

The editor spent four days—May 9 to 12—in company with Mr. George L. Fordyce, of Youngstown, Ohio, studying the birds. The first two days were spent at Youngstown, where 116 species were recorded on the 9th, and 113 on the 10th. An overland automobile ride to Vermillion on the 11th and a study of the birds along the shore of Lake Erie on the 12th, completed the pleasant studies. The warbler migrations were at their height at Youngstown on the two days spent there, but did not reach the lake shore until more than a week later.

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It has been suggested that the publication of May Day horizons would be valuable as showing the progress of the migrations the country over, as well as indicating the distribution of the birds. The editor would be pleased to receive expressions of opinion upon this point. He is entirely ready to give space in the Bulletin to such lists which give evidence of careful work, and believes that such a movement is worth while.

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This is the time of year when breeding habit studies ought to be undertaken more generally. It is not difficult to find a nest, and it is not a serious task to give the whole of several days in the study of the feeding habits of many species of birds. Most of the sparrows, the wrens, and many others, permit so close an approach that even a blind is not necessary for close observation. One may sit in comfort while observing the feeding habits of the Field or Song Sparrow, for instance. Try it and prove or disprove this assertion.

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## General Notes

### WINTER BIRDS OF NORTHERN MCKENZIE COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA.

These notes are from November, 1912, to March, 1913. The north line of McKenzie county is the Missouri River and south from the river is a collection of breaks, hills, cut-banks, gulches, ravines, creeks and coulees, which extend for about six miles, except along the larger creeks, where the adjacent land is more or less undulating. Between the creeks are broad stretches of level farming land. On the prairies there are no trees except what has been planted by the settler from about eight years ago.

On the Missouri River bottom are to be found groves of Cottonwood, Elm, Ash, Box-alder and Willow, with a mixture of Buffalo-berry, Plum and Choke-cherry trees. In the breaks and gulches

are to be found Red Cedars and various other Junipers, and on the creek bottoms and side hills are to be found, besides the deciduous trees mentioned, Poplar, Diamond Willow, June-berry, Hawthorn, Birch-bush, Wild Rose-bush and occasionally Sage-bush. Wild Hops and Climbing Fake Butternut Vines abound.

Of the mammals, three or four species of field mice are altogether too numerous. Jack-rabbits are common on the prairies, and in the bush Snow-shoe rabbits and occasionally a Cotton-tail are found; Chip-munks are common in the timber; Coyotes and Weasels are to be found everywhere, judging from the tracks; Porcupines are also occasionally seen.

The temperature in winter is somewhat cool, occasionally going down to 50° below zero; generally always an abundance of snow, and winds that blow steady from one direction for a week at a time. There is a notable absence of birds of prey. Perhaps this accounts for the abundance of the smaller mammals mentioned.

1. Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse—The commonest winter bird in the coulees, gathering in immense flocks and becoming rather *tame*, even alighting on barns and sheds. In what stomachs I have examined I have found the following seeds: Wheat, oats, flax, wild oats and rose-buds.

2. Short-eared Owl—Occasionally seen. Can be found almost anywhere.

3. Snowy Owl—Only one seen.

4. Desert Horned Lark—Becomes common in February after the first few warm days.

5. Hoyt's Horned Lark—Occasionally seen during the winter.

6. Magpie—Another common resident. The Magpie will eat any kind of flesh. They like to investigate refuse piles.

7. Redpoll—Rare. Two seen February 8.

8. Lapland Longspur—Occasionally seen during the winter, but becomes more common in February.

9. Snow Bunting—Common in winter on the prairies, gathering in immense flocks.

10. Bohemian Waxwing—Shot a solitary male on November 12. Stomach contained a few Buffalo-berries.

11. Northern Shrike—Seen only a few times; rather shy.

12. Long-tailed Chickadee—Common on the river bottom in the timber; not often found any other place.

13. Robin—Two seen January 26; certainly must have been stragglers.

14. English Sparrow—He is here well enough, and thirty miles from a railroad.

ADRIAN LARSON.

*Keene, N. Dak.*