

BIRDS OF THE BIG MOOSE AREA

ANNE LABASTILLE BOWES

For the past seven summers, 1956 to 1962, my husband and I have owned and operated Covewood Lodge on Big Moose Lake in Herkimer County. Usually, we arrive from our winter quarters in Florida in late April or early May and stay until snow flies in November or December. Despite our preoccupation with hotel matters, we keep an eye out for birds and maintain three active bird feeders. Once or twice during the season, we manage an all-day field trip and several times each week one or the other of us is in the woods hiking, or on the lake and marsh boating with our guests. This gives us the opportunity for more or less continual observations.

The following list has been compiled over the seven year period and gives, generally, the first date at which the species was seen. Year dates are not mentioned except in unusual cases since most of these birds recur yearly. The general area circumscribed by these field observations include the villages of Old Forge, Beaver River, and Big Moose Station with Big Moose Lake as a central point. The habitats include Beech, Birch, Maple and Hemlock climax forest, polewood stands, tamareck swamp, marsh and beaver meadows, stream bottomland, open fields and lake shore between the elevations of 1650 and 2200 feet.

The following abbreviations are used: B—breeding; PB—possibly breeding; M—migrant.

Common Loon	B	May 3
Pied-billed Grebe	B	June
Great Blue Heron	M	June
American Bittern	PB	May 10
Canada Goose	M	Apr. 19 & Oct. 4
Brant	M	May 1956
Mallard	PB	Sept.
Black Duck	B	May 13
Blue-wing Teal	PB	Sept. 20
Wood Duck	B	July 30 & Nov.
Old Squaw	M	May 13, 1956
Hooded Merganser	PB	May 5
Common (American) Merganser	PB	May 12
Goshawk	B	May 5
Cooper's Hawk	PB	Sept.
Red-tailed Hawk	M	July 18, 1960
Red-shouldered Hawk	PB	July
Broad-winged Hawk	B	Apr. 8
Bald Eagle	M	May 31 & Nov. 1960
Osprey	B	June 5
Ruffed Grouse	B	May 10
Woodcock	PB	July 30
Snipe	PB	July
Spotted Sandpiper	PB	May 15
Solitary Sandpiper	PB	May 15
Herring Gull	B	May 12
Mourning Dove	M	July 21, 1961
Black-billed Cuckoo	B	June 7
Saw-whet Owl	M	Dec.
Barn Owl	M	Aug. 1961
Horned Owl	B	July 27
Snowy Owl	M	Feb.
Barred Owl	B	May 20
Chimney Swift	B	May 20
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	B	May 15
Belted Kingfisher	PB	May 8
Flicker	PB	Apr. 25
Pileated Woodpecker	B	May 6
Red-headed Woodpecker	M	Aug. 1962
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	B	Apr. 18
Hairy Woodpecker*	B	Apr. 18
Downy Woodpecker*	B	Apr. 18
Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker	B	July 30
American Three-toed Woodpecker	?	July 30
Eastern Kingbird	B	May 20
Phoebe	B	May 3

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		July 20, 1961
Alder Flycatcher		July 24, 1962
Least Flycatcher	PB	May 13
Olive-sided Flycatcher	B	June
Pewee	B	June 27
Tree Swallow	B	May 15
Bank Swallow	M	July 12, 1960
Cliff Swallow	B	June, 1962
Barn Swallow	B	May 12
Canada Jay*	B	Apr. 18
Blue Jay*	B	Apr. 18
Crow	B	May 6
Black-capped Chickadee*	B	Apr. 18
Brown-capped Chickadee	PB	June 7
White-breasted Nuthatch*	B	Apr. 18
Red-breasted Nuthatch*	B	Apr. 18
Brown Creeper	B	June
Winter Wren	B	Apr. 25
Catbird	PB	May 15
Brown Thrasher	PB	May 15
Robin	B	Apr. 18
Wood Thrush	B	May 8
Swainson's (Olive-backed) Thrush	B	June 27
Hermit Thrush	B	July
Veery	PB	May 31
Bluebird	M	May 31
Golden-crowned Kinglet	B	May 8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	B	May 8
Cedar Waxwing	B	Aug. 26
Gray Shrike	M	May
Starling	B	Apr. 30
Red-eyed Vireo	B	May 12
Solitary Vireo	PB	Aug. 5
Yellow-throated Vireo	?	July
Warblers:		
Black and White	B	May 15
Tennessee	M	May 15
Nashville	M	July 21
Parula	M	July 21
Magnolia	B	June 2
Black-throated Blue	B	May 15
Black-throated Green	B	May 15
Cape May	M	May 15
Blackburnian	B	June 2
Chestnut-sided	B	June 13
Bay-breasted	PB	June 2
Blackpoll	PB	June 13
Myrtle	B	May 3
Ovenbird	B	May 13
Yellowthroat	B	May 15
Canada	B	July
Redstart	B	May 29
Bobolink	M	May
Meadowlark	M	May
Red-winged Blackbird	B	May 15
Rusty Blackbird	B	Apr. 18
Grackle	B	Apr. 18
Cowbird	B	June 1
Scarlet Tanager	B	June 4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	B	May 27
Cardinal	M	July
Indigo Bunting	M	May 29
Evening Grosbeak	M	Aug. & Nov.
Purple Finch	B	May 3
Redpoll	M	Dec.
Pine Siskin	M	Nov.
Goldfinch	B	Aug. 30
Red Crossbill	B	June 13
White-winged Crossbill	B	June 13
Savannah Sparrow	PB	June
Slate-colored Junco	B	Apr. 18
Chipping Sparrow	B	May 3
White-crowned Sparrow	M	May 5
White-throat Sparrow	B	May 3
Fox Sparrow	M	Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow	PB	July
Swamp Sparrow	B	June 7
Song Sparrow	B	June 7
Snow Bunting*	M	Apr. 18

Note: As noted in the text, no observations were made during the period Nov. — to Apr. 18. Some of the species with April 18 date are, therefore, winter visitors. These are marked with a *.