

it. It was a male in full summer plumage. Its crop was filled with poplar catkins, and small poplar leaves, which at that time were just bursting from the buds. There was no grain of any kind, nor weed seeds evident, and the bird was in excellent condition. I only know of one other record for the Willow Ptarmigan south of the North Saskatchewan River, and that was shot in the vicinity of South Edmonton, in winter, some years ago. Why this straggler should be in this latitude during the breeding season is a mystery.—FRANK L. FARLEY.

A KENTUCKY WARBLER AT STRATHROY, ONTARIO.—A trip East in the spring of 1931 kept me away from Southwestern Ontario from May 13th to 24th. This lost check on nearly two weeks of bird migration, but, as often happens to an enthusiastic naturalist, the one morning available after returning was to be remembered. Soon after daybreak the morning of the 25th found me in a wooded area two miles north of the town of Strathroy, Ontario, spending a very busy few hours in bringing my neglected migration list up-to-date.

The thrill of the morning came from following a song which at first was taken for the erratic song of an Ovenbird. The singer was finally collected from the top of a tall maple and proved to be a Kentucky Warbler in full plumage. The bird was found singing in a hardwood bush-lot composed principally of maple and beech, situated on the bank of a creek, a wood which has always been good for migrating warblers, particularly the later species. This is, I believe, the third Canadian record of the Kentucky Warbler; the specimen in No. 3884 in my collection. The second specimen was taken by Mr. Robert Elliott near Bryanston, Ontario, May 16, 1898*, which was the first record for Ontario, and is now in the Saunders collection.—A. A. WOOD.

NORTHERN SHRIKE AND ENGLISH SPARROW.—You might be interested to hear of an experience I had, two weeks ago, with a Northern Shrike. I was sitting in my log shack, writing, shortly before noon, when I heard the terrified shrieks of some small bird outside. Jumping up, and looking out of the window, I was just in time to see two objects apparently dash against the shack wall. Immediately there followed a great scuffling and more shrieking. I guessed the tragedy that was being enacted, but could not imagine how it was I heard the noise of the scuffle so plainly.

On going outside, I found that the pursued bird

(an English Sparrow) had flown for protection through a crack between two boards, on a part of the wall that has never been properly finished. When I approached, silence reigned, but on my tapping the wall, the fluttering started again, and to my surprise out dashed a large Northern Shrike with the sparrow in his beak. Being rather a squeeze for him between the boards, he dropped the sparrow, and flew off to a near-by poplar.

The sparrow was quivering its last, so I picked it up and placed it on the window-sill outside, and went indoors to watch developments.

It was not long before the Shrike returned for his dinner, but, instead of going to the spot where the sparrow had fallen, he fluttered in front of the crack in the wall, much like a fly-catcher will do before a window. Satisfying himself there was nothing there, he alighted on a large stone directly in front of my window, and I had a splendid view of him. Then he spied his prey and flew boldly onto the window-sill, pecking at the sparrow viciously. Not being able to hold it with his foot, he soon picked it up in his beak and flew off.

I wished, afterwards, I had secured the sparrow in some way, and made the Shrike have his lunch with me. I might add that the fine, waxy lines across the breast were very faint on this particular Shrike. I have seen them much darker.—A. GISSING.

AN UNUSUAL RECORD OF SCARLET TANAGER.—Few better examples of the unusual wanderings of our land birds could be shown than that of a Scarlet Tanager in my collection. On November 17, 1926, I noted a green bird with black wings in a small cherry near my den window. As no such bird should have been in cherry trees at Comox on Vancouver Island in November, I gave chase. When I got outside the door the bird had gone but a hunt in the surrounding woods disclosed it in the alders and I secured it. It proved to be a young male tanager and with unpardonable carelessness I called the bird a belated Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) and dismissed the case, never having seen the young of this species at this time of the year because of its early migration. Two years ago, however, on getting specimens of eastern birds I recognized my bird for what it is: the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*), a species showing no other records for British Columbia, none for Alberta and few for Saskatchewan. This probably will stand as the most westerly record of the species for some time, though there still remains the width of the Island to cross—a small matter to a bird adventurous enough to negotiate the plains and the western mountains.—HAMILTON M. LAING.

*Catalogue of Canadian Birds, John Macoun. Page 663, 1909. *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, W. E. Saunders, 19: 205, Feb., 1906.



Laing, Hamilton M. 1932. "An Unusual Record of Scarlet Tanager." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 46(9), 209–209. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339429>.

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