

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

BIRD MIGRATION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

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The data on bird migration in the District contained in the records of the Bureau of Biological Survey extend over a long series of years. Before the Biological Survey was organized Coues, Prentiss and Drexler collected assiduously during the years 1858-1861 and have left notes on many hundred specimens. Not many records accumulated during the next fifteen years, but from the late seventies to the present time observations have been almost continuous. On the organization of the Biological Survey, very full notes were obtained for the six years 1886-1891 and, with the aid of the local Audubon Society, for the past six years. The region covered by the District of Columbia is nominally the country within a radius of ten miles of the Capitol, but this limit has been exceeded to include a few notes from contiguous territory.

It will be noticed that the records on fall migration are much less full than for spring. Some common birds have surprisingly few fall dates, *e. g.* Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow and Baltimore Oriole. Any one having notes on the date of fall departure of any of the above species, will confer a favor by sending them to the Biological Survey.

The three tables that follow contain the names of 293 species—all at present known to have occurred in the District. This is one more species than is contained in the 1902 list of District birds; the additional species is the Lawrence Warbler obtained by Mr. Osgood, May 12, 1907.

SPECIES.	SPRING MIGRATION.						FALL MIGRATION.					
	No. of years' record.	Average date of spring arrival.	Earliest date of spring arrival.	No. of years' record.	Average date of the last one seen.	Latest date of the last one seen.	No. of years' record.	Average date of fall arrival.	Earliest date of fall arrival.	No. of years' record.	Average date of the last one seen.	Latest date of the last one seen.
Hermit Thrush	7	April 6	Rare, winter	11	April 29	May 17, '02	10	Oct. 17	Sept. 18, '00	4	Nov. 12	. . . . .
Olive-backed Thrush	20	May 6	April 19, '96	11	May 22	June 2, '07	11	Sept. 16	Sept. 2, '88	6	Oct. 9	Nov. 1, '86
Gray-checked Thrush	10	May 10	May 8, '07	9	May 27	May 31, '97	9	Sept. 25	Sept. 15, '97	4	Oct. 7	Oct. 29, '04
Wilson Thrush	16	May 1	April 26, '96	6	May 18	June 2, '07	3	Aug. 23	Aug. 18, '89	4	Sept. 4	Sept. 25, '84
Wood Thrush	24	April 27	April 19, '91	. . . . .	. . . . .	Broods	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	6	Oct. 6	Oct. 10, '58
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	22	April 11	Mar. 30, '07	. . . . .	. . . . .	"	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	Nov. 23, '90
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	14	April 12	Rare, winter	12	May 6	May 15, '85	10	Oct. 1	Sept. 25, '87	6	Oct. 22	. . . . .
Golden-crowned Kinglet . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	Winters	11	April 13	April 27, '88	9	Oct. 6	Sept. 30, '94	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Red-breasted Nuthatch . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	"	5	May 1	May 12, '89	7	Sept. 24	Aug. 22, '03	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Brown Creeper . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	"	8	April 27	May 1, '07	6	Sept. 29	Sept. 22, '58	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Long-billed Marsh Wren	11	May 1	April 15, '96	. . . . .	. . . . .	Broods	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	Nov. 1, '86
Winter Wren . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	Winters	6	April 26	May 1, '82	10	Oct. 5	Aug. 10, '76	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
House Wren	20	April 21	April 13, '04	. . . . .	. . . . .	Broods	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	6	Oct. 8	Oct. 17, '61
Brown Thrasher	19	April 8	Mar. 22, '08	. . . . .	. . . . .	"	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	4	Sept. 22	Nov. 13, '87
Catbird	21	April 26	Mar. 19, '05	. . . . .	. . . . .	"	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	5	Oct. 11	Dec. 31, '83
American Pipit	8	Mar. 21	Feb. 16, '08	. . . . .	. . . . .	May 12, '62	3	Oct. 10	Oct. 2, '07	3	Oct. 31	Nov. 30, '90
Black and White Warbler	24	April 17	April 8, '88	. . . . .	. . . . .	Broods	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	6	Sept. 15	Oct. 18, '90
Worm-eating Warbler	15	May 2	April 28, '07	. . . . .	. . . . .	"	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	6	Sept. 3	Sept. 13, '79
Blue-winged Warbler	8	May 6	April 26, '91	4	May 22	Rare, sum'r	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	3	Aug. 29	Sept. 2, '87
Golden-winged Warbler	10	May 4	May 1, '05	7	May 15	"	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	Aug. 21, '87
Nashville Warbler	10	May 3	April 29, '85	6	May 15	May 19, '87	3	Sept. 13	Sept. 5, '82	. . . . .	. . . . .	Oct. 2, '97

SPECIES.	SPRING MIGRATION.					FALL MIGRATION.					
	No. of years' record.	Average date of spring record.	Earliest date of spring arrival.	No. of years' record.	Average date of the last one seen.	No. of years' record.	Average date of fall arrival.	Earliest date of fall arrival.	No. of years' record.	Average date of the last one seen.	Latest date of the last one seen.
Red-eyed Vireo	19	April 27	April 21, '85	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	Nov. 11, '88
Rough-winged Swallow	14	April 11	April 2, '05	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	Sept. 3, '91
Bank Swallow	12	April 20	April 13, '04	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	Sept. 19, '86
Tree Swallow	12	April 7	Mar. 26, '87	9	May 12	May 26, '89	Aug. 5	July 8, '89	3	Sept. 10	Oct. 14, '91
Barn Swallow	16	April 13	Mar. 30, '90	. . . . .	. . . . .	Breeds	. . . . .	. . . . .	3	Sept. 6	Sept. 19, '86
Cliff Swallow	5	May 1	April 10, '87	2	May 13	June 7, '77	. . . . .	July 6, '89	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Purple Martin	13	April 1	Mar. 19, '03	. . . . .	. . . . .	Breeds	. . . . .	. . . . .	4	Aug. 24	Sept. 14, '89
Summer Tanager	12	May 3	April 18, '96	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	6	Sept. 15	Sept. 19, '06
Scarlet Tanager	15	April 30	April 17, '96	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	5	Oct. 15	Nov. 13, '96
Indigo Bunting	18	May 1	April 29, '07	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	6	Oct. 9	Dec. 13, '87
Blue Grosbeak	5	May 5	May 1, '78	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	5	Sept. 16	Sept. 20, '84
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	16	May 5	May 1, '07	7	May 16	May 30, '07	2	Aug. 30	5	Sept. 23	Oct. 6, '07
Chewink	17	April 5	Rare, winter	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	8	Oct. 21	. . . . .
Fox Sparrow	8	Mar. 13	. . . . .	9	April 6	May 11, '82	8	Oct. 21	Oct. 3, '06	Nov. 15	. . . . .
Swamp Sparrow	8	April 12	. . . . .	17	May 12	May 19, '59	10	Oct. 7	Sept. 28, '90	Oct. 27	. . . . .
Lincoln Sparrow	3	May 6	May 3, '85	7	May 18	May 21, '93	2	Oct. 4	Sept. 30, '94	Oct. 19	Oct. 21, '88
Junco . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	10	April 30	May 12, '06	9	Oct. 8	Sept. 26, '03	. . . . .	. . . . .
Chipping Sparrow	10	Mar. 19	Mar. 9, '02	. . . . .	. . . . .	Breeds	. . . . .	. . . . .	7	Nov. 11	Dec. 17, '99
Tree Sparrow . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	Winters	9	Mar. 26	April 1, '00*	7	Nov. 21	Oct. 31, '86	. . . . .	. . . . .
White-throated Sparrow	6	Mar. 18	Rare, winter	19	May 15	June 14, '99	14	Oct. 4	Sept. 15, '89†	Dec. 16	. . . . .
White-crowned Sparrow	6	May 1	. . . . .	6	May 14	May 17, '86	3	Oct. 14	Oct. 7, '88	Nov. 20	. . . . .

Henslow Sparrow	April 18	April 10, '89						4	Oct. 13	Oct. 21, '92
Yellow-winged Sparrow	April 22	April 17, '05†						5	Oct. 17	Nov. 20, '99
Savanna Sparrow	Mar. 20	Rare, winter	9	May 4	May 11, '85			5	Oct. 23	
Vesper Sparrow	Mar. 25	"	10	April 5	June 14, '99			5	Oct. 21	
Purple Finch		Winters	12	May 9	May 26, '07					
Purple Grackle	Feb. 20	Rare, winter						4	Nov. 10	
Rusty Grackle		Winters	10	April 12	April 30, '75					
Baltimore Oriole	May 3	April 29, '82								
Orchard Oriole	May 2	April 29, '07								
Red-winged Blackbird	Mar. 2	Rare, winter						3	Aug. 15	Aug. 26, '87
Cowbird	Mar. 20	"								
Bobolink	May 3	April 26, '96	7	May 20	May 30, '77			3	Dec. 20	
Least Flycatcher	May 2	April 20, '81	11	May 15	May 20, '04			4	Oct. 8	Nov. 14, '85
Alder Flycatcher	May 15	May 8, '06	9	May 21	May 28, '93			5	Sept. 9	Sept. 15, '07
Green-crested Flycatcher	May 7	May 1, '92						2	Sept. 15	Sept. 17, '90
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	May 11	May 9, '02	7	May 26	May 30, '91			5	Sept. 1	Sept. 15, '07
Wood Pewee	May 5	April 29, '00						4	Sept. 16	Oct. 6, '81
Phoebe	Mar. 13	Feb. 23, '02						5	Oct. 4	Oct. 12, '06
Crested Flycatcher	April 30	April 20, '96						8	Oct. 17	Dec. 31, '83
Kingbird	April 29	April 18, '96						6	Sept. 8	Sept. 29, '07
Hummingbird	May 1	April 23, '91						5	Aug. 20	Sept. 23, '05
Chimney Swift	April 17	April 6, '05						5	Sept. 13	Oct. 18, '95
Nighthawk	May 3	April 19, '91						6	Oct. 10	Oct. 27, '06
Whippoorwill	April 21	April 13, '96§						4	Oct. 4	Oct. 8, '07
Flicker	Mar. 22	Rare, winter						4	Oct. 1	Oct. 13, '89
Yellow-bellied Woodpecker		Winters	11	April 14	May 13, '05			4	Dec. 24	
Kingfisher	Mar. 28	Rare, winter						3	Nov. 19	
Black-billed Cuckoo	May 7	May 5, '06						3	Sept. 21	Oct. 6, '88
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	May 5	May 3, '07						6	Oct. 7	Oct. 13, '89

• Accidental May 7, 1889.

† Accidental February 18, 1900.

‡ Accidental August 9, 1907.

§ Accidental March 18, 1877.

PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

The following species occur in the District throughout the entire year:

Bluebird.*	Pileated Woodpecker.
Robin.*	Downy Woodpecker.
Carolina Chickadee.	Hairy Woodpecker.* †
Tufted Titmouse.	Great Horned Owl.
White-breasted Nuthatch.	Screech Owl.
Carolina Wren.	Barred Owl.
Mockingbird.* †	Long-eared Owl.
Migrant Shrike. †	Barn Owl.
Cedarbird.*	Sparrow Hawk.
Cardinal.	Bald Eagle.
Song Sparrow.	Broad-winged Hawk.
Field Sparrow.*	Red-shouldered Hawk.
Goldfinch.	Red-tailed Hawk.
English Sparrow.	Cooper Hawk.
Red Crossbill. †	Sharp-shinned Hawk.
Meadowlark.*	Marsh Hawk. †
Fish Crow.	Turkey Vulture.
Crow.	Wild Turkey (formerly).
Blue Jay.	Ruffed Grouse.
Red-bellied Woodpecker.	Bob-white.
Red-headed Woodpecker.*	Night Heron.*
	Wood Duck.*

* Rare in winter.

† Rare in summer.

RARE OR CASUAL VISITORS.

The following list includes the species that have been noted only a few times in the District. Most of them are stragglers but a few occur here regularly in small numbers.

Bicknell Thrush.—October 3, 1885; May 14-18, 1888; May 17, 1892; May 24, 1893.

Northern Chickadee.—December 10, 1859; December 24, 1876; December 25, 1878; January 2-February 2, 1879; common February 21-April 19, 1885; October 19, 1896.

Short-billed Marsh Wren.—May 5, 1890; May 3, 1893.

Bewick Wren.—Has been noted in the spring of ten different years; average date of arrival April 4, earliest March 26, 1897; has remained to July but not known to nest and no females seen; noted twice in fall, November 24, 1889; December 22, 1890.

Prothonotary Warbler.—May 2, 1861; May 17, 1888; May 11, 1894.

Brewster Warbler.—May 15, 1885; May 1, 1895.

Lawrence Warbler.—May 12, 1907.

Orange-crowned Warbler.—October 13, 1889; October 14, 1894.

- Tennessee Warbler.—May 6, 1899; May 15, 1904; May 7, 1905; not rare in fall; average date of arrival September 5, earliest August 31, 1890; average date of departure October 4, latest November 30, 1889.
- Usnea Warbler.—This is the northern form of the Parula Warbler. It is a common migrant, but its records can not be separated from those of the Parula.
- Cerulean Warbler.—May 5, 1888; May 11, 1890; May 12, 1899; May 29, 1902; May 9 and 15, 1904; May 3 and 11, 1907; once reported in the fall.
- Yellow-throated Warbler.—The earliest dates are April 19, 1901; April 30, 1905; April 25, 1907; and the latest are September 7, 1881; September 4, 1890; August 20, 1893; breeds rarely near Dyke, Va.
- Kirtland Warbler.—September 25, 1887.
- Palm Warbler.—Noted in the spring from April 22, 1885, to May 11, 1890, and in the fall from September 18, 1887, to October 11, 1861; probably occurs each year, but is not distinguished from the Yellow Palm Warbler.
- Grinnell Water Thrush.—May 11, 1879; May 5, 1885; August 5, 1886.
- Northern Yellow-throat.—Abundant migrant, but the records are not separable from those of the Maryland Yellow-throat.
- Philadelphia Vireo.—September 20, 1884; May 12, 1902; May 12, 1907.
- Northern Shrike.—November 7, 1884; November 6–December 26, 1887; November 17, 1888; October 1, 1891; February 10, 1846; February 2, 1896.
- Dickcissel.—Formerly a common breeder; now an accidental visitant. The latest records are: one, May 31, 1887; three, August 4–5, 1890; two, May–July, 1894.
- Bachman Sparrow.—April 29, 1896.
- Montana Junco.—April 28, 1890.
- Lark Sparrow.—August 25–27, 1877; August 8, 1886.
- Nelson Sparrow.—September, 1862; September 18, 1893; September 26, 1898; May, 1906.
- Lapland Longspur.—Several, December 11, 1886.
- Snowflake.—One, November, 1886; a large flock, February 18, 1905.
- Pine Finch.—February 25, 1879; March 6, 1885; March 6, 1887; October 24–November 8, 1887; January 22–29, 1888; May 19, 1888; October 24, 1889; common, winter 1896–97; common, May 15–20, 1904; May 10, 1907.
- Redpoll Linnet.—One, February 19, 1875; seven, February 12, 1899.
- White-winged Crossbill.—One, about 1864; one, about 1874; one, November, 1906; one, August 12, 1907.
- Pine Grosbeak.—Several, January 23, 1888.
- Bronzed Grackle.—April 17, 1886; April 6, 1887; February 22, 1888; March 8, 1895; March 17–28, 1896; March 4, 1897; February 22, 1898.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird.—August 29, 1892.
- Horned Lark.—December 5, 1860; December 10–11, 1886; April 2, 1887; November 25, 1888; April 7, 1889; October 29, 1889; March 29, 1891; November 25, 1903.

- Prairie Horned Lark.—February 8, 1881; January 13–February 16, 1888; August 11, 1889.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher.—One, September, 1881; one, May, 1887; one other specimen, without date.
- Arkansas Kingbird.—September 30, 1874.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.—Once.
- Chuck-will's-widow.—July 22, 1895; once, summer 1896.
- Snowy Owl.—One, about 1859; one, November, 1885; one, December 30, 1890; about fifteen taken the winter of 1876–77.
- Saw-whet Owl.—February 12, 1859; November 1, 1878; December, 1880; October, 1886; December, 1889; December 12, 1890; January 4 and 29, 1891; February 19, 1893.
- Short-eared Owl.—April 12, 1859; April 20, 1861; March, 1862; November 13, 1887.
- Pigeon Hawk.—September 7, 1878; September 25, 1879; October 13, 1884; October 13, 1889; September 4, 1890; November 10, 1891; April 13, 1898; April 22, 1900.
- Duck Hawk.—December, 1878; October 23, 1900; one has been seen several times in winter about the Post Office building.
- Golden Eagle.—December 26, 1857; March 7, 1859; December 8 and 16, 1887; November 24, 1890.
- Rough-legged Hawk.—One, 1859; December 29, 1879; one, winter 1880; December 3, 1882; two, March, 1888.
- Goshawk.—One, before 1883; December 27, 1887; January 1, 1896.
- Swallow-tailed Kite.—August 7, 1879; August 3, 1895; April 11, 1897.
- Black Vulture.—Four, March 30, 1895; one July, 1896; one December 17, 1899.
- Ground Dove.—September, 1844; October 14, 1888.
- Passenger Pigeon.—Formerly abundant, now extinct; the latest dates are: September 18, 1877; April 3 and 4, 1887; September 11 and October 19, 1889.
- Turnstone.—Three, about 1860; two, May, 1881.
- Piping Plover.—March 25, 1881; May 3, 1884.
- Semipalmated Plover.—August 26, 1877; May 9, 1879; May 3, 1884; August 22, 1892; August 30–September 22, 1894; August 21, 1897; May 16–25, 1906; May 10, 1907.
- Golden Plover.—Once taken nearly fifty years ago.
- Long-billed Curlew.—Once taken on the Potomac River.
- Ruff.—September 3, 1894.
- Willet.—A flock, August 10–11, 1893; other records without dates.
- Sanderling.—September, 1874; October 24, 1885; three, September 22, 1894; two, September 26–30, 1898.
- Western Sandpiper.—September 8, 11, 14, 22, 1894; August 21–September 3, 1897.
- Red-backed Sandpiper.—October 22, 1844; April 22, 1887; September 25, 1894; also on April 24 and November 11—year unrecorded.
- Baird Sandpiper.—September 3 and 25, 1894.
- Stilt Sandpiper.—September 8, 1885.

- Long-billed Dowitcher.—Seven, April, 1884.
Dowitcher.—One, September, 1879.
Northern Phalarope.—August 31, 1891.
Red Phalarope.—October 17, 1885.
Florida Gallinule.—One, 1863; October 15, 1880; August 12–September 7, 1892; September 1, 1893; April 19, 1892.
Black Rail.—One, September, 1861; one, about 1880.
Yellow Rail.—November 17, 1893; October 4, 1879; April 14, 1893.
Clapper Rail.—September 8, 1882.
King Rail.—December 16, 1889; November 7, 1891; December 21, 1892; young, June 26, 1893.
Sandhill Crane.—Once, many years ago.
Yellow-crowned Night Heron.—Once, August, 1901.
Little Blue Heron.—A large flock, August, 1875; July 27, 1878; August 6–13, 1879; August 29, 1880; July 29, 1894; August 2, 1896; July 16, 1904.
Snowy Heron.—Has been reported several times in early fall; some of these records are probably the Little Blue Heron in the white phase.
American Egret.—July 22, about 1858; May 30, 1891; July 8, 29, August 2, 1894; in the early days of the District this species was quite common in August.
Least Bittern.—May 19, 1859; September 19, 1881; August 12, 1892; May 22, 1893; August 14, 1893; August 3, 1899; May 18, 1907; young, August 1, 1894.
American Bittern.—April 30, 1859; November 3–7, 1860; April 8, 1879; April 13, 1883; April 1, 1891; March 22, 1894; August 8, 1894; July 15, 1899.
Glossy Ibis.—One record about 1817; one other record.
Wood Ibis.—July 2, 1892; July 18, 20, 27, 1896.
Whistling Swan.—Average date of arrival in the fall, November 6, earliest October 15, 1901; very rare in spring, March 25, 1881; March 22, 1907.
Brant.—December 16, 1858.
Surf Scoter.—December 11, 1858; February 19 and April 10, 1859.
White-winged Scoter.—November, 1880; October 14, 1882; October 28, 1894; April 18, 1892.
American Scoter.—Once, many years ago.
American Eider.—Once, many years ago.
Old-squaw.—April, 1856; April 15, 1881; April 3, 1889; October 20, 1889; April 20, 1896; one winter record.
Bufflehead.—January 29 and April 10, 1859; April 3, 1876; one other record in November.
Barrow Golden-eye.—Recorded, but doubtful.
Shoveler.—October 28, 1887; September 21, 1894; October 3, 1901.
European Teal.—One, April, 1885.
Baldpate.—Occurs, but no specific dates.
European Widgeon.—October 16, 1892; once in spring.
Gadwall.—One about 1860; a flock, August 24, 1884.

- Red-breasted Merganser.—Regular winter resident, but seldom reported; seen, October 23, 1892.
- White Pelican.—One, 1863; one, April, 1864; two, fall, 1864; one, October, 1878.
- Double-crested Cormorant.—One, 1859; July 19, 1884; November, 1884; two, April 19, 1896; one, October 1, 1896.
- Audubon Shearwater.—One record, probably correct.
- Leach Petrel.—One, August, 1842; two about 1859; one, June 7, 1891; one, probably this species, January, 1878.
- Hawaiian Petrel.—Two, August 29, 1893.
- Wilson Petrel.—One about 1859. •
- Black Skimmer.—September 8, 1858.
- Black Tern.—August 17, 1878; September 18, 1882; September 1-18, 1893; August 29-September 22, 1894; August 15-September 3, 1897; August 17, 1898; August 22, 1900.
- Least Tern.—One about 1858-9; one August 17, 1878.
- Common Tern.—One about 1860; a flock of twelve, May 7, 1894.
- Forster Tern.—One, 1876.
- Caspian Tern.—September 29, 1896; two, October 4, 1896.
- Gull-billed Tern.—Once in the fall.
- Laughing Gull.—Two, September 24, 1894; other records without dates.
- Ring-billed Gull.—January 23, March 13, April 28, 1887; March 30, April 1, 1890; February 5, 1900.
- Brunnich Murre.—Several late December, 1896.
- Red-throated Loon.—One, spring, 1882; October 20, 1889; November 15, 1892; October 30, 1904.
- Loon.—September, 1877; November 4, 1881; December, 1885; October 25-27, 1887; May 1-2, 1888; October 25, 1894; May 24, 1896; June 2, 1907.
- Pied-billed Grebe.—September 6, 1845; April 10, 1879; November 3, 1884; April 24, 1887; August 27, 1890; April 21, 1894; September 21-25, 1894.
- Holboell Grebe.—September 30, 1877.