEIDÆ. Herons, Bitterns, etc.

Number of species in North America, 13; in West Virginia, 7.

Subfamily BOTAVIRINÆ. Bitterns

Number of species in North America, 2; in West Virginia, 2.

47. Bittern. Botaurus lentiginosus (Montagu)

Specimens taken in a number of sections of the State have been mounted. In some seasons this species is apparently common along Little Kanawha and Ohio Rivers. At other times it is quite rare in these same places. It has been recorded as "breeding in suitable localities throughout the State" (11) and no doubt does, but I have never found it nesting and have no positive data from others.
48. Least Bittern. *Ixobrychus exilis* (Gmelin)

My only record for the northern part of the State is the taking of a single specimen near Leachtown on Little Kanawha River, September, 1912. In the southern part of the State I have found it at Shawnee Lake, Mercer County, July 10, 1928. It no doubt nests in the swamps in this vicinity. A. B. Brooks has found it nesting at St. Albans.

**SUBFAMILY ARDEINÆ. HERONS and EGRETS**

Number of species in North America, 11; in West Virginia, 6.

49. Great Blue Heron. *Ardea herodias herodias* Linn.

This large wader is called “Blue Crane” by some not familiar with the distinction between the Herons and the Cranes. It is often found along any of the water courses of the State. In the vicinity of Parkersburg it appears in late February and lingers until quite cold weather in winter. (November 22, 1924, is the latest record.)

50. Egret. *Herodias egretta* (Gmelin)

I have two records of this beautiful white bird. In August, 1911, a specimen was shot on Little Kanawha River at mouth of Hughes River (Wirt County). It was an immature bird without the plumes. In May, 1926, a beautiful specimen in full breeding plumage was found dead at French Creek. This specimen is now in the University Museum.

This bird appeared at Wheeling and other places in the State during the fall migration of 1933.

51. Little Blue Heron. *Florida caerulea* (Linn.)

Records show this species to wander north into the State in its late summer and fall northward migrations.

52. Green Heron. *Butorides virescens virescens* (Linn.)

This little heron is common along all water courses in the State. It nests along the Little Kanawha, Hughes, and Ohio Rivers, and all other streams, both large and small, where suitable places occur.

53. Black-crowned Night Heron. *Nycticorax nycticorax nävius* (Boddaert)

I have mounted three specimens of this species: one, a mature male which was taken on the Ohio River near Parkersburg, in the spring of 1916; another, immature, taken in the same locality, August, 1917; and a third, immature, taken on the Monongahela River near Morgantown, November 17, 1917. This last specimen is in the University collection.

On May 5, 1931, a specimen was taken at Princeton. The few records of the occurrence of this beautiful species indicate it to be rare in West Virginia.
54. Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Nyctanassa violacea (Linn.)

The only specimen I have ever handled was taken April 15, 1925, in a swamp between Morgantown and Star City, Monongalia County. This was an immature specimen. Sidney Morgan has collected another individual of this species at his home on the Great Kanawha near Poca.

**Order Palaudicolæ. Cranes, Rails, etc.**

Number of species in North America, 21; in West Virginia, 9.

The birds of this order are a type between the herons and the shore birds.

**Suborder Grues. Cranes, etc.**

**Family Gruidæ. Cranes**

Number of species in North America, 3; in West Virginia, 1.

While the cranes are as large or larger than the herons, they more closely resemble the rails in general structure.

55. Sandhill Crane. Grus mexicana (Mueller)

There is only one doubtful record (5) of this interesting species in West Virginia.

**Suborder Ralli. Rails, Gallinules, Coots, etc.**

Number of species in North America, 17; in West Virginia, 8.

**Family Rallidæ. Rails, Gallinules, and Coots**

**Subfamily Rallinæ. Rails**

Number of species in North America, 13; in West Virginia, 5.

These are wading swamp birds, with body compressed in front to enable them to push through the dense, straight-stemmed swamp vegetation. Their retiring habits, too, in the dense vegetation in swamps make these the most difficult of all birds to observe.

56. King Rail. Rallus elegans Audubon

T. A. Morgan has found this bird with young. A few have been taken by the Morgans in the Great Kanawha Valley. It has also been recorded from Lewisburg by C. O. Handley.

57. Clapper Rail. Rallus crepitans crepitans Gmelin

E. A. Brooks gives the only State record for this species. This was a specimen observed near Waverly.
58. Virginia Rail. Rallus virginianus Linn.

This form has been reported from several parts of the State (6). The Morgans have reported it from the Great Kanawha, and Surber from White Sulphur Springs.

59. Sora. Porzana carolina (Linn.)

This rail is common both in spring and in fall in the Little Kanawha Valley. It has also been taken at Morgantown.

60. Yellow Rail. Coturnicops noveboracensis (Gmelin)

There is one doubtful record for the State.

SUBFAMILY GALLINULINÆ. GALLINULES

Number of species in North America, 2; in West Virginia, 2.

Gallinules differ from rails in having an extension and expansion of the ridge of the bill, forming a horny plate on the forehead.

61. Purple Gallinule. Iornornis martinicus (Linn.)

Very rare. The specimen in the University collection was taken by E. M. Bennett at Walkersville on the upper Little Kanawha River in the spring of 1923.

62. Florida Gallinule. Gallinula galeata (Lichtenstein)

 Reported by Doan and Sidney Morgan. The specimen in the University collection was donated by Sidney Morgan.

SUBFAMILY FULICINÆ. COOTS

Number of species in North America, 2; in West Virginia, 1.

63. Coot. Fulica americana Gmelin

The coot is quite common in fall and spring migrations. Then it may be found on almost any river, creek, or pond. It is sometimes found on the Ohio in large flocks.

Order LIMICOLÆ. Shore Birds

The shore birds are mostly small waders which differ from the herons or marsh birds in having a body more rounded than compressed.

Family PHALAROPODIDÆ. Phalaropes

Number of species in North America, 3; in West Virginia, 1.

The phalaropes have the three front toes lobed. Their under-plumage is thick with heavy under-down like that of ducks.
64. Northern Phalarope. Lobipes lobatus (Linn.)

Only this one member of the family has been recorded in the State. Doan (11) lists it from Parkersburg and Buckhannon, and G. Eifrig (12) from the Potomac. S. K. Creel of Parkersburg collected two phalaropes in the late fall of 1922.

Family SCOLOPACIDÆ. Snipes, Sandpipers, etc.

Number of species in North America, 43; in West Virginia, 14.

The members of this family are mostly of medium size, with bodies either plump or inclined to be slightly slender. They have short tails; legs slender, of medium length or fairly long for wading; and long, slender bills, in some forms extremely long.

65. Woodcock. Philohela minor (Gmelin)

This species has been found in all the counties in which I have listed birds. I have never found it abundant even in ideal feeding grounds during migration. However, sportsmen near Mineral Wells, Wood County, have reported it to be found in large numbers in the swampy country in that neighborhood. It is a common summer resident, nesting in localities near suitable feeding grounds.

66. Wilson’s Snipe. Gallinago delicata (Ord.)

The “Jack Snipe,” as it is sometimes called, is common in the Little Kanawha and Ohio Valleys during spring migration. Just a few days see the greater number of these birds come and go. This flight usually occurs in either the first or the second week in April. This species has been found nesting in Brooke County by George M. Sutton.

67. Dowitcher. Macrorhamphus griseus griseus (Gmelin)

P. D. Strausbaugh of Morgantown and I found a flock of eight Dowitchers at Lake Terra Alta, May 5, 1926. These birds were feeding on the mud flats in the upper end of the lake. This is the first time the species has been listed in the State.

68. Stilt Sandpiper. Micropalama himantopus (Bonaparte)

The only record of this species for the State is that of E. A. Brooks, given by W. C. Rives (6) and Surber. The specimen in question was taken near White Sulphur Springs, November 2, 1896.

69. Pectoral Sandpiper. Pisobia maculata (Vieillot)

Very rare. A specimen was shot by Carl R. Bibbee in the spring of 1908. On April 4, 1931, a pair of these birds was found in a small pond at Athens.
70. White-rumped Sandpiper. Pisobia fuscicollis (Vieill.)

The only record is that of E. A. Brooks, made by the Morgans on the Great Kanawha.

71. Least Sandpiper. Pisobia minutilla (Vieillot)

I have never seen or taken this species. The Morgans have reported it from Putnam County.

72. Greater Yellow-legs. Totanus melanoleucus (Gmelin)

A few individuals are found in spring about ponds and wet meadows along the Little Kanawha and Ohio Rivers. The specimen in the University was taken by C. R. Bibbee, in the spring of 1908, in a pond near Leachtown. On May 5, 1926, several of this species in company with a number of the following species were found at Lake Terra Alta.

73. Yellow-legs. Totanus flavipes (Gmelin)

In the Little Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys this species is more common than the foregoing. It has been observed also around Field’s Reservoir near Morgantown; near Charles Town, May 28, 1924; at Shawnee Lake, Mercer County, March 22, 1929; and at Lake Terra Alta, May 5, 1926.

74. Solitary Sandpiper. Helodromas solitarius solitarius (Wilson)

The two specimens in the University collection were taken August 1, 1924, in a small pond along the Little Kanawha River near Leachtown. Species first appeared April 20. Only occasionally seen.

75. Willet. Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus (Gmelin)

As far as known there is but one State record, that of Sidney Morgan, published by E. A. Brooks.

76. Upland Plover. Bartramia longicauda (Bechstein)

I have seen this bird but once. It was in a pasture field on the Little Kanawha River, September, 1911. Other observers have recorded it from the Potomac, the Great Kanawha, and at Lewisburg.

77. Spotted Sandpiper. Actitis macularia (Linn.)

This dainty little sandpiper is found along all the streams in West Virginia.

78. Hudsonian Curlew. Numenius hudsonicus Latham

In the spring of 1926 A. B. Brooks, in company with C. L. Brooks and Maurice G. Brooks, secured a fine specimen in Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County. This lone bird was seen to alight in what is known as the “big glade.”
Family CHARADRIIDÆ. Plovers

Number of species in North America, 14; in West Virginia, 4.

The Plovers are small- to medium-sized birds; plump-bodied; bill usually short and shaped much like a pigeon's; legs medium in length; feet partly webbed; hind toe wanting or rudimentary.

79. Golden Plover. Charadrius dominicus dominicus (Mueller)

The only records of this plover for West Virginia are those of Sidney Morgan, published by E. A. Brooks.

80. Killdeer. Oxyechus vociferus (Linn.)

The Killdeer is common throughout the State. It regularly winters along the Little Kanawha and Ohio Rivers and about Morgantown, and for two seasons has wintered about Athens, Mercer County. It nests in Wood and Mercer Counties.

81. Semipalmated Plover. Aëgialitis semipalmata (Bonaparte)

I have seen a few of these small plovers along the Ohio about Parkersburg and Blennerhassett Island. I saw it also on the mud flats at the upper end of Lake Terra Alta, May 5, 1926.

82. Ringed Plover. Aëgialitis hiatricula (Linn.)

One specimen was reported by Morgan on the Great Kanawha.

Order GALLINÆ. GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Number of species in North America, 25; in West Virginia, 4.

Suborder Phasian. Pheasants, grouse, partridges, quails, etc.

Number of species in North America, 25; in West Virginia, 4.

Family PHASIANIDÆ. Pheasants

Number of species in North America, 4; in West Virginia, 1.

83. Ring-necked Pheasant. Phasianus colchicus torquatus (Gmelin)

This beautiful bird has only recently been liberated in West Virginia. If properly protected it will, no doubt, become as well established here as it seems to be in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, and sections of the Middle West. In Pennsylvania during the 1927 hunting season 177,500 pheasants were taken as legal game (22).
Family **ODONTOPHORIDÆ.** Bob-whites, Quails, etc.
Number of species in North America, 7; in West Virginia, 1.

84. Bob-white. *Colinus virginianus virginianus* (Linn.)
The friendly, cheery Bob-white is too well known for comment. Its feeding habits show it to be one of the most useful birds to the farmer, besides its rating as one of the finest game birds. In many sections farmers zealously protect it.

Family **TETRAONIDÆ.** Grouse, etc.
Number of species in North America, 14; in West Virginia, 1.

85. Ruffed Grouse. *Bonasa umbellus umbellus* (Linn.)
This king of all upland game birds has most often been called pheasant. Now that the Ring-necked Pheasant is becoming established in the State, people will begin to differentiate between "pheasant" and "ruffed grouse."

The Ruffed Grouse was once very abundant in all parts of the State. Now it occurs in straggling numbers in the rougher mountain sections and in some other places where large woodlands or sections of brushy country offer protection.

Family **MELEAGRIDÆ.** Turkeys

86. Wild Turkey. *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris* Vieill.
This noble American bird has been rapidly disappearing in West Virginia. Recent protection seems to promise that the few remaining birds may hold their own, and perhaps slightly increase in some of the few favorable timbered mountain regions.

Order **COLUMBÆ.** Pigeons and Doves
Number of species in North America, 14; in West Virginia, 2.

Family **COLUMBIDÆ.** Pigeons and Doves
Number of species in North America, 14; in West Virginia, 2.

87. Passenger Pigeon. *Ectopistes migratorius* (Linn.)
This famous bird, now known to be extinct in West Virginia as well as in all other states, is always listed because of its intriguing history.
88. Mourning Dove. Zenaidura macroura carolinensis (Linn.)

The Mourning Dove, often called "turtle dove," is common in all parts of the State. It winters regularly in the Little Kanawha Valley. It also spends the winter at Morgantown and at Athens. Judging from these records it no doubt winters in most parts of the State, with perhaps the exceptions of the higher mountain country.

Order RAPTORES. Birds of Prey
Number of species in North America, 59; in West Virginia, 25.

Suborder SARCORHAMPHI. American Vultures
Number of species in North America, 3; in West Virginia, 1.

Family CATHARTIDÆ. American Vultures
Number of species in North America, 3; in West Virginia, 1.

89. Turkey Vulture. Cathartes aura septentrionalis Wied.

These Turkey "Buzzards," as they are more often called, are found in all parts of West Virginia. They are very valuable scavengers.

Suborder FALCONES. Kites, Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, etc.
Number of species in North America, 36; in West Virginia, 16.

Family BUTEONIDÆ. Hawks, Eagles, Kites, etc.
Number of species in North America, 36; in West Virginia, 16.

90. Swallow-tailed Kite. Elanoides forficatus (Linn.)

Apparently the only records for West Virginia are those of Doan (11).

91. Marsh Hawk. Circus hudsonius (Linn.)

In Wood County this hawk is quite often seen. It has also been observed on the Animal Husbandry farm of the University at Morgantown several times during fall and winter. It has been reported from Mercer, Summers, Preston, and Raleigh Counties.

92. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Accipiter velox (Wilson)

This hawk is found in all parts of the State. It never appears to be as common as the nest species. Its habit of sticking close to brush and thickets tends to make it even less conspicuous. It is a terror to small birds.
93. **Cooper’s Hawk.** Accipiter cooperi (Bonaparte)

This is the real chicken thief. Its larger size and bolder habits of venturing out from cover than the foregoing species make it the worst menace to poultry raisers. It is also the worst enemy of the Bob-whites and all smaller birds. It appears to be by far the most abundant hawk in the State.

94. **Goshawk.** Astur atricapillus atricapillus (Wilson)

This larger hawk, the terror of bird life in the North woods, very rarely wanders as far south as West Virginia. My records for its occurrence are very few. On December 5, 1916, a fine, large female of this species was shot in the Cheat River mountains of Monongalia County. The specimen in the University collection was taken at Parsons, Tucker County, on November 15, 1926. On October 25, 1925, a fine adult male was taken at Freeport, Wirt County.

95. **Red-tailed Hawk.** Buteo borealis borealis (Gmelin)

This, our largest hawk, is common in all parts of the State. It is often called “chicken-hawk” and “hen-hawk.” In the southern counties it is known as “squirrel-hawk.” It is the hawk that produces the shrill, whistling notes as it floats high in the hot, clear atmosphere of July and August. The greater part of its food is field mice and other destructive rodents.

96. **Red-shouldered Hawk.** Buteo lineatus lineatus (Gmelin)

The few specimens sent me to mount show it to occur in all parts of the State, but it is not nearly so common as the Red-tailed or the Cooper’s Hawk.

97. **Swainson’s Hawk.** Buteo swainsoni Bonaparte

Recorded by E. A. Brooks.

98. **Broad-winged Hawk.** Buteo platypterus (Vieillot)

The immature specimen of this species in the University collection was obtained by A. J. Dadisman of Morgantown, September 21, 1924. Another, an adult male, was obtained by Dan Purdue of Elkhorn High School, McDowell County, June, 1928.

99. **Rough-legged Hawk.** Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis (Gmelin)

Reported by E. A. Brooks.

100. **Golden Eagle.** Aquila chrysaetos (Linn.)

Considered rather rare in the eastern United States. From my records of this species I am certain that it is as common in West Virginia, if not more so, as the Bald Eagle.
101. Bald Eagle. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus* (LINN.)

The immature specimen of this species in the University collection was obtained from Ira Duckworth, who shot it in Morgan County near the Maryland line. This is my only record of the securing of a wild bird in the State.

**Family FALCONIDÆ. The Falcons**

Number of species in North America, 12; in West Virginia, 3.

102. Duck Hawk. *Falco peregrinus anatum* Bonaparte

This is the most interesting of all the hawks in West Virginia. As far as I have been able to learn, it is found nesting in only one place in the State at the present time. In a high cliff of rocks, known as Edds Fort, overhanging the Capon River, in Morgan County, a pair of these birds has nested for a number of years.

103. Pigeon Hawk. *Falco columbarius columbarius* Linn.

I have only two records of the appearance of this small, rare hawk in West Virginia. On May 5, 1924, Robert Frame of Morgantown shot a fine female. A short time later he killed another of the same species in the same locality.

104. Sparrow Hawk. *Falco sparverius sparverius* Linn.

This beautiful little falcon is found in all parts of West Virginia.

**Family PANDIONIDÆ. Ospreys**

Number of species in North America, 1; in West Virginia, 1.

105. Osprey. *Pandion haliæetus carolinensis* (Gmelin)

The Osprey is an occasional spring and fall visitor along the waterways of the State. Only rarely does it appear during summer.

**Suborder Striges. Owls**

Number of species in North America, 20; in West Virginia, 8.

**Family ALUCONIDÆ. Barn Owls**

Number of species in North America, 1; in West Virginia, 1.

106. Barn Owl. *Aluco pratincola* (Bonaparte)

Many recent records of the occurrence of this queer owl in southern West Virginia indicate that it is increasing in numbers in this section. I have recorded this species from the following counties: Monongalia, Wood, Cabell, and McDowell. It nests in the Ohio Valley.
**Family STRIGIDÆ. Horned Owls, etc.**

Number of species in North America, 19; in West Virginia, 7.

107. Long-eared Owl. *Asio wilsonianus* (Lesson)

I have few records of this owl for West Virginia. In the fall of 1907 one was killed on the Little Kanawha. In the fall of 1913 another was taken near Parkersburg. The specimen in the University collection was obtained near Morgantown in 1922 by A. G. Mansberger.

108. Short-eared Owl. *Asio flammeus* (Pont.)

The records for this species in West Virginia are few. In recent years two have been taken in Wood County.

109. Barred Owl. *Strix varia varia* Barton

This owl is common about Morgantown and in all mountainous parts of the State where I have collected.

110. Saw-whet Owl. *Cryptoglaux acadica acadica* (Gmelin)

Listed by Doan and reported by E. A. Brooks as a "very rare northern bird."

111. Screech Owl. *Otus asio asio* (Linn.)

The common little Screech Owl known to every one is found in all parts of West Virginia. The two color phases, the red and the gray, are interesting. These two phases are independent of age, sex, season, or range.

112. Great Horned Owl. *Bubo virginianus virginianus* (Gmelin)

This largest and fiercest of the owls is becoming scarcer each year. Even if it be the "tiger among birds" it seems a pity to see it exterminated, since it is so rare, and the possibility of its extinction in West Virginia may be in the near future.

113. Snowy Owl. *Nyctea nyctea* (Linn.)

This beautiful white bird of the far North seldom wanders as far south as West Virginia. Meade McNeill of Marlinton reports the killing of one of these birds in the Cranberry Glades of Pocahontas County. Ernest Angelo saw one at Morgantown in 1915. On November 14, 1929, a specimen was taken at Elgood. A few weeks later another specimen was captured on East River Mountain at Bluefield.
Order COCCYGES. Cuckoos, Kingfishers, etc.
Number of species in North America, 11; in West Virginia, 3.

Suborder Cuculi. Cuckoos
Number of species in North America, 7; in West Virginia, 2.

Family CUCULIDÆ. Cuckoos, etc.
Number of species in North America, 7; in West Virginia, 2.

Subfamily COCCYZINÆ. American Cuckoos
Number of species in North America, 3; in West Virginia, 2.

114. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus americanus americanus (Linn.)
Common in all parts of West Virginia.

115. Black-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus (Wilson)
This second species of the “rain crow,” like the first, is common.

Suborder Alcyones. Kingfishers
Number of species in North America, 3; in West Virginia, 1.

Family ALCEDINIDÆ. Kingfishers
Number of species in North America, 3; in West Virginia, 1.

116. Belted Kingfisher. Ceryle alcyon (Linn.)
Common along all our streams both large and small. I have known it to winter several seasons in Wood County.

Order PICI. Woodpeckers, etc.
Number of species in North America, 24; in West Virginia, 7.

Family PICIDÆ. Woodpeckers
Number of species in North America, 24; in West Virginia, 7.

117. Hairy Woodpecker. Dryobates villosus villosus (Linn.)
Common in the forests. It can be distinguished from the Downy Woodpecker chiefly by its larger size and louder notes.
118. Downy Woodpecker. Dryobates pubescens medianus (Swainson)

This, the familiar little black-and-white Woodpecker, is common both in the forest and on trees about dwellings.

119. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Sphyrapicus varius varius (Linn.)

This Sapsucker may be seen commonly on both spring and fall migrations and may nest in mountains.

120. Northern Pileated Woodpecker. Phleotomus pileatus abieticola (Bangs)

The destruction of its nesting places by the cutting of large timber has greatly reduced the numbers of these "Indian hens." Now it is a rare sight to see one of these birds. In most places they appear as mere straggling individuals or pairs.

121. Red-headed Woodpecker. Melanerpes erythrocephalus (Linn.)

This bird may be found in any part of the State. It may be abundant for a season or several seasons in certain localities, then suddenly disappear from that region and not be seen for many years.

122. Red-bellied Woodpecker. Centurus carolinus (Linn.)

This bird is a common all-year resident in Wood County. At different times during the year it is found in Monongalia County. It never appears at one time in numbers greater than a few individuals.

123. Northern Flicker. Colaptes auratus luteus (Bangs)

The Flicker, often known as "Yellow-hammer," is our most beautiful and useful Woodpecker. It is a very common spring and summer resident.

Order MACROCHIRES. Goatsuckers and Swifts

Number of species in North America, 28; in West Virginia, 5.

Suborder Caprimulgul. Goatsuckers

Number of species in North America, 6; in West Virginia, 3.

Family CAPRIMULGIDÆ. Goatsuckers

Number of species in North America, 6; in West Virginia, 3.

124. Chuck-will's-widow. Antrostomus carolinensis (Gmelin)

Reported only by E. A. Brooks as "very rare."
125. Whip-poor-will. *Antrostomus vociferus vociferus* (Wilson)

Quite common in all parts of the State. It appears the first week in April and departs the first part of October.

126. Nighthawk. *Chordeiles virginianus virginianus* (Gmelin)

The Nighthawk, more commonly known as "bull bat," is quite common in West Virginia during migration.

**Suborder Cypseli. Swifts**

Number of species in North America, 4; in West Virginia, 1.

**Family Micropodidae. Swifts**

Number of species in North America, 4; in West Virginia, 1.

**Subfamily Chæturinæ. Spine-tailed Swifts**

Number of species in North America, 3; in West Virginia, 1.

127. Chimney Swift. *Chætura pelagica* (Linn.)

The familiar little Chimney Swift, very often erroneously called "Chimney Swallow," is well known to every one. It is common everywhere. Before the settling of the country they nested in large, hollow trees. They still nest in hollow trees in some of the more remote mountain regions.

**Suborder Trochilii. Hummingbirds**

Number of species in North America, 18; in West Virginia, 1.

**Family Trochilidae. Hummingbirds**

Number of species in North America, 18; in West Virginia, 1.

128. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. *Archilochus colubris* (Linn.)

This beautiful, tiny creature is a common summer resident from the last week of April to early October. Its nest is the most beautiful and dainty of all bird structures.

**Order Passeres. Perching Birds**

Number of species in North America, 333; in West Virginia, 139.

**Suborder Clamatores. Songless Perching Birds**

Number of species in North America, 32; in West Virginia, 9.
FAMILY TYRANNIDÆ. TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Number of species in North America, 31; in West Virginia, 9.

129. Kingbird. Tyrannus tyrannus (Linn.)
The Kingbird, often called "Beebird" or "Bee Martin," is common in all parts of West Virginia.

130. Crested Flycatcher. Myiarchus crinitus (Linn.)
This large, handsome flycatcher is a common woodland bird in all parts of the State.

131. Phœbe. Sayornis phœbe (Latham)
One of our most common birds in all parts of the State. The Phœbe is one of the first spring birds whose return can be accurately forecast.

132. Olive-sided Flycatcher. Nuttallornis borealis (Swainson)
On May 30, 1925, I collected a fine male in Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County. I have seen the species in no other place in West Virginia.

133. Wood Pewee. Myiochanes virens (Linn.)
A common summer resident in all parts of the State.

134. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Empidonax flaviventris (W.M. & S.F. Baird)
I have collected this small flycatcher at Charles Town, Albright, and Cranesville. In all instances only single birds were seen. Other records are very scarce.

135. Acadian Flycatcher. Empidonax virescens (Vieillot)
This bird has been found in greatest abundance along the wooded streams in the Cheat River section of Monongalia County. It may be found in similar habitats in most sections of the State.

136. Alder Flycatcher. Empidonax trailli alnorum Brewster
As its name suggests, it is among the thickets of alders in the highest mountain glades and swamps where this flycatcher is found.

137. Least Flycatcher. Empidonax minimus (W.M. & S.F. Baird)
This form is a common summer resident at Athens, along the Cheat River country, about Cranesville, and in Cranberry Glades. It occurs in all parts of the State in migration.

SUBORDER OSCINES. SONG BIRDS

Number of species in North America, 299; in West Virginia, 130.
**Family ALAUDIDÆ. Larks**

Number of species in North America, 2; in West Virginia, 1.

138. Prairie Horned Lark. *Otocoris alpestris praticola* Henshaw
This species is a common all-year resident in Wood, Monongalia, and Mercer Counties.

**Family CORVIDÆ. Crows, Jays, Magpies, etc.**

Number of species in North America, 23; in West Virginia, 4.

**SUBFAMILY GARRULINÆ. Magpies and Jays**

Number of species in North America, 14; in West Virginia, 1.

139. Blue Jay. *Cyanocitta cristata cristata* (Linn.)
The Blue Jay is common in all parts of West Virginia. It is more abundant in the wooded mountain regions than the open farming country.

**SUBFAMILY CORVINÆ. Crows**

Number of species in North America, 9; in West Virginia, 3.

140. Northern Raven. *Corvus corax principalis* Ridgway
The Raven was once seen in all parts of West Virginia. Now it is extinct except in a very few counties. In June, 1933, a small band of ravens fed on cherries in the hilly section of Summers County near Shanklin’s Ferry on New River.

The Crow, which is common in the vicinity of farming land, is seen in all parts of the country.

142. Fish Crow. *Corvus ossifragus* (Wilson)
Reported from the Ohio Valley by Doan (11) and from both the Ohio Valley and the Potomac by E. A. Brooks (5).

**Family STURNIDÆ. Starlings**

143. Starling. *Sturnus vulgaris* (Linn.)
The Starling is an imported bird now rapidly gaining a dominant position among our native birds throughout the country.

**Family ICTERIDÆ. Blackbirds, Orioles, etc.**

Number of species in North America, 19; in West Virginia, 9.
144. **Bobolink. Dolichonyx oryzivorus (Linn.)**

I have recorded this bird, one of our most wonderful American songsters, only during spring migration. On May 12, 1925, a flock was found near Morgantown. In Wood County it occurs with regularity during the first and second weeks of May.

145. **Cowbird. Molothrus ater (Boddaert)**

The Cowbird may be found in most sections of the State throughout the year. It occurs in large numbers in late summer and fall.

146. **Yellow-headed Blackbird. Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus (Bonaparte)**

One very doubtful record of this bird’s occurrence in West Virginia is given by Doan (11).

147. **Red-winged Blackbird. Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus (Linn.)**

A common summer resident about swamps in all parts of West Virginia.

148. **Meadowlark. Sturnella magna magna (Linn.)**

A common summer resident in all parts of West Virginia. It regularly winters in Wood and Mercer Counties and often winters in Monongalia County.

149. **Orchard Oriole. Icterus spurius (Linn.)**

This beautiful songster is found in the farming sections of West Virginia. It almost invariably frequents orchards and groves in the lower river valleys.

150. **Baltimore Oriole. Icterus galbula (Linn.)**

This bird is common in most sections of the State.

151. **Rusty Blackbird. Euphagus carolinus (Mueller)**

A fairly common spring and fall migrant in many sections of West Virginia.

152. **Purple Grackle. Quiscalus quiscula quiscula (Linn.)**

This is the large blackbird found in the counties east of the mountains.

153. **Bronzed Grackle. Quiscalus quiscula aeneus (Ridgway)**

This is the large blackbird found in all the counties west of the mountains.
Family FRINGILLIDÆ. Finches, Sparrows, etc.
Number of species in North America, 90; in West Virginia, 28.

154. Pine Grosbeak. Pinicola enucleator leucura (Müeller)
Listed by E. A. Brooks as "very rare" and "found only in the coldest winters."

155. Purple Finch. Carpodacus purpureus purpureus (Gmelin)
An irregular migrant.

156. Crossbill. Loxia curvirostra minor (Brehm)
Listed by E. A. Brooks as "quite rare."

157. White-winged Crossbill. Loxia leucoptera (Gmelin)
Listed by F. E. Brooks from French Creek.

158. Redpoll. Acanthis linaria linaria (Linn.)
I have seen this bird only once in West Virginia. On September 25, 1917, a flock of about a dozen was observed at Morgantown.

159. Goldfinch. Astragalinus tristis tristis (Linn.)
A common all-year resident everywhere.

160. Pine Siskin. Spinus pinus (Wilson)
A rare winter visitor.

161. English Sparrow. Passer domesticus (Linn.)
The distribution and abundance of this introduced species is too well known for comment.

162. Snow Bunting. Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis (Linn.)
People living in the country near Cranesville, Preston County, tell me that on rare occasions this bird appears in flocks at times of the hard snowstorms in late February and March. E. A. Brooks (20) records it from Upshur County.

163. Vesper Sparrow. Pooecetes gramineus gramineus (Gmelin)
Common in all parts of the State from March to November. Sometimes a few may be found wintering.

164. Savannah Sparrow. Passercules sandwichensis savanna (Wilson)
On September 25, 1924, I collected a lone specimen of this species
in Upshur County, near Buckhannon. On April 1, 1926, I found a
number of these sparrows in the pasture fields on the Little Kanawha
River in Wood County. This species has become a regular spring mi-
grant at Athens.

165. Grasshopper Sparrow. Ammodramus savannarum australis Maynard

This small sparrow with the insect-like note is common in old
pasture fields in all parts of the State except the highest mountain
regions.

166. Lark Sparrow. Chondestes grammacus grammacus (Say)

This large, fine sparrow is an irregular migrant and summer resi-
dent in various sections of the State.

167. White-crowned Sparrow. Zonotrichia leucophrys
leucophrys (J. R. Forster)

This beautiful, portly sparrow is found only in migration, and
then rarely. During the winter of 1931-32 I found one of these sparrows
in company with a flock of White-throated Sparrows along the Little
Kanawha River in Wood County.

168. White-throated Sparrow. Zonotrichia albicollis (Gmelin)

This, the most brightly colored of the sparrows, is common with us
during migration.

169. Tree Sparrow. Spizella monticola monticola (Gmelin)

This sparrow is a winter visitor only. It arrives in October and
departs for the far North again in late March.

170. Chipping Sparrow. Spizella passerina passerina (Bechstein)

The little “chippie” is a common summer resident in all parts of
West Virginia.

171. Field Sparrow. Spizella pusilla pusilla (Wilson)

The field sparrow is quite common from March to November. Sometime a few may winter.

172. Slate-colored Junco. Junco hyemalis hyemalis (Linn.)

This bird, usually called “Snow Bird,” is a common winter resi-
dent and nests in higher altitudes.


This subspecies is a summer resident and breeds in the highest
mountain regions of the State.
Listed by E. A. Brooks as “‘common in many sections.’” I have never as yet succeeded in finding this species.

175. Song Sparrow. *Melospiza melodia melodia* (Wilson)
A common all-year resident, breeding in all sections of West Virginia.

176. Lincoln’s Sparrow. *Melospiza lincolni lincolni* (Audubon)
Listed by E. A. Brooks as “‘very rare.’”

177. Swamp Sparrow. *Melospiza georgiana* (Latham)
This species is found as a spring and fall migrant in Wood and Monongalia Counties and as an abundant summer resident in Cranesville Glades and Cranberry Glades.

178. Fox Sparrow. *Passerella iliaca iliaca* (Merrem)
This large, spotted-breasted sparrow, much resembling a Thrush, is an occasional migrant and rare winter visitor in West Virginia.

179. Towhee. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus* (Linnaeus)
The Towhee is a common summer resident in all sections of West Virginia. It often winters in Monongalia, Wood, and Wirt Counties.

180. Cardinal. *Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis* (Linnaeus)
Our State Bird is a common all-year resident except in the highest mountain regions.

181. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. *Zamelodia ludoviciana* (Linnaeus)
This beautiful species replaces the Cardinal in the Canadian Life Zone of the highest mountains as a summer resident. It is a rare migrant elsewhere in the State.

182. Blue Grosbeak. *Guiraca caerulea caerulea* (Linnaeus)
Listed by Doan but apparently very rare.

183. Indigo Bunting. *Passerina cyanea* (Linnaeus)
This active little songster is common in all parts of the State.

184. Dickcissel. *Spiza americana* (Gmelin)
Listed by Doan as a “‘tolerably common summer resident in Ohio Valley.’” I have never observed it there or anywhere else in West Virginia.
Family TANGARIDÆ. Tanagers
Number of species in North America, 4; in West Virginia, 2.

185. Scarlet Tanager. Piranga erythromelas Vieillot
This species is a common summer resident in the forests of the State.

186. Summer Tanager. Piranga rubra rubra (Linn.)
This form is a quite common summer resident along the Ohio River.

Family HIRUNDINIDÆ. Swallows
Number of species in North America, 12; in West Virginia, 6.

187. Purple Martin. Progne subis subis (Linn.)
This cheery companion to man is common in most sections of the State where nesting houses are furnished. It prefers locations near broad expansions of water. It is this preference that makes the species far more abundant along the large river valleys.

188. Cliff Swallow. Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons (Say)
Not common in West Virginia.

Common in all parts of West Virginia.

190. Tree Swallow. Iridoprocne bicolor (Vieillot)
Rare in West Virginia.

191. Bank Swallow. Riparia riparia (Linn.)
This swallow is found breeding along the Hughes River in Wirt County and the Little Kanawha in Wood County.

192. Rough-winged Swallow. Stelgidopteryx serripennis (Audubon)
Rare in West Virginia.

Family BOMBYCILLIDÆ. Waxwings
Number of species in North America, 2; in West Virginia, 1.

193. Cedar Waxwing. Bombycilla cedrorum Vieillot
This species is a common summer resident in many parts of West Virginia.
**Family Laniidae. Shrikes**

Number of species in North America, 2; in West Virginia, 2.

194. Northern Shrike. Lanius borealis Vieillot

Listed by Doan (11).

195. Migrant Shrike. Lanius ludovicianus migrans W. Palmer

A winter resident in the Little Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys. Irregularly occurs in summer in the same places.

**Family Vireonidae. Vireos**

Number of species in North America, 12; in West Virginia, 6.

196. Red-eyed Vireo. Vireosylva olivacea (Linn.)

The most common member of the family in West Virginia. A summer resident breeding in all parts of the State.

197. Philadelphia Vireo. Vireosylva philadelphica Cassin

My only record is a single specimen collected at Morgantown, May 22, 1925. Listed by E. A. Brooks as one of the State's rarest birds.

198. Warbling Vireo. Vireosylva gilva gilva (Vieillot)

Quite common in the lower sections of West Virginia.

199. Yellow-throated Vireo. Lanivireo flavifrons (Vieillot)

Found on the Capon River in Morgan County. On June 21, 1925, a few were observed along this interesting stream and one was collected. It is a common summer resident in Mercer County, nesting in the vicinity of Athens.

200. Blue-headed Vireo. Lanivireo solitarius solitarius (Wilson)

This large vireo is a summer resident in the higher mountains and is fairly common along the Alleghenies during spring and fall migrations. It is rare as a migrant in other parts of the State.

201. Mountain Vireo. Lanivireo solitarius alticola (Brewster)

This southern race of the Blue-headed Vireo is found as a summer resident in the highest mountains of West Virginia. My studies show the form to be rare.

202. White-eyed Vireo. Vireo griseus griseus (Boddart)

The Vireo is a very abundant summer resident along the streams in Wood, Ritchie, and Wirt Counties. It is rare in Monongalia County.
In the past this species appeared to be common only in the Lower Carolinian life zone. Recent records show it to be invading the Alleghenian life zone in Mercer County.

**Family MNIOTILTIDÆ. Wood Warblers**

Number of species in North America, 55; in West Virginia, 38.

203. Black and White Warbler. Mniotilta varia (Linn.)

This species is a common summer resident in the Transition and Canadian life zones of West Virginia. During migration it is common elsewhere in the State.

204. Prothonotary Warbler. Protonotaria citrea (Boddaert)

E. A. Brooks reports this species as very rare. It has been reported by others.

205. Swainson's Warbler. Helinaia swainsoni (Audubon)

On June 14, 1924, I collected a male of this species at Buzzards Rocks in Monongalia County. It is interesting to note that Chapman (8) says, "This is one of the rarest Warblers of the United States."

206. Worm-eating Warbler. Helmitheros vermivorus (Gmelin)

A common summer resident in Monongalia, Wood, Wirt, Ritchie, and Mercer Counties. I have not found it in any other sections of the State visited.

207. Blue-winged Warbler. Vermivora pinus (Linn.)

Listed by E. A. Brooks as a rare species. I have never seen it. Nesting near Wheeling, reported by A. B. Brooks, 1932.

208. Golden-winged Warbler. Vermivora chrysoptera (Linn.)

This species is an abundant summer resident in Monongalia County and fairly common as a summer resident in Mercer County. A few were noted about Cranberry Glades from May 29 to June 5, 1925. At other places where studies have been made it was rare or missing.

209. Nashville Warbler. Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla (Wilson)

I have observed this Warbler only twice—in Morgantown.

210. Tennessee Warbler. Vermivora peregrina (Wilson)

Only a migrant in West Virginia.

211. Orange-crowned Warbler. Vermivora celata celata (Say)

This species was taken during migration at Wheeling in 1933.
212. Northern Parula Warbler. *Compsothlypis americana usneæ* (Brewster)

This species is a common summer resident in Mercer County.

213. Cape May Warbler. *Dendroica tigrina* (Gmelin)

A fairly common migrant at Morgantown. I also saw it in migration at Elkins, on May 3, 1925.

214. Yellow Warbler. *Dendroica aestiva aestiva* (Gmelin)

This beautiful, cheery little bird is the most abundant of the family in all parts of West Virginia.

215. Black-throated Blue Warbler. *Dendroica cærulescens cærulescens* (Gmelin)

In migration it may be found in all parts of West Virginia. It is an abundant summer resident in the higher mountain regions.


This southern form of the Black-throated Blue Warbler is a fairly common summer resident in mountain regions above an elevation of 3,000 feet.

217. Myrtle Warbler. *Dendroica coronata* (Linn.)

The Myrtle Warbler is one of the most common migrants of all the warblers in West Virginia. It often lingers late in fall migration and may, in rare cases, remain all winter.

218. Magnolia Warbler. *Dendroica magnolia* (Wilson)

One of the very beautiful Warblers common in migration.


E. A. Brooks (5) lists this form as common in the hills along the Ohio River, but nowhere else in the State. I have found it only a few times in Wood County.

220. Chestnut-sided Warbler. *Dendroica pennsylvanica* (Linn.)

This species is a common migrant in the mountainous sections of West Virginia. It is a common summer resident in the highest mountain sections.

221. Bay-breasted Warbler. *Dendroica castanea* (Wilson)

A rather common migrant.

222. Black-poll Warbler. *Dendroica striata* (J. R. Forster)

A number can always be found in migration.
223. Blackburnian Warbler. *Dendroica fusca* (Mueller)
A fairly common migrant.

224. Yellow-throated Warbler. *Dendroica dominica dominica* (Linn.)
Listed by E. A. Brooks as a "rare southern bird."

225. Black-throated Green Warbler. *Dendroica virens* (Gmelin)
This is a common species in migration in most parts of the State. It is a summer resident in the mountain forests.

Reported by other observers, but so far I have failed to find it in West Virginia.

227. Palm Warbler. *Dendroica palmarum palmarum* (Gmelin)
Occurs in migration.

228. Yellow Palm Warbler. *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea* Ridgway
Listed by E. A. Brooks (♂).

229. Prairie Warbler. *Dendroica discolor* (Vieillot)
This warbler is an abundant summer resident among the higher pine-covered hills of Wood and Wirt Counties. I found it common at Berkeley Springs, May 26 and 27, 1924.

230. Oven-bird. *Seiurus aurocapillus* (Linn.)
A common bird in the deeper woods of the higher sections and up through the mountains of the State. A. J. Dadisman and I found it nesting at Greer, June 6, 1921.

231. Water-thrush. *Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis* (Gmelin)
This northern species is a summer resident in Cranberry Glades and Cranesville Glades.

232. Louisiana Water-Thrush. *Seiurus motacilla* (Vieillot)
Common summer resident along woodland streams in all parts of West Virginia.

Common summer resident in Wood, Wirt, and Ritchie Counties, and along the Monongahela River.

Near Charles Town, May 28, 1924, I took a female of this species. It is listed by E. A. Brooks as very rare. Brewster records three specimens found in Ritchie County, from April 25 to May 9, 1874.

235. Mourning Warbler. *Oporornis philadelphia* (Wilson)

During migration I have found this species twice in West Virginia: at Great Capon, May 26, 1924, and near Terra Alta, May 28, 1925. E. A. Brooks (4) has found it nesting on Spruce Knob, in June, 1908.

236. Maryland Yellow-throat. *Geothlypis trichas trichas* (Linnaeus)

This little black-faced Warbler is a common summer resident along streams or in swamps in all parts of West Virginia.

237. Yellow-breasted Chat. *Icteria virens virens* (Linnaeus)

This largest and noisiest of the Warblers in West Virginia is a common summer resident in all parts of the State. It is always found in old pastures, fields, or clearings among the thick growths of bushes and briers.

238. Hooded Warbler. *Wilsonia citrina* (Boddaert)

A common summer resident in the mountains of Monongalia County. It is also found in Morgan County along the Capon River, and is a rather rare summer resident in Mercer County. I have recorded it once in Wirt County, June 10, 1926.


This beautiful little Warbler is a rather irregular migrant in West Virginia.

240. Canada Warbler. *Wilsonia canadensis* (Linnaeus)

Common during migration in the mountain counties of West Virginia.

241. Redstart. *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linnaeus)

This beautiful little black-and-orange Warbler is a common summer resident in Monongalia and Mercer Counties. It is a common migrant in all parts of the State.

**Family MOTACILLIDÆ. Wagtails**

Number of species in North America, 7; in West Virginia, 1.

242. Pipit. *Anthus rubescens* (Tunstall)

This little wanderer from the far North is a fairly common winter
resident in the lower Little Kanawha Valley. It arrives in October and leaves in late April.

**Family Mimidae. Thrashers, Mockingbirds, etc.**

Number of species in North America, 11; in West Virginia, 3.

243. Mockingbird. *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos* (Linn.)

The Mocking Bird is a summer resident in the level, open farming country of Jefferson, Pocahontas, Greenbrier, and Monroe Counties. It is a rare visitor in most other sections of the State.

244. Catbird. *Dumetella carolinensis* (Linn.)

The Catbird is a common summer resident in all parts of West Virginia.


The Brown Thrasher is a common summer resident in all parts of West Virginia.

**Family Troglydidae. Wrens**

Number of species in North America, 14; in West Virginia, 6.

246. Carolina Wren. *Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus* (Latham)

The Carolina Wren is an all-year resident in West Virginia. It is often found in the deep forests as well as about buildings and suitable locations in cities.


This is a summer resident in the greater part of the State.


This wren is common in Monongalia, Preston, and the counties of the Eastern Panhandle. Also in clearings about Cranberry Glades. I have never found it in other sections except as a rare straggler.

249. Winter Wren. *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis* (Vieillot)

The breeding range in West Virginia is the higher mountain regions. In winter this bird is found in the adjoining foothills of the Alleghenies, and occasionally a straggler or a pair of stragglers wanders into the lower counties.
250. Short-billed Marsh Wren. Cistothorus stellaris (Naumann)
I have found this species only once in West Virginia—in Wood County.

251. Long-billed Marsh Wren. Telmatodytes palustris palustris (Wilson)
I have seen this species several times in Wood County in the swamps along the Little Kanawha River. It is rare in all sections.

**Family CERTHIIDÆ. Creepers**

Number of species in North America, 1; in West Virginia, 1.

252. Brown Creeper. Certhia familiaris americana Bonaparte
Careful observers will find the little Brown Creeper occasionally in several sections of West Virginia.

**Family SITTIDÆ. Nuthatches**

Number of species in North America, 4; in West Virginia, 2.

253. White-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta carolinensis carolinensis Latham
The White-breasted Nuthatch is one of the common winter birds in most of the counties of West Virginia. It is a summer resident in Mercer County.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a summer resident and nests in the spruce belt in the Canadian Life Zone of West Virginia.

**Family PARIDÆ. Titmice**

Number of species in North America, 15; in West Virginia, 3.

255. Tufted Titmouse. Baeolophus bicolor (Linn.)
This bird is a common all-year resident in all parts of West Virginia.

256. Chickadee. Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus (Linn.)
This Chickadee, often known as the Black-capped Chickadee, is a common all-year resident of the highest mountain country.

257. Carolina Chickadee. Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis (Audubon)
This is the common Chickadee, which is our common all-year resident in all the lower sections of West Virginia.
Family SYLVIIDÆ. Warblers (old world), Kinglets, and Gnatcatchers

Number of species in North America, 6; in West Virginia, 3.

SUBFAMILY REGULINÆ. Kinglets

Number of species in North America, 2; in West Virginia, 2.

258. Golden-crowned Kinglet. Regulus satrapa satrapa Lichtenstein
This tiny creature is a common winter visitor in all the lower counties in West Virginia.

259. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Regulus calendula calendula (Linn.)
The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is only a migrant in West Virginia.

SUBFAMILY POLIOPTILINÆ. Gnatcatchers

Number of species in North America, 3; in West Virginia, 1.

260. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Polioptila cœrulea cœrulea (Linn.)
The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is one of the common summer residents in the country below the Canadian Life Zone.

Family TURDIDÆ. Thrushes, etc.

Number of species in North America, 15; in West Virginia, 6.

SUBFAMILY TURDINÆ. Thrushes

Number of species in North America, 14; in West Virginia, 6.

261. Wood Thrush. Hylocichla mustelina (Gmelin)
This beautiful songster is a summer resident in all parts of West Virginia. While a few are found in the higher mountains, it is not as common there as in the lower parts of the State.

262. Veery. Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens (Stephens)
This Thrush is a summer resident in the Canadian Life Zone in our highest mountain regions. F. E. Brooks has found it nesting in the State.

263. Olive-backed Thrush. Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni (Tschudi)
The Olive-backed Thrush is common in migration.
264. Hermit Thrush. *Hylocichla guttata pallasi* (Cabanis)

This Thrush is a common and regular migrant all over West Virginia.

265. Robin. *Planesticus migratorius migratorius* (Linn.)

The Robin is the one bird throughout West Virginia that every person knows.

266. Bluebird. *Sialis sialis sialis* (Linn.)

Another bird known by every one. It is a common summer resident in all parts of West Virginia.
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# INDEX OF COMMON NAMES*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baldpate</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bittern</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bittern, Least</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackbird, Red-winged</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackbird, Rusty</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackbird, Yellow-headed</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluebird</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobolink</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob-white</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brant</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffle-head</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunting, Indigo</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunting, Snow</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canvas-back</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catbird</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chat, Yellow-breasted</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickadee</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickadee, Carolina</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck-will's-widow</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coot</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cormorant</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cormorant, Doublecrested</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowbird</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane, Sandhill</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creeper, Brown</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossbill</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossbill, White-winged</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crow</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crow, Fish</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuckoo, Black-billed</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuckoo, Yellow-billed</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curlew, Hudsonian</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle, Bald</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle, Golden</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egret</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finch, Purple</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flicker, Northern</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flycatcher, Acadian</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flycatcher, Alder</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flycatcher, Crested</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flycatcher, Least</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flycatcher, Olive-sided</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadwall</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallinule, Florida</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallinule, Purple</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden-eye</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldfinch</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goose, Blue</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goose, Canada</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goose, Snow</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goose, White-fronted</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grebe, Holbell's</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grebe, Horned</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grebe, Pied-billed</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosbeak, Blue</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosbeak, Pine</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosbeak, Rose-breasted</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouse, Ruffed</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gull, Bonaparte's</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gull, Herring</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gull, Laughing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gull, Ring-billed</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawk, Broad-winged</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawk, Cooper's</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawk, Duck</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawk, Marsh</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawk, Pigeon</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All compound names are indexed according to the initial of the last portion of the name.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hawk, Red-shouldered</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawk, Red-tailed</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawk, Rough-legged</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawk, Sharp-shinned</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawk, Sparrow</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawk, Swainson's</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heron, Black-crowned Night</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heron, Great Blue</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heron, Green</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heron, Little Blue</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heron, Yellow-crowned Night</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hummingbird, Ruby-throated</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibis, Wood</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay, Blue</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junco, Carolina</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junco, Slate-colored</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killdeer</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingbird</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingfisher, Belted</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinglet, Golden-crowned</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinglet, Ruby-crowned</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kite, Swallow-tailed</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lark, Prairie Horned</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loon</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin, Purple</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadowlark</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merganser</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merganser, Hooded</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merganser, Red-breasted</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mockingbird</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nighthawk</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuthatch, Red-breasted</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuthatch, White-breasted</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old-squaw</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriole, Baltimore</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriole, Orchard</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osprey</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oven-bird</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owl, Barn</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owl, Barred</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owl, Great Horned</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owl, Long-eared</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owl, Saw-whet</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owl, Screech</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owl, Short-eared</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owl, Snowy</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelican, White</td>
<td>5</td>
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# INDEX OF SCIENTIFIC FAMILY NAMES

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