

**Regulus calendula.** RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.—A few noted in the higher bushes along washes on the desert at Goffs, April 10 to 15.

**Polioptila caerulea obscura.** WESTERN GNATCATCHER.—Fairly common on New York Mountain, where two were collected June 7.

**Polioptila plumbea.** PLUMBEOUS GNATCATCHER.—Several seen and one secured at Goffs, April 11. Fairly common among the mesquites and creosote bushes on the lower mesas back from the river above Needles.

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## THE BIRDS OF THE ROSEBUD INDIAN RESERVATION, SOUTH DAKOTA.

BY ALBERT B. REAGAN.<sup>1</sup>

WHILE U. S. Indian teacher of the White Thunder Day School of the Rosebud Indian Reservation in 1904, I took notes on the occurrence and habits of the birds that chanced to visit the region. These I give below.

1. **Gavia imber.** LOON.—Migratory; rare.
2. **Larus delawarensis.** RING-BILLED GULL.—I saw but one individual of this species.
3. **Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis.** BLACK TERN.—A male and female of this species were killed by an Indian of the camp who brought them to me for identification, remarking that they were sea birds.
4. **Pelecanus erythrorhynchos.** AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN.—An Indian of the camp killed a male pelican, skinned it and brought me the skin. I did not see the live bird.

The species of Anatidæ, given below, commenced appearing March 2 and commenced to go south August 21. None made residence in the region. But few crossed the area in the spring, they going further to the east. More passed in their southern journey. The journey south was much prolonged on account of the warm fall, the birds seeming in no hurry to leave.

Unluckily there was but little water in the vicinity of the author's location; consequently he had the opportunity of obtaining but a few specimens for identification.

5. **Anas boschas.** MALLARD.—Abundant in migration.
6. **Anas obscura.** BLACK DUCK.—I killed the only specimen I saw of this species.

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7. *Nettion carolinensis*. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.
  8. *Querquedula discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—This species, together with *N. carolinensis*, constituted the majority of the ducks that passed over the region within the year.
  9. *Querquedula cyanoptera*. CINNAMON TEAL.—Rare in migration.
  10. *Spatula clypeata*. SHOVELLER.—A common migrant.
  11. *Dafila acuta*. PINTAIL.—A common migrant.
  12. *Bucephala albeola*. BUTTER-BALL.—Not common in migration.
  13. *Aythya vallisneria*. CANVAS-BACK.—Migratory; common.
  14. *Aythya affinis*. LESSER SCAUP DUCK.—Not common in migration.
  15. *Aythya collaris*. RING-NECKED DUCK.—I saw but one specimen of this species. This I flushed at the edge of the school dam.
  16. *Chen hyperborea*. LESSER SNOW GOOSE.—A common migrant.
  17. *Branta canadensis*. CANADA GOOSE.—Common.
  18. *Branta canadensis hutchinsii*. HUTCHINS'S GOOSE.—But one flock of these geese were seen.
  19. *Branta bernicla*. BRANT.—Rather common in migration.
  20. *Olor columbianus*. WHISTLING SWAN.—A flock of these swans was reported on White River.
  21. *Fulica americana*. AMERICAN COOT.—Very common.
  22. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN.—I flushed this bird several times about the school pond, but I was unable to find a nest.
  23. *Ardetta exilis*. LEAST BITTERN.—Not common.
  24. *Grus americana*. WHOOPING CRANE.—Migratory; rare.
  25. *Grus canadensis*. LITTLE BROWN CRANE.—Common in migration.
  26. *Grus mexicana*. SANDHILL CRANE.—Migratory; common.
- These cranes, like the ducks, commenced crossing the region in the early days of March and commenced their southern trip across the same in the closing days of August; but unlike the ducks, about as many crossed the region in the spring as in the fall. But few of these birds alighted. Those that did seemed to prefer the high points to the water courses and low ground, the high points being the uninhabited areas.
27. *Rallus elegans*. KING RAIL.—I flushed this bird several times, but looked arduously for its nest without success.
  28. *Rallus virginianus*. VIRGINIA RAIL.—This bird is a common migrant, but evidence that it is a summer resident is wanting.
  29. *Porzana carolina*. SORA.—A rare summer resident.
- All of the species of Scolopacidae, given below, are common migrants or rare residents of the region. The Bartramian Sandpiper nests in the up-land region.
30. *Tringa maculata*. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.
  31. *Totanus melanoleucus*. YELLOW-LEGS.
  32. *Totanus flavipes*. LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.
  33. *Helodromas solitarius*. SOLITARY SANDPIPER.
  34. *Bartramia longicauda*. BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER.
  35. *Actitis macularis*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER.



36. *Numenius longirostris*. LONG-BILLED CURLEW.
  37. *Numenius borealis*. ESKIMO CURLEW.—The last two species were well represented on the Butte Creek flats in June.
  38. *Ægialitis vocifera*. KILLDEER.—A common summer resident.
  39. *Colinus virginianus*. BOB-WHITE.—This bird is a rare resident of the reservation. I flushed but two on the reserve within the year. They, however, are an abundant resident over the line in the farming districts of Nebraska.
  40. *Bonasa umbellus*. RUFFED GROUSE.—A rare resident.
  41. *Tympanuchus americanus*. PRAIRIE HEN.—This bird is a very common resident of the uplands, but is a rare resident in the valleys. It prefers to keep shy of the settlements.
  42. *Pediocetes phasianellus campestris*. PRAIRIE SHARP-TAILED GROUSE.—A very common resident.
  42. *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE.—The doves are common throughout the reservation, but most numerous in the White River valley region. Here droves of doves fly about all day long in the fall.
  43. *Accipiter cooperi*. COOPER'S HAWK.—Resident; common.
  44. *Buteo borealis*. RED-TAILED HAWK.—Resident; common.
  45. *Buteo lineatus*. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.—Resident; common.
- In the fall the hawks of each of the three species mentioned above collect in flocks and fly about the country in that manner for a considerable time before migrating. There are none, or few hawks of any kind, in the region in the winter season.
46. *Aquila chrysaëtos*. GOLDEN EAGLE.—This bird is common throughout the year, but more common in winter. It is from the feathers of this eagle and those of the Bald Eagle, next below, that the Sioux make their war-bonnets and other feathered regalia and paraphernalia. It takes a good horse to buy the feathers of one eagle.
  47. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. BALD EAGLE.—Common. This bird, with the Golden Eagle, feeds principally on prairie-dogs, hence they are a benefit to the region.
  48. *Falco rusticolus*. GRAY GYRFALCON.—But one individual of this species was seen by the author within the year.
  49. *Falco mexicanus*. PRAIRIE FALCON.—Rare.
  50. *Falco columbarius*. PIGEON HAWK.—Not common.
  51. *Falco sparverius*. AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK.—Resident; abundant.
  52. *Syrnium varium*. BARRED OWL.—Common.
  53. *Megascops asio*. SCREECH OWL.—This owl could be heard every night throughout the summer season. Its favorite haunts seemed to be the timbered region along the creeks. When putting in the school fence the children ran on to two of these birds and immediately advised me of their presence. Our work was done for that day. Not a child would proceed with the work. I asked them why they would not work, and they said: "Me no go where owl be, owl [image of] death." I learned after-



wards that the Sioux, like most Indians, consider the owl the evil spirit death. And that when it screeches or hoots it is calling some one to die.<sup>1</sup>

54. **Bubo virginianus.** GREAT HORNED OWL.—When doing research work in geology in the Robinson Bad Lands in July I came on to two of these birds sitting on a branch of a leaning red cedar back in a narrow deep ravine. The birds did not see me till I was right under them. I tried to get them for specimens for my collection, but as I did not have my gun with me they escaped. I searched for a nest, but was unable to find any. These were the only birds of the species seen.

55. **Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa.** BURROWING OWL.—These birds are abundant in the prairie dog town districts. Peculiar for an owl, on hot days they come out of their burrows and sun themselves, sitting usually on fence posts if there are any near their places of residence.

56. **Dryobates villosus.** HAIRY WOODPECKER.—This bird is a common resident both in summer and winter. Both in the fall and in the spring they are usually found in company with the Long-tailed Chickadee.

57. **Dryobates pubescens.** DOWNY WOODPECKER.—A common resident.

58. **Sphyrapicus varius.** YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—Rare.

59. **Melanerpes erythrocephalus.** RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Rare.

60. **Centurus carolinus.** RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—Common.

61. **Colaptes auratus luteus.** FLICKER.—Very common.

62. **Chordeiles virginianus henryi.** WESTERN NIGHTHAWK.—This bird is one of the most common large birds of the country. I found a nest in the potato patch. The female was on it when I found it. She dragged herself over the ground, fluttered and squawked. At length I scared her so that she flew. I then found that she had been dragging her eggs under her as she drew herself over the ground. There was nothing, however, that could be called a nest except a little hollowed out place. There was neither stick, straw, nor feathers to mark the place. The eggs were two in number and were of a dirty mud color.

63. **Trochilus colubris.** RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Common in summer.

64. **Tyrannus tyrannus.** KINGBIRD.—Summer resident; abundant.

65. **Sayornis phœbe.** PHŒBE.—I saw but few of these birds, and no nests at all.

66. **Contopus virens.** WOOD PEWEE.—A common summer resident.

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<sup>1</sup> This Sioux belief calls to my mind an incident that occurred when I was among the Apaches of Arizona. One morning an Indian came to my house and with great anxiety said: "Me family all die." I asked if they were sick, supposing that possibly they had the smallpox, as that disease usually proves fatal to an Indian. "No," he remarked, "but an owl lit on me tepee last night and hooted. Me away; me family in tepee. Me family all die before the leaves come again." And his family did die within the year, his wife and three children died with consumption. But it was not because the owl called them that they died. They killed themselves drinking Indian whiskey and exposing themselves while they were under its influence. But the Indian to this day will tell you that the owl took them.



67. *Contopus richardsonii*? WESTERN WOOD PEWEE.—A rare summer resident.

68. *Pica pica hudsonia*. AMERICAN MAGPIE.—This bird is a resident throughout the year, but more numerous in winter.

There were so many of these birds about the school in the spring that it became necessary to kill some of them, because they were making themselves such a pest. I had killed only a few when all disappeared. I thought that they had migrated from the region, but later I found them nesting in White River valley. They knew that they were being killed, so left the immediate vicinity of the school.

These birds alight on the backs of horses and cattle and peck holes through the hide and eat the flesh out. Still worse, if a horse has a sore back made by saddle or harness they will perch themselves on him and eat the flesh out till he dies. If the poor creature tries to switch or rub off the pesterer, the bird simply hops to the other side of the animal and begins to peck there. This is kept up till the tortured animal gives up in despair. The bird then eats his fill. The work of these birds, however, is not always a detriment. I have seen them pick grubs from cows' backs by the hour.

69. *Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY.—A common resident.

70. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. AMERICAN CROW.—An abundant resident.

71. *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—These birds are very abundant in migration, but in residence rare; I found only one nest.

72. *Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*. NORTHERN RED-WING.—Common in migration.

73. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.—This bird is an abundant resident as well as a migrant.

74. *Molothrus ater*. COWBIRD.—An abundant summer resident.

75. *Sturnella magna magna*. MEADOWLARK.—An occasional resident.

76. *Sturnella magna neglecta*. WESTERN MEADOWLARK.—This bird is an abundant resident. While it looks like *S. magna magna*, it is very different in action. Its song is *tung-tung-tungah-til'-lah-tung*, its warning call *tuck*, its warning whistle *whah-o*, its sympathetic call *tyar*. It flies by a trembling flutter of the wings.

77. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE.—Resident in summer.

78. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—A summer resident.

79. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE.—Abundant in summer.

80. *Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus*. WESTERN SAVANNA SPARROW.—Very common.

81. *Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.

82. *Spizella socialis*. CHIPPING SPARROW.

83. *Spizella pusilla arenacea*. WESTERN FIELD SPARROW.—Common summer resident.

84. *Junco aikenii*. WHITE-WINGED JUNCO.—A rare winter visitor



85. *Junco hyemalis*. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.—Common in winter.
86. *Junco hyemalis shufeldti*. SHUFELDT'S JUNCO.—Common in winter.
87. *Calamospiza melanocorys*. LARK BUNTING.—These birds are an abundant resident in summer. Both in fall and spring they fly around in flocks like blackbirds. In the summer they are seen in pairs only.
88. *Passer domesticus*. ENGLISH SPARROW.—These birds are just beginning to enter the region. They are driving the Bluebirds out of the country wherever they appear.
89. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER.—Common in summer.
90. *Piranga rubra*. SUMMER TANAGER.—Summer resident; rare.
91. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. CLIFF SWALLOW.—Summer resident; common.
92. *Hirundo erythrogastra*. BARN SWALLOW.—These birds are an abundant summer resident in the vicinity of the Ring Thunder Day School; I saw but few of them at any other place.
93. *Riparia riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—Very common along the banks of White River.
94. *Lanius borealis*. NORTHERN SHRIKE.—Common in winter.
95. *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*. WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKE.—Common in summer.
96. *Dendroica æstiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—An abundant summer resident.
97. *Seiurus motacilla*. LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH.—Rare.
98. *Setophaga ruticilla*. AMERICAN REDSTART.—Common in summer.
99. *Salpinctus obsoletus*. ROCK WREN.—Common in broken districts.
100. *Toxostoma rufus*. BROWN THRASHER.—Common in summer.
101. *Troglodytes ædon aztecus*. WESTERN HOUSE WREN.—Rare.
102. *Parus atricapillus*. CHICKADEE.
103. *Parus atricapillus septentrionalis*. LONG-TAILED CHICKADEE.—The two species of chickadees are very common, the latter being the most abundant. They are found most usually in company with the Hairy Woodpeckers. They are very busy birds and are always keeping up their peculiar chatter. They seem to prefer the elm trees to all others when looking for food.
104. *Hylocichla mustelina*. WOOD THRUSH.—Rare.
105. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. HERMIT THRUSH.—This bird is very rare; I found but one nest.
106. *Merula migratoria*. AMERICAN ROBIN.—The Robin, though one of the first migrant birds to appear in the spring and the last to leave (the school children captured one December 20), is very rare.
107. *Merula migratoria propinqua*. WESTERN ROBIN.—Rare.
108. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Common.



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