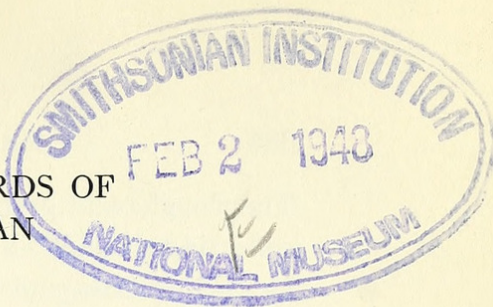


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ART. XXII. NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF
SOUTHERN SASKATCHEWAN

BY W. E. CLYDE TODD

INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 1931 the writer, then on one of his several trips to James Bay, was accompanied by Mr. Albert C. Lloyd, who earlier in the year had been assisting Mr. John B. Semple and Dr. George M. Sutton on their expedition to Churchill, Manitoba. Mr. Lloyd's home was in southern Saskatchewan, and he naturally had much to say about the bird life of that section—so much, indeed, that a collecting expedition thereto loomed as a most desirable proposition. The authorities of the Carnegie Museum approved and agreed to sponsor the project, and accordingly Mr. Lloyd was sent ahead, and began work on April 21, 1932. Dr. Sutton came into the project under a special arrangement; he traveled with the writer from Chicago and we joined Mr. Lloyd at Davidson, Saskatchewan, on May 19. Mr. Lloyd had already accumulated a fine series of geese, cranes, and some other species, and the three of us continued to work together until June 30. Our combined efforts netted a total of 730 specimens of birds and 70 sets of birds' eggs. After our departure Mr. Lloyd continued to collect sporadically, and 94 additional specimens of birds and one of birds' eggs were acquired for the Carnegie Museum by purchase. The entire collection of 824 specimens is herewith listed by localities, with appropriate remarks under each species. In addition several species are included on the basis of sight records alone.

The plains of Saskatchewan are vast and wide, and are broken only by streams and sloughs, where waterfowl of many kinds breed in abundance. Trees (mainly poplars and willows) grow only along the watercourses, or where planted by human agency; a lone tree is a landmark for many miles. The avifauna is that of the prairies, but since by far the greater part of the land has been brought under cultivation this fauna is now much restricted and localized. The use of a car made these favored areas readily accessible, and enabled us to cover considerable territory. From Davidson as a center we explored the country north and west to a distance of 14 miles. On May 22 we moved our headquarters to a cottage on Last Mountain Lake, at a point east of Imperial. From this point we worked the west shore of the lake in both directions, and the islands in the center, at the north end.

The sloughs and prairie meadows at the head of the lake were a favorite collecting ground. There was a slough just east of Stalwart that proved to be an interesting spot. Two trips were made to Devil's Lake, six miles west of Amazon; here was a grove of small trees. On June 8 we drove to Elbow, on the Saskatchewan River, where we remained until June 11. Our work there was done on the plains on the west bank of the river, some three miles west of the town. This was the only place where we found the Long-billed Curlew. On June 20 we made an excursion to Quill Lake, near Dafoe, but remained only one day; we returned across the "Touchwood Hills" by way of Raymore. Two visits were made to Quinn's Lake, ten miles north and two miles east of Davidson—the last on June 28.

In the present paper, unless otherwise specified, the author is responsible for the identifications of and critical remarks on the various species. In general the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List has been followed (with its revisions to date), but in a few cases he has seen fit to differ. In discussing the seasonal status, nesting, haunts and habits, etc., of the several species he has utilized not only his own field notes made on the spot, but also those of Dr. Sutton, duly placed at his disposal, and certain written and verbal information kindly supplied by Mr. Lloyd. The list comprises 163 forms, a few of which are incompletely identified. A brief popular account of the expedition appeared in the Carnegie Magazine for September, 1932 (vol. 6, pp. 115-116), under the title "Glimpses of Prairie Bird Life."

Acknowledgments are due to the late Reuben Lloyd (father of Albert C. Lloyd) for his many courtesies to our party; without his whole-hearted cooperation the trip would not have been nearly so successful. We are also under obligations to the Provincial authorities of Saskatchewan for the issue of collecting permits, and to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at Regina for permits to carry firearms.

LIST OF SPECIES

***Gavia immer elasson* Bishop. LESSER LOON.**

Single birds were seen on Last Mountain Lake on May 24, 26, and 27, and two on June 18. One was seen at Quill Lake on June 20. The June dates would suggest breeding.

***Colymbus grisegena holbölli* (Reinhardt). HOLBOELL'S GREBE.**

Two specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

Several pairs were nesting in a shallow, sheltered bay on the west shore

of Last Mountain Lake. They were first noted there on May 26, and two females collected on June 3 were getting ready to lay. On June 15 a set of six eggs was collected, and on June 22 two more, of five and four eggs respectively. The nests were merely masses of green vegetation floating a few inches above the surface of the water, but anchored to the bottom by growing aquatic plants. They were thirty to forty feet from shore, in shallow water, and were easily reached by wading out. The set of five eggs varied from fresh to one third incubated. All were much discolored by the water and muddy vegetation.

***Colymbus auritus* (Linnaeus). HORNED GREBE.**

Two specimens (downy young): Davidson, July 20.

A common breeding bird in the sloughs and marshes; pairs were found even in small areas of marsh. The first nest was found at Davidson on May 20, on which date it had only one egg. Full sets were found at Last Mountain Lake on May 28, at Davidson on June 7, and in a slough west of Raymore on June 21. This last nest was built about a submerged fence-post base; both birds were quite tame. Even as late as June 26 a nest with four eggs was found near Davidson.

***Colymbus nigricollis californicus* (Heermann). EARED GREBE.**

Eleven specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson (13 miles west).

A summer resident, if anything more common than the Horned Grebe. It was noted at all the localities visited, and was particularly numerous at Last Mountain Lake. No eggs were collected, however, until June 16, when Dr. Sutton secured a set of three in the marsh near Stalwart. Again on June 29 he took five sets of three each, well advanced in incubation, from a slough by the roadside, about thirteen miles west of Davidson. In every case the nest was merely a floating mass of dead grasses and debris in the midst of a grassy part of the prairie slough, where the water was about two feet deep.

***Aechmophorus occidentalis* (Lawrence). WESTERN GREBE.**

Six specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

This species was noted only on the larger bodies of water—Last Mountain Lake and Quill Lake. At the former lake Mr. Lloyd counted as many as sixty-four birds on May 23; these were of course migrants. On May 28 and June 1 courtship antics were noted; at such times the birds sometimes pick up bits of grass and hold these in their bills. Four specimens were collected on June 3, after chasing the birds around and forcing them to

dive, then shooting quickly when they emerged. Often they escaped by quick diving, but it never seemed to occur to them that they could easily evade pursuit by flight. Of the four species of Grebes found here, the Western was by far the wariest and most difficult to collect. Those taken on June 3 showed no evidence of breeding as yet, but on June 18 three nests, probably of this species, were found ready for eggs. Many were noted at Quill Lake on June 20.

***Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Gmelin. WHITE PELICAN.**

This species is not known to breed at Last Mountain Lake, where, however, it was seen repeatedly at various dates from May 23 to June 18. Usually only two or three would be seen at a time, but on several occasions large flocks passed over—a wonderful sight. The species is reported as breeding at Quill Lake, where many were seen on June 20.

***Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Lesson). DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.**

There was a Cormorant colony, estimated to number at least one hundred pairs, on a rocky island on the west shore of Last Mountain Lake. Our first visit was paid to this colony on May 28, at which time most of the nests had eggs—two with seven each, several with five or six, and many with four and three. Two nests had eggs already pipped, and one had newly hatched young. Our second visit was on June 23. All the birds took wing when we came within a hundred yards, and left the young to our mercies. For a while they kept circling overhead, but they finally settled on the water at a little distance. The stench at the nests from decaying fish, covered with swarms of flies, was beyond words. The nests on the highest and central part of the island all had large young, which stood up clamoring for food and paying no attention to us, while their heads and throats kept quivering in peculiar fashion. They would work themselves up to a point where they would disgorge partly digested fish, after which they would remain quiet for a time, and then repeat the performance. From these large young in the center there was a regular gradation in size to those on the periphery of the colony, each zone of nests holding successively smaller young, until in the outermost there were unhatched eggs. It was as if the first birds to begin nesting here took the highest part of the island, and later comers had to be content with lower positions. The newly hatched young were naked, helpless creatures, lying sprawled on their sides as if dead. It was a hot day, and we left soon so that their parents could shelter them.

In addition to this large colony, we found several nests on May 23 on the west side of the lake, on a point where Ring-billed Gulls were also breeding. Mr. Lloyd tells me that at one time the breeding cormorants on Last Mountain Lake were confined to the island. Then the water level of the lake was raised and the island was flooded; this forced the colony to move to the mainland. As the water receded in later years, however, the bulk of the colony again removed to the island, leaving only a few odd pairs behind. Why the colony was not wiped out by coyotes during the period remains a mystery.

***Ardea herodias herodias* Linnaeus. GREAT BLUE HERON.**

On June 18 a pair of this species was noted and their nest was located on an island on Last Mountain Lake north of our headquarters. The nest was built in one of the larger trees on this island, and held three eggs. It was not far from several crows' nests.

***Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli* (Gmelin). BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.**

Two specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

A summer-resident species, but not common. Dr. Sutton saw about twenty on May 29, but after the first of June only single odd birds or a pair were seen at one time. I used to flush a pair every time I crossed a certain slough near Last Mountain Lake—always at the same spot. It never occurred to me to look for a nest there, supposing as I did that this species always nested in trees, but I am now satisfied that this pair must have had a nest in the heavy growth of cattails at this point. This suspicion was later inferentially confirmed by Dr. Sutton's finding of a nest with three half-grown young in a slough near Quinn's Lake on June 23, in a situation entirely similar.

***Botaurus lentiginosus* (Montagu). AMERICAN BITTERN.**

With but a single specimen from the Pacific coast available for comparison, I am unable to recognize the characters upon which Brodkorb (Occ. Papers Univ. Michigan Mus. Zool. No. 333, 1936, 2) relies for the discrimination of a western race of this species, but in any case the Saskatchewan bird is the same as the eastern one. We have a few sight records for Last Mountain Lake, May 28–June 14, and one for the slough near Stalwart, June 16. Three were seen at Quinn's Lake on June 28.

Cygnus columbianus (Ord). WHISTLING SWAN.

One specimen: Davidson (April 18).

A crippled bird was captured on Last Mountain Lake and brought back alive to Davidson, where it was placed with the other waterfowl on the pond of Mr. Reuben Lloyd. Mr. A. C. Lloyd reports that every year a considerable number of whistling swans pass through this district during migration. They alight not only on the larger lakes but also in small spring-filled sloughs, which later in the season dry up and are planted to oats. It may be that they find and feed upon grain left from the preceding year.

Branta canadensis moffitti Aldrich. BASIN CANADA GOOSE.

Two specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

These were shot on April 29, and were so identified by Dr. A. H. Miller (letter January 31, 1947) on the authority of the late James Moffitt. Dr. Sutton saw a single bird, presumably of this race, at Last Mountain Lake on May 24, and again on June 3, so there is a possibility that the species may breed.

Branta hutchinsii hutchinsii Richardson. HUTCHINS' GOOSE.

Eighteen specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

These were handled by the late James Moffitt, and they are referred to in his manuscript (*fide* Miller) as "good *hutchinsii*." Mr. Reuben Lloyd had several individuals of this species alive in his local aviary. So far as I could see they were precisely like the larger birds in carriage and deportment, but I did not have a chance to compare the voices of the two birds.

Anser albifrons gambelli Hartlaub. TULÉ GOOSE.

Twenty-five specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

In a paper presently to appear Dr. Arthur C. Twomey is giving reasons for referring these birds to *gambelli* rather than to *albifrons*. They were taken in migration between April 21 and May 13. A large proportion of them are immature, as is evidenced by the unspotted or lightly spotted underparts. Dr. Sutton reports seeing three belated migrants on Last Mountain Lake on May 28.

Mr. Lloyd says that during the spring migration Last Mountain Lake appears to be on one of the main flyways so far as geese (all kinds) are concerned; thousands pass over on their way north. But in the fall it is an entirely different story; the main flight appears to pass farther west.

Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos Linnaeus. MALLARD.

Five specimens: Davidson, Stalwart, and Last Mountain Lake.

A common and generally distributed summer resident, breeding in the sloughs and along the marshy shores of the lakes. Eggs were collected on May 21, June 1 and 11, and other nests were found which we did not disturb. The number of eggs varied from eight to eleven. The first young birds were noted on May 26. The males began flying by themselves about this time. On June 16 a male was seen in the beginning of the eclipse plumage. On June 18 fairly well developed young were seen.

Anas strepera Linnaeus. GADWALL.

Nine specimens: Davidson and Last Mountain Lake.

Fairly common as a summer resident. It was seen at intervals during our stay, both at Last Mountain Lake, Stalwart slough, and near Davidson. On June 20 and 21 several were seen on puddles and small ponds in the vicinity of Quill Lake and Raymore. On June 16 a set of eight eggs was collected at the slough east of Stalwart. The nest was of the usual down-lined type; it was placed beneath a broad clump of wild-rose bushes, about sixty feet back from the water's edge.

Anas acuta tzitzihua (Vieillot). AMERICAN PINTAIL.

Five specimens: Last Mountain Lake (October 12) and Davidson (near, September 18; and 12 miles west).

Next to the Mallard, the Pintail was the most common breeding duck in this region. Of the several nests found, only one was collected; this came from the head of Last Mountain Lake on June 14, and held seven eggs. The first downy young were noted on May 21, so that the egg date just quoted must have been a delayed or second nesting. A set of nine eggs was brought to Mr. Lloyd as early as May 1 (before our arrival). On June 10 a female and brood of young were seen near Elbow.

Anas carolinensis Gmelin. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.

Six specimens: Davidson (near; and 12-13 miles west).

The dates for these specimens are May 18, 20, June 29, and October 2 (in moult). There is only one definite breeding record: a downy young dated July 11. The Green-winged Teal is one of the rarer summer-resident ducks in this area.

Anas discors Linnaeus. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.

Five specimens: Last Mountain Lake, Stalwart, and Davidson.

One of the less common breeding ducks, but generally distributed—a

pair here and there. On June 3 I collected a set of nine fresh eggs from a nest on a low sandy point on Last Mountain Lake. It was a slight depression between two spreading herbaceous plants, and was lined with a few grassy fibers and down from the breast of the parent.

Mareca americana (Gmelin). BALDPATE.

Three specimens (downy young): Davidson (12 miles northeast, June 28; near, July 20 and August 2).

Rather common during the third week in May, at the time of our arrival; later it began to diminish in numbers. However, a female with a brood of small young was seen at Last Mountain Lake on June 18, and on June 28 a fairly well developed young bird was taken at Quinn's Lake.

Spatula clypeata (Linnaeus). SHOVELLER.

Eleven specimens: Stalwart, Last Mountain Lake, and Davidson (near; 13 miles west).

Common and generally distributed as a summer resident. Sets of eggs, varying from seven to ten in number, were taken from May 25 to June 23 inclusive at Last Mountain Lake. Downy young were first noted and collected on June 11, west of Davidson. On June 13 Dr. Sutton saw a male which was moulting into the eclipse plumage.

Aythya americana (Eyton). REDHEAD.

Six specimens: Davidson, Last Mountain Lake, and Stalwart.

This species was breeding in moderate numbers at the head of Last Mountain Lake, where there was a heavy growth of rushes. Two nests were found here in the dense growth: one on May 26 with nine eggs; the second on June 14 with fourteen. The second set was identified by collecting the female parent as she flushed. The latter nest was a large one, built up well above the water-level of the surrounding marsh, in the midst of the rushes; it was deeply hollowed out with broken rush-stems, and with the usual lining of down. The eggs of this set are uniform, but those of the first set are not. Five are precisely like those of the larger set; the other four are different, and look much like the eggs of the Canvasback. Ducks often lay in each other's nests, as is well known, but in such cases do they share in the duties of incubation and of rearing the young? On June 16 two downy young and two adult males were taken at Stalwart slough, and on June 28 two nests with eggs (nine and eleven) were found along the slough near Quinn's Lake.

***Aythya collaris* (Donovan). RING-NECKED DUCK.**

One specimen: near Simpson (October 6).

***Aythya valisineria* (Wilson). CANVASBACK.**

Three specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Devil's Lake.

Less common than the Redhead as a breeding species. It was plentiful at Quill Lake on June 20-21, and was noted repeatedly at the head of Last Mountain Lake in May and June. Here, on May 28, we found a nest, identified as belonging to this species, containing seventeen eggs; the next day there were twenty! Some of the eggs were actually outside the nest. It was a bulky nest, raised above the level instead of being in a depression. Obviously this must have been a cooperative enterprise for two or more females. We collected a set of nine eggs, one third or more incubated, on June 22 at Devil's Lake, together with the female parent. This must have been a delayed or second nesting, since we saw downy young at the Stalwart slough on June 16.

***Aythya affinis* (Eyton). LESSER SCAUP DUCK.**

Four specimens: Davidson.

Like the last a summer resident, not common. It was collected only near Davidson, but it was noted also at Last Mountain Lake and Devil's Lake. On June 28, west of Davidson, a female with a brood of young was found.

***Glaucionetta clangula americana*. AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.**

This species was seen only at Quill Lake on June 20, where three birds were seen by Dr. Sutton, and later a fairly large flock, and also a separate pair. These were probably non-breeding birds.

According to Mr. Lloyd, this species is somewhat more common in migration than Dr. Sutton's records would indicate.

***Glaucionetta albeola* (Linnaeus). BUFFLEHEAD.**

Dr. Sutton saw a few odd birds on Last Mountain Lake on May 25, June 1 and 2, and a flock on June 22. Almost certainly these were non-breeding birds.

***Melanitta fusca deglandi* (Bonaparte). WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.**

Three specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

Of fairly regular occurrence on Last Mountain Lake, where it was observed singly and in small flocks through May and June, and latterly in

apparently mated pairs. A female taken on June 1 showed some evidence of laying, but we found no nests certainly referable to this species, although Mr. Lloyd confidently asserts that it breeds on occasion.

***Oxyura jamaicensis rubida* (Wilson). RUDDY DUCK.**

Eight specimens: Davidson (near; and 13 miles west) and Last Mountain Lake.

An uncommon summer resident, noted at Last Mountain Lake, Devil's Lake, Davidson, and Quinn's Lake, at which last place a nest with five eggs was found in a slough on June 28. Adult males collected were in high breeding plumage, with the blue of the bill very brilliant. A female shot May 30 would probably have been laying eggs in about ten days.

***Lophodytes cucullatus* (Linnaeus). HOODED MERGANSER.**

Three specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

All were females in worn plumage at this date (July 11). Dr. Sutton reports seeing four birds at the same locality on May 23. The breeding status is uncertain.

***Mergus serrator* Linnaeus. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.**

Dr. Sutton saw this species on Last Mountain Lake on three occasions only—May 24, May 25, and June 5. Nothing is known of its breeding here. Mr. Lloyd considers it fairly common in migration.

***Accipiter atricapillus* (Wilson). AMERICAN GOSHAWK.**

On June 25 Dr. Sutton saw one flying over at close range near Davidson.

***Accipiter striatus velox* (Wilson). SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.**

One specimen: Davidson (September 2). Mr. Lloyd has found it fairly common in migration.

***Buteo harlani* (Audubon). HARLAN'S HAWK.**

One specimen: Davidson (December 1).

An immature female, agreeing with a bird from Arkansas identified as *harlani* by Norman A. Wood. It has a barred tail.

***Buteo platypterus platypterus* (Vieillot). BROAD-WINGED HAWK.**

One specimen: Davidson (August 26).

None of the hawks listed thus far can be set down as breeding species. This and the preceding are rare.

***Buteo swainsoni* Bonaparte. SWAINSON'S HAWK.**

Seventeen specimens: Davidson (near; 4 miles north; 6 miles north; 13 miles west; 14 miles west), Last Mountain Lake, and Elbow (3 miles west).

This series includes birds in a great variety of plumages; in fact, scarcely any two are alike. The species was common and generally distributed. Breeding pairs were nesting in the odd trees that grew here and there, but many non-breeding individuals were encountered. Telephone poles were favorite perches at all times. One shot on May 28 had the remains of a female pintail in its crop; a second bird had been feeding on ground-squirrels. We collected one set of three eggs on May 20, about thirteen miles west of Davidson; the nest was in a shrubby poplar, only ten feet from the ground, and was easily reached by standing on the top of our automobile. Near Elbow on June 9 an empty nest, apparently just ready for eggs, was found. On June 12, east of Davidson, we found a nest precariously perched in the top of a telephone pole by the roadside. It was removed because it was interfering with the telephone circuit.

***Buteo regalis* (Gray). FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG.**

Five specimens: Davidson (near; 13-14 miles west) and Last Mountain Lake.

This large hawk was fairly common (for a bird of prey), and its bulky nests were conspicuous objects in the trees, large and small, that stood out as landmarks over the plains. One nest that we examined was built in a group of such slender stems that it seemed to be in imminent danger of being blown down. We collected six sets of eggs, ranging in number from four to six (mostly five), between May 18 and 21, and found a nest with young near Elbow on June 8. One of these nests was in a shrubby willow, only three feet from the ground, and the highest was only twenty feet up. The eggs are handsomely spotted with shades of brown, in irregular pattern; they vary even in the same set. The screams of the birds as they protest intrusion are not unlike those of the Red-tailed Hawk. On June 11, some twelve miles west of Davidson, we found a very large female dead near her nest.

***Circus cyaneus hudsonius* (Linnaeus). MARSH HAWK.**

One specimen: Imperial.

Fairly common, favoring the sloughs and marshes, where it breeds, building its nests in the drier parts. From the several nests we found, we collected only one set of eggs, five in number, on May 21, near Davidson.

Other nests were found at Stalwart slough, at the head of Last Mountain Lake, and at Devil's Lake. On June 7 a nest with seven eggs was found at the edge of a patch of "buck brush," twelve miles north of Davidson. As early as May 31 young were hatched.

Falco peregrinus anatum Bonaparte. DUCK HAWK.

Dr. Sutton saw a single individual each on May 27 and 28, at Last Mountain Lake, and a "large female" at Quill Lake on June 21.

Falco mexicanus Schlegel. PRAIRIE FALCON.

Thirteen specimens: Davidson (July 29–October 13).

A goodly proportion of these were immature birds. This fine series, secured by Mr. Lloyd at my special request, was taken during the post-breeding southward movement of this species that occurs every year. We saw a very few birds earlier in the season at Last Mountain Lake, between May 24 and June 3, but obtained no evidence of breeding.

Mr. Lloyd contributes the following interesting note: "During the fall of the year these pirates of the air were continually raiding the pigeons about the farm, yet I do not recall ever seeing one kill a pigeon. When the falcon appeared the pigeons would scatter and seek shelter anywhere they could. Any that were too late would tower until the danger was past. In the spring of the year the falcons did not bother the pigeons at all."

Falco columbarius richardsoni Ridgway. RICHARDSON'S PIGEON
HAWK.

Two specimens: Devil's Lake (May 31) and Davidson (September 27).

In the Devil's Lake specimen the gonads were small, and it was probably a non-breeding bird. Its plumage was rather worn and faded.

Falco sparverius sparverius Linnaeus. EASTERN SPARROW HAWK.

One was noted by Dr. Sutton on June 22, not far from Devil's Lake. Mr. Lloyd reports seeing a few pairs every spring.

Tympanuchus cupido pinnatus (Brewster). GREATER PRAIRIE
CHICKEN.

Five specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

Once a common species, but now greatly decreased in numbers. They were heard "booming" repeatedly at Last Mountain Lake, near Davidson, and at Stalwart. At Quill Lake, on June 20, we encountered a female with a brood of young. Two were seen at Devil's Lake on May 31.

***Pedioecetes phasianellus campestris* Ridgway. PRAIRIE SHARP-TAILED GROUSE.**

Six specimens: Davidson, Elbow, and Dafoe (15 miles south).

Generally distributed, although not common, at least in the breeding season. We found no nests, but on May 21 a female with bare brooding-patches was taken near Davidson, and on June 21 two downy young were collected from a brood found along the road, some fifteen miles south of Dafoe. The parent bird presented a sharply triangular crest in profile.

***Grus americanus* (Linnaeus). WHOOPING CRANE.**

Mr. Reuben Lloyd had a fine mounted specimen of this species which was taken near Davidson some thirty years before. A few odd birds used to be seen every year in company with the next.

***Grus canadensis* (Linnaeus). LITTLE BROWN CRANE.**

Fourteen specimens: Davidson (15 miles west; 10 miles east).

These were collected by Mr. Lloyd during flights which occurred on April 25 and May 5. They were exceedingly fat. Mr. Lloyd writes that the "crane grounds are some fifteen-eighteen miles west of Davidson, in an area which contains some untouched prairie, although the larger part of it is farm land. Here, in the spring of the year, there are numerous small alkali flats flooded with snow water. The cranes like to spend the nights in these shallow ponds—possibly because while there they feel safer from coyotes. Through the daylight hours they feed in the stubble fields, glean-ing grain, or occasionally in the prairie lands, catching insects. The procedure we followed in collecting specimens of this wild and wary bird might be of interest. After locating a flock on its feeding grounds we would try to outguess the birds and to forecast which way they would fly when disturbed. Two of the party would then drop off the moving car at different points and lie flat on the ground, while the driver would circle the cranes, approach from the other side, and try to drive them to fly over the hunters. This is not always so easy as it sounds, and more failures than successes are scored. One flock we saw we estimated as containing one thousand birds, and there must have been at least five thousand birds in the entire area. In the spring migration they pass overhead in long lines, or mill about perhaps in circles, but keep travelling in a general northwest direction. These flocks would contain from a few up to as many as a thousand individuals."

***Grus pratensis tabida* (Peters). SANDHILL CRANE.**

A rather rare and local summer resident. On June 20 we saw a party of five birds, shy and suspicious, along the south shore of Quill Lake, near Dafoe. Three were seen at Stalwart on June 16, and on June 28 we saw a pair and their young feeding near Quinn's Lake. On several occasions in previous years young birds were brought to Mr. Reuben Lloyd, but he never succeeded in raising them.

I continue to regard the Sandhill Crane and the Little Brown Crane as distinct species. The names will stand as above.

***Rallus limicola limicola* Vieillot. VIRGINIA RAIL.**

Our only record is of one seen in the cattails near Davidson on May 21.

***Porzana carolina* (Linnaeus). SORA RAIL.**

Two specimens: Davidson and Last Mountain Lake.

A common summer resident, and particularly numerous in the marshes at the head of Last Mountain Lake, where a set of nineteen eggs was collected from a nest first found on June 17, when it held only ten eggs. They were arranged in two tiers, and while some were fresh, others were far along in incubation. Probably two females laid in the same nest.

***Coturnicops noveboracensis noveboracensis* (Gmelin). YELLOW RAIL.**

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake.

This species was first noted in the marsh at the head of Last Mountain Lake on May 28. On June 13, at the same spot, Dr. Sutton got a momentary glimpse of the bird as it leaped above the grass. It kept to the thick marsh grass, and defied our combined efforts to put it up, although from its peculiar clicking notes its whereabouts were plain. There were times when it seemed to be almost underfoot, but so well did it keep concealed that we caught no sight of it. Returning the next day with a bird dog, Dr. Sutton and Mr. Lloyd were still unable to flush the bird, but the latter finally captured it alive by falling on it from above! The specimen constitutes the first known record for Saskatchewan. Individuals were again heard at the same spot on June 17 and 25.

***Fulica americana americana* Gmelin. AMERICAN COOT.**

A rather common summer resident, which finds ideal nesting conditions in all the larger sloughs and marshes of this region, and is often seen also in those of smaller size. On May 30 we found three nests, containing five, six, and seven eggs respectively, at the head of Last Mountain Lake. The next day (May 31), at Devil's Lake, we found two nests, one with

seven, the other with twelve eggs; the latter we collected. On a later visit (June 22) to the same spot, many nests were found, most of them with eggs hatching out. On June 28, about twelve miles southwest of Davidson, some young about two days old were discovered.

Charadrius melodus circumcinctus (Ridgway). BELTED PIPING PLOVER.

Nine specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Dafoe (4 miles east).

Two downy young from the latter locality are dated June 20. A set of four eggs was taken at Last Mountain Lake on June 2. This plover occurs on all the larger lakes where there are suitable dry beaches. It was common at Quill Lake on June 20, and as late as June 22 a set of four eggs and some downy young were taken at Last Mountain Lake by Mr. Fred G. Bard.

Charadrius semipalmatus Bonaparte. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.

One specimen: Davidson.

I follow Ridgway in keeping this form specifically distinct from *C. hiaticula*. In the spring migration it was observed at Last Mountain Lake on May 23, 24, and 25 (a few only); in the fall migration the earliest record was for Davidson, July 20.

Charadrius vociferus vociferus Linnaeus. KILLDEER.

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake.

A summer resident, not uncommon; found in scattered pairs. Newly hatched young came from Davidson, May 26, and on June 26 a nest with four eggs was found near there. This was probably a second set for the season for a pair whose first nest had met with some mishap. On June 28 we saw young birds able to fly.

Pluvialis dominica dominica (Müller). AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER.

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake.

This species was a common transient from May 23 to June 3. The muddy shores of Last Mountain Lake and the fallow fields adjacent were favorite feeding grounds, but on May 26 we saw a flock of about fifty birds flying over at the Stalwart slough. The species was not nearly so numerous, however, as the Black-bellied Plover, with which it was often found.

Squatarola squatarola (Linnaeus). BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.

Six specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

This plover was already common at Last Mountain Lake when we be-

gan work there on May 23, and so continued up to June 4. It appeared sometimes in good-sized flocks, feeding along the beaches as well as in the drier fields. The flocks were wild and suspicious of approach; when they alighted they did not go to feeding at once, but remained stationary with their heads well up, alert for danger. The smaller shorebirds usually followed their lead when they decamped. Three were seen at Quill Lake on June 20; these must have been non-breeding birds.

***Arenaria interpres morinella* (Linnaeus). RUDDY TURNSTONE.**

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake.

A fairly common transient, noted at Last Mountain Lake from May 22 to June 3. Usually it was in the company of other shorebirds, but on May 24 large flocks, consisting solely of this species, were observed, and on later occasions other smaller flocks. Three were seen here as late as June 22, and one at Quill Lake on June 20, but these must have been non-breeding individuals, as this species goes far north to nest.

***Numenius americanus occidentalis* Woodhouse. NORTHERN CURLEW.**

Seven specimens: Elbow.

A summer resident, once common, but becoming rare and local. We made a special trip to Elbow on June 8 to find this species. On the wide plains west of the Saskatchewan River we had hoped to find a colony established, but after a long search could discover but three individuals. These I located from hearing their calls a mile away, and we drove our car to the spot. The birds were very uneasy over our intrusion, and acted as if they had a nest close by. Dr. Sutton secreted himself as best he could on top of a knoll, while we drove out of sight. Returning after some time, we joined in the search over the suspected area, and presently I picked up a young bird in the down. It was squatting flat in the grass, and looked like a stone. The parents made a great outcry, and swept downward repeatedly. Two days later we secured one of the adults, and on July 22 Mr. Lloyd returned to this same area and collected a few adult and immature birds.

***Phaeopus hudsonicus* (Latham). HUDSONIAN CURLEW.**

Dr. Sutton reports seeing two birds of this species at Last Mountain Lake on May 27, and one on May 30. An uncommon transient.

***Bartramia longicauda* (Bechstein). UPLAND PLOVER.**

Nine specimens: Davidson (14 miles west), Last Mountain Lake, Elbow, and Imperial.

Locally distributed as a summer resident. This type of country is especially adapted to the needs of this species. On May 20 all birds seen were paired, and the females were already laying eggs. We saw about ten pairs that day, in dry fields and grasslands. No nests were discovered, but on June 26 we collected a downy young bird with its parent near Imperial. On June 21, near Raymore, Dr. Sutton saw a weasel chasing an old bird, which easily eluded capture simply by flight.

Actitis macularia (Linnaeus). SPOTTED SANDPIPER.

An uncommon summer resident here. It was already present on May 19 at Davidson, where also a pair was noted on June 7. One was seen at Last Mountain Lake on May 27.

Tringa solitaria solitaria Wilson. EASTERN SOLITARY SANDPIPER.

One specimen: Davidson (August 24).

One was seen on June 26 near Davidson, in company with a Lesser Yellow-legs.

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus (Brewster). WESTERN WILLET.

Fourteen specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson.

A very common summer resident, always found in the vicinity of water, and particularly numerous along the shores of Last Mountain Lake. Although it was thus common and vociferous, and obviously settled on its breeding grounds, we failed to find any nests. However, on May 27 a male was collected that must have been incubating eggs, and on June 4 a female was shot containing an egg almost ready to be laid. On June 14 broods of young were seen, and on June 18 one downy young bird was collected—both at Last Mountain Lake. Many were seen at Quill Lake on June 20.

Totanus melanoleucus (Gmelin). GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.

We have two sight records. On June 23 Mr. Fred Bard identified one at the head of Last Mountain Lake. It was with a lesser yellow-legs and several willets. Again on June 28 one was satisfactorily identified by Dr. Sutton at Quinn's Lake. Probably these records were of non-breeding birds.

Totanus flavipes (Gmelin). LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.

One specimen: Quinn's Lake.

The seasonal status of this species is uncertain. It was noted at intervals throughout our stay, and at several different places—Davidson, Last

Mountain Lake, Stalwart slough, Quill Lake, and near Nokomis. Single birds were the rule, but on June 26 about twenty were seen in a slough near Davidson. These could scarcely have been breeding birds under the circumstances, but the June records, taken as a whole, would suggest breeding. However, they did not behave like birds on their nesting grounds.

***Calidris canutus rufus* (Wilson). AMERICAN KNOT.**

Two specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

These were taken on May 24–25, and were in full breeding dress. One of them was with a flock of black-bellied plover.

***Erolia melanotos* (Vieillot). PECTORAL SANDPIPER.**

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake.

A transient visitant, noted first on May 14 (Lloyd). It was seen at intervals, in flocks and singly, up to June 4, usually in company with other shorebirds. A single bird was seen as late as June 22. It was very numerous at Stalwart on May 26.

***Erolia fuscicollis* (Vieillot). WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.**

Two specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Dafoe (4 miles east).

A fairly common transient, most numerous at Last Mountain Lake. It was first noted at Last Mountain Lake on May 16, and thence up to June 4. However, two were positively identified there on June 15, and three on June 23. Moreover, we saw several and collected one on Quill Lake, near Dafoe, on June 20. This individual was in apparently perfect plumage. All these must have been non-breeding birds.

***Erolia bairdii* (Coues). BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.**

Ten specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson.

A common transient visitant. Two specimens were collected at Davidson on May 12, and at Last Mountain Lake it was found up to June 4. A single non-breeding bird was seen here on June 22, and on June 20 one was shot at Quill Lake (but not preserved).

***Erolia minutilla* (Vieillot). LEAST SANDPIPER.**

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake.

A transient visitant, but not common. Mr. Lloyd took a specimen on May 14, and Dr. Sutton saw and positively identified another on May 24, at Last Mountain Lake. Two were seen at Quill Lake on June 20, and one was collected to confirm the identification (but not saved).

***Limnodromus griseus griseus* (Gmelin). EASTERN DOWITCHER.**

Eleven specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson.

Presumably these belong to the form described as *hendersoni*, which some authors consider the same as *griseus*, but which may be a valid race. It was seen and collected at intervals between May 12 and June 25, but it is not certainly known to breed. On June 14 a female with somewhat enlarged gonads and bare abdominal patches was taken along the lake shore. Seven in all were seen on June 22, three of which were collected.

***Micropalama himantopus* (Bonaparte). STILT SANDPIPER.**

Five specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Stalwart.

A transient visitant, first noted on May 23, common for two days only (May 26–27) at Stalwart slough, and last observed on June 2—except for a single bird in poor plumage taken on June 13. The big flight consisted of fair-sized flocks.

***Ereunetes pusillus* (Linnaeus). SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.**

Two specimens: Last Mountain Lake (June 22).

Like the Least Sandpiper, a transient visitant, but somewhat more common. It was recorded at Last Mountain Lake from May 22 to June 4, and was abundant on May 24. In addition, odd birds were positively identified at Stalwart on June 16, at Quill Lake on June 20, and at Last Mountain Lake on June 27. This sandpiper was usually found associated with other species of shorebirds, large and small.

***Tryngites subruficollis* (Vieillot). BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER.**

Twenty-five specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

A large flight took place on May 23–25, when the species appeared in flocks in the dry fields adjoining the lake. It passed through quickly, and none was seen after May 28. The call-note, as transliterated by Dr. Sutton, is "a short *chuh* or something of the sort." In life the general coloration, as compared with other sandpipers, is decidedly brownish, especially as seen from above. The bill is brownish black; the feet are dull yellow.

***Limosa fedoa* (Linnaeus). MARBLED GODWIT.**

Twenty specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson (near; 12 miles north).

This fine species is one of the commonest and most characteristic species of shorebirds of this region. It was particularly numerous at Last Mountain Lake, whose shores were favorite feeding grounds, while the nesting

grounds were as a rule farther back, in drier areas. However, I found one nest on a sandy beach less than one hundred yards from the water's edge. On May 30 this nest held two eggs, and only one more was laid. On June 3 the set was collected, and on the same date Dr. Sutton collected a full set of four eggs. The nesting pairs were perfectly fearless, and would come a long distance to meet an intruder, flying around and uttering their shrill cries of alarm and protest. On June 12 we had a unique experience with a godwit that was incubating a single egg, and permitted itself to be lifted bodily from the nest, photographed, and replaced. The first downy young were noted on June 14, and at Quill Lake on June 21 many adults leading young were observed. One of the strange things in connection with this species was the number of individuals flocking together during the breeding season. For example, on June 4 one flock of thirty birds, separate from the mated pairs, was encountered at Last Mountain Lake. It was as if there was a considerable non-breeding population in evidence.

***Crocethia alba* (Pallas). SANDERLING.**

Two specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

A transient visitant, rather common at intervals, in flocks of its own kind and mixed with other shorebirds. Dates of observation range from May 25 to June 4, with one party of six seen on June 22. Most of the birds seen were in full breeding dress.

***Recurvirostra americana* Gmelin. AMERICAN AVOCET.**

Two specimens: Stalwart.

Rare as a summer resident. We collected a small downy young and the male parent at the Stalwart slough on June 16. The other parent and a second young bird were seen also but not taken.

***Steganopus tricolor* Vieillot. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.**

Twenty-two specimens: Last Mountain Lake, Stalwart, and Davidson (13-14 miles west).

A summer resident, common and generally distributed; it was encountered at virtually all the sloughs and bodies of water we visited. It was already common and in pairs when we arrived. The first nests were found on May 30, and the last (perhaps a delayed nesting) on June 28. There were four eggs in every case; they show the usual variation in density of markings. In every case the nests were found in the areas of low, marshy grasses back from the slough margins.

Lobipes lobatus (Linnaeus). NORTHERN PHALAROPE.

Four specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson (13-14 miles west).

Fairly common as a transient. It was noted at Davidson on May 21, and on May 23 many were seen with other shorebirds at Last Mountain Lake. It was seen at intervals up to June 3, and on June 11 a flock was seen west of Davidson, and a pair was collected. At Stalwart slough a few were seen on May 26.

Larus californicus Lawrence. CALIFORNIA GULL.

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake.

A few were noted at Last Mountain Lake, May 26-June 2, and one specimen was collected. They were seen flying with the other gulls (ring-billed and Franklin's), among which they stood out because of their larger size. We found no signs of breeding.

Larus delawarensis Ord. RING-BILLED GULL.

Two specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

A common summer resident at Last Mountain Lake and Quill Lake. At the former place a colony of fifteen or more pairs was established on a long sandy point on the west shore of the lake. Two sets of eggs were collected here on May 25; both were partly incubated. On May 30, when I visited the spot, all the nests had eggs, varying in number from two to four. When I drew near all the birds rose into the air and kept circling about and raising a great commotion. On June 3 the first young bird had been hatched at this colony. On June 20, on the south shore of Quill Lake, we found a second colony, with nests containing two and three eggs, and some young birds able to walk and to swim. The birds make a great outcry when their nesting-grounds are invaded; indeed, there seem to be many more birds than the number of nests found would call for. Later in the day we found both this species and the Franklin Gull feeding in the fields, in scattered flocks; they seemed to be in search of grasshoppers. However, Dr. Sutton shot a bird on May 24 which apparently had been eating wheat.

Larus pipixcan Wagler. FRANKLIN'S GULL.

Twenty-one specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

Abundant on Last Mountain Lake, although it is not known to breed there. Mr. Lloyd took his first specimen on May 11, and it was excessively numerous there when we arrived on May 22. At daybreak the next morn-

ing I was aroused by the cries of scores of birds circling over the water and the shore. On May 30 the birds were excessively numerous, and again on June 4. Together with black terns, they were flying over the fields in swarms, alighting on the ground, and swirling around in all directions, feeding on "fish-flies." On June 13 a great cloud of Franklin gulls was seen over the lake; many of these were in subadult plumage. The last birds were seen on June 14. We did not succeed in locating their nesting-grounds. It may have been somewhere on Quill Lake, where they were common on June 20, although among them were many immature birds.

Of eight birds shot on May 12 whose digestive tracts were examined, one was empty; four contained kernels of wheat, and six contained a large number of beetles.

***Sterna hirundo hirundo* Linnaeus. COMMON TERN.**

Several were observed at Last Mountain Lake on May 23. Thereafter it was common, and on June 18 we visited a low gravelly island near the head of the lake where a colony of several dozen pairs was nesting. At our approach the birds rose in a great swarm, screaming their protest. Three eggs were the rule in their nests; two broods of young had already been hatched.

***Chlidonias nigra surinamensis* (Gmelin). BLACK TERN.**

Six specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson (13 miles west).

A summer resident, locally common. One was noted at Davidson on May 20, and on May 25 at Last Mountain Lake it was excessively abundant, an estimated two thousand individuals having been seen. On May 27 we found a large flock gathered in close formation on a shoal in the lake, and approached in a boat to within twenty feet before they took wing. The same day we saw a great company milling around, high up over the land, apparently feeding on flying insects. On May 29 they were flying low, and we could see them catching "fish flies." We did not find them actually breeding, however, until June 29, when we visited a nesting colony about thirteen miles west of Davidson, in an isolated slough, and collected two sets of three eggs each, partially incubated. Several pairs were seen on June 21 about sloughs in the Raymore district.

***Zenaidura macroura marginella* (Woodhouse). WESTERN MOURNING DOVE.**

One specimen: Elbow (June 8).

Others were seen at Last Mountain Lake (May 22), Elbow (June 9,

five along gravel road), and the Touchwood Hills (June 21). It is evidently not common as a summer resident.

Bubo virginianus wapacuthu (Gmelin). ARCTIC HORNED OWL.

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake.

A female, collected April 26 by Mr. Lloyd, is referred to this northern race, with specimens of which it agrees well enough. I waive for the moment the question of the pertinence of the name. The date of capture seems late.

Nyctea scandiaca Linnaeus. SNOWY OWL.

One specimen: Davidson (November 23).

According to Mr. Lloyd, this Owl is a regular although not common winter visitant. Sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chickens appear to be its favorite prey at that season.

Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea (Bonaparte). WESTERN BURROWING OWL.

Two specimens: Davidson (12 miles southwest).

Now rare and local. We recorded it only twice, first on May 20, when we met with a pair about 14 miles west of Davidson, and again on June 28, as above. The country was dry and the grass was short where the burrow of this pair had been dug.

Asio otus wilsonianus (Lesson). LONG-EARED OWL.

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake (May 10).

This specimen is markedly paler and more lightly marked than most of our eastern birds, although closely approached by some. A series might show that a western race exists, but there is so much variation among the specimens studied in this connection that I doubt it.

One bird was seen on an island in Last Mountain Lake on May 27.

Asio flammeus flammeus (Pontoppidan). SHORT-EARED OWL.

We have a few scattered records for this Owl—from Stalwart slough, Elbow, Davidson (12 miles southwest), and Last Mountain Lake. Presumably it was breeding at all these places, but we found only one nest, this on the open prairie at the head of Last Mountain Lake on June 4. On this date it held six eggs, but when revisited on June 14 it was empty, and must have been robbed by crows or other predators.

Chordeiles minor sennetti Coues. SENNETT'S NIGHTHAWK.

Seven specimens: Imperial, Elbow, Devil's Lake, and Davidson (12 miles southwest).

Dr. Oberholser, in his review of the genus *Chordeiles* (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 86, 1914, 52), does not allow *sennetti* to range north of the United States-Canadian boundary, but our Saskatchewan birds (June 16-28) seem clearly referable to this race; they agree well with Minnesota specimens so identified by Dr. Oberholser himself.

A summer resident, generally distributed but not common. Two nests were found near Imperial on June 15, with one egg in each.

Colaptes auratus × **cafer**. HYBRID FLICKER.

Two specimens: Elbow (June 9-10).

Other sight records obtained are from Davidson (May 20, nesting), Devil's Lake, Last Mountain Lake (June 5, nests in telegraph poles), and Touchwood Hills (June 21, two nests). On June 25 young were seen just leaving the nest at Davidson.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus caurinus Brodkorb. WESTERN RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.

One was seen near Davidson on June 5. It is referred to the western race on geographical grounds.

Tyrannus tyrannus (Linnaeus). EASTERN KINGBIRD.

Three specimens: Davidson (12 miles north), Quinn's Lake, and Elbow.

A summer resident, but not common except in the Elbow district, where we saw a considerable number on June 8 and 9. On May 28 we watched a pair building at Last Mountain Lake, and on June 7 we found two nests, one empty, the other with three eggs, the latter in a bush only five feet from the ground. This was twelve miles north of Davidson, on a brush-covered hillside dropping down to a lake. The nests were of the usual Kingbird type.

Tyrannus verticalis Say. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD.

One specimen: Davidson (August 20).

On June 7 we were shown the nest of a pair in a yard in the town of Davidson. Dr. Sutton supplies two records of birds seen at Last Mountain Lake on June 12 and 23.

Empidonax traillii traillii (Audubon). ALDER FLYCATCHER.

Four specimens: Davidson (near; 12 miles north) and Raymore.

A summer resident, not common, and locally distributed. Additional

to the above records, one was seen at Elbow on June 9, and one was heard calling at Devil's Lake on June 22. The identification of our specimens was made by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser.

Empidonax minimus (Baird and Baird). LEAST FLYCATCHER.

Six specimens: Davidson and Devil's Lake.

Like the last a summer resident, and not common; it is confined to brushy areas about the edges of bodies of water. On June 21 numbers were seen among the poplars, large and small, not far from Raymore.

Nuttallornis borealis (Swainson). OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.

One specimen: Elbow (June 10).

The seasonal status of this species here is uncertain.

Eremophila alpestris leucolaema (Coues). DESERT HORNED LARK.

Twenty-two specimens: Last Mountain Lake, Davidson (near; 14 miles west), and Elbow.

Through the courtesy of the late Prof. Myron H. Swenk I have been able to compare our Saskatchewan series with another from western Nebraska, comparable as to season. I can find no essential differences between the latter and the Saskatchewan birds, which are supposed to represent *enthymia* of Oberholser. The point is, however, that the type of *leucolaema* Coues came from Fort Randall, South Dakota, an intermediate locality. It was a March bird—one that would probably have gone farther north to nest. Almost certainly, therefore, *enthymia* is a synonym of *leucolaema*, although it has recently been recognized by the A. O. U. Committee and formally admitted to the Check-List (*cf.* Auk, 61, 1944, 452). If Colorado birds are different again (very doubtful) they would have to stand as *arenicola* Henshaw.

Males vary from pure white on the throat to decidedly yellow. Females, on the other hand, divide into two sets, in one of which the breast is more or less spotted and the upperparts are almost as dark as in *praticola*. I do not understand the significance of this variation; it is not peculiar to this race.

"I am interested in your findings regarding the identity of our Nebraska breeding birds [Horned Larks] with those in southern Saskatchewan, which represent *Otocoris alpestris enthymia* Oberholser. I came to this conclusion, also, and have been referring our birds to *enthymia* on the supposition that it is distinct from the bird to which Oberholser restricted the name *Otocoris alpestris leucolaema* (Coues). This latter form we get in

winter in western Nebraska, and it is not easily distinguished from *enthymia*, but does run larger and a little paler perhaps. Our Horned Larks are going north in March, that is, the ones that do not breed here. Fort Randall, South Dakota, as you know, is just over the line from Boyd County, Nebraska, and I am sure that the birds migrating through that part of the state during early March are mostly if not all of the *enthymia* type. Probably an examination of Coues' type-specimen and the two others should be made to definitely settle the matter, since he refers to their large size, and of course *leucolaema* in the restricted sense does also occur in western and central Nebraska in winter, and it is possible that his birds were the larger form, if it is to be recognized as distinct."—Myron H. Swenk, letter February 18, 1933.

Very recently (May, 1947), at the United States National Museum, I compared the type-specimen of *E. leucolaema* Coues, together with one other male from Fort Randall, South Dakota, shot at the same time, with four of our Saskatchewan birds, and found them absolutely indistinguishable. Dr. Herbert Friedmann, who examined the specimens with me, agrees in this determination. The type of *enthymia* Oberholser we also handled; it is slightly different, but not enough so to deserve a name.

The Horned Lark was generally distributed throughout, in scattering pairs. Nests with eggs were found on May 20, 23, June 2, 3. Young of the first brood were noted on May 25. On June 18 Dr. Sutton saw the birds chasing ground squirrels. Mr. Lloyd says that the Horned Lark is the earliest spring arrival at Davidson; it comes invariably on February 20–22. Doubtless these are birds that breed farther north.

***Iridoprocne bicolor* (Vieillot). TREE SWALLOW.**

Two specimens: Raymore and Imperial.

A summer-resident species, but confined to the vicinity of houses and tree-growth. The only positive breeding record pertains to a nest found a few miles north of Raymore on June 21. It was in an old woodpecker hole in a telephone pole.

***Riparia riparia riparia* (Linnaeus). BANK SWALLOW.**

This swallow is a summer resident, but is local. It was noted at Last Mountain Lake and the Stalwart slough, and small nesting colonies were discovered at Imperial (in a railway cut), in the Touchwood Hills, and at Devil's Lake.

***Hirundo rustica erythrogaster* Boddaert. BARN SWALLOW.**

A few were noted at Davidson and Last Mountain Lake. At the latter place four birds kept trying to catch the moths inside the window netting. It was so cold that no insects were flying outside, so we amused ourselves by catching moths inside the house, tossing them out, and watching the swallows capture them. Mr. Lloyd says that there was always a pair or two breeding about the farm buildings at Davidson. He banded a pair there, and the female returned three successive years and the male two years.

***Progne subis subis* (Linnaeus). PURPLE MARTIN.**

One or two pairs were seen on June 20 near Jansen, west of Quill Lake, and the next day a nesting colony was noted in the town of Raymore.

***Pica pica hudsonia* (Sabine). AMERICAN MAGPIE.**

Two specimens: Davidson and Elbow.

This species is restricted to the isolated areas of bush and scrubby growth along the streams and some of the lakes; it is therefore local. At Devil's Lake we saw several old nests. A nest was found on the partially wooded plain west of the "elbow" of the Saskatchewan River. On June 8 it held five half-grown young, two of which we abstracted and raised by hand. They made interesting but mischievous pets. The parents were exceedingly wild.

***Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos* Brehm. EASTERN CROW.**

Two specimens: Devil's Lake and Elbow.

I do not recognize a western race of this species.

For a region which is naturally treeless, except along the streams and lakes and where trees have been planted near houses for shelter or ornament, the crow is astonishingly numerous. Nests were located in shrubs only eight feet above the ground, in the crotches of telephone poles, and in trees close by houses. One nest on the premises of Mr. Reuben Lloyd was in a shade-tree poplar. For its original complement of eggs had been substituted the same number of those of the domestic fowl—to await hatching. This is a common practice here, it seems, and is frequently used in the case of hawks. One wonders what would happen in case the young chicks were not removed promptly.

On an island near the head of Last Mountain Lake we found a considerable number of crows on June 18. Their nests were everywhere on the trees covering the island. Undoubtedly such a concentration was a dis-

tinct menace to the ducks that were nesting in the immediate area, and we tried to help restore the proper balance by destroying as many as possible of the eggs, young, and adults. The nests (some of which were low down) held four, five, or six eggs.

Parus atricapillus subsp. BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE.

A rather "ratty" breeding male bird was collected (but not preserved) in the Touchwood Hills, not far from Raymore, on June 21.

Troglodytes aedon parkmanii Audubon. WESTERN HOUSE WREN.

One specimen: Davidson.

This bird was rare. It was recorded also at Last Mountain Lake, Devil's Lake (two pairs), and the Touchwood Hills, near Raymore (several).

Telmatodytes palustris laingi Harper. ALBERTA MARSH WREN.

Eleven specimens: Stalwart and Last Mountain Lake.

This form is most nearly related to *T. p. iliacus*, but is still paler above and more purely white below (as compared with true *palustris*); the white streaking on the back is reduced, as it is in *iliacus* also. It is a good race.

Rather common at certain of the larger lakes and sloughs. It was especially numerous at the Stalwart slough, where eggs were collected on June 16, and at Devil's Lake, where more eggs were found on June 22. The nests and eggs were of the usual type for this species; six was the largest number of eggs found. Several birds were seen in the slough near Quinn's Lake on June 28, and an empty nest was found there.

Cistothorus stellaris (Naumann). SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.

Five specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson.

I differ sharply with the Check-List authorities, who would make this well differentiated form conspecific with the South American *C. platensis*. These specimens are precisely like eastern ones.

Rather rare, and found only at two localities. On June 17 two dummy nests were located, but none with eggs.

Dumetella carolinensis ruficriッサ (?) Aldrich. WESTERN CATBIRD.

As shown by material in the Carnegie Museum, this is a perfectly good race, well characterized by the paler color of the underparts. Unfortunately we have no Saskatchewan specimens, and our single record of a bird seen on June 7 twelve miles north of Davidson is referred to this new race solely on geographical probabilities.

Toxostoma rufum longicaudum (Baird). WESTERN BROWN THRASHER.

This species is an uncommon summer resident here. It was noted on a few occasions near Davidson, in the Elbow district, in the Touchwood Hills near Raymore, and at Devil's Lake. No specimens were taken, but the records are referred to the western race on geographical considerations.

Turdus migratorius migratorius (?) Linnaeus. EASTERN ROBIN.

An uncommon summer resident. A few odd birds were seen (but none collected) at Davidson, Last Mountain Lake, Devil's Lake, and in the Touchwood Hills. The subspecies is still uncertain.

Hylocichla ustulata swainsonii (Cabanis). OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake (May 24).

This specimen clearly belongs to the eastern race. Other individuals of this species were seen and heard at Davidson on June 5 and 7, in the shrubbery about Mr. Lloyd's home. On June 28 many were noted at Quinn's Lake. The date would suggest that they were breeding, but our observations leave the seasonal status uncertain.

Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola Ridgway. WILLOW THRUSH.

One specimen: Devil's Lake (June 22).

Several others were heard singing at this place on May 31 and June 22. One was noted on June 7 about ten miles northeast of Davidson.

Sialia currucoides (Bechstein). MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD.

A female, probably with a nest, was seen near Dafoe on June 20 and 21.

Regulus satrapa satrapa Lichtenstein. EASTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake (April 30).

Doubtless a transient.

Anthus spragueii (Audubon). SPRAGUE'S PIPIT.

Seventeen specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson.

One of the characteristic breeding species of this region. It was common wherever there were any tracts of untouched prairie, such as that at the head of Last Mountain Lake. At almost any time of day one could hear them high overhead, flying around and singing almost out of sight from the ground, and hard to see against the glare of the sky, but they could only be secured by watching until they descended from these aerial excursions, then marking the spot carefully, and shooting them as they flushed. The song period may last as long as twenty minutes. We received

the impression that our invasion of the birds' territories was the signal to start singing. Several nests were found, the first on May 29. Five eggs are probably the usual number laid, but we found one nest with six. On June 7 and 8, near Elbow, we heard a few birds singing, and some were noted about four miles north of Davidson.

***Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps* Reichenow. BOHEMIAN WAXWING.**

One specimen: Davidson (December 3).

***Bombycilla cedrorum* Vieillot. CEDAR WAXWING.**

Six specimens: Elbow and Devil's Lake.

The dates of collection (June) would indicate breeding.

***Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides* Swainson. WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKE.**

Fifteen specimens: Davidson, Last Mountain Lake, Stalwart, and Raymore.

The amount of variation in the tail pattern shown by this series is certainly astonishing. In some examples the outer rectrices are wholly white, with the white area on the next pair correspondingly developed; in others there is a basal and a terminal band of white, separated from each other by a broad black area. Dr. A. H. Miller, in discussing this matter (Univ. California Publ. Zool., 38, 1931, 39), says that this feature is more variable than any other commensurable character. Several of our Saskatchewan birds show faint barring below; this is doubtless due to immaturity.

This species is of course only a summer resident, occurring in scattering pairs wherever there are suitable nesting grounds. Several nests were found, the first of which, collected at Davidson on May 30, already had six well incubated eggs. A second nest, found at the same place on June 11, had seven eggs almost ready to hatch. The species was noted also at Devil's Lake and near Elbow.

***Vireo solitarius solitarius* (Wilson). BLUE-HEADED VIREO.**

One specimen: Davidson (August 30).

***Vireo olivaceus* (Linnaeus). RED-EYED VIREO.**

Three specimens: Davidson (May 22; August 25).

This vireo is undoubtedly a summer resident, but it is local and far from common. We noted it at Devil's Lake on two occasions, and near Elbow.

Vireo gilvus gilvus (Vieillot). EASTERN WARBLING VIREO.

Five specimens: Devil's Lake and Raymore.

The impression persists that these represent a slightly differentiated and hitherto unrecognized race of the Warbling Vireo. Five males measure: wing, 71-76; tail, 52-57; exposed culmen, 11.5-12; tarsus, 17.5-18. Five males from Massachusetts and New Jersey, on the other hand: wing, 66.5-68.5; tail, 45-52; exposed culmen, 10-11; tarsus, 17-17.5. Not only do the Saskatchewan birds average larger, sex for sex, than these eastern specimens of *gilvus*, but also they are whiter below—more like *swainsonii*. Moreover, the white inner margins and tips to the rectrices are decidedly more prominent than in eastern *gilvus*. Three birds from Panajachel, Guatemala (Mus. Comp. Zool. 146,595-7), in their large size and in the whiteness of their underparts also resemble those from Saskatchewan. Measurements of the series of this species contained in the U. S. National Museum, recently made, confirm in general the above remarks, but the average difference in size is so little, and so many exceptions occur, that I hesitate to make any formal separation. However, I note that two specimens from Pembina, North Dakota (63890-1), possess the character of wide white tail margins, and it may very well be that additional material may reveal this as a constant and valid racial character.

This bird was common only at one place—in the poplar groves west of Raymore. It was once noted at Last Mountain Lake, in mimosa trees.

Vermivora peregrina (Wilson). TENNESSEE WARBLER.

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake (May 24).

A transient visitant, of which the above is our only record.

Vermivora celata celata (Say). ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER.

One specimen: Davidson (May 21).

A transient only, going farther north to breed.

Vermivora celata orestera Oberholser. ROCKY MOUNTAIN ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER.

Two specimens: Elbow (June 9).

This must be the breeding form of this region. Many other individuals were noted here on June 10.

Dendroica aestiva aestiva (Gmelin). EASTERN YELLOW WARBLER.

Seven specimens: Last Mountain Lake, Davidson, and Devil's Lake.

The Saskatchewan breeding birds are nearer to the eastern *aestiva* than to any other race, but the females show a tendency toward *amnicola*.

I am reluctant to reduce *Dendroica aestiva* to a subspecies of *D. petechia*, as proposed by Dr. John W. Aldrich, Auk, 59, 1942, 447-449. Because these two forms meet and breed together in one restricted area is no more reason for uniting them under one specific head than there would be in the case of *Icterus bullockii* and *I. galbula* (cf. Sutton, Auk, 55, 1938, 1-6).

The Yellow Warbler is fairly common wherever there is a growth of bushes and shrubbery. It was very numerous, for instance, on a wooded island near the head of Last Mountain Lake, as also in the poplar growth about Devil's Lake, and in the bushy country west of Elbow. No nests were actually found, but it certainly breeds throughout. The last one was taken on August 30.

There is a surprising variation in the songs of this species; some sang much like chestnut-sided warblers, others more like redstarts.

***Dendroica magnolia* (Wilson). MAGNOLIA WARBLER.**

Two specimens: Davidson (May 21; August 30).

The dates are those of transient individuals. The May bird was taken in Mr. Lloyd's garden.

***Dendroica coronata hooveri* McGregor. ALASKA MYRTLE WARBLER.**

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake (May 23).

A female, identified as above by Dr. A. C. Twomey.

***Dendroica striata* (Forster). BLACK-POLL WARBLER.**

One specimen: Davidson.

A transient visitant, first noted at Davidson on May 19, and at Last Mountain Lake up to May 27.

***Seiurus aurocapillus aurocapillus* (Linnaeus). OVENBIRD.**

One specimen: Davidson (May 21).

***Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis* Ridgway. GRINNELL'S WATER-THRUSH.**

One specimen: Davidson (August 20).

This individual was doubtless an early fall migrant.

***Geothlypis trichas occidentalis* Brewster. WESTERN YELLOW-THROAT.**

Four specimens: Davidson (14 miles west), Last Mountain Lake, Elbow, and Stalwart.

Breeding birds from Saskatchewan agree fairly well with those from Oregon. The first was taken on May 20, the last on June 28; the interval

covers the breeding season, although we found no nests. One was seen at Devil's Lake on May 31. The species was not common.

Wilsonia pusilla pusilla (Wilson). WILSON'S WARBLER.

One specimen: Davidson (August 30).

A transient species; the date probably represents a fall arrival.

Setophaga ruticilla (Linnaeus). AMERICAN REDSTART.

One specimen: Davidson (May 22).

This was taken in the tree-growth around Mr. Lloyd's house. What was probably the same individual was seen at the same place on May 20 and 21, but no others thereafter.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus (Linnaeus). BOBOLINK.

Seven specimens: Last Mountain Lake.

This species was common during June in the grassy country at the head of Last Mountain Lake. The first was seen on May 30. The first arrivals were all males; they were in full song. Some were seen at Quill Lake on June 20, and one near Quinn's Lake on June 28.

Sturnella neglecta Audubon. WESTERN MEADOWLARK.

Twelve specimens: Elbow, Last Mountain Lake, and Davidson.

A very common summer resident throughout. Its song, so unlike that of its eastern relative, reminded one somewhat of that of the Baltimore Oriole. Several nests were found, some with eggs as late as June 18, but these must have been delayed nestings, since we found a nestful of young on June 7, and on June 12 we saw young able to fly.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus (Bonaparte). YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.

Sixteen specimens: Last Mountain Lake, Stalwart, and Quinn's Lake.

Common as a summer resident but locally distributed. There was a good-sized colony at the Stalwart slough, and another at the head of Last Mountain Lake. Sets of eggs (four to a set) were taken on June 13 and 17. A juvenile male was collected near Quinn's Lake on June 28.

Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus Oberholser. GIANT RED-WING.

Eighteen specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson.

Eight males measure as followings: wing, 120-130 (average, 126.5); tail, 89-100 (95); exposed culmen, 23-27 (25.4); tarsus, 13-13.5 (13.1). Although all were taken in the breeding season, the females vary considerably in the intensity of the streaking on the underparts, and in the

amount of pinkish suffusion on the throat. Not having specimens of *A. p. fortis* in comparable plumage, I can express no opinion on the status and relationship of these two forms. Taverner (Canadian Field-Naturalist, 33, 1919, 13), however, discounts the validity of *arctolegus*.

This species was an abundant and generally distributed summer resident. Every slough and pond had its quota, and the larger marshes had a full population. The marshes at the head of Last Mountain Lake, and near Stalwart, were favorite breeding grounds. Nesting began the last of May, and the first eggs were found on May 29. Some nests were found in dead thistles, although the rule was to find them in the rushes or high marsh grasses. On June 11 a colony was located in a slough about thirteen miles west of Davidson. A nest was found at Raymore on June 21, and the birds were numerous near Dafoe and along the edge of Quill Lake on June 20. An albinistic male with a salmon-colored throat was collected about twelve miles southwest of Davidson on June 28.

Icterus galbula (Linnaeus). BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

Two specimens: Devil's Lake and Davidson.

A summer resident, but in a treeless country like this naturally not common. It was first noted at Davidson on May 20, and a few were seen around buildings at Last Mountain Lake. On May 29 a female was seen building a nest. On June 18 a pair of orioles at our headquarters attacked and tried to drive off the two young magpies we were raising. A specimen taken by Mr. Lloyd at Davidson on August 30 must have been near the end of its stay.

Euphagus cyanocephalus (Wagler). BREWER'S BLACKBIRD.

Five specimens: Raymore and Last Mountain Lake.

I find no difficulty in separating these birds from Pacific coast specimens (*minusculus* Grinnell) by the different sheen of their body plumage, but according to Grinnell and Miller (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 27, 1944, 436, note) this feature is too inconstant to be used as a criterion for separation.

Brewer's Blackbird was a common species wherever there were any trees for nesting purposes. Several nests were examined about the Lloyd farmstead, and on May 22 two sets of five eggs were collected. One was in a poplar, six feet up, the other in a brushheap, only a foot from the ground. There was also a small colony in the trees around our cottage at Last Mountain Lake.

Quiscalus versicolor Vieillot. BRONZED GRACKLE.

A summer resident, locally distributed. About a dozen were seen at Davidson around the Lloyd farmstead, May 19–21. Here they were nesting in sheltered boxes. There were also some at Last Mountain Lake and at Stalwart slough. On May 26, at the latter place, we found nests that had been built in a barn; one had five eggs on this date. On June 18 grackles were viciously attacking our two tame magpies.

Molothrus ater artemisiae Grinnell. NEVADA COWBIRD.

Ten specimens: Last Mountain Lake, Stalwart, and Davidson (12 miles north).

Females of this series are paler on an average than eastern specimens of *ater*, although they are almost matched by some examples of the latter. The race is recognizable on this basis, but I would not consider it well marked. Males of the two respective forms are not certainly distinguishable, although those of *artemisiae* average larger.

A common summer resident, noted in the pasture lands, but not confined thereto. Eggs were found in nests of the Savannah Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, and Red-winged Blackbird.

Hedymeles ludovicianus (Linnaeus). ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK.

One specimen: Davidson.

A male taken at Davidson on May 21 and a female seen at the same place on June 12 are our only records. Evidently this region is near the western limit of the species' range.

In my opinion, *Hedymeles* should not be merged with *Pheucticus*.

Acanthis hornemannii exilipes (Coues). HOARY REDPOLL.

Six specimens: Davidson (March 10, 16, 17, 1933).

A winter resident here, of erratic occurrence.

Acanthis flammea flammea (Linnaeus). COMMON REDPOLL.

Two specimens: Davidson (March 16, 1933).

Like the last, a winter resident, but erratic.

Spinus tristis tristis (Linnaeus). EASTERN GOLDFINCH.

Three specimens: Devil's Lake (June 22).

I am unable to distinguish these specimens (adult males) satisfactorily from eastern specimens. A few were seen at other places—Last Mountain Lake, Davidson (ten miles north), and Elbow.

Pipilo maculatus arcticus Swainson. ARCTIC TOWHEE.

Twelve specimens: Elbow.

Males vary in intensity of color of the upperparts; the blacker birds are probably those fully adult.

This species was first encountered in the brushy country along the west bank of the Saskatchewan River near Elbow, where it was not uncommon. A set of five eggs was taken here on June 9. A single bird was seen at Devil's Lake on June 22.

Calamospiza melanocorys Stejneger. LARK BUNTING.

One specimen: Davidson.

On June 5 Mr. Lloyd saw five birds together near Davidson—three adult males, one subadult male, and one female. On June 8 he succeeded in shooting a single individual near the same spot. One was seen on June 11 by the roadside about thirteen miles west of Davidson. These were the only times we saw this species; it is apparently quite rare.

Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis Grinnell. NEVADA SAVANNA SPARROW.

Twenty specimens: Last Mountain Lake, Davidson (6 miles north), and Stalwart.

These are easily referable to the race described as *campestris* by P. A. Taverner, but which is placed as a synonym of *nevadensis* by Peters and Griscom (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 80, 1938, 467). It is a common and generally distributed bird in this region; its wheezy song seems to be different from that of the eastern bird. As it happens, all our nesting records came from Last Mountain Lake and Stalwart slough. The first nest with eggs was found on May 24, and thereafter others up to June 18, when a set was collected. The number of eggs varied from three to five.

Ammodramus bairdii (Audubon). BAIRD'S SPARROW.

Twenty-three specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson (6 miles north; 14 miles west).

The spotting on the breast varies a little in extent and intensity, but otherwise this series of breeding specimens is sufficiently uniform.

This is another characteristic bird of this region; however, it tends to be local in its distribution. It was common in the grass lands at the head of Last Mountain Lake, where the conditions were especially favorable—the same place as Sprague's Pipit favored. Dr. Sutton found a nest here on June 23; it held four eggs, which closely resemble those of the Grasshopper

Sparrow. Like the last-named species, Baird's Sparrow is a ground bird, but it often ascends a weed-top or the pole of a fence to sing. The first specimen was taken on May 20.

Passerherbulus caudacutus (Latham). LECONTE'S SPARROW.

Two specimens: Davidson and Last Mountain Lake.

An apparently rare summer resident, taken by us on only two occasions (May 20, June 17).

Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni (Allen). NELSON'S SPARROW.

Twenty-two specimens: Davidson (12 miles west), Last Mountain Lake, and Stalwart.

These are breeding specimens, belonging to the pale interior race of Sharp-tailed Sparrow described from a fall migrant taken near Chicago, Illinois. Cf. Todd, Ann. Carnegie Mus., 29, 1942, 197-199, and Peters, *ibid.*, 201-210.

A fairly common bird at the head of Last Mountain Lake, haunting the high aquatic growth surrounding the sloughs and marshes. A few were noted elsewhere also. One June 13 its flight song was observed, and on June 23 a nest with young was found. The parents were feeding moths and other insects.

Poocetes gramineus confinis Baird. WESTERN VESPER SPARROW.

Thirteen specimens: Last Mountain Lake, Davidson (near; 12 miles north; 14 miles west), and Elbow.

Common summer resident throughout. The first was noted on May 9. No nests were found.

Spizella arborea arborea (Wilson). EASTERN TREE SPARROW.

One specimen: Davidson (March 16, 1933). It is very common as a transient, and is the first sparrow to arrive in the spring.

Spizella passerina arizonae Coues. WESTERN CHIPPING SPARROW.

Two specimens: Davidson and Last Mountain Lake.

Apparently rare. We saw it at Last Mountain Lake on only two occasions, May 24 and 29, and Mr. Lloyd shot a juvenile bird near Davidson on August 20.

Spizella pallida (Swainson). CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.

Seventeen specimens: Last Mountain Lake, Davidson (near; 6 miles north; 12 miles north), Raymore, and Elbow.

Common wherever there were tracts of bushes or "buck brush" to afford

shelter. The only nest we found was at Quill Lake on June 20, at which date it held small young.

Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii (Nuttall). GAMBEL'S SPARROW.

One specimen: Last Mountain Lake (May 9). According to Mr. Lloyd, it is fairly common as a transient.

Zonotrichia albicollis (Gmelin). WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.

A transient visitant only; one was noted at Davidson on May 21. Mr. Lloyd calls it fairly common in migration.

Melospiza lincolnii lincolnii Audubon. LINCOLN'S SPARROW.

Three specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson.

A transient visitant, fairly common. Dates of collection are from May 9 to 21.

Melospiza melodia juddi Bishop. DAKOTA SONG SPARROW.

Four specimens: Davidson, Last Mountain Lake, and Devil's Lake.

Not common; it favored brushy places, willow scrub, and similar covert. A bird in juvenal dress was taken at Davidson on June 25.

Rhynchophanes mccownii (Lawrence). MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR.

Twenty-one specimens: Davidson (4 miles north) and Last Mountain Lake.

Locally distributed as a summer resident. In a large field about four miles north of Davidson we found a colony of about twenty-five pairs, and secured a good series of specimens. (The field was about to be plowed, so we felt no qualms about taking as many as we needed from this one spot.) The males were indulging in their flight songs, at which times they presented an easy mark, but they were hard to approach on the ground. By dragging the field with a heavy rope we contrived to flush three incubating females from their nests, and to collect as many sets of five eggs each. The nests were very flimsy affairs, placed on the ground without any effort at concealment. The date was June 6. On a second visit to this spot on June 26 we saw a few birds, and on June 28 encountered a few also about twelve miles southwest of the town.

Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus (Linnaeus). LAPLAND LONGSPUR.

Seven specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson (near; 12 miles west).

This species is merely a transient here, and it was still present in large

flocks on May 19 and 20 at Davidson. These flocks were rather shy, and were hard to approach on foot. Mr. Lloyd says that it sometimes appears in flocks of as many as a thousand birds. On May 25 one female was collected and several others were seen, but there were no males anywhere. This would seem to indicate that the males precede the females in the northward migration. However, a crippled male was shot on June 4.

Calcarius ornatus (Townsend). CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR.

Twenty-one specimens: Last Mountain Lake and Davidson (near; 14 miles west).

A summer resident, common and generally distributed; first April 21. Eggs were taken on May 29 and June 14, but already, on May 30, we found a nest with newly hatched young.

As in *C. lapponicus*, the breeding dress of the male is acquired wholly by wear, through which the solid black of the pileum and the chestnut of the hindneck are effectively brought out. In a bird taken May 16 and another taken May 21 the black below is becoming exposed, while in birds shot during the next few weeks it becomes more "solid." It appears first as a crescent just below the pale throat, giving the bird an appearance like that of *Rhynchophanes mccownii*. Some individuals show more or less chestnut spotting on the underparts, even in winter dress; this is possibly a sign of excessive development. The only juvenile example in streaked plumage is one just out of the nest, dated June 14.

Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis (Linnaeus). EASTERN SNOW BUNTING.

Two specimens: Davidson (March 26, 1925).

One Snow Bunting was included in a large flock of Lapland Longspurs seen near Davidson on May 19. On several occasions during June and up to June 27, a male bird was seen here. It must have been a cripple, as the species occurs here only as a transient, sometimes in large flocks. It arrives early, but not before the Horned Lark.



Todd, W. E. Clyde. 1947. "Notes on the birds of Southern Saskatchewan." *Annals of the Carnegie Museum* 30, 383–421. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.226692>.

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