

The most important food item in the diet of the Horned Larks collected during the study was commercial wheat (*Triticum sp.*). Again, this result differs from those reported in the literature (Martin *et al.*, 1951; Bent, 1942; Godfrey, 1966) where weed seeds have been shown to make up the bulk of the winter diet of the Horned Lark.

While weed seeds are probably the main food of Horned Larks inhabiting native grasslands, it appears that in the cultivated fields near Regina they are taking advantage of the abundance of waste grain available along the roads and in the exposed portions of fields.

While wheat is equally as available to the Redpoll during the winter, wheat grains are undoubtedly too large for them to handle. During winters of deep snow, the Horned Lark probably makes more use of weed seeds

and at such times there may be some competition between the two species.

Conclusion

In the area studied for this report the most important food item in the winter diet of the Common Redpoll seems to be Russian Thistle, while wheat makes up the bulk of the winter diet of the Horned Lark. This is in disagreement with the reported literature and may be the result of the agricultural practices of the Regina area. Since only a small sample was studied, further work is needed to check the validity of these conclusions.

LITERATURE CITED

- Bent, A. C. 1942. Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows, and their allies. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 179. Washington, D.C.
- Godfrey, W. E. 1966. The birds of Canada. Queen's Printer, Ottawa.
- Martin, A. C., H. S. Zim, and A. L. Nelson. 1951. American wildlife and plants: a guide to wildlife food habits. Dover Publications, New York.

FIRST CHIMNEY SWIFT RECORD FOR YORKTON DISTRICT

by Frank A. Switzer, 140 Logan Crescent West, Yorkton

A dead male Chimney Swift was found in an active chimney at the farm of G. Switzer, eight miles east and seven miles south of Yorkton on July 15, 1967, during a routine chimney cleaning. There was no evidence of nest material present. The bird had evidently died quite recently and was well

preserved, as evident from the enclosed photograph.

This is the first record for the Yorkton area, though specimens have been collected in the Pasquia Hills by Bard in 1937, and there are sight records for Indian Head, Regina and Cumberland House. The only nesting records for Saskatchewan to date are for Nipawin, where the late Maurice Street recorded nests in 1942 and 1943 and observed them as summer residents from 1937 to 1951.

