

Letters

PROBABLE YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT NEAR AYLSHAM IN 1970

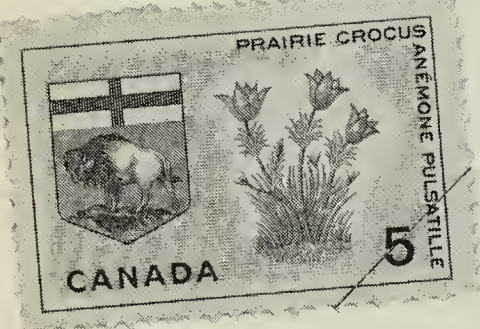
June 23, 1970, was a memorable day as that was the day I first heard the strangest chirps and warbles I had ever heard. In the very bright sunshine, the bird responsible appeared to be mainly yellow in varying shades. It looked like a very large warbler but it didn't warble or fly or act like a warbler! It didn't seem to be frightened of me but was very much aware of my presence, so getting an accurate description was very difficult.

Its round head, back, wings and tail were olive-grey, slightly greyer on the head, edge of the wings and edge of the tail. There was a black streak from the black bill to the eye and some other detail around the eye that I could not pinpoint. The underparts were yellow and white although I could not quite define the areas.

Looking in *Birds of America* by Pearson and Burroughs, I tentatively identified the bird as a Yellow-breasted Chat. However, the Yellow-breasted Chat is not listed in *The Birds of the Saskatchewan River* by Houston and Street, so I had doubts about the identification.

Later, while discussing this with Dr. Riome and checking other books, we were both convinced that it was a Yellow-breasted Chat mainly because of its awkward flight (with its legs down) and distinctive song.

We had a severe rainstorm the night before I first sighted the bird and thought it stayed for a week, sounding as if it worried the last day as the first, I never did get my glasses on it again to confirm my first observations. — Judy Robb (Mrs. M.), Aylsham



LARK SPARROWS NESTING NEAR ROCKGLEN, SASKATCHEWAN

A pair of Lark Sparrows built a nest in one of our spruce trees and raised two families in it. Thanks to this busy pair I had no insect damage in my garden. I noticed the pair in the spruce trees on June 15, 1972, but did not like to investigate too closely until I saw them carrying insects on June 20. On June 25 the nestlings were out of the nest in the surrounding bushes and being fed by the busy parents. By July 19 the parent birds were again feeding their second family in the old nest.

In his National Museum report, *Birds of the Cypress Hills and Flotten Lake Region*, W. E. Godfrey describes the Western Lark Sparrow as an "uncommon summer resident". On June 1948, two observations of these birds were made in this area — one in willow shrubbery of a coulee, 5 miles south of Maple Creek, and another at a caragana plantation at an abandoned ranch house on the dry plains just north of Willow Creek near the Montana border. — Effie Mattson, Rockglen, Sask.

FALL AND WINTER READINGS AND ACTIVITIES

by DIANE WEIR*

WATKINSON, James. *Animal traps and trapping*. 1971. Historical background to trapping and modern trapping equipment and methods are included in this book useful for professional trappers, gamekeepers, farmers, fishermen, naturalists, zoologists and antiquarians. CD 639.1 B328

BRIDGE, Raymond. *The complete snow camper's guide*. 1973. A new, illustrated handbook for the outdoorsman, with details on camping, travelling, equipment, and safety (another copy in Reference). 796.54 B851

BROCKMAN, C. F. *Trees of North America*. 1968. A field guide to the major native and introduced species north of Mexico with text, range maps and illustrations. 582.16 B864

BROWN, Vinson. *Reading the woods*. 1969. A guide for the outdoorsman who wants to see more in nature's familiar faces. 581.5 B881

COOPER, J. D. *Photography through monoculars, binoculars and telescopes*. 1965. 778.322 C777

CORRINGTON, J. D. *Exploring with your microscope*. 1957. Study of the construction, selection and uses of the microscope, with a chapter on the use of the microscope in various areas of criminology. 578 C825

ENNION, E. A. *Tracks*. 1967. A collection of photographs of tracks left by birds, mammals, amphibians and insects with a discussion of the possible activities of the animals at the time the tracks were made. 591.5 E59t

GOLDSTEIN, Philip. *Experiments with microscopic animals*. 1971. Book of research projects especially written for the amateur scientist using easily available microorganisms. 593.1 G624

HUTCHINS, R. E. *Galls and gall insects*. 1969. Y 632.2 H974

JARMAN, Catherine. *Atlas of animal migration*. 1972. Beautiful book on migration, what it is, how it evolved, why animals do it and how naturalists keep track of animals. Detailed accounts follow the introduction and use full-color maps, globes and colour illustrations to show the migration of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. 591.52 J37

KAUFMANN, John. *Wings, sun, and stars*. 1969. Illustrated survey of research on bird migration, bird flight, and theories on how and why they migrate. Y 598.252 K21

KETCHUM, R. M. *The secret life of the forest*. 1970. Well-illustrated volume on the forest's hidden secrets, describing in detail the complex life within the woodland community and the growth and life cycle of the tree. 582.16 K43

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