

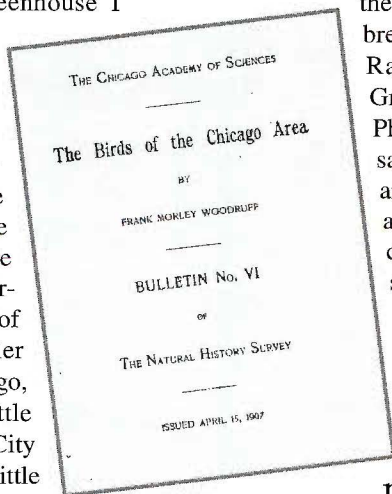
excellent place for the study of water loving passerines, such as the Prothonotary Warbler, Water Thrushes and Swamp Sparrows. Lincoln Park, one and one-half miles long, bordering on Lake Michigan, with its lagoons and lakes, numerous wooded knolls and hills, is a wonderfully attractive locality for the study of birds. On September 18, 1894, in one small patch of bushes near the greenhouse I found twelve specimens of the Connecticut Warbler.

"To show what an excellent locality Lincoln Park is for the study of birds I desire to call attention to the work of Professor Herbert Eugene Walter, of the Robert A. Waller High School, in Chicago, who published a little book, 'Wild Birds in City Parks.' This valuable little work consists of hints on the identifying of 145 birds, which he has observed and studied during the spring migrations in Lincoln Park. The object of this book is to furnish those who may be interested in making the acquaintance of wild birds with a simple letter of introduction to these birds, the majority of which are commonly seen during the spring migration."

Even 93 years ago, Woodruff complained about how growth in Chicagoland was affecting bird populations. He writes:

"As our territory becomes more thickly populated each year, the struggle for existence among our wild birds to remain and breed in their old haunts is really pitiful. The most secluded spots on our smaller streams and marshes are often fairly crowded with the nests of the poor birds which in years past were spread over a large territory. If the unscrupulous collectors are not restrained the species which I mention below will disappear

entirely from our area. In 1891, hundreds of Black Terns (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*) nested along the shores of Calumet Lake, Hyde Lake, and the feeders of the Desplaines (sic) River. Today it would be difficult to find one of these birds nesting within our area." Woodruff goes on to mention the following species he considered in danger of disappearing from the Chicago region as breeding birds: King Rail, Pied-billed Grebe, and Wilson's Phalarope, which he said had been shot and driven from the area through persecution of Chicago sportsmen and egg



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— Frank Morley Woodruff 1907

hunters. Woodruff also reported two pairs of Piping Plovers nesting on the lake shore on 1 August 1897. "One family of five was destroyed by collectors," he writes. "The remaining pair successfully raised their young. At the present date, there are probably twenty pairs or so (of Piping Plovers) nesting during the breeding season within our area.... We may soon expect to have this fine bird disappear from our region."

Woodruff's prediction nearly a century ago was right. Piping Plovers are gone as breeders in Illinois. And

hundreds of Black Terns no longer breed in wetlands south of Chicago. The summer of 1999, the only reported nesting Black Terns in Illinois were at Stickney Run in McHenry County with four adults and two nests with eggs and at Broberg Marsh in Lake County with 40 nests (See Field Notes in this issue.) Researchers also found five Black Tern nests in northeastern Illinois in 1995, and 13 Black Tern nests in 1996. Their research also showed that 80 percent of these nests were successful (Paine 1997). But with their habitat dwindling, the birds remain in jeopardy.

The people of Illinois will probably never again witness the spectacle of Black Terns nesting by the hundreds at Calumet Lake. What we can do is work to make sure Black Terns at least continue to breed in Lake County into the 22nd century. We can also work to make sure the state-endangered Yellow-headed Blackbirds, which once "bred abundantly" at Calumet Lake (1893) and Black-crowned Night-Herons that still breed in Lake Calumet, do not go the way of the Black Tern.

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Meadowlark