

NEW OR RARE BIRD RECORDS FROM MANITOBA,  
1912.

BY NORMAN CRIDDLE.

The following notes refer chiefly to birds that have not hitherto, so far as I am aware, been recorded from the Province of Manitoba, and all are new to the fauna of Aweme.

SAY'S PHÆBE, *Sayornis saya* (Bonap.) Baird.

An example of this bird was secured by my brother Stuart, on April 23rd, close to some deserted farm buildings, and another one observed three days later. A bird almost surely of the same species was heard uttering loud cries in an old barn the previous year, but made its escape before it could be observed closely. Others have also been seen from time to time in past years, but the above constitutes the first authentic record east of Saskatchewan.

It has, however, been found breeding in North Dakota as well as from Saskatchewan westward to the coast, so there is good reason for expecting that it will eventually be found nesting in Manitoba also.

OBERHOLSER'S HORNED LARK.

This bird, known scientifically as *Otocoris alpestris enthymia*, was found breeding in company with a colony of Chestnut-colored Longspurs; a specimen was also collected by my brother, Stuart, on a ploughed field in April. He submitted two to Mr. Oberholser, who determined them as above.

This race, to judge from the latest Check List, has not yet been recognized as valid by the A. O. U., so may very possibly intergrade with other forms found further west. In Manitoba its nearest ally seems to be *praticola*, from which it is very difficult to separate during the migratory seasons. When breeding, however, it selects the open prairies, while the Prairie Horned Lark confines itself more to the broken wood-lands, where there are small plains or bare hills surrounded intermittently with trees, though it seldom, if ever, seeks shelter in or among the trees. When better known, *enthymia* will probably be found to be quite a common breeding bird in the province.

Another horned lark, the Pallid, has also been identified from Aweme by Mr. Oberholser, which adds yet another to the local list, though previously collected and recorded for Manitoba. Thus to date we have records of four races, *praticola*, *arctica*, *enthymia* and *hoyti*, while Mr. Seton enrolls a fifth, *alpestris*. Probably at least one other, *leucolæma*, occurs here also.



From time to time birds of usually more southern latitudes extend their range northward and for a time at least become domicile, occasionally permanently so, as the Square-tail, or Prairie Chicken of the south, which is now even more numerous than the native Sharp-tailed Grouse in the open country. The Bluebird, on the other hand, for a few years became fairly numerous and then gradually decreased again, though it is yet found breeding in small numbers. The Purple Martin is another fluctuating species. Yet another that has recently moved north and eastward is the Arkansas Kingbird. Dr. Speechly records two pairs as nesting at Pilot Mound both this year and last, while we at Aweme have seen two, and a pair are breeding only a few miles away in the village of Treesbank in some trees surrounding a house. The bird is not uncommon in the southern portions of the provinces to the west of us.

#### MEETING OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

The first meeting for this winter of the Botanical Branch was held at the residence of Mr. R. B. Whyte, 370 Wilbrod St., on Saturday evening, November the 30th. There were present the following members: Dr. Malte, Messrs. J. M. Macoun, W. T. Macoun, L. H. Newman, E. D. Eddy, James Lawler, A. Eastham, J. W. Gibson, A. E. Attwood, J. J. Carter, J. W. Eastham, W. Dreher, H. A. Honeyman, F. T. Shutt, T. E. Clarke and Dr. E. H. Blackader.

The subject was "A Summer in Britain", by the Chairman for the evening, Mr. Whyte. He illustrated his observations by lantern views taken during the course of his trip; and he had about seventy-five very interesting photographic plates that were thrown on the screen by Mr. J. W. Gibson.

He travelled in company with Prof. Hutt of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and they went direct to London, where they made their headquarters during the five weeks they spent in England. From there they made daily trips in and outside of London, wherever they had an opportunity of studying the methods of horticulture and of decorative gardening as practised there.

Their first visit was to Covent Gardens Market, where they were amazed at the extent and variety of the fruits and flowers for sale. One section was entirely devoted to wild plants and flowers, natives of Great Britain. Other sections were devoted to small fruits such as strawberries, gooseberries, currants, raspberries and loganberries, and he remarked on the fineness of their quality, especially of the strawberries. One producer



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