

way from the train directly to his house, and, as I arrived early in the morning, usually Sunday, I generally found him, where he naturally would be expected to be, in bed. However, he always arose with alacrity, and before a bright fire in his study was ready for a talk on my last season's work, and for the exhibition of any notable specimens he had received from the Tropics since my last visit. He was a very genial and courteous gentleman of the old school, and retained his interest in ornithology to the last.

DUPLICATES OF WESTERN BIRDS ASSIGNED TO ME

My interest in collecting large series of western birds was greatly increased by the privilege accorded me by Lieut. Wheeler, and assented to by Prof. Baird, of selecting from the duplicates of each year a series for my own collection. In those days western birds were rare indeed, and my collection soon became very valuable as a study series. With the permission of Prof. Baird I finally brought it to Washington and stored it in the Smithsonian, within easy access of Mr. Ridgway and myself, and I was enabled in my spare time to rearrange, label and prepare a card catalogue of it. This card catalogue is still extant and has proved valuable to others besides myself for reference purposes.

*(To be continued)*

BIRD NOTES FROM SASKATCHEWAN

By H. H. MITCHELL

WITH THREE PHOTOS

PROBABLY Saskatchewan, of all the Canadian Provinces, is the least known from an ornithological point of view. With an area equal to the states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska, it consequently offers a large field of possibilities. In the south-west, bordering on the state of Montana, is an arid, or semi-arid district, the more or less rolling prairie of which is broken by the low, partly wooded Cypress Hills, with considerable sage-brush on the southern slopes. Farther north and eastward is the more level wheat-producing bare prairie. Partly wooded areas then extend northward to the Saskatchewan River, north branch, beyond which is the comparatively little known forest country, with its larger lakes, reaching Lake Athabaska and Reindeer Lake near the northern boundary of the province.

**Spizella breweri.** Brewer Sparrow. It was in the district first mentioned above, in the valley of the Frenchman River, that I found this species, June 16, 1919, evidently breeding in numbers in the sage-brush patches on the river-flats and open southern slopes of the Cypress Hills. I believe the birds were fairly common between Eastend and Ravenscrag, possibly extending to points farther west. Time permitted me only to work a few miles west of Eastend, mostly on the ranch of Mr. Lawrence Potter, who, by the way, is one of our few reliable bird observers. Along the valley on his ranch alone we estimated

there were eight or ten pairs of birds, based on males we saw and heard. The females were evidently sitting and were not observed, nor did we find a nest. Males taken were breeding birds, and Mr. Fleming, of Toronto, to whom I sent a couple of skins for positive identification, agrees with my opinion that this is the first record of the species east of the Rockies, certainly the first for Saskatchewan.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys.** White-crowned Sparrow. Several pairs of this species were noted in the above district, and thanks to Mr. Potter's vigilance, a nest with five eggs, incubation advanced, was found on his ranch June 18, 1919. Mr. A. C. Bent and Mr. Spreadborough, I believe, mention it as common in 1907 and 1908 in the Cypress Hills and apparently breeding,



Fig. 47. THE SOUTH CYPRESS HILLS, NEAR EASTEND, SASKATCHEWAN; NEST OF FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK IN FOREGROUND.

though I do not know if the actual finding of nests and eggs has before been recorded from the region. It is interesting to note that we have a skin of *Z. l. gambeli* in the Provincial Museum taken at Reindeer Lake, July 16, 1914.

**Spizella socialis socialis.** Chipping Sparrow. As far as my observations go, this bird is not common in any part of the province. A breeding male was taken in the Cypress Hills, June 15, 1919.

**Otocoris alpestris leucolaema.** Desert Horned Lark. From specimens taken in the Cypress Hills, this would appear to be the only form found in that region.

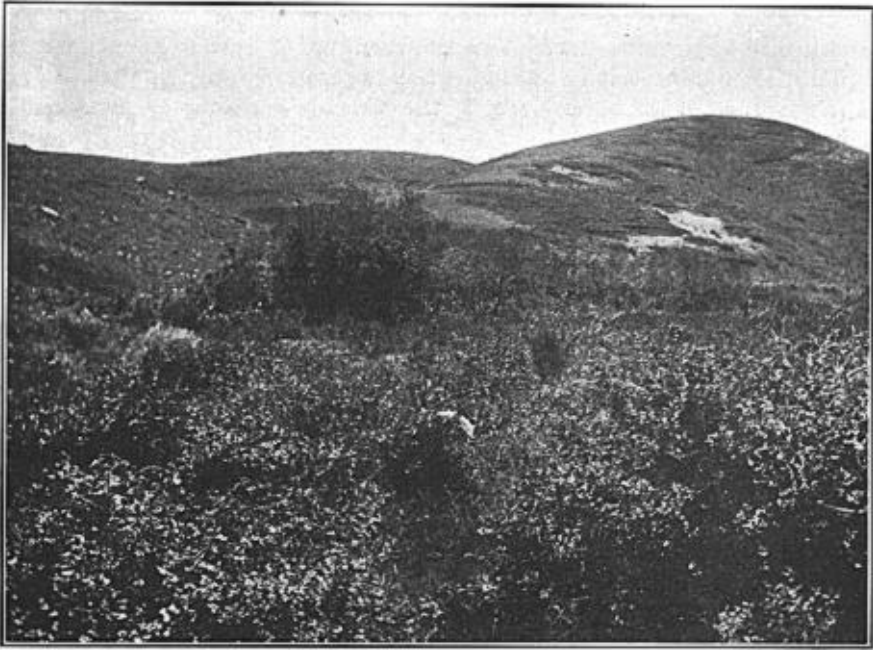


Fig. 48. NESTING SITE OF WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (MARKED BY HANDKERCHIEF);  
CYPRESS HILLS, SASKATCHEWAN, JUNE 18, 1919.



Fig. 49. NEST OF WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW IN WILD GOOSEBERRY BUSH;  
CYPRESS HILLS, SASKATCHEWAN, JUNE 18, 1919.

**Antrostomus vociferus vociferus.** Whip-poor-will. In looking up records of the Whip-poor-will in western Canada, I could find none for Saskatchewan. I was therefore glad to have the opportunity to investigate some reports I had heard of its occurrence along the Saskatchewan River east of Prince Albert. On July 15 of this year I reached the district near where the South joins the North Saskatchewan River, about thirty miles east of Prince Albert. My guide and I arrived at our camp-site late in the evening; while putting up the tent, I was delighted to hear the bird I was after, "singing" in the poplar woods quite near us. The following nights I heard it much farther away, if it was the same bird, though my guide told me that some years one could hear three or four birds "singing" in the neighborhood. Evidently it had moved to another "bush" about a mile from camp. I located it there on the 20th, after tramping the ground to and fro till late in the afternoon. It flushed a couple of yards from my feet. This proved to be a male; careful search in the neighborhood failed to discover the female, and as I did not hear another songster the succeeding nights I was there, apparently there was but the one pair in the district.

*Regina, Saskatchewan, August 18, 1919.*

## A RETURN TO THE DAKOTA LAKE REGION

By FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY

*(Continued from page 193)*

### 4

ON the south shore of the lake where the Holbøll family was generally found, families of Pied-bill and Horned Grebes were also seen, the east and south shores being the favorite feeding grounds of the Grebes of the lake. One family of peeping young Pied-bills was seen near shore where an oily green scum had formed on the water, so thick that a yellow and black snake squirmed its way along on top of it, its coils actually gathering and piling up the greasy looking substance. In walking softly along the wooded bank above, I heard the Pied-bills talking and found them about a thin screen of tule. The mother gave a queer note of warning, whereupon the six young—easily recognized by their black and white striped necks—swam out a little and watched me. Farther along some larger young, caring for themselves, swam along shore examining me, two of them, wet from diving, in profile showing wisps of sharp-pointed tails. One stretched its neck high to see me better, and as it turned its head from side to side was reflected in the still water near shore.

Near the spot where the old Holbøll drove off the light-cheeked Horned Grebe that used to swim by itself, on August 16, on looking through the trees I discovered a Horned Grebe swimming and diving with two almost grown white-throated young. Was this the mate of the light-cheeked one, come from her nest with her brood at last? They noticed my least motion and kept out a little though evidently wanting to come in shore. The next day, in the same