

SOME RECENT CANADIAN RECORDS.¹

BY P. A. TAVERNER.

IN view of the fact that a number of Canadian bird occurrences have not been formally recorded, it seems well to collect them for presentation to the ornithological public. With these occurrences are a few others which have been published in media that may not be generally available for reference and which it seems advisable to include even at the expense of some repetition.

The list here presented contains all unrecorded occurrences of interest, with which I am acquainted up to February 1926, the date of its compilation.

Larus hyperboreus. GLAUCOUS GULL.—June, 1925, I examined a specimen of this species mounted in the collection in the Provincial Parliament Building, Edmonton, Alberta. I was informed on the authority of Mr. Benjamin Lawton, Chief Game Guardian of the Province who is in charge of the collection that it was taken "about 12 years ago" at Gull Lake about eight miles west of Lacombe, Alberta. It is a gull of large size, pure white all over except for many small light brownish flecks evenly and generally distributed. It is therefore a juvenile and seems to be the first record for the species in the Province.

Larus atricilla. LAUGHING GULL.—August 27–28, 1924, three specimens of this species were taken for this Museum by Chas. H. Young at Clam Point, Cape Sable, Nova Scotia. They are females, two of them adult with the black hood of summer changing to the white of winter. The other is juvenile in full winter plumage. These birds with some other straying waifs, hereinafter noted, were taken after and probably as a result of an exceptional storm. The most definite previous record for this species on the Canadian east coast is cited by C. W. Townsend (*Canadian Field-Naturalist*, XXVII, 1923, pp. 8–9), as having occurred at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia about 1858. The only other Canadian record I know of is for Toronto, Ontario, 1898 and 1890, Fleming (*Auk*, XXIII, 1906, p. 442).

Larus franklini. FRANKLIN'S GULL.—I have lately had the satisfaction of examining a specimen of this species taken by Allan L. Moses at Grand Menan, North Head, New Brunswick, December 6, 1925. The bird was mounted by him and sent to me for corroboration of his

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identification. It is a small female but appears to be in full adult winter plumage and shows the characteristic black tipped white based primary pattern separating it from either Bonaparte's or Laughing Gulls in unmistakable manner. According to my records it is the first occurrence of the species on the Canadian east coast. There are records for Toronto, Ontario, Fleming (Auk, XXIII, 442) and Hamilton, Ontario, McIlwraith (Bds. of Ontario). A record for Ottawa, Ontario has been withdrawn by Lloyd (Can. Fld. Nat., XXXVII, p. 103).

Sterna fuscata. SOOTY TERN.—The same storm that was responsible for the before mentioned Laughing Gull sent a specimen of this species several miles inland from the Bay of Fundy, near Wolfville, Kings Co., Nova Scotia, August 28, 1924. It was presented to the Nova Scotia Provincial Museum at Halifax and recorded by R. W. Tufts (Can. Fld. Nat., XXXIX, 1925, p. 64). This forms the first record for the species in Canada.

Chlidonias nigra. BLACK TERN.—Another record made through the instrumentality of the late August storm of 1924 was that of a Black Tern taken by Chas. H. Young, August 27, at Clam Point, Cape Sable, Nova Scotia. It is an adult with winter plumage nearly complete. Mr. Young reported it to be very thin, weak and hardly able to fly. This appears to be the first record for the species on the Nova Scotian mainland though one has been recorded by Jonathan Dwight from Sable Island, 1902. A skull and set of primaries of a moth destroyed skin taken on Sable Island, October 7, 1899, were transferred to this Museum by the Canadian Department of Marine and Fisheries.

Rynchops nigra. BLACK SKIMMER.—The storm previously mentioned was also responsible for the appearance of this species in some numbers on our southeast coast. Mr. C. H. Young who collected four, August 27, 1924, at Clam Point, Cape Sable, Nova Scotia reported them thin and emaciated. A number of others were found about this time, and after, in various stages of decomposition in the same general neighborhood and the species was also noted at Grand Menan, New Brunswick, across the Bay of Fundy. The only previous record appears to be that of Boardman, in 'The Naturalist of the St. Croix,' for the Bay of Fundy, 1879.

Thalassarche chlororhynchos. PINK-FOOTED ALBATROSS.—In 'The Auk,' V, 1888, p. 108-109 appears the record by Montague Chamberlain of a specimen of *Thalassogeron culminatus* in the museum of Laval University, Quebec, taken on the Gulf of St. Lawrence. On page 318 of the same volume are further details of this specimen by Nap. A. Comeau who gives the entrance of the River Moisie as the locality and August 20, 1885, as the date of capture. The above identification was assumed from the description forwarded to Dr. C. Hart Merriam and is evidently the basis of the phrase "accidental in the Gulf of St. Lawrence" in the distribution of the species in the 'Check List' of 1910. Ever since the capture of *T. chlororhynchos* in United States waters near Grand Menan, New Brunswick, there has been some doubt as to the identity of the Laval specimen.

Last fall arrangements were made with the University authorities and the specimen in question was shipped to the American Museum of Natural History where it was examined by Dr. Robt. Cushman Murphy. His report on it is as follows,—

"This bird is a counterpart of the Albatross from Machias Bay, Maine (L. C. Sanford 9835), recorded in 'The Auk,' 1922, p. 58, except that its head is of the normal gray whereas that of the Maine bird is worn nearly white. The measurements agree closely, and it has the same slender, much bowed bill. The coloring of the bill is exactly like that of the Sanford bird. The base of the culminicorn is narrow and symmetrically rounded, with about 6 mm. of black integument on the mid-line between the horn and the feathering. A broad and somewhat indistinct line of blackish feathers extends forward from the eye to the base of the bill, centering at the junction of the culminicorn and the latericorn.

"The concealed parts of the long gray feathers of head and neck are white. In the Maine specimen the feathers of these parts are very worn and short, even the dark loreal streak being much reduced. There is every indication that the condition is accounted for by wear.

"The Labrador bird still more closely resembles a specimen which I collected in the South Atlantic (A. M. 132536). A diagnostic feature of the species seems to be the straight line across the base of the culmen where the feathers begin. In *T. culminatus* this line is usually more rounded.

"Measurements of the Labrador specimen; Wing 475; tail 184; exposed culmen 111; tarsus 76; middle toe with claw 110."

It thus appears that the above published identifications of this bird were incorrect and that unless the Oregon occurrence can be well substantiated *T. culminatus* will have to be eliminated from the North American list.

It is only fair to the memory of the late C. E. Dionne, the curator of the Laval Museum, to remark that the label he had attached to the specimen reads, "*Diomedea chlororhyncha* Gm. — Tue en Sept. 1884 au Labrador, plus bas que Moisey."

Moris bassana. GANNET.—About October 15, 1924, a Gannet in juvenile speckled plumage was observed amidst a flock of domestic Geese at Richmond, near Ottawa, Ontario. The Geese attacked the intruder and it made a natural defence. The owner considering his flock in danger killed the Gannet and it is now in this museum. This makes the second record for the species near Ottawa. The previous occurrence was a similarly juvenile bird taken October 14, 1909.

Phalacrocorax urile. RED-FACED CORMORANT.—In going over the Cormorants in the collections of this Museum some little time ago, attention was attracted to a juvenile female taken by W. Spreadborough at Departure Bay, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, April 7, 1910, and hitherto regarded as a White-crested. It is a large sized Cormorant with a few new feathers appearing in old, much worn and faded brown

juvenile plumage. The breast and fore neck are nearly white, much of this is due to fading but even after considerable allowance for this is made it is evident that the bird is a very light-fronted specimen. The gular pouch is invaded on the throat by a tongue of feathering making it heart shaped as in *P. pelagicus* and *P. penicillatus*. The incoming feathers on the back are distinctly grayish with narrow black margins producing the decidedly scaled effect so conspicuous in *P. auritus* and *P. carbo*, slightly shown in *P. penicillatus* and absent in *P. pelagicus*. The bill is similar in size to, but slightly more slender than, that of a small *P. auritus cincinatus*. Culmen 2.25 in. Other measurements are—wing, 11.7 in.; tail, 5.7 in.; tarsus, 2.7 in.; middle toe and claw, 3.0 in.; tail feathers, -12. In spite of the somewhat slender bill the bird would easily pass for a pale-breasted White-crested Cormorant did it not have the heart shaped gular pouch. I have submitted the specimen to two eminent authorities. One concludes that it is some form of *P. carbo* and the other that it is *P. auritus cincinatus* with gular pouch deformed by accident before death or in make-up of skin. The 12-feathered tail seems to rule it out from *carbo* and the closest examination fails to detect any sign of scar or stretching of skin to indicate that the shape is adventitious. By elimination the most probable remaining alternative is the Red-faced Cormorant, *P. urile*. Descriptions of colors of juvenile Cormorants read much alike and are of little guidance here. The forehead of the adult *P. urile* is bare but according to the description and plate in Stejneger's 'Ornith. Exp. in Commander Is. and Kamtschatka' the juvenile has a clothed forehead. In this specimen there has been some oozing of grease about the base of the culmen and it is difficult to see just where the forehead feathering ceases but it evidently extends well down to the base of the bill without any sharp line of demarcation; in fact it is just such a hesitating finish as would be expected in a deciduous character about to be shed. I am quite satisfied that the specimen is a juvenile Red-faced Cormorant, the first record for Canada.

Branta canadensis. CANADA GOOSE.—We have in our collections some very diminutive *Branta* from mid-western localities. One is from Southampton Island, Hudson Bay and supposedly represents a breeding form. The others are migrants from southern Manitoba. Some of these specimens have been cited by recent authors as *B. c. minima*. In spite of their small size, scarcely larger than big Mallards and well within the measurements given for *minima*, it does not seem proper to regard them as such. The small, dark-bellied race breeding on the Bering coast of Alaska and migrating down the Pacific coast to which the name *minima* belongs, can have no direct genetic relation with these small birds of the Interior. They intergrade imperceptibly in every character I can determine with *hutchinsi* and until evidence is produced that they are distinct I think they should be regarded as small, runt individuals of that race. In this connection I may state that in our collections we have no other Arctic coast specimens that we should even consider referring to *B. c. minima*.

Branta leucopsis. BARNACLE GOOSE.—We are in receipt of a specimen of this species taken by a native in the employ of Major L. T. Burwash of the Northwest Territories Branch of the Canadian Department of the Interior, August, 1924, on Boas Lake, near Cape Dorset, Baffin Island; at the west end of Hudson Strait. Another was taken by E. G. White of this city at Cape Tormente, a little below Quebec on the lower St. Lawrence River, October 26, 1925. This specimen is now in his collection where I examined it in the flesh.

Mycteria americana. WOOD IBIS.—E. G. White of this city tells me that "eight or ten years ago" he saw a Wood Ibis brought in in the flesh at St. John, New Brunswick, and that the specimen was preserved—probably in the Provincial collection.

Ixobrychus exilis. LEAST BITTERN.—One taken at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, October 12, 1923. The specimen is mounted in the Normal School collection, Brandon, Manitoba, and recorded by B. J. Hales in the 'Canadian Field Naturalist,' XXXVIII, 1924, p. 120.

Egretta candidissima. SNOWY EGRET.—Last summer I had the satisfaction of examining a specimen of this species in the Provincial collection in the Parliament Building, Edmonton, Alberta, taken at Sandy Lake in May, 1909. There are other records of white Herons for the Province but at this date we are not able to substantiate their identity or trace the specimens.

Phalaropus fulicarius. RED PHALAROPE.—Inland specimens of this maritime species are notable enough to warrant individual record. An adult male in winter plumage was taken by R. A. Harvie at Disraeli, Wolfe Co., Quebec, September 21, 1917, and deposited in this Museum.

I examined another specimen in the collection of C. Garrett, of Cranbrook, British Columbia, taken at Didsbury, Alberta, September 3, 1903—the first record for southern Alberta.

Calidris canutus. KNOT.—Captain Joseph Bernard brought from the Arctic specimens of this bird including parents, eggs and downy young in several stages of development. They were taken on Taylor Island at the southeast end of Victoria Island about latitude 69° 30' N., longitude 101° W., August 2 to 10, 1919. We have several of the above young and parents in our collections.

Aphriza virgata. SURF BIRD.—In our collections we have a number of specimens taken on the outer islands of Barkley Sound, west coast of Vancouver Island, in January, 1916. They were wintering in considerable numbers with Black Turnstones and Purple Sandpipers.

Cathartes aura. TURKEY VULTURE.—The known breeding range of this species has lately been extended considerably northward. The latest reports include Duck Mountain, Manitoba and Elk Island National Park, about 24 miles east, and 10 north of Edmonton, Alberta—Hoyes Lloyd, 'Canadian Field Naturalist,' XXXVI, 1922, pp. 178–179 and Manitoba near the Ontario boundary line, east of the south lobe of Lake Winnipeg—J. F. Wright, *ibid.*, XXXVIII, 1924, p. 76.

Buteo swainsoni. SWAINSON'S HAWK.—Some years ago, we received a female in full dark phase taken during the summer of 1911 a little south of the Porcupine River on the Alaska-Yukon boundary, Latitude 66° 43' N., by Dr. M. Y. Williams who reported the same in *Canadian Field Naturalist*, XXXIX, 1925, p. 70. This is the most northern record for the species so far west though we have specimens collected by Dr. R. M. Anderson from east of Bernard Harbor, Dolphin and Union Strait and elsewhere on the Arctic coast.

Falco islandicus. WHITE GYRFALCON.—A specimen, fragments of which are in this Museum, is reported by H. H. Mitchell in '*Canadian Field Naturalist*,' XXXVIII, 1924, p. 109, from Indian Head, Saskatchewan, December 25, 1897.

Falco rusticolus gyrfalco. GYRFALCON.—Mr. E. G. White of this city has a specimen in his collection taken at Plum Lake, southwestern Manitoba, October 21, 1918.

Falco rusticolus obsoletus. BLACK GYRFALCON.—We have a report substantiated by a conclusively recognizable photograph of a Black Gyrfalcon taken by Willie La Brie, near Kamouraska, Quebec, in 1922. The specimen is in his collection.

Falco columbarius columbarius. PIGEON HAWK.—Mr. E. G. White of Ottawa, several times has reported a Pigeon Hawk wintering in his garden. This was substantiated March 23, 1924, when under still continued winter conditions Richard Finnie shot one near the city and presented it to the Museum. It is a very old female assuming a suggestion of the blue-black of the male but so generally dark that, save for the lack of restricted primary marking, it would well pass for *Falco columbarius suckleyi* from the west coast. Had this specimen been taken on Vancouver Island it would easily be accepted as an intergrade with the Black Merlin.

Falco columbarius richardsoni. RICHARDSON'S MERLIN.—July 4, 1921, Hoyes Lloyd and the writer had a beautiful view of a male Richardson's Merlin that circled low over our car near Oak Lake, Manitoba. The view was so good that neither of us had the slightest doubt as to the identity. Fortunately, this sight record was later verified by specimens taken by Hamilton M. Laing in the same locality who collected an adult female the following September 17 and a juvenile male October 7. The combination of sight and specimen records suggest that *richardsoni* is a summer residential form either here or in the close-by sand-hill region where the conditions approximate those of the arid sections farther west where it is known to be the breeding form. *F. c. columbarius* was also taken by Mr. Laing, September 2 and October 19, and is probably a migrant form from the more northern woodlands. We know of no other substantiated records of Richardson's Merlin for Manitoba.

Strix occidentalis. SPOTTED OWL.—Occurrences of this species are rare enough almost anywhere to warrant record, especially is this so in Canada where, in southern British Columbia, it reaches the northern limit of its range. We have two Canadian specimens in our collections

One is a mere box of feathers from a desiccated carcass found by T. L. Thacker, June 24, 1916, at Klesilkwa Creek; the other a perfect specimen presented by the same gentleman and taken January 20, 1922, at Mc Naught Creek. Both these streams are minor tributaries of the Skagit River near the International boundary, longitude about 121° 15' W. At least one other specimen has been taken in this vicinity which seems to be the Canadian metropolis for the species.

Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni. RICHARDSON'S OWL.—An interesting record of the nesting of this scarce northern species is reported by R. W. Tufts in the 'Canadian Field Naturalist,' XXXIX, 1925, p. 85. The nest in question was discovered April 11, 1924, on the Island of Grand Menan, New Brunswick. It does not seem to be generally known that this species has a dark juvenile plumage similar to the well known one of its near relative the Acadian Owl. Chapman's Handbook seems to be one of the few books that refers to it. There is a perfect example of this plumage in the Provincial collection in the Parliament Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

Otus asio. SCREECH OWL.—In September and October, 1921, Hamilton M. Laing while collecting for this Museum at Oak Lake, Manitoba, secured two specimens of this species. In May, 1925, C. G. Harrold obtained two more and found the remains of a broken up nest with fragments of eggs at Whitewater Lake in the same Province. He tells me that occasional birds are brought in to taxidermists in Winnipeg for mounting. Mr. Norman Criddle of Aweme, Manitoba, says that the first Screech Owl seen by him in the Province was in 1922, and they have nested in his vicinity several times since. This species was not mentioned by Seton Thompson in his Birds of Manitoba, 1891, nor in his Fauna of Manitoba, Handbook for the British Association, 1909. It is apparently a new arrival in the Province. These specimens are all in pure gray phase but notably light as compared with similar birds from southern Ontario. The Laing birds were referred to H. C. Oberholser on the suspicion that they might be *maxwelliae*. He however pronounced them *naevius* (= *asio* of the A. O. U. Check-List). As far as we know these are the first definite specimens of Screech Owl from Manitoba.

Speotyto cunicularia. BURROWING OWL.—July 8, 1921, Hoyes Lloyd and the writer took a non-breeding male ten miles north of Poplar Point, Manitoba, almost within sight of the southern shore of Lake Manitoba. This is probably the most northern record for the species. The first Manitoban Burrowing Owl was taken at Portage la Prairie a few miles south of Poplar Point June 2, 1897, by Geo. Atkinson and recorded by E. T. Seton, (Auk, XXV, 1908, pp. 450-454). At that date the species was evidently extremely rare in the province. Since then it has increased locally in the southwestern portions and Hamilton M. Laing found it not uncommon about Oak Lake during the summer of 1921. Norman Criddle reports the same about Aweme and in country with which Seton was very familiar when he wrote his 1891 list without mentioning this species.

Muscivora forficata. SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER.—In 1880 Dr. Robert Bell presented us with an extraordinary case of wandering when he obtained a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at York Factory, Hudson Bay. History repeated itself. We lately received through the Canadian National Parks Branch another specimen of the same species from the same locality. It was found dead but in excellent state of preservation October 2, 1924, by A. Brabant of the Hudson's Bay Company who recognized its value and preserved it. (See Hoyes Lloyd, *Canadian Field Naturalist*, XXIX, 1925, p. 86.) On the same page is another record of the same species by R. W. Tufts preserved by John R. Moses, at Grand Menan, New Brunswick, October 26, 1925.

Tyrannus verticalis. ARKANSAS FLYCATCHER.—This species is another recent arrival in Manitoba. E. T. Seton does not mention it in his 1891 list of 'Birds of Manitoba' and gives only adjoining records in his 'Fauna of Manitoba,' 1909. The first record for the province appears to have been a specimen taken at Oak Lake, August 10, 1907, by Hamilton M. Laing who published it at the time in the 'Winnipeg Free Press'. This specimen is now in this Museum. The next report is of a pair occurring at Pilot Mound in 1909 and for three years thereafter (H. H. Speechly, *Ottawa Naturalist*, XXV, 1911, p. 188 and XXVI, 1913, p. 70). In May, 1912, it was noted near Winnipeg by A. G. Lawrence and at Treesebank by Norman Criddle. It is now rather common throughout southwestern Manitoba. During the summer of 1921, Hoyes Lloyd and the writer found it at Virden, Whitewater Lake, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Oak Point and between Winnipeg and Selkirk. It was local in distribution, similar to our experience with it in the other prairie provinces, seems to show a preference to the immediate vicinity of railroad stations, and most of the birds seen were in the small tree plantations that decorate those stopping places. The Oak Point locality on the eastern shore of the southern part of Lake Manitoba was probably the extreme northern extension of range of the species in Manitoba. In 1920, the most northern point ascertained to be occupied by the species in Saskatchewan was the South Arm of Last Mountain Lake.

Sayornis sayus. SAY'S FLYCATCHER.—I have seen no definite specimens of this species from Manitoba but Norman Criddle informs me that it has nested several times in late years in the neighborhood of Aweme and is evidently a new arrival in the province.

Empidonax wrighti. WRIGHT'S FLYCATCHER.—The identification of these Empidonaces is difficult and not always conclusively satisfactory. We have four specimens taken by C. G. Harrold at Whitewater Lake, Manitoba, between May 15 and June 5, 1925. In wing measurement these fall between Least and Wright's but, all have the outer primary shorter than the sixth, the acknowledged characteristic of this species are present. This species has not hitherto been ascribed to Manitoba.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.—We have to report a specimen of Yellow-headed Blackbird taken at

Rupert House at the mouth of the Rupert River on the southeast corner of James Bay in the spring of 1920 by Mr. Costran of the Hudson's Bay Company. The specimen was transmitted to the Museum by Frits Johansen. This, and other similar evidence, suggests that there is an unexpected western influence in the life along the east shores of Hudson Bay.

Euphagus cyanocephalus. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD.—In the 'Canadian Field Naturalist,' (XXXIX, 1925, p. 63), L. L. Snyder reports the receipt by the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, of a Brewer's Blackbird taken near Chesterfield Inlet off the west side of Hudson Bay near its mouth.

Rhynchophanes mccowni. MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR.—A male taken May 29, 1925 by C. G. Harrold for this Museum appears to constitute the first fully authenticated record for the species in Manitoba though Norman Criddle informs me that at Aweme it is a not uncommon migrant.

Ammodramus savannarum. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—June 29, 1921, Hoyes Lloyd and the writer discovered a populous colony of these birds in the rankly grass-grown flats left by the receding waters of White-water Lake, Manitoba. It was just off the "Island," an island no longer and hardly distinguishable from other wooded "bluffs" of the surrounding prairie by its faintly defined old shore line. In spite of the birds being exceedingly wild and protected by covering clouds of venomous mosquitoes, a small series was secured. These have been compared with birds from Ontario, New York and New Jersey. Their breasts are slightly paler than those of these eastern specimens and the bills average a very little heavier. The superior size of wings and tail is too slight for a determinative character. On the basis of the bill size they can be referred to the Western Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*. This is the first record for the Province. Mr. C. G. Harrold took specimens in the same locality, June, 1924, and again in June, 1925, so the colony may be permanent. The same gentleman took the species May 16, 1922 at Lake Johnston, Saskatchewan making the primary record for that Province ('Canadian Field Naturalist,' XXXVII, 1923, p. 118).

Passerherbulus lecontei. LECONTE'S SPARROW.—The taking of a single specimen of this species at MacDiarmid, Lake Nipigon, Ontario, north of Lake Superior, July 27, 1922, by Walter Koelz, (Canadian Field Naturalist, XXXVII, 1923, p. 118) suggests an unexpected eastward extension of this bird's breeding range.

Passerherbulus nelsoni subvirgatus. ACADIAN SHARP-TAILED SPARROW.—I have had the pleasure of examining a perfectly typical specimen of this race from the collection of Willie La Brie, of Kamouraska, Quebec. It was taken in that vicinity. Kamouraska is on the south shore of the lower St. Lawrence River about 80 miles below Quebec city. This seems to be the extreme northern and western extension of range of this maritime subspecies.

Zonotrichia querula. HARRIS' SPARROW.—Gerrit Miller in his

'Mammals of Ontario' noted the occurrence of this species at Lake Nipigon in September, 1896, but the report has been largely overlooked by distributionists. That this was not an accidental migrant is suggested by the taking of the species at MacDiarmid, Lake Nipigon, July 27, 1922, by Walter Koelz and recorded by him (*Canadian Field Naturalist*, XXXVII, 1923, p. 118). It is interesting to note that the species was not listed on nearby Isle Royale, Lake Superior, where intensive ornithological studies have been carried on through both breeding and migration seasons.

Zonotrichia leucophrys subsp. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—May 21 to June 29, 1921, the writer spent on the shores of Cypress Lake on the southern edge of the Cypress Hills in the extreme southwestern corner of Saskatchewan. This species was common there during this time even after summer quietness had begun to settle down over the general bird population. Short of finding nests, there was every evidence of breeding. The year previous, a very juvenile example of some form of *Z. leucophrys* was taken on Manyberries Creek, Alberta, on the west side of the same hills, so the breeding of the species in the locality can be looked upon as almost certain. Some specimens taken in May at Cypress Lake were *Z. l. gambeli* but thereafter all obtained were satisfactorily typical of *Z. l. leucophrys*. They were one of the commonest birds in every brushy coulee leading north from the lake towards the hills. The breeding of such a northern species as the White-crowned Sparrow in the same locality, without appreciable separation by altitude, with a southern bird such as the Yellow-breasted Chat, as hereafter noted, presents a notable confusion of geographic faunas.

Spizella pallida. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.—This is another species marking the eastward extension of range of a western species north of Lake Superior, reported by Walter Koelz ('*Canadian Field Naturalist*,' XXXVII, 1923, p. 118). He found it not uncommon in the vicinity of Port Arthur, Ontario. Like some of the other species reported by him it does not apparently occur on the adjoining Isle Royale.

Pipilo maculatus. SPOTTED TOWHEE.—A male taken by C. G. Harrold at Whitewater Lake, Manitoba, May 4, 1925, for this Museum. It is clearly of this species, though in the amount of white on the sides of the back and on wing coverts, it is not quite typical. This is the first record for the species in Manitoba.

Spiza americana. DICKCISSEL.—June 29, 1921, Hoyes Lloyd and the writer found quite a colony of these birds on the "Island" Whitewater Lake, Manitoba, previously mentioned under Grasshopper Sparrow. The next day others were observed near Boissevain. Norman Criddle ('*Canadian Field Naturalist*,' XXXV, 1921, p. 135) records them at Melita, a little to the west of these localities, the same season. Hamilton M. Laing informs me that he observed the species at Oak Lake, about 1907 and produced an easily recognizable photograph taken at the time of the bird in life. The only other record for the species in Manitoba

was made by Geo. Atkinson at Portage la Prairie, June 14, 1897. H. H. Mitchell records a single specimen taken at Lake Johnston, Saskatchewan, June 20, 1923, ('Canadian Field Naturalist,' XX XVIII, p. 115). N. A. Wood records the species from the northern parts of North Dakota adjoining these sections.

Cardinalis cardinalis. CARDINAL.—The Museum is in receipt of a male Cardinal taken at Goulais Bay, near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, November 7, 1923, and recorded by W. H. A. Preece, ('Canadian Field Naturalist,' XX XVII, 1923, p. 169). Another interesting occurrence of the species is Ottawa, Ontario, seen November 28 and 29, 1924, by Miss L. R. Kingston and several officers of the Biological staff of this Museum ('Canadian Field Naturalist,' XX XVIII, 1924, p. 28).

Icteria virens. YELLOW-BREADED CHAT.—The morning of June 4, 1921, the writer was awakened on the shores of Cypress Lake, southwestern Saskatchewan, by the characteristic calls of this bird in the brush of the dry creek in whose shelter we were camping. It was only when the bird was taken that he could believe the evidence of his ears. At least one other bird was present and was seen or heard several times up to our leaving June 11. L. B. Potter of Eastend, about 25 miles east of Cypress Lake, informs us that the species occurred there in June, 1922, when he saw two in good view at close range. The ones we saw therefore are probably more than accidental stragglers. In comparing this specimen with those in the Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia I could find in it no distinctly recognizable characters of the Long-tailed Chat, *Icteria virens longicauda*. The wing is just as long as the tail, the yellow is indistinguishable from that of eastern birds, nor is the white of the malar region any more extensive. The back is slightly grayish, but not more so than in many eastern specimens and the bill, if anything, is rather slighter and smaller than in average *I. v. virens*. There appears to be no good reason for separating this specimen from the Eastern Yellow-breasted Chat.

Sitta carolinensis aculeata. SLENDER-BILLED NUTHATCH.—Among the birds collected for this Museum by Hamilton M. Laing at Comox, British Columbia is a juvenile female taken September 9, 1922. This appears to be the first record for the species on Vancouver Island. It does not appear to be much more common on the adjoining main land.

Psaltriparus minimus. LEAST BUSH-TIT.—One of the most interesting of our late records is that of the breeding of this species near Vancouver, British Columbia, K. Racey (Canadian Field Naturalist, XX XVIII, 1924, pp. 94-95). A nest was found some ten years earlier but Mr. Racey reports three others in 1922 and 1923. We have seen some very beautiful photographs of these interesting nests. The occurrence of about 40 birds wintering in 1922-23 is also recorded.

Myadestes townsendi. TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE.—C. G. Harrold has made two interesting records for this species, extending its known range far eastward in Canada. The first, a specimen taken at Lake Johnston,

Saskatchewan, May 10, 1922, and recorded by H. H. Mitchell (*Canadian Field Naturalist*, XXXVIII, 1924, p. 101). The other a male just losing the last of its scaled juvenile plumage, taken at Stonewall, 23 miles north of Winnipeg, Manitoba, October 20, 1923 and recorded by him (*Canadian Field Naturalist*, XXVII, 1923, p. 169). The latter specimen was kindly donated to this Museum.

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