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## A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE SUMMER BIRDS OF OF FALL RIVER COUNTY, SOUTHWEST- ERN SOUTH DAKOTA.<sup>1</sup>

BY STEPHEN SARGENT VISHER.

Fall River County is the most southwesterly county in South Dakota. The Black Hills extend into the north central portion. The rest of the county is a plain, much eroded by the Cheyenne River, in the middle of the county, and by its tributaries. From west to east the larger tributaries are: from the north, Fall River and Beaver Creek, and from the south, Hat Creek and Horsehead Creek. Indian Creek, a large tributary of Hat Creek, is on the southern border of the western half of the county. Pierre (Cretaceous) shale forms the subsoil of most of the county. This "gumbo" is unproductive in a dry season and consequently in the exceptionally dry summer of 1911 most of the area was quite barren in aspect. The valleys of the largest streams are partially filled with groves of cottonwood, ash, elm, etc., and upon the foothills there are considerable growths of Bull Pine. The larger portion of the county is quite free from the signs of civilization and fences are absent for miles in a stretch. The towns are Hot Springs, in the north central part; Edgemont, in the west central; Ardmore on Hat Creek near the Nebraska line; Oelrich in the east central, on Horseshoe Creek.

<sup>1</sup> Published by permission of the State Geologist.



A field party of the South Dakota State Survey spent from July 22nd to August 8th, 1911, in this county. We entered along the Cheyenne River from the northeast. The wagon passed through Hot Springs, Minnekahta, and Edgemont, and then proceeded to the extreme southwestern corner. From there it swung east along Indian Creek to Ardmore, north along Hat Creek almost to the Cheyenne River, thence east to Oelrichs and southeast into the Pine Ridge Reservation. By means of the saddle horses most of the county was visited. The following list of seventy-six species of birds were observed. It probably includes the commoner summer birds of the area. Forty odd species were collected for the state museum:

THE LIST.

*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. Black Tern.—Seen migrating along Hat Creek August 2nd.

*Querquedula discors*. Blue-winged Teal.—An abundant migrant and a rare breeder. Broods seen in several parts of the county; southwest of Edgemont, July 28th; Indian Creek, July 31st; and west of Oelrichs August 3rd.

*Dafila acuta*. Pintail.—A brood was seen along Indian Creek July 31st. Said to be abundant during migrations.

*Erismatura jamaicensis*. Ruddy Duck.—Several were seen on a pond near Ardmore, August 1st.

*Nycticorax naevius*. Black-crowned Night Heron.—Seen several times, along the larger creeks, Indian, Hat, and Horsehead.

*Totanus flavipes*. Yellow-legs. Noted July 23rd, 27th, 30th, August 2nd and 6th, at rather widely separated localities.

*Helodromas s. solitarius*. Solitary Sandpiper.—An abundant migrant.

*Bartramia longicauda*. Upland Plover.—A tolerably common summer resident, at least we saw it regularly. Young unable to fly were seen.

*Actitis macularia*. Spotted Sandpiper.—Common during our stay, especially along the streams in the Black hills.

*Oxyechus vociferus*. Killdeer.—A very abundant summer resident. By far the most numerous water bird. A brood was raised near almost every body of water in the county.

*Pediæcetes c. campestris*. Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse.—This grouse was found to be quite numerous in the park-like forest of the foothills, and fairly plentiful along the flood plains of the creeks on the plains.



*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*. Mourning Dove.—This is decidedly the most conspicuous summer bird along the creeks whose valleys are grown up with cottonwoods.

*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*. Turkey Vulture.—An abundant summer resident; seen several times each day.

*Buteo borealis calurus*. Western Red-tailed Hawk.—A tolerably common breeder, nesting generally along the streams.

*Buteo b. kreideri*. Kreider's Hawk.—Two broods were found late in July in solitary cottonwoods in coulies in the "gumbo country" of the southwestern part of the county.

*Buteo swainsoni*. Swainson's Hawk.—Very frequently met with throughout our journey through Fall River County. Apparently it nests regularly here.

*Archibuteo ferrugineus*. Ferruginous Rough-leg.—Seen several times in early August (August 1st, near Ardmore, August 2nd, Ash Creek, August 4th, Oelrichs, August 6th, Slim Butte).

*Falco mexicanus*. Prairie Falcon.—A common resident; met with most frequently in the rougher country, along the Cheyenne River and some of its tributaries.

*Falco columbarius richardsoni*. Richardson's Pigeon Hawk.—Seen July 22nd, 23rd, 26th, and 31st.

*Falco s. sparverius*. Sparrow Hawk.—The hawk most frequently seen.

*Otus asio*. Screech Owl.—Several were seen in the wooded valleys of Fall River, Hat Creek, and Horsehead Creek.

*Bubo virginianus pallescens*. Western Horned Owl.—Far from rare. Several were seen, especially near "cut bank" bluffs along the Cheyenne, Indian, and Horsehead Creeks.

*Ceryle alcyon*. Belted Kingfisher.—Frequent on all permanent streams.

*Dryobates v. villosus*. Hairy Woodpecker.—A rare breeder in larger groves of cottonwood.

*Dryobates pubescens nelsoni*. Northern Downy Woodpecker.

*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Red-headed Woodpecker.—Both the downy and red-head are common in the deciduous groves.

*Colaptes auratus luteus*. Northern Flicker.

*Colaptes c. collaris*. Red-shafted Flicker.—The red-shafted is far more numerous in Fall River County than is the eastern species, but during our visit hybrids were apparently more abundant than both the others taken together.

*Chordeiles virginianus henryi*. Western Nighthawk.—Especially common last summer in the foothills country. Seen or heard every night while we were in the foothills (July 23-28).

*Aeronautes melanoleucus*. White-throated Swift.—An abundant



breeder about high cliffs. Large colonies nest in Hot Brook Canyon northwest from Hot Springs.

*Tyrannus tyrannus*. Kingbird.—An abundant nester in deciduous trees.

*Tyrannus verticalis*. Arkansas Kingbird.—Frequently met with during the summer. Nests were seen in each of the four quarters of the county.

*Sayornis sayus*. Say's Phoebe.—Especially in the rougher areas this is a common flycatcher. Nested in a deserted barn near Oelrichs.

*Myiochanes r. richardsoni*. Western Wood Pewee.—An abundant breeder along the wooded valleys.

*Otocoris alpestris leucolæma*. Desert Horned Lark.—One of the half dozen abundant species of the plains.

*Pica pica hudsonia*. Magpie.—Numerous wherever there are trees. Said to be even more abundant in winter than in summer.

*Corvus b. brachyrhynchos*. Crow.—A tolerably common resident.

*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*. Pinion Jay.—An abundant breeder about Hot Springs and elsewhere in the foothills. Locally called "Camp Robber," "Butcher house bird," "Blue Crow," etc.

*Molothrus a. ater*. Cowbird.—Quite numerous.

*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Yellow-headed Black-bird.—Seen several times in July, but we saw no nesting sites in this county.

*Agelaius phæniceus fortis*. Thick-billed Red-wing.—A common summer resident near water.

*Sturnella neglecta*. Western Meadowlark.—One of the most numerous of the birds of this district.

*Icterus bullocki*. Bullock's Oriole.—An abundant breeder along the streams, especially near the Black Hills.

*Euphagus cyanocephalus*. Brewer's Blackbird.—Numerous during the summer; nests.

*Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. Bronzed Grackle.—Nests fairly plentiful about Hot Springs.

*Loxia curvirostra minor*. Crossbill.—A tolerably common breeder about the pines on the foothills of the northern part of the county.

*Astragalinus t. tristis*. Goldfinch.—A common summer resident.

*Spinus pinus*. Pine Siskin.—A large flock was seen in the pines near Edgemont.

*Calcarius ornatus*. Chestnut-collared Longspur.—Tolerably common on the plains when we traversed them.

*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*. Western Lark Sparrow.—An abundant nester except in the most barren parts. Three nests were found.



*Spizella pusilla arizona*. Western Chipping Sparrow.—Quite numerous in summer. Seen along Fall River, Beaver and Black-tail Creeks.

*Pipilo maculatus arcticus*. Arctic Towhee.—Frequently met with in groves along the streams. Young observed early in August along Horsehead Creek.

*Zamelodia melanocephala*. Black-headed Grosbeak.—Several broods were seen in the more mesophytic groves.

*Guiraca caerulea lazula*. Western Blue Grosbeak.—Certainly a common summer resident. Broods were seen in practically all the favorable localities visited.

*Passerina amoena*. Lazuli Bunting.—We found a brood on July 24th, near Hot Springs.

*Calomospiza melanocorys*. Lark Bunting.—A conspicuous bird on the plains.

*Piranga ludoviciana*. Western Tanager.—Quite numerous in the pines of the foothill country—seen in four or five localities, especially between Hot Springs and Minnekahta.

*Petrochelidon lunifrons*. Cliff Swallow.—Large colonies were found nesting on vertical cliffs along the streams.

*Hirundo erythrogastra*. Barn Swallow.—A common summer occupant of sheds.

*Tachycineta thalassina lepida*. Northern Violet-green Swallow.—An abundant breeder about cliffs. Two nests were examined in crevices in rock near Indian Creek.

*Riparia riparia*. Bank Swallow.—Four or five colonies were noted, two on Indian Creek, and two on the Cheyenne River.

*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*. White-rumped Shrike.—Nests abundantly in the cottonwoods along the Cheyenne River and other large streams.

*Vireosylva olivacea*. Red-eyed Vireo.—Abundant late in July in the wooded valleys.

*Vireosylva gilva swainsoni*. Western Warbling Vireo.—Scarcely a rare breeder along the canyons in the foothills.

*Dendroica æ. æstiva*. Yellow Warbler.—Abundant in deciduous groves and thickets along the creeks.

*Geothlyptes trichas occidentalis*. Western Yellow-throat.—Common on Horsehead Creek, near Oelrichs. Birds in juvenile plumage were seen there.

*Icteria virens longicauda*. Long-tailed Chat.—A common summer resident along the wooded stream valleys.

*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*. Western Mockingbird.—A fledgling barely able to fly was collected July 27th, near Minnekahta.



As far as I know this is the second specimen of Mockingbird collected in South Dakota. Hayden collected one in the Black Hills in 1860.

*Dumetella carolinensis*. Catbird.—Rare. A brood seen in the eastern part of the county near Oelrichs.

*Toxostoma rufum*. Brown Thrasher.—Quite abundant in the wooded valleys. Nests.

*Salpinctes o. obsoletus*. Rock Wren.—Nests plentifully about rocks.

*Sitta carolinensis aculeata*. Slender-billed Nuthatch.—Common in the pine-clad portions of the county.

*Penthestes atricapillus septentionalis*. Long-tailed Chickadee.—An abundant resident.

*Planesticus m. migratorius*. Robin.—Rare, in Hot Springs.

*Sialia currucoides*. Mountain Bluebird.—An abundant breeder.

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## A STUDY OF THE AVIFAUNA OF THE LAKE ERIE ISLANDS.

(With Particular Reference to the Migration Phenomena.)

BY LYND S. JONES.

The above title is chosen because the author has only just completed in the pages of the Bulletin a study of the Birds of Cedar Point and vicinity, and there has also recently appeared in these pages a study of the Birds of Point Pelee by Taverner and Swales. It will be impossible to confine this study to islands, but references to the adjacent mainland on both sides of Lake Erie must be expected. Therefore, the following summary of work done will be found to include all visitations to Cedar Point on the Ohio shore, and Point Pelee on the Canada shore. This enumeration will indicate the fragmentary nature of the work. The paper must, therefore, be regarded as a report of progress made in the hope that it will stimulate someone who is favorably situated to carry the work to a successful issue.



Visher, Stephen Sargent. 1912. "A Preliminary List of the Summer Birds of of Fall River County, Southwestern South Dakota." *The Wilson bulletin* 24(1), 1–6.

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