

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF MANITOBAN BIRDS.

BY ERNEST E. THOMPSON.

Since the publication of my notes on 'The Birds of Manitoba,'¹ I have been able to make a number of additions to our list of Provincial birds. These are chiefly the results of my own trip to the Province in 1892, but important assistance has been received from others and is duly acknowledged in place.

Ardea egretta. AMERICAN EGRET. — A fine specimen of this bird was shot on Duck Bay, Lake Winnipegosis, in 1888, by Mr. David Armit. Through the courtesy of this gentleman, and also of Mr. Wm. Clarke, the Chief Factor at Winnipeg, who sends me the bird, I am enabled to examine and report fully. It is an adult in full plumage. Length, 40½ inches; beak, 4½; wing, 15½; tarsus, 6¼. This is, I believe, the northernmost record for the species.

Grus canadensis. LITTLE BROWN CRANE. — A specimen of this bird was mounted in Toronto by Mr. Thurston who stated that it was killed on the Qu'Appelle River. This may or may not bring the species within our limits but it certainly would at least inscribe it on our probable list, for I am informed by Mr. Ripon of Toronto that this bird commonly breeds on the upper Qu'Appelle. This specimen I have seen, and measured as follows: wing 19 inches; tarsus, 6; toe, 3¼; beak, 3¾.

Micropalama himantopus. STILT SANDPIPER. — On August 29, at Carberry, I made the first positive capture of this species in the Province. It was in a mixed flock of Sandpipers of several species.

Zenaidura macroura. MOURNING DOVE. — The disappearance of the Passenger Pigeon has been closely followed by the appearance of the Common Dove. In the three years of my residence in the Province early in the eighties, I saw but one Dove; now, however, they abound on the Big Plain wherever there are trees and water. Three or four pairs seem to be semi-domesticated about each barnyard that affords the above requisites, and they appear to be spreading farther each year, and greatly increasing in numbers.

Archibuteo ferrugineus. RED ROUGHLEG. — A fine specimen of this was taken near Winnipeg by Mr. Hine, and is now in the Manitoba Museum. It had previously been listed as probable only.

Falco rusticolus obsoletus. BLACK GYRFALCON. — This species also I had listed as probably Manitoban in winter. Since then two fine specimens have been taken and are now in the Manitoba Museum.

Tyrannus verticalis. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD. — Two specimens of this, an adult and one in first plumage, were taken by Mr. D. Losh Thorpe at the Souris coal fields, August 20, 1891. This is not many miles to the west of the Province and justifies the insertion of the species as probably Man-

itoban. My thanks are due to Mr. Thorpe for the privilege of examining this and other specimens in his collection.

Myiarchus crinitus. CRESTED FLYCATCHER. 'TYRANT FLYCATCHER.'—Three specimens of this, to us, scarce bird, are in the Manitoba Museum; all were taken near Winnipeg. While at Carberry I several times met with it; and it is to be considered much less rare than I formerly supposed.

Leucosticte tephrocotis. GRAY-CROWNED FINCH. 'PINK SNOWBIRD.'—I have in my collection an adult of this species taken near Birtle, Manitoba, in January, 1891, by Mr. George Copeland. Also in the Manitoba Museum are two specimens taken in the Province by Mr. Hine. These give a considerable eastward extension to the range of the species.

Rhynchophanes mccowni. MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR. —A specimen of this bird taken by Mr. Thorpe near Dalesbro, just west of our borders, justifies its inclusion as a probable straggler.

Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni. SHARP-TAILED SPARROW.—On my arrival at Winnipeg Mr. Hine surprised me by producing a specimen of the above, shot at Winnipeg on May 25, 1892. On June 30, at Carberry, while out in pursuit of Leconte's Sparrow, I heard a curious note, unlike that of the species I was after. On going over the slough to the spot I put up two small, dark-colored Sparrows. I got one with the right, but the left barrel missed fire. The new species was also *caudacutus*, and I several times heard its notes afterwards in this and other similar regions about. On September 1, while out Duck-shooting in a new locality, I came on a large straggling flock of Sparrows in a slough; for the sake of identification I shot one, and again found it *caudacutus*. The same day at a point four miles west, I met with another flock, and again secured a true Sharptail. These two birds, though much injured by the duck shot, are now in my collection. They have been submitted to Mr. F. M. Chapman, who pronounces all to be of the subspecies *nelsoni*.

Stelgidopteryx serripennis. SAW-WINGED SWALLOW.—A specimen of this bird, taken near Winnipeg by Mr. Hine, is in the Manitoba Museum.

Anthus spraguei. MISSOURI SKYLARK.—This bird was very abundant on the Big Plain in 1882, but in 1892 I failed to see or hear a single individual in the country. They appear to have totally disappeared. This is unquestionably owing to the breaking up of the virgin prairie. The progress of agriculture has apparently affected this more than any other species, but has also wrought marked changes in the distribution of several. The Pinnated Grouse, as well as the Sharp-tailed Grouse, the Dove, the Shore Lark, the Meadowlark, and the Vesper Sparrow have all increased remarkably within the last ten years. The same may be said of all the Blackbirds excepting the Cowbird. The Passenger Pigeon, Swainson's Hawk and several of the Ducks have suffered, but the Missouri Skylark alone seems to have found itself quite unable to cope with the surroundings of the new order of things.

Sialia sialis. BLUEBIRD.—It is gratifying to note that this species, instead of very rare, has become quite common in the country along the Assiniboine; and nearly every grove of oak of any extent is found to have a pair making their home in it along with the Purple Martins.