



Polar Bear cub.

Peregrine Falcon, Willow Ptarmigan, Sandhill Crane, Ringed Plover, American Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Purple Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Glaucous Gull, Herring Gull, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern, Thick-billed Murre, Black Guillemot, Snowy Owl, Common Raven, Common Redpoll, Horned Lark, Water Pipit, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting.

Mammals: Lemming, Arctic Fox, Arctic Hare, Polar Bear, a weasel, Caribou, Walrus, White Whale, Ringed Seal, Harp Seal, Bearded Seal, Harbour Seal.

Random Bird Notes From Mexico and the Southwest

by **R. D. Symons**, Regina

Last winter I had the opportunity to follow some of our Saskatchewan birds south of the border on a trip that my wife and I took to Mexico. We left Regina on January 5 and travelled to Chihuahua, Mexico, by way of Lethbridge, and down the east side of the Continental Divide through Great Falls, Cheyenne, Denver, Santa Fe and El Paso.

Through Montana and Wyoming as far as Santa Fe, New Mexico, we encountered stormy weather and had little opportunity to see any birds except Harlequin Ducks swimming happily about in the rushing waters on the Wind River canyon. At Chihuahua the weather was better, and for the six weeks we stayed there the sun shone continually. However, early January temperatures had been the coldest since the 1880's, we were told, and almost all of the big palm trees were frozen so severely it was doubted they would survive.

We found that the city parks were good places to see birds, especially Bolivar Park which was right across from the house where we lived on pension. Flocks of grackles roosted in the big dry palm trees and made a lot of noise. The park is well lit and the activity seems to go on all

night. These birds imitate the policeman's whistles in a most amusing way.

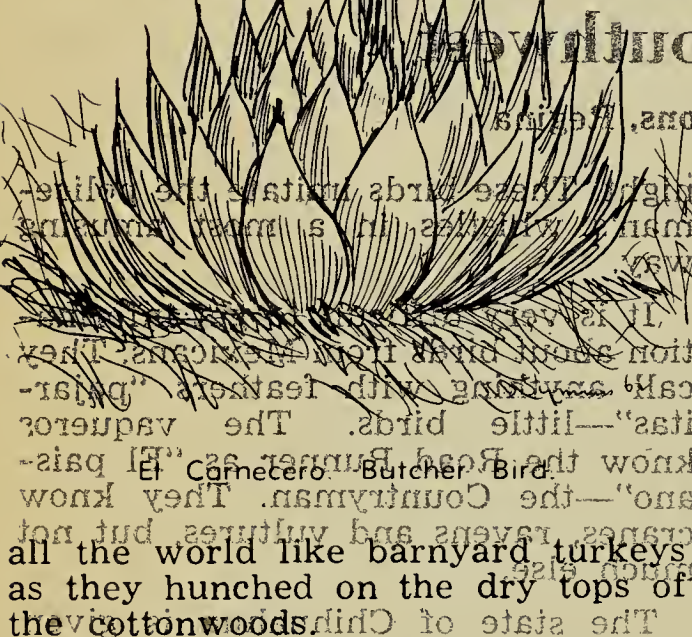
It is very difficult to get information about birds from Mexicans. They call anything with feathers "pajaritas"—little birds. The vaqueros know the Road Runner as "El paisano"—the Countryman. They know cranes, ravens and vultures, but not much else.

The state of Chihuahua is given over to ranching, and we were invited to stay with an American rancher at Rancho El Eden, 40 miles west of Chihuahua. Around the large springs here are clumps of very old alamos (cottonwoods). They make an oasis in the dry mesquite-dotted foothills and give the ranch its name. To the west the Sierra Madre towers stark and jagged and red. Side oats grama is the prevailing grass, and it was cured to bright Naples yellow. Shrikes are common here and are a regular feature of the landscape as they perch on the top of a prickly mesquite. Each bird sticks to its own territory, which would seem to be about seven or eight acres around its larder bush.

At Quintas Carolinas a group of scavenging Black Vultures looked for

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 Gull, Arctic Tern, Thick-billed
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Notes From Mexico



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 over to ranching and we were invited
 Anahuac Dam yielded some coots,
 and we saw Gadwalls shot by the
 caretaker in spite of the large notice
 saying that the possession of firearms
 is strictly forbidden! We also saw
 here a flock of Canada Geese which
 we were told are the only ones to
 winter in the state.

By March 1 the trees in the parks
 were green and quite a lot of warblers
 and sparrows were moving,
 among them the familiar Myrtle and
 Black-and-white Warblers, Vesper
 Sparrows, Tree Sparrows and juncos.
 We left to return to New Mexico. In
 the Deming area and south to Col-
 umbus the desert is very barren ex-
 cept for some small irrigated fields
 near the Florida Mountains. There
 is little or no grass and the sand is

hard in place only by the scrubby
 sparse growth of mesquite, ocotillo,
 cholla and tumbleweed. With the
 warm weather and recent moisture
 the flowers—principally pop-
 ples—were beginning to germinate
 and promised bright colour for later.
 In the scrub we found a real gather-
 ing of the sparrow clans, which we
 had seen earlier in Mexico, beginning
 their northward journey.

At Las Enicas the trees were now
 greening. At Columbus we saw the
 bullet holes and crumbled adobes
 which bear witness to the towns
 seized by Pancho Villa in his border
 raids of 1916; and at Las Lomas
 on the Mexican side we saw our
 first Cactus Wren. Here the Mourn-
 ing Doves cooed all day.

We went from Deming to Alamo-
 gordo where we visited the famous
 white sands, which are pure gypsum.
 It looked like a dead world, backed
 by the steely-grey San Andres
 Mountains, until a happy group of
 Horned Larks alighted close to us.
 From Alamogordo we followed the
 steep winding road which crosses the
 Sacramento Mountains and reaches
 Artesia to the east. On the hump at
 Clouderoft we stopped for some
 coffee at a wayside cafe. We were
 right back into winter—the winter
 we know in Canada. The snow was
 still quite deep and the close-ranked
 pines looked sombre and very north-
 ern, in spite of which the Pinon Jays
 seemed happy.

Down again to Pinon and the Pen-
 asco to the big sheep ranching coun-
 try, and a very lovely country dotted
 with pinon trees and cholla cactus.
 Besides many Pinon Jays we saw a
 lot of juncos. At one ranch we saw
 seven Golden Eagles hanging on the
 corral. These had been shot by the
 rancher from his aeroplane. He told
 us that the toll of lambs taken by
 these birds is very great. Apparently,
 contrary to old Scottish stories, these
 birds do not carry the lambs away,
 but eat them on the spot, only taking
 off pieces to their eyrie when they
 have young. I saw a Bald Eagle here,
 but did not tell my rancher friend!

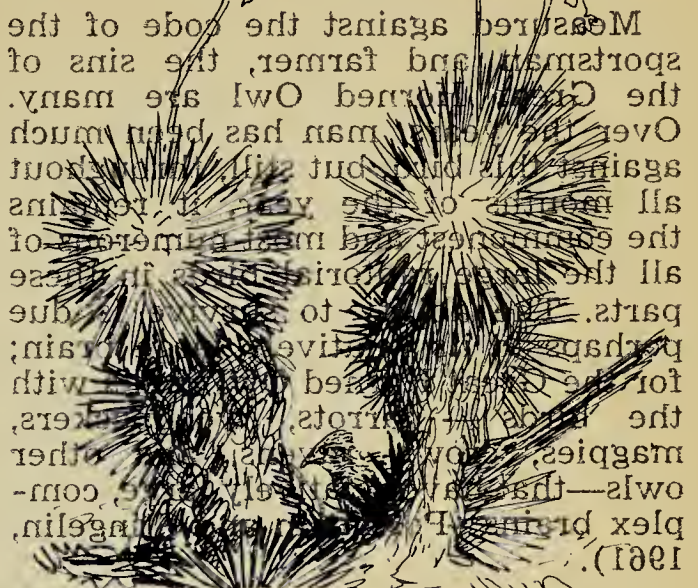
Our return journey coincided with
 the northward migration of many
 species, and we greeted familiar
 juncos and sparrows at Santa Fe.

Stomach Contents of Great Horned Owls

by Robert Connell, University of Sask., Saskatoon*

Back on our own plains the first week in April we saw lots of Whistling Swans and ducks, mostly in the Bassano area. The swans were mostly in the small ponds because the larger bodies of water were still covered with ice. At Maple Creek Junction the Horned Larks were feeding by the road, and the first bird to greet us in Regina was a crow.

residue on the screen was gently washed in a stream of tap water. When clean, the residue on the screen was washed into a flat-bottomed, clear glass dish. After settling, excess water was poured off, and the residue transferred to petri dishes for examination under the dissecting microscope.



Identification of small mammalian remains is not difficult when skulls and teeth are present, provided the worker has acquired a knowledge of skull and teeth characteristics in the different native species of small mammals. To facilitate making the identifications, we first prepared a key to the skulls and teeth of small mammals in Saskatchewan. Specific identification of bird remains is more difficult, but usually possible. Fleas, lice and mites were useful aids in

Over the winter of 1961-62, 86 Great Horned Owls were examined in the Veterinary Science Department at the University of Saskatchewan. Most of the specimens secured were collected by Mr. Keith True, Manager, Provincial Game Farm, Beaver Creek, Saskatchewan. In the winters of 1958-59 and 1959-60 the birds were numerous in the vicinity of the Game Farm, apparently attracted to the area by the game farm bird stock. In the winter of 1960-61 the owls were scarcer and only 10 specimens

Bald Eagle Harries Nesting Canada Geese

by F. W. Lahrmann, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

On April 10, 1962, I saw an eagle soaring over the marshes of the Regina Waterfowl Park and coming to land on one of the mounds of the dugout. There I could identify it as an immature Bald Eagle. Two days later, on April 12, I again noted the eagle at the marsh. When I first saw it it was soaring high in the sky; then it began to circle down toward the nest of a Canada Goose on a muskrat house in the marsh. I wondered how the pair of geese would react, so I turned to look at them. I could see that the geese were nervous—the goose on the nest had her neck stretched out flat, and the gander on a dyke approximately 100 yards away was also crouching flat with outstretched neck.

As the eagle drew closer, the goose slipped off the nest, calling to the gander. The eagle swooped at the goose which dived under water and then it hovered over the water wait-

The owl specimens received by the Veterinary Laboratory were examined for any and all scientific data. The owl specimens were examined for any and all scientific data. The owl specimens were examined for any and all scientific data.

ing for the goose to reappear. The alerted gander came flying swiftly to her rescue. It flew directly at the eagle, and the surprised eagle turned aside to escape attack. Apparently the gander struck at the eagle with its wing, but I couldn't see whether it actually hit the eagle. Then it flew, circled and attempted a second attack, but the eagle escaped by climbing swiftly into the air. After flying some distance the eagle came down to land on the ice. It sat there for a few minutes, and then flew up again to go to another nest. Here too, the goose slipped off the nest, and she and the gander standing beside the nest both stood with outstretched wings, honking loudly. The eagle flew off, soared into the air, and away. What was presumably the same bird was noted briefly the following day soaring over the marsh, but it was not seen again molesting the geese.