

Saskatchewan Birds in Summer

As Noted by J. Murray Speirs and Dorothy H. Speirs, in July, 1953.

On the morning of July 13, Mr. J. M. Speirs, Secretary of the Great Lakes Research Committee and Mrs. Speirs left Lloydminster for a motor trip across Saskatchewan with the direct intention of listing all birds that they saw on the way. The Manitoba border was reached about ten o'clock of the morning of July 16, and during that short period they recorded 2,708 individuals of 86 species.

The route from Lloydminster led through Maidstone, Battleford, North Battleford, Radisson, Saskatoon, Kenaston, Chamberlain, Lumsden, Regina, Qu'Appelle, Fort Qu'Appelle, Melville and Yorkton.

Unfortunately space does not permit a detailed statistical report of species observed at and between the centres named. The full report, however, may be seen at or loaned from the Provincial Museum.

The coverage is remarkable for the time available, and although the list is by no means a complete one of Saskatchewan birds, Mr. Speirs feels that its chief interest would be for potential summer visitors to Saskatchewan as an indication of the relative abundance and observability of the roadside species.

Following is the list without details as to where the species were seen:

Holboell's Grebe	1	American Avocet	1	Loggerhead Shrike	34
Horned Grebe	33	Ring-billed Gull	1	Red-eyed Vireo	6
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Franklin's Gull	36	Warbling Vireo	2
American Bittern	2	Common Tern	5	Tennessee Warbler	1
Mallard	6	Black Tern	117	Yellow Warbler	61
Gadwall	88	Mourning Dove	13	Yellow Throat	5
Baldpate	11	Nighthawk	8	American Redstart	1
Pintail	17	Flicker	10	English Sparrow	495
Green-winged Teal	1	Downey Woodpecker	1	Western Meadowlark	94
Blue-winged Teal	11	Eastern Kingbird	82	Yellow-headed	
Shoveller	11	Arkansas Kingbird	8	Blackbird	21
Redhead	11	Eastern Phoebe	1	Red-winged	
Canvas-back	2	Least Flycatcher	13	Blackbird	135
Lesser Scaup Duck	16	Horned Lark	31	Baltimore Oriole	5
Ruddy Duck	11	Tree Swallow	1	Brewer's Blackbird	444
Hooded Merganser	1	Bank Swallow	16	Grackle	6
Red-tailed Hawk	6	Barn Swallow	25	Cowbird	5
Swainson's Hawk	13	Cliff Swallow	4	Rose-breasted	
Marsh Hawk	8	Purple Martin	8	Grosbeak	1
Hungarian Partridge	21	Magpie	3	American Goldfinch	23
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	American Crow	229	Savannah Sparrow	37
Sora Rail	5	B.-capped Chickadee	2	Baird's Sparrow	4
American Coot	55	House Wren	25	Leconte's Sparrow	6
Killdeer	31	Long-billed Marsh		Vesper Sparrow	94
Wilson's Snipe	2	Wren	2	Chipping Sparrow	4
Upland Plover	3	Catbird	10	Clay-coloured	
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Brown Thrasher	1	Sparrow	69
Solitary Sandpiper	1	A. Robin	25	Song Sparrow	40
Willet	1	Veery	6	Chestnut-collared	
Lesser Yellow-legs	23	Mountain Bluebird	4	Longspur	12
Marbled Godwit	1	Cedar Waxwing	16		

We hear many stories of long battles between animals and the survival of the fittest, but the following incident show that both were very fit. While harvesting the crop, the men on the combine came to a circle of wheat flattened down. On inves-

tigating the cause they found a dead skunk and a dead tomcat torn and blood-caked. This must have been a battle royal. Did poor Tommy die of wounds or the potent weapon of the skunk?—Isabelle Powell, Swift Current.