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**Summer Birds of the
 Highlands Region**

By Henry M. Stevenson.

In order to properly understand the summer bird life of the Highlands region one must first make a preliminary study of the life zones represented here. Of the five life zones described from eastern North America, four are represented in North Carolina, but only three of them in the Highlands region, and two of these occupy a relatively small portion of the territory in question. Beginning at the Atlantic coast we find that the eastern and southern parts of this State represent the Lower Austral zone, which is characterized among the vegetation by scrub palmettos, slash pines, live oaks, and Spanish "moss." This life zone occupies from one-third to two-fifths of the State. Farther north and west occurs the Upper Austral Zone, extending roughly from Raleigh to the foot of the mountains. Characteristic trees of this zone are the loblolly pine and water oak, and characteristic birds of this zone and the preceding one are: Mockingbird, Pine and Prairie Warblers, Summer Tanager, Orchard Oriole, and Black Vulture. The large part of the mountain district is made up of the Alleghanian or Transition one, where such trees and shrubs as the white pine, hemlock, mountain laurel, rhododendron, and sourwood are

found. Such typical birds of this zone as the Cairns's Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Song Sparrow, and Least Flycatcher rarely or never summer in the central and eastern portions of the State. The last (and least represented) zone is the Canadian, found only in the highest mountains, always above 4,000 or 4,500 feet. Such northern forms as Spruce, balsam, yellow birch, hemlock (more abundant than in preceding zone), and mountain alder among the trees, and the Raven, American Crossbill, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Brown Creeper among the birds, occur in this zone.

The common life zone represented in the territory near Highlands is the Alleghenian, and only in two limited localities do other zones enter this county. The Upper Austral Zone is represented as a narrow strip along the Little Tennessee River, near Franklin, and Canadian one conditions exist in the great Primeval Forest, near Highlands. Visiting tourists from towns of lower elevations in this State, such as Winston-Salem, Raleigh and even Asheville, should realize that a year-round study of birds in their territory would result in a larger number of species of birds than would a similar study here, as the summering birds of these mountains visit the lower regions of the State during the fall, winter and spring months, while the typical breeding birds of the lower altitudes almost never get high into the mountains.

On a basis of summer residents alone, however, the Highlands Region would rank second to few regions of comparable size in the State. About the territory adjacent to Franklin, and to a lesser extent in other of the lower parts of Macon County, are found such eastern and southern forms as the Mockingbird, Meadowlark, Grass-

hopper Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Kingbird, and Redstart; and among the interesting northern forms of birds found in the Primeval Forest are the Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. The Raven also nests on the rocky crags of our higher mountains and is by no means so rare as is frequently supposed. In the entire region slightly upwards of 100 species of summer residents have been listed, 91 of them this summer. A few early fall migrants to be seen in late July and August somewhat augment this list.

It is not to be supposed, however, that the restriction of birds to their own life zone is an iron-bound one, the exceptions always making the most interesting records for a region. The most notable of these records for the present summer was the discovery of the Swainson's Warbler, a bird supposed to be limited entirely to the coastal swamps. This species was heard in song once near Havenel Lake, once about a mile from the Primeval Forest, and two individuals were seen in Horse Cove. The only previous record of the summering of this species in the mountains of North Carolina was made at Tryon, at an altitude probably not exceeding 2,500 feet. The altitude at the spot where the highest of this summer's records was made must have been all of 4,000 feet. Other interesting strays from the lower levels that seem worthy of mention are: Pine Warbler, frequently seen on the streets of Highlands; Yellow-breasted Chat, found on the side of Satulah Mountain at an elevation of at least 4,400 feet; Yellow-throated Vireo, a few blocks from the center of town. Among the migrants, a Redstart seen near the top of Shortoff Mountain must have been at least 4,800 feet above sea level.

This article could not properly be closed without some mention of the more typical birds of Highlands, the most common of which are: Carolina Junco, Veery, Scarlet Tanager, Rosebreasted Grosbeak, Song Sparrow, Cairns's Chestnut-sided Blackburnian, and Canada Warblers, Least Flycatcher, and Red-breasted Nuthatch, the last species being typical of the Canadian Zone, but nevertheless common on the streets of Highlands in white pines, as well as in the nearby hemlock forests.

Mr. and Mrs. Boston Lunz, of Kansas City, Mo., spent several days at the Pierson Inn.

HIGHLAND-er-er

Esther Cunningham, of Scarsdale, N. Y., is stopping in Highlands for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Howard, of Orlando, Fla., are spending their summer vacation at King's Inn. Mr. Howard is a wholesale grocer.

Judge and Mrs. T. S. Sease, of Spartanburg, S. C., are recent arrivals at the King's Inn. They plan to spend several weeks here. Judge Sease is a member of the Circuit Court in South Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace A. Long and Mr. Lawrence A. Long, of Jacksonville, Fla., arrived at the King's Inn last Sunday. They will be in Highlands for an extended stay during the warm season.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, R. M. Bostick and son, Roger, have returned for their annual vacation at King's Inn. These people are all from Memphis, Tenn. Mr. Bostick is a wholesale exporter of lumber and lumber products.

Mr. W. F. Coachman, Jr., of Jacksonville, Fla., is occupying one of the large cottages in connection with King's Inn through September. Mr. Coachman is chairman of the Florida State Canal Commission.

Mr. Harry Ferguson, of Rockmart, Ga., is a Highlands visitor.

Mrs. Doris Misener, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Condon, and Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Misener, all from Miami, Fla., were recent visitors in Highlands, and were stopping at Edwards Farm in Horse Cove. The Miseners like this community very much, in fact, recently bought a lot in Highlands.

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Nougherty, of Tallmadge, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Taylor, of Cuyahago, Ohio; and Miss Florence M. Hesse, of Cleveland, Ohio, are stopping at the Tricemont Terrace for two weeks. They were here for two weeks last summer, and have made reservations for next summer already.

Mr. John Slaton, Jr., of Atlanta, Ga., is stopping at the Tricemont Terrace. Mr. Slaton is the Veterans Administrator covering the entire South, and is a nephew of the former Governor John Slaton of Georgia.

Mrs. Grady Clay, of Atlanta, Ga., and daughter, Eleanor; and Miss Margaret Troutman, also of Atlanta, are stopping at the Tricemont for several days. Mrs. Clay's husband is an eye specialist in Atlanta.

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