

was appreciably earlier than normal, it being more than a week early for the locality. The last eight mentioned species were from a week to two weeks later than the average date of first appearance. While this list includes only a few of the species which make up the Spring movement, it is representative of the species found in each locality and may be taken as indicating the bird movements during the past phenomenal Spring.

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### BIRDS FROM A CAR WINDOW AGAIN.

BY LYNDS JONES.

In spite of all that has been said and can be said against placing any reliance upon observations from a car window there is a certain value in making as careful records as conditions warrant while one is racing across country in a sleeping-car. No small part of the value to the individual concerned lies in thus lessening the monotony of the journey, as everyone who has attempted this sort of pastime can testify. But there is another value which must not be overlooked, which lies in the comparison of the numbers of individuals of each species which it has been possible to record with certainty. It has been said that any record made from a car window must be taken with a certain degree of mental reservation. I am inclined to challenge that statement and make the contrary assertion that it is entirely possible to be as certain of some birds from a car window as it is from any vantage point. Of course this will be true of a limited number of species whose individual characteristics are very marked, or else they must not be recorded except during the time when the train is standing still and the observer is able to make free use of his field-glasses.

In making the list which follows I have admitted only records which are beyond question in my own mind. This has resulted in the rejection of many records which may have been good but lacked the element of certainty. The list represents much less than half of all of the species actually recorded. Only those are given which seem to be of interest from the standpoint of comparisons. In this list no account is taken

of subspecific differences because I wish to compare species with species. The numbers refer to the number of individuals actually counted.

The route traveled was from Oberlin, Ohio, over the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway; from Chicago over the Northwestern and its connecting lines to Portland, Oregon, taking the Oregon Short Line at Granger, thus avoiding Ogden. The journey began on May 28th, and ended at Portland on June 1st. The working time covered the following areas: Oberlin, Ohio, to Elkhart, Indiana; Mount Vernon, Iowa, to Fremont, Nebraska; Sutherland, Nebraska, to Rawlins, Wyoming; Montpelier, Idaho, to Huntington, Oregon; Heppner Junction to Portland, Oregon. It will be apparent that the dates indicate that the journey was made while most of the birds were nesting.

The list which follows is given in the order of the number of individuals recorded for each species:

Mourning Dove	1759	Yellow Warbler	23
Red-winged Blackbird	554	Northern Flicker	20
Brewer's Blackbird	234	Killdeer	18
Meadowlark	212	Belted Kingfisher	17
Bronzed Grackle	186	Burrowing Owl	16
Crow	153	Sparrow Hawk	15
Lark Bunting	149	Bobolink	15
Barn Swallow	106	Spotted Sandpiper	12
Black-billed Magpie	71	Bank Swallow	11
Kingbird	63	Great Blue Heron	9
Red-headed Woodpecker	60	Yellow-headed Blackbird	7
Chimney Swift	59	Indigo Bunting	7
Robin	49	Blue Jay	6
Otocoris	37	Lark Sparrow	6
Lanius	34	Marsh Hawk	5
Goldfinch	31	Vesper Sparrow	3
Arkansas Kingbird	34	Turkey Vulture	2
Dickcissel	28	Purple Martin	2
Cliff Swallow	23		

Mourning Doves were not only the most numerous in individuals but were the most evenly distributed of the species recorded. The numbers seen during each day increased perceptibly as we sped westward, reaching the maximum in Idaho and eastern Oregon—in the desert regions. The preponderance of individuals may be partly accounted for by the size of the bird and the ease with which it may be identified,

but its habit of frequenting the railway right of way as a feeding ground is undoubtedly an important factor in determining its abundance. This habit is accentuated in the sage-brush regions where food must be relatively scarce.

Of the 554 Red-winged Blackbirds recorded 412 were seen in western Iowa, and only 113 were recorded over the area occupied by the Brewer Blackbird, so that it must be considered about half as numerous as Brewer's in the same region. Both of these blackbirds were unquestionably far more numerous than the record shows because positive identifications could be made only under the most favorable circumstances.

Meadowlarks were remarkably evenly distributed. There were more westerly than easterly. Possibly this may be partly accounted for by a habit of feeding along the railway right of way in the west.

Eliminating the 109 Crows recorded in western Iowa, the species was evenly distributed over the area covered.

No Bronzed Grackles were seen west of Fremont, Nebraska. The exact place where the last were recorded does not appear on my records.

Lark Buntings were seen only on a run from Sutherland, Nebraska, to Pine Bluff, Wyoming, except a single individual on the following day, in Idaho.

Barn Swallows were unaccountably scarce, except in western Iowa, where 75 were recorded. None were seen in western Oregon, but elsewhere an occasional one was seen hawking over meadows.

Black-billed Magpies were seen only in Idaho and Oregon—none in western Oregon. They were mostly well scattered, one or two appearing in a place, six being the largest number seen together.

Half of the Kingbirds were seen in western Iowa. Elsewhere they were occasional, often two together.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were not seen west of Pine Bluff, Wyoming. All recorded were on the railway right of way.

All but two of the Chimney Swifts were seen in western

Iowa, and one of those two not far from Omaha, Nebraska; the other one was an Ohio bird.

Robins were occasional over the whole course except from Sutherland, Nebraska, to Rawlins, Wyoming.

Representatives of the genus *Otocoris* which could be certainly identified as such were scarce except in western Nebraska, where 30 were seen. They seemed to be busy with nesting duties.

Except from Omaha to Fremont, Nebraska, Shrikes were occasional, the largest number being recorded in eastern Oregon, where 21 were counted either on or near the right of way.

Goldfinches were scattering and erratic, and mostly recorded in small villages or at watering places.

The Arkansas Kingbirds were seen only in western Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, and eastern Oregon—two days' run. Here they were much the most numerous flycatcher.

There were no Dickcissels west of Fremont, Nebraska, and but one recorded for western Iowa. Rain in Iowa dampened their ardor.

Sparrow Hawks, which I have come to regard as one of the characteristic birds of such a trip, were distressingly few in number. The records for the different regions are as follows: Two, two, two, six, three. Perhaps they were molting.

No Bobolinks were seen west of Iowa. On the homeward journey there were not a few seen in Montana along the course of the Northern Pacific.

Burrowing Owls were seen only between Montpelier, Idaho, and Huntington, Oregon. Conditions seemed to be favorable elsewhere.

The journey left the impression with me of a paucity of bird life not before experienced on a journey of such extent. Except for about three hours, while we were running through western Iowa, the weather conditions were favorable for the usual activities of the birds. The slowness of the train in many interesting parts of the country, and my own freedom from neighboring elbows—there were few in the car—made

the circumstances for such a study as favorable as possible. It was several times remarked that the engines seemed to be in such delicate health that only the pure water—that contained in tanks far removed from towns and cities—would suit! If the steam could be shut off when the train stops the bird-man would be happy.

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## A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BIRDS OF WESTERN LYMAN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA.

BY ADRIAN LARSON.

The following list is compiled from observations made along the White Clay Creek valley in western Lyman county, S. D., from Sept. 12, 1906, to April 25, 1907.

Lyman county lies in the Great Plains Region at an elevation of about 2,000 feet. Its topography is similar to other regions in the Great Plains country, being mostly level with an elevation of about 2,000 feet. Its topography is similar to other regions in the Great Plains country, being mostly level prairie, with occasional hills or buttes rising above the prairie.

There are numerous dry creeks, which run only in the spring or after very heavy rains; they are mostly dry at other times.

The hills and prairies are, for the greater part, covered with range grass, while the creeks are fringed with such trees as ash, box-elder, cottonwood, elm, willow, and rarely a red cedar, with much buffalo-berry, hazel, and plum brush.

There are numerous marshes on the prairies which are well filled with water in the spring, but dry up towards summer:

1. *Larus-species?* A flock of eleven seen April 24. They may have been the Franklin Gull.

2. *Anas boschas.*—Mallard. Common migrant.

3. *Nettion carolinensis.*—Green-winged Teal. Common migrant.

4. *Querquedula discors.*—Blue-winged Teal. Common migrant.

5. *Spatula clypeata.*—Shoveller. Common migrant.

6. *Dafila acuta.*—Pintail. Common migrant.