

Western Kingbird on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Northwest Territories

Ranford (1972) and Jonkel (1970) have summarized kingbird observations from northern portions of the arctic mainland in the Northwest Territories. The sightings were made on Southampton, Coats, and Bencas Island in the eastern Arctic, and at Bathurst Inlet and Norman Wells in the West. All observations were of the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). I have an unpublished record of an Eastern Kingbird that I found dead on June 28, 1960, on an island in the Thelon River, N.W.T. (64°27' N, 101°34' W).

From May 29 to June 16, 1972, a Canadian Wildlife Service crew was carrying out waterfowl studies from a base camp on Cape Dalhousie (70°15' N, 129°40' W), the extreme northeastern tip of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. The spring was late and many arctic nesting waterfowl did not produce young in 1972. Except for the last few days of the above period, the low coastal tundra at Cape Dalhousie was covered with snow and ice, and some open water re-froze on June 16, which caused us to wonder if we were experiencing spring or fall.

On June 15, when returning to base camp, I saw a blackbird-sized bird, displaying a good deal of yellow on the belly and a blackish tail, suddenly fly over from the direction of our base camp about 200 yards away. I could not use my binoculars as I was carrying a load of driftwood. The bird quickly disappeared from view but I was convinced that it was a Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), although the possibility that it could have been a Cassin's Kingbird (*T. vociferans*), a similar species found in the western United States, could not be completely eliminated.

I reported my finding to the other crew members and we decided to look for the bird again. Our second effort was rewarded when we clearly saw the gray and yellow Western Kingbird perched on the ground near a male Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*). We observed the kingbird catching insects and then returning to perch on a hummock. During these brief fluttering flights we observed white or yellowish-white markings on the outer tail. This fieldmark confirmed our identification as that of the Western Kingbird. We did not hear the bird's shrill call. After a few minutes the bird flew west and was not seen again.

In Canada, the Western Kingbird nests only in the southern third of the prairie provinces, British Columbia, and perhaps in southern Ontario, and vagrants have been reported as far north as Newfoundland (Godfrey 1966).

Literature Cited

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Percina caprodes semifasciata, the Logperch, Newly Recorded in Alberta, and New Distribution Records for *Chrosomus neogaeus* and *Semotilus margarita*

One specimen of *Percina caprodes semifasciata* (DeKay), the logperch, was obtained on the afternoon of August 4, 1971 by W. E. Roberts and R. Leong while seining for forage fish at the mouth of the Medley River, tributary to Cold Lake, Alberta (54°36' N, 110°12' W). Previous extensive collecting by R. B. Miller (MS 1956. The management of the fish resources of Cold Lake. Mimeo. 10 pp.) and by Alberta Fish and

Wildlife personnel between 1956 and 1971 had not yielded this species. Periodic seining along the lakeshore and river mouth earlier in 1971, combined with the rotenoning of the lagoon at the mouth, yielded 19 species of fishes but no *Percina*.

Etheostoma exile (Girard), the Iowa darter, is commonly found at the mouth of the Medley in May and June. Although easily seen in the shallow water, they are rarely collected owing to their

bottom-dwelling habits and the rocky uneven nature of the substrate that characterizes the greatest portion of the Medley River. The collection site was similar, except that its margins were sandy. Consequently, *Percina* may be more abundant than is indicated by the results of seine hauls.

Percina is recorded from Lac des Isles, Saskatchewan on the Waterhen River (Churchill system) but not in Pierce Lake, which lies between the former lake and Cold Lake (F. M. Atton, Saskatchewan Fisheries Laboratory, personal communication).

The specimen is deposited in the University of Alberta Museum of Zoology (UAMZ 3148). The following counts were noted: DXIV-14; A.II, 10; LL scales 80; LL pores 77. The naked area on the nape is rather extensive with a scaleless strip on each side of the front of the first dorsal fin to the region between spines III and IV. The lateral bands are irregular in width, and melanophores are more prevalent in the region of the lateral line. The naked nape and the nature of the lateral bands are in agreement with descriptions of the subspecies *semifasciata*. Dr. J. S. Nelson of the University of Alberta verified the author's identification of the specimen.

The presence of *Percina caprodes semifasciata* in Cold Lake, Alberta, represents a modest extension of its known range and is the first record of this species in Alberta. Collecting during the summer of 1971 also yielded new locality records for the cyprinid fishes *Chrosomus neogaeus* (Cope), the finescale dace, and *Semotilus margarita* (Cope), the pearl dace; their occurrence in Cold Lake represents considerable extensions of their known distributions within Alberta. Cold Lake contains the largest known number (22) of native fish species in Alberta, the Alberta portion of Lake Athabasca having the previous record of 21 known species (Paetz and Nelson. 1970. The fishes of Alberta. Queen's Printer, Edmonton). These new records are probably the result of more intensive collecting and critical examination of collections, but it is possible that they may be the result of the expansion of the ranges of these fishes.

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Winter Hunting of Snowy Owls in Farmland

Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) are fairly common winter residents about Edmonton, Alberta, from October or November until late March. When, in late January 1973, I saw one perched on a haystack a few miles south of the city, instead of merely looking at it through binoculars, I decided to watch it from the car for as long as might be required to see it in pursuit of prey. I was lucky on this occasion for it left its perch only 10 minutes later. After a low-level flight its aerial manoeuvring with lowered feet almost touching the snow, followed by perching on the snow-covered ground where it peered about, showed that it had sighted but failed to grasp its objective, presumably a small rodent. The interesting point was that the owl had spotted something not, as I expected, close to its perch, but about 150 yards away across a secondary road.

As this distance was obviously beyond the human range of perception for an object as small as a mouse, I decided to make further observa-

tions in the same area and continued these from January 21st until March 24th at various times of the day between 10:00 a.m. and 7:20 p.m. On the assumption that an owl seen repeatedly over most of this period on a few perches in the same area was the same bird, four females or immature males were observed for a total of 11 hours and 28 minutes, and one adult male for 40 minutes.

The perches used by these owls were haystacks about 15 feet high on 13 occasions; roadside power poles about 20 feet high on six; trees on three; and a fence post on only one occasion. Only in three instances did any of these Snowy Owls watch for prey from the snow-covered ground and in two of these, this stance was assumed after an unsuccessful attack flight from an elevated perch. Hence in flat country, as in the area in question, hunting from the ground is probably rare. When using haystacks, the owls would perch on the highest point on stacks which had more or less conical tops, but in the case of



Roberts, Wayne Emerson. 1973. "Percina caprodes semifasciata, the Logperch, Newly Recorded in Alberta, and New Distribution Records for Chrosomus neogaeus and Semotilus margarita." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 87(4), 467–468. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.343831>.

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