THE

HIGHLANDS MUSEUM

AND

BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

A Preliminary Check-List of the Birds of the Highlands Region

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HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA

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FOREWORD

In keeping with the policy of the Highlands Museum and Biological Laboratory, Incorporated, to publish check-lists of the flora and fauna of the region as rapidly as possible, this preliminary check-list of the birds of the Highlands Region is presented. Owing to the paucity of available records from September-June the list is believed to be incomplete. It is hoped that this preliminary check-list will serve as a guide for those now engaged in ornithological investigations in the area and as an impetus for such additional work as may be necessary to determine the exact status of many of the birds given in the list.

Investigators at the Weyman Memorial Laboratory have taken as the limits of the Highlands Region the area covered by a circle with a five-mile radius from the bench mark in Highlands. This gives a variation in altitude from 5054 feet to 2240 feet. The ornithological records included in this list are confined to that area.

This check-list has been compiled on the basis of observations and notes recorded on the biota cards of the Weyman Memorial Laboratory by several investigators. Henry M. Stevenson, Jr., published a list of the summer residents of the area in *The Oriole,* Vol. 6, No. 4, 1941. In addition to his own observations this paper brought together the notes of Charlton Ogburn, Jr., who had done work at Highlands in July, 1928, and June-August, 1929. Ogburn's work had incorporated the records of William Brewster (May, 1885), Bradford Torrey (May, 1896), Miss Marie Huger, Mrs. Mary H. Young, and materials from "The Birds of North Carolina" (T. G. Pearson, C. S. Brimley, and H. H. Brimley, 1919). Stevenson also had access to the notes of Mary J. Crosby.

Other sources for the present list are the records of C. S. Brimley and Franklin Sherman, Jr., who worked in May, 1908, Arthur H. Howell and T. D. Burleigh who visited the area from June 20-26, 1930, and "Birds of North Carolina" (T. G. Pearson, C. S. Brimley, and H. H. Brimley, 1942). C. S. Brimley has furnished some valuable additions to the records, particularly some records of C. L. Boynton, one of the earliest residents of Highlands. In the last few years valuable data have been supplied by investigators at the Weyman Memorial Laboratory. Among those contributing to the records are: Laurie Stewart Radford, Roberta Lovelace, Josephine Stewart, and Thelma Howell. Two members of the Highlands Museum, Lydia M. Sargent and Leonce F. Wall, have furnished valuable records, especially as to nesting records.

THELMA HOWELL.

PRELIMINARY CHECK-LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE HIGHLANDS REGION

Colymbidae: Grebes

*1. PODILYMBUS PODICEPS PODICEPS — Pied-billed Grebe

Ardeidae: Herons and Bitterns

2. ARDEA HERODIAS HERODIAS, Great Blue Heron: "Blue Crane"
3. FLORIDA CAERULEA CAERULEA — Little Blue Heron
4. BUTORIDES VIRESCENS VIRESCENS — Eastern Green Heron
5. BOTAURUS LENTIGINOSUS — American Bittern

Anatidae: Ducks

6. ANAS PLATYRHYNCHOS PLATYRHYNCHOS — Mallard
7. NYROCA AFFINIS — Lesser Scaup Duck
8. CHARITONETTA ALBEOLA — Buffle-Head

Cathartidae: Vultures

9. CATHARTES AURA SEPTENTRIONALIS — Turkey Vulture: Turkey Buzzard

Accipitridae: Hawks

10. ACCIPITER VELOX VELOX — Sharp-shinned Hawk
11. ACCIPITER COOPERI — Cooper's Hawk
12. BUTEO BOREALIS BOREALIS — Eastern Red-tailed Hawk
13. BUTEO LINEATUS LINEATUS — Northern Red-shouldered Hawk
14. BUTEO PLATYPTERUS PLATYPTERUS — Broad-winged Hawk

Falconidae: Falcons

15. FALCO SPARVERIUS SPARVERIUS — Eastern Sparrow Hawk

Tetraonidae: Grouse

16. BONASA UMBELLUS — Ruffed Grouse
    Subspecies not known

*Since this preliminary check-list is designed to facilitate ornithological investigations now under way, the procedure for names and ranges is that used by Peterson in "A Field Guide to the Birds."

Perdicidae: Partridges and Quails

17. COLINUS VIRGINIANUS VIRGINIANUS — Bob-white

Phasianidae: Pheasants

18. PHASIANUS COLCHICUS TORQUATUS — Ring-necked Pheasant

Rallidae: Rails, Etc.

19. RALLUS ELEGANS ELEGANS — King Rail
20. RALLUS LIMICOLA LIMICOLA — Virginia Rail

Charadriidae: Plovers and Turnstones

21. OXYECHUS VOCIFERUS VOCIFERUS — Killdeer

Scolopacidae: Woodcock, Snipe, Sandpipers, Etc.

22. PHILOHELA MINOR — Woodcock
23. CAPELLA DELICATA — Wilson's Snipe: "Jack Snipe"
24. ACTITIS MACULARIA — Spotted Sandpiper
25. TRINGA SOLITARIA SOLITARIA — Eastern Solitary Sandpiper
26. TOTANUS FLAVIPES — Lesser Yellow-legs
27. PISOBIA MINUTILLA — Least Sandpiper

Phalaropodidae: Phalaropes

28. STEGANOPUS TRICOLOR — Wilson's Phalarope

Laridae: Gulls and Terns

29. CHLIDONIAS NIGRA SURINAMENSIS — Black Tern

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves

30. ZENAIDURA MACROURA CAROLINENSIS — Mourning Dove

Cuculidae: Cuckoos

31. COCCYZUS AMERICANUS AMERICANUS — Yellow-billed Cuckoo: "Rain Crow"
32. COCCYZUS ERYTHROPTHALMUS — Black-billed Cuckoo

Strigidae: Owls

33. OTUS ASIO — Screech Owl
    Subspecies not known
34. STRIX VARIA VARIA — Northern Barred Owl

Caprimulgidae: Goatsuckers

35. ANTROSTOMUS VOCIFERUS VOCIFERUS — Eastern Whip-poor-will
36. CHORDEILES MINOR MINOR — Nighthawk: Bullbat

Micropodidae: Swifts

37. CHAETURA PELAGICA — Chimney Swift: Chimney Swallow

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds

38. ARCHILOCHUS COLUBRIS — Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers

39. MEGACERYLE ALCYON ALCYON — Eastern Belted Kingfisher

Picidae: Woodpeckers

40. COLAPTES AURATUS — Northern Flicker: "Yellow-hammer"
41. CEOPHLOEUS PILEATUS — Pileated Woodpecker
    Subspecies not known
42. MELANERPES ERYTHROCEPHALUS — Red-headed Woodpecker
43. SPHYRAPICUS VARIUS VARIUS — Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
44. DRYOBATES VILLOSUS VILLOSUS — Eastern Hairy Woodpecker
45. DRYOBATES PUBESCENS MEDIANUS — Northern Downy Woodpecker

Tyrannidae: Flycatchers

46. TYRANNUS TYRANNUS — Eastern Kingbird
47. MYIARCHUS CRINITUS BOREUS — Northern Crested Flycatcher
48. SAYORNIS PHOEBE — Eastern Phoebe
49. EMPIDONAX FLAVIVENTRIS — Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
50. EMPIDONAX VIRESCENS — Acadian Flycatcher
51. EMPIDONAX MINIMUS — Least Flycatcher
52. MYIOCHANES VIRENS — Eastern Wood Pewee
53. NUTTALLORNIS MESOLEUCUS — Olive-sided Flycatcher

Hirundinidae: Swallows

54. STELGIDOPTERYX RUFICOLLIS SERRIPENNIS — Rough-winged Swallow
55. HIRUNDO ERYTHROGASTER — Barn Swallow

Corvidae: Crows and Jays

56. CYANOCITTA CRISTATA — Blue Jay
    Subspecies not known

57. CORVUS CORAX PRINCIPALIS — Northern Raven
58. CORVUS BRACHYRHYNCHOS — Crow
    Subspecies not known

Paridae: Titmice

59. PENTHESTES CAROLINENSIS CAROLINENSIS — Carolina Chickadee
60. BAEOLOPHUS BICOLOR — Tufted Titmouse

Sittidae: Nuthatches

61. SITTA CAROLINENSIS CAROLINENSIS — White-breasted Nuthatch
62. SITTA CANADENSIS — Red-breasted Nuthatch

Certhiidae: Creepers

63. CERTHIA FAMILIARIS — Brown Creeper
    Subspecies not known

Troglodytidae: Wrens

64. NANNUS HIEMALIS — Winter Wren
    Subspecies not known
65. THRYOMANES BEWICKI BEWICKI — Bewick's Wren
66. THRYOTHORUS LUDOVICIANUS LUDOVICIANUS — Carolina Wren

Mimidae: Thrashers, Etc.

67. DUMETELLA CAROLINENSIS — Catbird
68. TOXOSTOMA RUFUM — Brown Thrasher

Turdidae: Thrushes, Bluebirds, Etc.

69. TURDUS MIGRATORIUS — Robin
    Subspecies not known
70. HYLOCICHLA MUSTELINA — Wood Thrush
71. HYLOCICHLA USTULATA SWAINSONI — Olive-backed Thrush
72. HYLOCICHLA FUSCESCENS FUSCESCENS — Veery
73. SIALIA SIALIS SIALIS — Eastern Bluebird

Slyviidae: Kinglets and Gnatcatchers

74. REGULUS SATRAPA SATRAPA — Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet

75. CORTHYLIO CALENDULA CALENDULA
Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Bombycillidae: Waxwings

76. BOMBYCILLA CEDRORUM — Cedar Waxwing

Sturnidae: Starlings

77. STURNUS VULGARIS VULGARIS — Starling

Vireonidae: Vireos

78. VIREO GRISEUS GRISEUS — White-eyed Vireo
79. VIREO FLAVIFRONS — Yellow-throated Vireo
80. VIREO SOLITARIUS ALTICOLA — Mountain Vireo
81. VIREO OLIVACEUS — Red-eyed Vireo

Compsothlypidae: Wood Warblers

82. MNIOTILTA VARIA — Black and White Warbler
83. LIMNOTHLYPIS SWAINSONI — Swainson's Warbler
84. HELMITHEROS VERMIVORUS — Worm-eating Warbler
85. VERMIVORA CHRYSOPTERA — Golden-winged Warbler
86. VERMIVORA PEREGRINA — Tennessee Warbler
87. COMPSOTHLYPIS AMERICANA — Parula Warbler
Subspecies not known
88. DENDROICA AESTIVA AESTIVA — Eastern Yellow Warbler
89. DENDROICA CAERULESCENS CAIRNSI — Cairn's Warbler
90. DENDROICA CORONATA — Myrtle Warbler
91. DENDROICA VIRENS VIRENS — Black-throated Green Warbler
92. DENDROICA FUSCA — Blackburnian Warbler
93. DENDROICA DOMINICA DOMINICA — Yellow-throated Warbler
94. DENDROICA PENSYLVANICA — Chestnut-sided Warbler
95. DENDROICA STRIATA — Black-poll Warbler
96. DENDROICA PINUS PINUS — Northern Pine Warbler
97. SEIURUS AUROCAPILLUS — Oven-bird

98. SEIURUS NOVEBORACENSIS NOVEBORACENSIS
Northern Water-thrush
99. SEIURUS MOTACILLA — Louisiana Water-thrush
100. OPORORNIS FORMOSUS — Kentucky Warbler
101. OPORORNIS AGILIS — Connecticut Warbler
Specimen sent to State Museum May 27, 1910 by Miss Marie Huger
102. GEOTHLYPIS TRICHAS TRICHAS — Maryland Yellow-throat
103. ICTERIA VIRENS VIRENS — Yellow-breasted Chat
104. WILSONIA CITRINA — Hooded Warbler
105. WILSONIA CANADENSIS — Canada Warbler
106. SETOPHAGA RUTICILLA — American Redstart

Icteridae: Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Etc.

107. STURNELLA MAGNA MAGNA — Eastern Meadowlark: Field Lark
108. AGELAIUS PHOENICEUS PHOENICEUS
Red-wing: Red-winged Blackbird
109. ICTERUS GALBULA — Baltimore Oriole
110. EUPHAGUS CAROLINUS — Rusty Blackbird
111. QUISCALUS QUISCULA — Purple Grackle
Subspecies not known

Thraupidae: Tanagers

112. PIRANGA ERYTHROMELAS — Scarlet Tanager

Fringillidae: Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows, Buntings

113. RICHMONDENA CARDINALIS CARDINALIS — Cardinal
114. HEDYMELES LUDOVICIANUS — Rose-breasted Grosbeak
115. PASSERINA CYANEA — Indigo Bunting
116. CARPODACUS PURPUREUS PURPURPEUS — Eastern Purple Finch
117. SPINUS PINUS PINUS — Northern Pine Siskin
118. SPINUS TRISTIS TRISTIS — Eastern Goldfinch
119. LOXIA CURVIROSTRA PUSILLA — Red Crossbill

120.	Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus	Red-eyed Towhee
121.	Junco hyemalis carolinensis	Carolina Junco
122.	Spizella passerina passerina	Eastern Chipping Sparrow
123.	Spizella pusilla pusilla	Eastern Field Sparrow
124.	Zonotrichia albicollis	White-throated Sparrow
125.	Passerella iliaca iliaca	Eastern Fox Sparrow
126.	Melospiza melodia melodia	Eastern Song Sparrow

NOTES