

General Notes

Birds Observed near High Point, New Jersey, July 19–September 10, 1911

A copper bolt marks the highest altitude in New Jersey as 1809 feet, at a point eight miles distant from Sussex, N. J., and four and a half miles from Port Jervis, N. Y. High Point is situated on our property, a half-mile from our house and nearer Lake Marcia, which is located in a region of second-growth. Near it is a large swamp, whose floor is carpeted with ferns and overgrown with rhododendrons, hemlocks, spruces, and a few cedars.

The following birds were noted before the fall migration began: about Lake Marcia the Belted Kingfisher and a sandpiper, probably the Spotted; in the neighboring fields one House Wren, the Vesper and the Grasshopper Sparrows; on the mountain Cedar Waxwings, Goldfinches, and a male Purple Finch; in the vicinity the warblers, Chestnut-sided, Black and White, Canada (one female July 30th), Redstart, and Maryland Yellow-throat, as well as several covies of Grouse and a Green Heron. Near Sussex Bobolinks were observed in June and an American Egret. From our house could be seen Chimney Swifts, the Barn and the Eave Swallows, Nighthawks, Buzzards and Bald Eagles, while Towhees and Blue Jays could always be heard by day and Whip-poor-wills by night.

From August 25th to September 1st the migrant Redstarts, the Black-throated Green and the Pine Warblers were common. Other single migrants were observed: a Red-breasted Nuthatch, August 11th; a Connecticut Warbler, August 31st (killed by a cat); a male Magnolia and a female Blackburnian, September 1st. On the evening of August 29th, during a storm, which had been raging for three days, two warblers were attracted to our house-windows and captured, a male Black-throated Blue and an im-

mature Tennessee. The next night, while the storm was still violent, eight more birds were caught about the house, four Red-eyed Vireos, two Ovenbirds, one Hermit Thrush and a warbler, probably a Pine. These birds were so exhausted they could hardly fly.

JOHN DRYDEN KUSER.

Alexander Lawson

So much interest is shown at present in Alexander Wilson, the naturalist, that some of it naturally gathers about Alexander Lawson, his engraver. In fact, no small degree of the naturalist's great success was due to Mr. Lawson's active and intelligent assistance. The latter was a Scotchman, who came to this country previous to 1800, I believe. Eight children were born to him, of whom five grew to maturity and became artists of note. Of these, two daughters, who lived for many years in West Chester, were known to me in my younger days as most interesting and highly cultivated young ladies.

Miss Malvina Lawson was very fond of her distinguished father and told me many interesting stories about him, one being that he had at one time executed some work for John J. Audubon. His most notable achievement, however, was the lithographing of the bird-pictures for Wilson's Ornithology. This book was very profusely illustrated and the pictures were colored by hand, the coloring being done by Malvina and her sister Catherine. At it they labored constantly for three years and were paid five thousand dollars, an immense sum for two young girls to earn in those days.

In the latter part of her life Malvina with her sister, Mrs. Mary L. Birckhead, lived in West Chester and visited at our house frequently. Some of the pictures which she painted for the children are still treasured in the family. Dying in West Chester about 1880, she left one sister, Mrs. Birckhead, the last living descendant of Alexander Lawson. The latter moved to Philadelphia, where she, too, died a few years later.

ROBERT P. SHARPLESS.