

MIGRATION RECORDS FOR MARCH.

Spring-like weather in the middle of March brought back many of the first returning migrants almost as early as last year, when an all-time record was set for early "first seen dates". The return of the first migrants varies tremendously from season to season depending on the weather (most of these birds move north when the daily temperature reaches an average of 35° Fahrenheit - in other words "spring"). For example, over a ten year period, our earliest date for the robin in Yorkton is March 18, 1945, and the latest, April 17, 1940. On the other hand, the birds which return later in the spring arrive with far greater regularity, even to within a few days of the same date year after year.

The following migration reports have been received up to the end of March - incidentally it is quite interesting to compare the dates for Skull Creek with those from points in the east and northeast.

Horned Larks Dick Bird, driving down into the States the first week of March, saw "hundreds" of Horned Larks along the roadsides between Weyburn and the border, and "thousands" from Minot southwards.

Skull Creek Tree Sparrow, March 5; Marsh Hawk, 7th; Mountain Bluebird, 11th; Pintail, 11th; Mallard, Sparrow Hawk, 12th; Ferruginous Rough-leg Hawk, 13th; "It is difficult to say when the first Horned Larks return, as a few always winter here, but I noticed an increase in numbers after February 25th".

STEVE A. MANN

Peebles Horned Lark, February 24; Crow, March 11th (several on 20th); duck, species undetermined, 19th; Meadowlark, 20th. "A single Starling was observed March 21 and a Prairie Falcon noted for two consecutive days near White Rose School, March 18 and 19. Hungarian Partridge were in pairs March 4 - have been scarce all winter. Sharp-tailed Grouse have gathered from surrounding neighborhood until there are about 80 feeding on a field of unthreshed oats."

OLIVER ENGLISH

Grenfell Marsh Hawk, Crow, Mountain Bluebird, Tree Sparrow (?), March 19; Meadowlark, Geese, heard going over late in the evening, March 20th. "The Bluebirds were flitting from stone to stone in a pasture about 2½ miles from town."

MRS. F. BILSBURY

Yorkton Horned Lark, February 24; Marsh Hawk, March 20, Crow, Meadowlark, 21st; Canada Geese (at Rousay's Lake) 22nd; Robin, 23rd; Red-tailed Hawk, 24th; Killdeer, Slate-coloured Junco, 25th; American Rough-legged Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, 26th; Mallard, 28th; Pintail, Tree Sparrow, 29th. Recorded by members of

Y.N.H.S.

Nipawin Horned Lark, March 6; Crow, 14th, (earliest date in 21 years), Slate-coloured Junco, 24th.

"A Canada Jay's nest found half completed March 18; this is rather later than average. While hunting for other Canada Jay nests in a spruce bluff yesterday (24th) David Wright and I saw a pair of Black-capped Chickadees take a bath, almost at our feet, in a little pool of water which had formed at the base of a stump. The temperature was only just above freezing. Later we saw them catching tiny moths that were flying in some numbers." MAURICE G. STREET