

THE BIRDS OF SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND VICINITY

BY ADRIAN LARSON

The region covered by this list includes the city of Sioux Falls and the surrounding country for a radius of about five miles, with the exception of west and northwest, in which directions the area treated extends about twenty miles.

The general surface of this region is an undulating plane, becoming more rough and broken near the lakes and streams. South and west and northwest from the city are to be found the innumerable prairie lakes and marshes or sloughs. Many of the latter have been ditched and tiled within recent years.

The larger of these lakes are Wall Lake, Grass Lake, Beaver Lake, and Lost Lake. Only one of these is worthy of the name, Wall Lake covering about seven hundred acres; all the others are merely large sloughs. These sloughs and lakes are usually margined with rushes, cat-tails, wild rice, etc. Some of the sloughs are nearly all overgrown with rushes.

Flowing from the north and winding around the city, then flowing north-easterly and finally south again is the Big Sioux River; another smaller stream, Skunk Creek, flows into the Big Sioux a short distance west of the city. There are also a number of small creeks that are scattered in the hills along the course of the Big Sioux and Skunk Creek and a few more are to be found on the prairie, but the latter generally dry up in the summer.

On the banks of these streams and sometimes extending into the hills and ravines as well as around some of the larger lakes is to be found a growth of deciduous timber, in some places forming extensive groves. Besides this natural timber there are groves scattered here and there on the prairie, planted as far back as fifty years ago by the homesteaders who were beginning the settlement of this country. Prior to that time the prairie was treeless.

As this region is situated near the eastern border of the Great Plains it is natural that many eastern species of birds are here found close to the western limit, while at the same time many western species are found close to their eastern limit, for instance the Wood Thrush and the Lark Bunting, respectively.

This region lies in the Upper Sonoran Life Zone, with Transition Zone elements and ecologically can be divided into three distinct faunal areas.

The first of these regions includes the lakes and marshes and streams and is represented by such mammals as the Muskrat and Mink; by such birds as the Pied-billed Grebe, Black Tern, Bittern, Wilson Snipe, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Here grow the wild rice, cat-tails, arrow-head, wild celery, and various other aquatic plants. The second includes the prairie, fields, and pastures. Among the characteristic mammals are the jack-rabbit, ground squirrels, gophers, and various mice and shrews; some of the common plants are the golden-rod, pasque flower, wild rose, and various grasses, etc. Birds are represented by the Killdeer, Pinnated Grouse, Marsh Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Meadowlark, Bobolink, Prairie Horned Lark, Dickcissel, and Cowbird. The third region includes the native timber as well as the groves that have been planted by man. The common trees are the Cottonwood, Burr-Oak, Box-Elder, Green Ash, Soft Maple, Choke Cherry, Red Haw, Elm, and rarely a Red Cedar; among the shrubs are Wild Currant, Wild Gooseberry, Buck-brush, Lead Plant, Wild Plum thickets, and various willows. Various evergreens, the Mountain Ash, Hard Maple, Birch, Larch, and Mulberry have been introduced. The Long-eared Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow Warbler, and the Wood Thrush may be considered as the typical birds of this region.

The following list of birds is based upon more than ten years of field study in the region treated. Great care has been used to exclude all questionable records. In a few doubtful cases specimens were submitted to the United States Biological Survey for identification of subspecies; but as the writer was a poor collector of birdskins this list may not be complete or up-to-date in the matter of subspecies. My work in the Sioux Falls region was concluded in August, 1916.

[The following list contains 237 named forms.—Ed.]

Western Grebe—*Aechmophorus occidentalis*. Rare transient; I have seen one in a local collection.

Holboell's Grebe—*Colymbus holboelli*. Rare transient; occasionally seen on the large sloughs.

Horned Grebe—*Colymbus auritus*. Transient; earliest date of spring arrival, March 27, 1910; fall dates, October 4 to 16, 1908.

Eared Grebe—*Colymbus nigricollis californicus*. Common on the sloughs during migration; occasionally seen on the river. Average date of spring arrival, May 3 (two years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 2, 1910; average date of fall departure, October 11 (two years).

Pied-billed Grebe—*Podilymbus podiceps*. Common summer resident of the marshes; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, April 20 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 4, 1909; average date of fall departure, October 19 (four years); latest date of fall departure, November 1, 1908.

Loon—*Gavia immer*. Rare transient; during migrations may be seen on the lakes. Earliest date of fall arrival, October 18, 1903; latest date of fall departure, October 24, 1915.

Herring Gull—*Larus argentatus*. Rare transient. I identified one in the flesh April 6, 1911. It was later mounted by John Green, a local taxidermist.

Ring-billed Gull—*Larus delawarensis*. Fairly common transient; average date of spring arrival, March 19 (two years); latest date of fall departure, October 10, 1909.

Franklin's Gull—*Larus franklini*. Common transient; may breed on some of the large sloughs. I have watched flocks of migrating Gulls in October passing in a steady flight lasting all day. Average date of spring arrival, April 26 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 16, 1916; average date of fall departure, October 22 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 24, 1909.

Forster's Tern—*Sterna forsteri*. Transient; occasionally seen along the river within the city limits. May 14, 1916; September 12, 1915.

Least Tern—*Sterna antillarum*. Rare visitant; seen only along the river. Three dates, May 24, 1908; June 14, 1908; August 20, 1911. There were two together on the last date. Their small size and other points made identification easy.

Black Tern—*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. Common summer resident of the marshes; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 15 (eight years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 11, 1907; average date of fall departure, September 10 (six years); latest date of fall departure, October 4, 1908.

Double-crested Cormorant—*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*. Rare transient. Earliest date of fall arrival, September 25, 1910; average date of fall departure, October 16 (two years).

White Pelican—*Pelicanus erythrorhynchos*. Transient. Often seen during migrations sailing and circling about in the air after the manner of Sandhill Cranes. Earliest date of spring arrival, April 4, 1909; latest date of spring departure, May 15, 1907; earliest date of fall

arrival, September 10, 1911; latest date of fall departure, October 23, 1910.

American Merganser—*Mergus americanus*. Rare transient. Earliest date of spring arrival, March 12, 1911; latest date of fall departure, November 14, 1915.

Red-breasted Merganser—*Mergus serrator*. Rare transient; I have seen one in a local collection.

Hooded Merganser—*Lophodytes cucullatus*. Common transient; a few remain in summer, perhaps may breed. Earliest date of spring arrival, April 12, 1908; average date of fall departure, November 14 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 28, 1909.

Mallard—*Anas platyrhynchos*. The commonest of the larger ducks. Breeds; in the fall will sometimes linger till nearly the first of the year, often resorting to the corn and stubble-fields. Average date of spring arrival, March 15 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 5, 1910; average date of fall departure, November 30 (seven years); latest date of fall departure, December 26, 1910.

Black Duck—*Anas rubripes*. I have seen one in a local collection.

Gadwall—*Chaulelasmus streperus*. Common transient; this duck is often mistaken for the Mallard. Average date of spring arrival, March 25 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 12, 1911; average date of fall departure, November 9 (five years); latest date of fall departure, November 14, 1915.

Baldpate, or Widgeon—*Mareca americana*. Common transient. Average date of spring arrival, April 1 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 12, 1911; average date of fall departure, November 12 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 20, 1910.

Green-winged Teal—*Nettion carolinense*. Common transient; a few remain to nest. Average date of spring arrival, March 19 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 12, 1911; average date of fall departure, November 13 (seven years); latest date of fall departure, November 15, 1914.

Blue-winged Teal—*Querquedula discors*. Our commonest duck; breeds; nesting about the sloughs concealing the nest in the high grass; nest with eggs, earliest date, June 7, 1908. Average date of spring arrival, April 8 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 4, 1909; average date of fall departure, November 4 (eight years); latest date of fall departure, November 25, 1905.

Cinnamon Teal—*Querquedula cyanoptera*. I shot one October 8, 1911.

Spoonbill or Shoveller—*Spatula clypeata*. A common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, March 23 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 8, 1911; average date of fall departure, November 9 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 28, 1915.

Pintail—*Dafila acuta americana*. Very common transient; a few remain to breed. This is one of the first birds to arrive in the spring. Average date of spring arrival, March 8 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 4, 1909; average date of fall departure, November 13 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 28, 1915.

Wood Duck—*Aix sponsa*. Rare. I have seen this Duck only twice, May 31, 1908 and October 8, 1911.

Redhead—*Marila americana*. Common transient; often erroneously called Canvas-back. Average date of spring arrival, March 25 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 12, 1911; average date of fall departure, November 8 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 28, 1915.

Canvas-back—*Marila valisineria*. Transient; not as common as the Redhead. Average date of spring arrival, March 24 (two years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 12, 1911; average date of fall departure, November 11 (four years); latest date of fall departure, November 14, 1915.

Scaup Duck, or Bluebill—*Marila marila*. Transient. Average date of spring arrival, March 30 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 12, 1911; average date of fall departure, November 5 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 28, 1915.

Lesser Scaup Duck—*Marila affinis*. Common transient. Average date of spring arrival, March 29 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 12, 1911; average date of fall departure, November 11 (four years); latest date of fall departure, November 14, 1915.

Ring-necked Duck—*Marila collaris*. Common transient; average date of spring arrival, April 4 (two years); average date of fall departure, November 7 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 14, 1915.

Golden-eye—*Clangula clangula americana*. Transient. Earliest date of arrival from north, October 7, 1907; latest date of fall departure, November 5, 1911.

Buffle-head, or Butter-ball—*Charitonetta albeola*. Transient. Owing to the short wings of this little duck, their flight is accompanied by a whistling sound. Average date of spring arrival, April 10 (two

years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 7, 1912; average date of fall departure, November 10 (five years); latest date of fall departure, November 14, 1915.

Northern Eider—*Somateria mollissima borealis*. An individual of this species was shot about forty miles north of here November 4, 1911. It was mounted by a taxidermist and the last I heard of it, it was in the possession of Wm. Sweet. A short time after it was mounted I sent it to the Biological Survey at Washington, D. C., and it was passed upon by this department as the first authentic record for the interior of the United States. This bird had wandered about two thousand miles from its regular habitat. (See the *Auk*, page 535, XXIX. 1912).

White-winged Scoter, or "African Goose"—*Oidemia deglandi*. Transient. October 26, 1911, a flock of seven; October 24, 1915, several.

Ruddy Duck—*Erismatura jamaicensis*. Common transient, a few remain to nest. Average date of spring arrival, April 15 (two years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 7, 1912; average date of fall departure, November 10 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 28, 1915.

Snow Goose or White Brant—*Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus*.

Greater Snow Goose—*Chen hyperboreus nivalis*. Transient. I have included the migration data of these two forms together, because it would be only guess-work to try to keep separate data unless one could shoot one out of each flock. Average date of spring arrival, March 18 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 12, 1911; average date of spring departure, April 7 (four years); latest date of spring departure, April 11, 1911; earliest date of fall arrival, September 3, 1911; latest date of fall departure, November 14, 1909.

Blue Goose—*Chen caerulescens*. Transient; often seen with flocks of Snow Geese. Average date of spring arrival, March 13 (two years).

White-fronted Goose, or Brant—*Anser albifrons gambeli*. Average date of spring arrival, March 11 (two years); average date of departure in spring, April 3 (three years); date of departure in fall, November 10, 1907.

Canada Goose—*Branta canadensis canadensis*.

Hutchins Goose—*Branta canadensis hutchinsi*. Both forms common transients. Migratory data included together. Average date of spring arrival, March 7 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 3, 1908; latest date of spring departure, April 7, 1912; earliest

date of fall arrival, October 10, 1907; latest date of fall departure, November 7, 1907.

Cackling Goose—*Branta canadensis minima*. There was a specimen in a local collection that had been shot in this vicinity.

Whistling Swan—*Olor columbianus*. Rare transient; several have been shot in past years. Fred Pruner mounted one in March, 1908. I saw another in a drug store window quite a few years ago but I do not remember the date; this particular one had been wounded and was alive when on exhibition.

Bittern—*Botaurus lentiginosus*. A common summer resident of the marshes; breeds in suitable localities. Average date of spring arrival, April 19 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 10, 1910; average date of fall departure, October 29 (seven years); latest date of fall departure, November 20, 1910.

Least Bittern—*Ixobrychus exilis*. Rare summer resident of the marshes; not common; May 11, 1908; August 25, 1908; latest date of fall departure, October 8, 1911.

Great Blue Heron—*Ardea herodias herodias*. Summer resident along the river and creeks. Average date of spring arrival, April 10 (two years); average date of fall departure, October 26 (two years).

Green Heron—*Butorides virescens virescens*. Summer resident along the river and creeks around timber; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 13 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 7, 1911; average date of fall departure, September 24 (three years); latest date of fall departure, October 7, 1907.

Black-crowned Night Heron—*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*. Summer resident; breeds in colonies along the river and creeks and around sloughs in favorable localities. This is the bird that is often heard about the sloughs and along the river at all hours of the night. The "squawck" is about the only song it has. Average date of spring arrival, April 30 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 18, 1909; average date of fall departure, October 18 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 20, 1910.

Whooping Crane—*Grus americana*. One was shot about twenty years ago a few miles northwest of the city.

Little Brown Crane—*Grus canadensis*.

Sandhill Crane—*Grus mexicana*. Common transients. Owing to their similarity their migration data are included together. Both of these Cranes occur in large flocks during migrations, circling and

wheeling about high in the air; their loud bugle-like notes can be heard for miles on still days. Average date of spring arrival, April 3 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 28, 1909; average date of spring departure, April 17 (two years); latest date of spring departure, April 23, 1916; earliest date of arrival from the north, September 27, 1908; latest date of fall departure, October 22, 1908.

King Rail—*Rallus elegans*. Rare summer resident of the marshes; breeds. Found with young in 1910 and 1911 about some sloughs near Humboldt.

Virginia Rail—*Rallus virginianus*. Summer resident of the marshes; breeds. September 10, 1909.

Carolina Rail—*Porzana carolina*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 12 (two years); average date of fall departure, October 5 (three years); latest date of fall departure, October 17, 1909.

Florida Gallinule—*Gallinula galeata*. Rare. John Green showed me one November 7, 1911, that he was about to mount; it was shot near here.

Coot, or Mud-hen—*Fulica americana*. A very common summer resident of the sloughs; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, April 4 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 27, 1910; average date of fall departure, November 7 (seven years); latest date of fall departure, November 27, 1910.

Northern Phalarope—*Lobipes lobatus*. Rare. I saw one in a local collection.

Wilson's Phalarope—*Steganopus tricolor*. Common summer resident of the marshes; breeds. This bird is extraordinary in that the female is the larger and most brightly plumaged; another striking peculiarity is that the male does most of the incubating of eggs and takes care of the newly hatched young. Average date of spring arrival, May 10 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 5, 1912; average date of fall departure, October 12 (two years); latest date of fall departure, October 13, 1908.

Avocet—*Recurvirostra americana*. Rare. Otto Stangoehr had mounted a specimen years ago.

Woodcock—*Philohela minor*. Rare. One flushed along the river July 25, 1909.

Wilson's Snipe—*Gallinago delicata*. Transient, especially common about the marshy sloughs. Average date of spring arrival, March

29 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 15, 1908; average date of fall departure, November 7 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 22, 1915.

Stilt Sandpiper—*Micropalama himantopus*. Rare transient; seen May 14, 1911; first migrants from the north seen July 9, 1911.

Pectoral Sandpiper—*Pisobia maculata*. Common transient, usually about marshes. Average date of spring arrival, April 15 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 7, 1912; average date of spring departure, May 24 (six years); latest date of spring departure, June 11, 1911 (straggler); average date of arrival from north, July 24 (three years); earliest date of arrival from north, July 23, 1910; average date of fall departure, October 18 (four years); latest date of fall departure, November 5, 1911.

White-rumped Sandpiper—*Pisobia fuscicollis*. Transient; not common. May 5 to 12, 1912; September 3, 1911.

Baird's Sandpiper—*Pisobia bairdi*. Transient in the marshes. May 2 to 16, 1907; June 11, 1911, several.

Least Sandpiper—*Pisobia minutilla*. Common transient of the marshes. Average date of spring arrival, May 6 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 2, 1909; average date of spring departure, May 18 (four years); latest date of spring departure, May 21, 1911; earliest date of arrival from north, August 14, 1910; latest date of fall departure, September 3, 1911.

Semipalmated Sandpiper—*Ereunetes pusillus*. Common transient. Average date of spring arrival, May 8 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 5, 1912; average date of spring departure, May 20 (three years); latest date of spring departure, May 28, 1911; latest date of fall departure, September 3, 1911.

Hudsonian Godwit—*Limosa haemastica*. Rare transient. I caught one with an injured wing, April 25, 1909.

Greater Yellow-legs—*Totanus melanoleucus*. Transient, not as common as the Yellow-legs. Average date of spring arrival, April 24 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 11, 1909; latest date of fall departure, October 29, 1911.

Yellow-legs—*Totanus flavipes*. Common transient. Average date of spring arrival, April 28 (seven years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 11, 1909; average date of spring departure, May 26 (three years); latest date of spring departure, June 11, 1909 (stragglers); average date of arrival from north, July 24 (three years); average date of fall departure, October 9 (four years); latest date of fall departure, October 19, 1907.

Solitary Sandpiper—*Helodromas solitarius solitarius*. Common transient; chiefly along the river. Average date of spring arrival, May 8 (two years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 4, 1906; average date of fall departure, September 10 (five years); latest date of fall departure, September 29, 1907.

Western Willet—*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*. Rare transient. One observed for several minutes May 5, 1912, feeding on the shore of Beaver Lake.

Upland Plover—*Bartramia longicauda*. Summer resident; nests in suitable places on the prairie. Average date of spring arrival, May 10 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 1, 1910; average date of fall departure, August 30 (three years); latest date of fall departure, September 6, 1908. Earliest nest with eggs, June 7, 1908.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper—*Tryngites subruficollis*. Rare. Small flock carefully observed May 12, 1912.

Spotted Sandpiper—*Actitis macularius*. Common summer resident, especially along the river and creeks, but also along the sandy stretches along the shores of the lakes; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 7 (seven years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 10, 1910; average date of fall departure, October 5 (six years); latest date of fall departure, October 13, 1908.

Black-bellied Plover—*Squatarola squatarola cynosurae*. Rare transient. On November 7, 1911, John Green showed me one that had been taken that fall.

Golden Plover—*Charadrius dominicus dominicus*. Transient. May 23, 1909 (one year); average date of fall departure, October 10 (three years); latest date of fall departure, October 11, 1907.

Killdeer—*Oxyechus vociferus*. Very common summer resident in pastures and meadows; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, March 23 (seven years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 12, 1908; average date of fall departure, October 24 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 7, 1915.

Semipalmated Plover, or Ring Plover—*Aegialitis semipalmata*. Transient. Average date of spring arrival, May 11 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 5, 1912.

Ruddy Turnstone—*Arenaria interpres morinella*. Rare; small flock seen May 5, 1912, at Beaver Lake.

Bob-white—*Colinus virginianus virginianus*. Common resident. Nearly every grove on the prairie has its family of quail in the summer.

Prairie Chicken, or Pinnated Grouse—*Tympanuchus americanus americanus*. Common resident (formerly), nesting in favorable localities.

Ring-necked Pheasant—*Phasianus torquatus*. A few were liberated about 1910, and are met with occasionally along the river south of the city. I saw several in 1911.

Western Mourning Dove—*Zenaidura macroura marginella*. Common summer resident; breeds. I shot one April 16, 1916, and sent it to the Biological Survey for verification; it was there pronounced *Zenaidura macroura marginella*. Average date of spring arrival, April 13 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 25, 1909; average date of fall departure, October 7 (six years); latest date of fall departure, October 17, 1909.

Turkey Vulture, or Turkey Buzzard—*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*. Not a very common summer visitant.

Marsh Hawk—*Circus hudsonius*. Common summer resident of the prairies; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, March 15 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 5, 1911; average date of fall departure, October 31 (seven years); latest date of fall departure, November 13, 1909.

Sharp-shinned Hawk—*Accipiter velox*. Common summer resident; breeds. Earliest date of spring arrival, April 18, 1909; latest date of fall departure, November 15, 1914.

Cooper's Hawk—*Accipiter cooperi*. Occasionally seen during migrations. April 11, 1909.

Goshawk—*Astur atricapillus atricapillus*. This is the real Chicken Hawk; found occasionally during winter. November 15, 1908.

Red-tailed Hawk—*Buteo borealis borealis*. Summer resident; breeds. October 14, 1914.

Swainson's Hawk—*Buteo swainsoni*. Summer resident; breeds.

Rough-legged Hawk—*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*. Not an uncommon winter visitor. Average date of fall arrival, November 31 (three years); earliest date of fall arrival, November 19, 1911; average date of spring departure, March 19 (two years); latest date of spring departure, March 31, 1908.

Golden Eagle—*Aquila chrysaetos*. Rare visitant. This and the Bald Eagle are the birds that are always shot whenever there is opportunity to do so, and later they are mounted to decorate some club-room or den. Surely a poor monument for the King of Birds.

Bald Eagle—*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*. Rare. Two were taken here in the fall of 1911.

Prairie Falcon—*Falco mexicanus*. Only one record, May 5, 1912.

Pigeon Hawk—*Falco columbarius columbarius*. Transient.

Sparrow Hawk—*Falco sparverius sparverius*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, April 10 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 26, 1911; average date of fall departure, October 28 (two years); latest date of fall departure, November 20, 1909; earliest nest with eggs, May 14, 1911.

Long-eared Owl—*Asio wilsonianus*. Resident; breeds.

Short-eared Owl—*Asio flammeus*. Resident; breeds. Mostly found about marshes and old fields. In the winter often found about the river.

Barred Owl—*Strix varia varia*. Not common; one was seen on February 16, 1909.

Saw-whet Owl—*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*. Resident; not common. I took one in the winter of 1901-02, and I saw another a year later.

Screech Owl—*Otus asio asio*. Common resident; breeds. Every farm grove seems to have a family of these little owls. Earliest nest with eggs, April 18, 1909.

Great Horned Owl—*Bubo virginianus virginianus*. Resident in the heavy timber; breeds.

Arctic Horned Owl—*Bubo virginianus subarcticus*. Rare winter visitor. Found one dead, November 23, 1907.

Snowy Owl—*Nyctea nyctea*. An irregular winter visitor; latest date seen in spring, March 6, 1910. The Snowy Owl is far more common than my records show. It was not always convenient for me to cover the territory in the country where it is found in the winter. Perhaps an observing farmer would find them more abundant.

Burrowing Owl—*Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea*. A common summer resident in suitable localities; breeds.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, or Rain Crow—*Coccyzus americanus americanus*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 27 (two years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 23, 1909; average date of fall departure, August 24 (two years); latest date of fall departure, August 27, 1911.

Black-billed Cuckoo—*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. Common summer resident; breeds. Cuckoos are often heard during the night uttering their peculiar cries as they fly about. They are especially noisy on cloudy evenings just before a storm. Latest date of fall departure, September 22, 1907.

Belted Kingfisher—*Ceryle alcyon alcyon*. Common summer resident along the river and about the lakes where it can obtain its food. Average date of spring arrival, April 7 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 24, 1909; average date of fall departure, October 30 (four years); latest date of fall departure, November 28, 1909, 1909.

Hairy Woodpecker—*Dryobates villosus villosus* (possibly *D. v. leucomelas*). Common resident; breeds.

Downy Woodpecker—*Dryobates pubescens medianus*. Common resident; breeds.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—*Sphyrapicus varius varius*. Transient; a few may breed. Very common some years. May 15 to 20, 1907; September 24, 1911.

Red-headed Woodpecker—*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 22 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 12, 1912; average date of fall departure, September 13 (two years); latest date of fall departure, September 20, 1908.

Northern Flicker—*Colaptes auratus luteus*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, April 3 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 16, 1910; average date of fall departure, November 10 (six years); latest date of fall departure, December 25, 1911; earliest nest with young, May 30, 1911.

Red-shafted Flicker—*Colaptes cafer collaris*. Occasionally seen during the summer. Most of these are hybrids between this and the Northern Flicker.

Night-hawk—*Chordeiles virginianus virginianus*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 20 (seven years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 12, 1912; average date of fall departure, September 16 (six years); latest date of fall departure, October 1, 1908.

Chimney Swift—*Chaetura pelagica*. Common summer resident of the towns; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 10 (eight years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 2, 1912; average date of fall departure, August 26 (five years); latest date of fall departure, September 11, 1908.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—*Archilochus colubris*. Rare summer resident, more common as a transient. May 26, 1907; August 27, 1911.

Kingbird—*Tyrannus tyrannus*. Very common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 12 (ten years); earliest

date of spring arrival, May 5, 1912; average date of fall departure, September 6 (five years); latest date of fall departure, September 10, 1909; earliest nest with eggs, July 2, 1911.

Arkansas Kingbird—*Tyrannus verticalis*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 10 (ten years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 3, 1905; average date of fall departure, September 2 (six years); latest date of fall departure, September 8, 1907; earliest date of nest with eggs, July 1, 1911.

Phoebe—*Sayornis phoebe*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, April 9 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 29, 1908; average date of fall departure, October 2 (two years); latest date of fall departure, October 13, 1907; earliest nest with eggs, June 14, 1908.

Olive-sided Flycatcher—*Nuttallornis borealis*. Rare transient. May 23, 1909.

Wood Pewee—*Myiochanes virens*. Fairly common summer resident; breeds. May 10, 1908.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher—*Empidonax flaviventris*. Rare; one record, May 31, 1908.

Traill's Flycatcher—*Empidonax trailli trailli*. Common summer resident; breeds. Our commonest flycatcher. Average date of spring arrival, May 19 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 10, 1908; earliest date of nest with eggs, July 1, 1911.

Least Flycatcher—*Empidonax minimus*. Common as a transient; a few remain to breed. Average date of spring arrival, May 15 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 10, 1908.

Prairie Horned Lark—*Otocoris alpestris praticola*. Common resident; breeds. I have sent skins of this form, that were shot in February and they were of this form. (*O. a. praticola*).

Saskatchewan Horned Lark—*Otocoris alpestris enthymia* Oberholser. A winter visitant.

Hoyt's Horned Lark—*Otocoris alpestris hoyti*. I have two records, February 2, 1908 and January 17, 1909.

Magpie—*Pica pica hudsonia*. Accidental visitor. I saw one flying along the river, October 31, 1914, and found a carcass of one floating in the river the very next day, November 1, 1914. Magpies are very common west of the Missouri River in this state and I am inclined to believe they will become more common in these parts.

Blue Jay—*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*. Common resident; breeds. Earliest nest with eggs, June 2, 1912.

Crow—*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*. Common resident; breeds. Earliest nest with young, May 5, 1907.

Bobolink—*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Common summer resident of the prairies and meadows; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 9 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 5, 1912; average date of fall departure, September 12 (five years); latest date of fall departure, September 20, 1908.

Cowbird—*Molothrus ater ater*. Common summer resident; breeds. I have found their eggs in the nests of Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, and Red-wings. Average date of spring arrival, April 21 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 18, 1909.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Common summer resident of the marshes; breeds. In the fall, they, with other Blackbirds, congregate in flocks of thousands about the grain fields and in the evening they gather in the sloughs to roost. Average date of spring arrival, April 30 (seven years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 17, 1910; average date of fall departure, September 26 (five years); latest date of fall departure, October 9, 1910.

Red-winged Blackbird—*Agelaius phoeniceus predatorius* (Wilson);

Northern Red-winged Blackbird—*Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus* Oberholser. I shot two Red-wings April 23, 1916, and sent them to the Biological Survey; one was *predatorius* and the other *arctolegus*. Average date of spring arrival, March 14 (seven years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 6, 1910; average date of fall departure, November 8 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 15, 1908. Red-wings are common breeders. Earliest nest with eggs, May 28, 1911.

Meadowlark—*Sturnella magna magna*.

Western Meadowlark—*Sturnella neglecta*. I sent one skin to the Biological Survey, shot April 23, 1916, where it was identified as *S. neglecta*. Both forms are common summer residents and breeders. They can be distinguished by the difference in song and call notes. The Western Meadowlark is more of a bird of the uplands, while the Eastern is more likely to be found along the river bottom and the lower valleys. This is not always the rule, however, and exceptions will be frequently found. Average date of spring arrival, March 13 (eight years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 7, 1909; average date of fall departure, October 30 (seven years); latest date of fall departure, November 10, 1907. The Western Meadowlark has several

songs. I was watching one one day and he sang no less than seven different variations and one of these he repeated fourteen times.

Orchard Oriole—*Icterus spurius*. Summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 12 (two years); date of fall departure, August 25, 1907.

Baltimore Oriole—*Icterus galbula*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 15 (eight years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 12, 1916; average date of fall departure, September 1 (two years); latest date of fall departure, September 3, 1911.

Bullock's Oriole—*Icterus bullocki*. Rare; one seen May 30, 1911.

Rusty Blackbird—*Euphagus carolinus*. Transient; difficult to distinguish in the field from the Brewer's Blackbird. I identified one in the flesh, October 27, 1907.

Brewer's Blackbird—*Euphagus cyanocephalus*. Common transient. Abundant about the sloughs in the fall. Average date of spring arrival, April 4 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 28, 1909; average date of fall departure, November 14 (seven years); latest date of fall departure, November 28, 1907.

Bronzed Grackle—*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*. Common summer resident along the river; many nest in the evergreens in Hunter's Grove. The Grackles are very fond of crayfish. Average date of spring arrival, March 25 (eight years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 19, 1911; average date of fall departure, November 9 (five years); latest date of fall departure, November 28, 1907; earliest nest with eggs, May 7, 1907.

Purple Finch—*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*. Rare; one record, October 5 to October 27, 1908.

Crossbill—*Loxia curvirostra minor*. Rare. On November 27, 1910, I saw a flock of five, and they were so unafraid that I even caught one in my hand. They were feeding on some wild sunflowers and did not seem to mind my presence in the least.

White-winged Crossbill—*Loxia leucoptera*. Rare; one observed February 15, 1909.

English Sparrow—*Passer domesticus*. Common the year around; can be found in every town and village and on every farm. I have seen a number of albinos and many with albinistic tendencies.

Redpoll—*Acanthis linaria linaria*. Usually a regular winter visitor, more or less common. Average date of fall arrival, October 30 (two years); latest date of spring departure, March 24, 1909.

Goldfinch—*Astragalinus tristis tristis*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 15 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 12, 1912; average date of fall departure, October 11 (four years); latest date of fall departure, November 26, 1911; wintered 1907-08.

Snow Bunting—*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*. Irregular winter visitor. Earliest date of fall arrival, November 10, 1907. My data on this bird are very meager. About the only time these birds are found here is during a blizzard or a short time afterward. Perhaps the country folks see this bird nearly every winter.

Lapland Longspur—*Calcarius lapponicus*. Common transient and occasionally in the winter. Average date of fall arrival, October 26 (five years); earliest date of fall arrival, October 20, 1907; average date of spring departure, April 4 (four years); latest date of spring departure, April 18, 1909.

Chestnut-collared Longspur—*Calcarius ornatus*. Transient. Their flight note is different from that of the Lapland Longspur.

Vesper Sparrow—*Poocetes gramineus gramineus*. (Possibly *P. g. confinis*). Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 9 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 25, 1909; average date of fall departure, September 21 (four years); latest date of fall departure, September 24, 1911.

Savannah Sparrow—*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 2 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 24, 1910; average date of fall departure, September 9 (two years); latest date of fall departure, September 15, 1907.

Grasshopper Sparrow—*Ammodramus savannarum australis*. (Possibly *A. s. bimaculatus*). Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 9 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 5, 1912.

Henslow's Sparrow—*Passerherbulus henslowi*. Summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 9 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 29, 1912; latest date of fall departure, October 4, 1914.

Leconte's Sparrow—*Passerherbulus lecontei*. Rare summer resident of the marshes. May 10, 1908.

Lark Sparrow—*Chondestes grammacus grammacus*. (Possibly *C. g. strigatus*). A common summer resident of open woodland and

thickets. Average date of spring arrival, May 16 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 7, 1911.

Harris's Sparrow—*Zonotrichia querula*. Average date of spring arrival, April 30 (seven years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 26, 1911; average date of spring departure, May 19 (five years); latest date of spring departure, May 24, 1908; average date of fall arrival, September 25 (five years); earliest date of fall arrival, September 18, 1910; average date of fall departure, November 3 (four years); latest date of fall departure, November 7, 1915.

White-crowned Sparrow—*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*. Common transient. Average date of spring arrival, May 4 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 13, 1912; average date of spring departure, May 15 (three years); latest date of spring departure, May 16, 1909; latest date of fall departure, October 13, 1907.

White-throated Sparrow—*Zonotrichia albicollis*. Common transient. Average date of spring arrival, April 26 (five years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 18, 1916; average date of spring departure, May 21 (two years); latest date of spring departure, May 26, 1907; average date of fall arrival, September 27 (three years); earliest date of fall arrival, September 24, 1911; average date of fall departure, October 15 (two years); latest date of fall departure, October 17, 1909. The Harris's White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows are very good whistlers. They make the thickets fairly ring with their music, which is mostly a rather high-pitched "See, see, see" with variations. Besides this whistle, the Harris's Sparrow has another common note, best described as a chuckle.

Tree Sparrow—*Spizella monticola monticola*. Common winter visitor. Average date of fall arrival, October 19 (seven years); earliest date of fall arrival, October 4, 1908; average date of spring departure, April 23 (eight years); latest date of spring departure, May 7, 1907.

Chipping Sparrow—*Spizella passerina passerina*. Not a very common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 12 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 7, 1911.

Clay-colored Sparrow—*Spizella pallida*. Very common transient. Average date of spring arrival, April 30, 1916; latest date of fall departure, September 24, 1911.

Field Sparrow—*Spizella pusila pusila*. (Possibly *S. p. arenacea*).

Common summer resident in open groves on the hillsides and also pastures and meadows where there are clumps of currant and goose-

berry bushes and other shrubbery. Breeds. Average date of spring arrival, April 28 (seven years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 14, 1912; average date of fall departure, September 12 (three years); latest date of fall departure, September 19, 1909.

Slate-colored Junco—*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*. Very common transient; occasionally winters. Wintered 1907-08 in Hunter's Grove. Average date of spring arrival, April 4 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 24, 1909; average date of spring departure, April 22 (five years); latest date of spring departure, May 8, 1907; average date of fall arrival, September 30 (three years); earliest date of fall arrival, September 24, 1907; average date of fall departure, October 28 (three years); latest date of fall departure, November 15, 1914.

Song Sparrow—*Melospiza melodia* (and subspecies). I shot a Song Sparrow April 23, 1916, and sent it to the Biological Survey where it was pronounced a Dakota Song Sparrow (*M. m. juddi*). Average date of spring arrival, March 27 (seven years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 20, 1910; average date of fall departure, October 12 (six years); latest date of fall departure, November 1, 1914. The Song Sparrow is a common breeder, earliest nest with young, July 4, 1907.

Lincoln's Sparrow—*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*. Common transient. On April 30, 1916, I shot a Lincoln's Sparrow and sent it to the Biological Survey for proof of identification. Average date of spring arrival April 27 (seven years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 17, 1910; average date of spring departure, May 20 six years); latest date of spring departure, May 23, 1909; average date of fall arrival, September 7 (four years); earliest date of fall arrival, August 27, 1911; average date of fall departure, October 3 (three years); latest date of fall departure, October 13, 1907.

Swamp Sparrow—*Melospiza georgiana*. Transient. Average date of spring arrival, May 3 (four years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 23, 1911; only fall date, September 24, 1911.

Fox Sparrow—*Passerella iliaca iliaca*. Transient. Earliest date of spring arrival, April 11, 1909; latest date of spring departure, May 7, 1907. Only fall dates, October 23, 1908; September 24, 1911. There used to be a place called Seney Island located by the falls of the Big Sioux where the Fox Sparrow could nearly always be found during migration.

Towhee — *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*. Common summer resident of the woodland and along the river; breeds. Aver-

age date of spring arrival, May 3 (two years); average date of fall departure, September 25 (two years).

Arctic Towhee—*Pipilo maculatus arcticus*. Transient. I have observed this Towhee May 22, 1910; September 24, 1911, and on April 30, 1916. On the latter date I shot a male and a female and sent the skins to the Biological Survey for identification.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—*Zamelodia ludoviciana*. Common summer resident; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, May 14 (nine years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 10, 1911. Average date of fall departure, September 5 (eight years); latest date of fall departure, September 15, 1907. Earliest nest with young, June 30, 1907. Potato-bugs and a sort of a scale that infests willow trees seem to be the favorite food of the Grosbeak.

Indigo Bunting—*Passerina cyanea*. Summer resident; breeds. May 23, 1909.

Dickeissel—*Spiza americana*. Common summer resident; breeds. Usually seen perching on telephone wires or tall weeds, keeping up an intermittent "chip, chip, chip, zee, zee, zee, zee." Average date of spring arrival, May 26 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 14, 1911; average date of fall departure, August 18 (three years); latest date of fall departure, August 27, 1911.

Lark Bunting—*Calamospiza melanocorys*. Uncommon summer resident; probably breeds. May 11, 1908, and May 16, 1915.

Scarlet Tanager—*Piranga erythromelas*. Rare summer resident; breeds. Earliest May 26, 1912.

Purple Martin—*Progne subis subis*. Common wherever there are birdhouses; breeds. Average date of spring arrival, April 22 (nine years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 9, 1910; average date of fall departure, August 23 (five years); latest date of fall departure, September 2, 1910.

Cliff Swallows—*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*. Common summer resident; breeds. These Swallows build their mud nests on the outside walls of barns, graneries, etc. Average date of spring arrival, May 21 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 16, 1909; average date of fall departure, September 8 (two years); latest date of fall departure, September 10, 1911.

Barn Swallow—*Hirundo erythrogastra*. Common summer resident; breeds. This swallow builds its nest on rafters on the inside of barns, sheds, etc. Average date of spring arrival, May 2 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, April 19, 1908; average date of fall

departure, October 5 (seven years); latest date of fall departure, October 13, 1908; earliest nest with eggs, June 16, 1907.

Tree Swallow—*Iridoprocne bicolor*. Uncommon summer resident. Average date of spring arrival, May 12 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 7, 1911.

Bank Swallow—*Riparia riparia*. Common summer resident; breeds. Very common along the river. Nests in holes in banks and cliffs, usually in colonies. Average date of spring arrival, May 8 (eight years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 3, 1906; average date of fall departure, August 28 (five years); latest date of fall departure, September 5, 1907.

Rough-winged Swallow—*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Common summer resident; breeds. Nests like the preceding but in small colonies, sometimes just one pair occupying a single burrow in a bank or cliff. Average date of spring arrival, May 15 (six years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 9, 1909.

Bohemian Waxwing—*Bombycilla garrula*. Irregular winter visitor. A small flock observed February 19, 1911.

Cedar Waxwing—*Bombycilla cedrorum*. Common during migrations; a few remain in summer.

Northern Shrike—*Lanius borealis*. A somewhat irregular winter visitor. Average date of fall arrival, November 21 (six years); earliest date of fall arrival, November 10, 1907; average date of spring departure, March 9 (four years); latest date of spring departure, March 17, 1912.

White-rumped Shrike—*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*. Common summer resident; breeds, usually building the nests in the Cottonwoods. Average date of spring arrival, April 4 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, March 26, 1911; average date of fall departure, November 1 (three years); latest date of fall departure, November 13, 1910.

Red-eyed Vireo—*Vireosylva olivacea*. Summer resident; breeds. The song of this Vireo is somewhat similar to the Robin's. Average date of spring arrival, May 21 (three years); earliest date of spring arrival, May 12, 1912; average date of fall departure, September 16 (two years); latest date of fall departure, September 24, 1911.

Philadelphia Vireo—*Vireosylva philadelphica*. Rare. Mr. C. E. Holmes picked up a dead bird that was of this species. I identified one May 31, 1908.

(To be Continued)