

on and soon discovered him several hundred yards in advance. On the following morning, four cars of bird students arrived about seven a.m. and he favoured us with numerous songs from several perches, usually in a tree or from a fence-post. Everyone remarked on the likeness of his song to the flute-like tones of the Baltimore Oriole; and all agreed that his song was unmistakable, and bore only the most remote resemblance to the song of our local meadow-larks. The chirp used by this bird was the "tlk" of the western species, and never once did he use the rattle which we are accustomed to hear from our own larks. On the seventeenth I visited the place at 11.30 a.m. but, though the morning was intermittently clear and the sun shone for a part of the time we were there, the only song that might have been his came from so far away that we could catch only an occasional prominent note against the strong north wind.

Later on in the same day, he was heard by a visiting party, and since then he has been heard almost daily by one person or another.

He seems to have pre-empted a territory for himself and chases other larks away from it, though we have seen nothing that would incline us to suspect that he has any friendly feeling for any female. However, if no Western Lark comes to him, we are hoping that he will surrender to the charms of one of our local birds, and settle down for the summer.

I do not recollect any previous reference to one of these birds in Eastern Ontario, but the fact that they occur in some numbers in Northern Michigan makes their occurrence quite probable.

Pectoral Sandpipers have again been found in this vicinity; beginning about April tenth, a number of flocks have been seen. None of them have been very near to London, and the only flock I personally have seen was near West Lorne, 40 miles southwest, where a flock of about fifty flew around for some minutes, giving us much entertainment. It is now about seven years since they first appeared here in numbers, and they are now looked for as a regular thing, whereas before that time only single birds were seen, and at intervals of several years. — W. E. SAUNDERS.

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PILEATED WOODPECKER BREEDING IN TORONTO REGION. — A note in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* for January, 1936, mentioned the re-appearance of these woodpeckers near Toronto

after a long absence. On May 19, 1935, I was in a low-lying hardwood bush near Pottageville, Township of King, when a Pileated Woodpecker flew up and, on seeing me, immediately swung off and disappeared. Five minutes later she (presumably) returned to a Basswood stub, circled it once, and entered a hole some forty feet up, facing east.

On May 24th I again visited the nest with Mr. J. L. Baillie, Jr., F. H. Emery, and others. Much hard thumping on the tree failed to flush the bird, which flew only when someone attempted to climb up; then it circled about over the tree tops calling until we left. The second bird did not appear.

Prolonged visits on June 2 and 14 showed no sign of the birds, even when the stub was hammered. Again on June 22 I was about to leave the spot, when as I was about fifty yards away, the characteristic sound, quite loud, of young woodpeckers being fed was heard. Running back, I was just in time to see a bird leave the hole, utter a few warning cries, and vanish. The young ceased their cries at once.

I am indebted to Mr. Baillie for the information that on June 27 young were seen at the entrance to the nest, and again on the next day, when both adults were present; also to Mr. R. V. Lindsay for the dimensions of the hole; 3 inches horizontally by 4 inches vertically.

This spring birds have been heard drumming in several localities in King township, and a possible site, apparently used before, was seen 35 feet up in the main trunk of a large Sugar Maple. — R. D. USSHER.

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ERRATA. In the article by Ian McTaggart Cowan on "Notes on some Mammals in the British Columbia Provincial Museum with a List of the Type Specimens of North American Recent Mammals in the Museum" which appears on pages 145 to 148 of the issue for December, 1936, the following errors occurred:

Page 145, Col. 2, Line 19, for 'Vancouver' read 'Vancouver Island'

Page 145, Col. 2, Line 31, for 'Vancouver' read 'Vancouver Island'

Page 146, Col. 2, Line 16 from bottom, for 'Vaseux' read 'Vasseaux'

Page 147, Col. 1, Line 6 from bottom, for 'pedical' read 'pedicel'

Page 147, Col. 1, Line 5, the words 'now spelled Clayoquot, V. I., B.C.' should be in square brackets.





Ussher, R. D. 1937. "Pileated Woodpecker Breeding in Toronto Region." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 51(2), 30–30. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339956>.

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