

tells; plentiful inland in summer, but migrate southward in the winter; but I could not learn any more of its natural history, its not being known to the natives near the Albany Fort, where this specimen was shot. (Hutchins, MSS., observations on Hudson Bay, 1782.)

246. *Anthus pensilvanicus*. American Pipit, or Titlark.

Abundant spring and fall migrant. Winnipeg: Transient visitor; tolerably common (Hine). In considerable numbers along Mouse River in September (Coues). Portage la Prairie: Abundant; autumn visitor; I have not noted it in spring; arrives about September 20, and remains until the end of October (Nash). At Pelly: September 15, 1881 (Macoun). Carberry: Abundant; migrant; Turtle Mountain (Thompson).

October 8, 1884: Pipits are here in much greater numbers than in the spring, and are bustling about in the barnyards and pastures, first attracting notice by their untiring repetitions of the note "*chepit, chepit*." Then, holding the attention by the remarkable habit they have of wagging the tail unceasingly, whether flying, perching, or running on the ground; they seem to be under some awful obligation to keep on wagging, not their tails only, but the whole of the latter end. The motion is absurdly excessive, and the birds look as though they would stop it if they could.

247. *Anthus spragueii*. Sprague's Pipit. Missouri Skylark.

Common summer resident of the elevated prairies of the south and west. Winnipeg: Rare (Hine). From Pembina Mountain westward along the boundary to the second crossing of the Mouse River; breeding in great numbers; Turtle Mountains, Mouse River, etc. (Coues). Carberry: Abundant; summer resident (Thompson).

On May 7, 1883, I noticed the Missouri Skylark, or Sky Jinger as we used to call it.

May 7, 1884: Have at last succeeded in collecting a skylark that I knew to have been singing aloft. It appears to be *Anthus spragueii* (identification subsequently indorsed by Dr. C. Hart Merriam). Male adult: Length, $6\frac{1}{2}$; weight, $3\frac{1}{4}$; tail, $2\frac{1}{2}$; beak, $\frac{3}{8}$; toes, $\frac{7}{8}$; hind toe, $\frac{7}{8}$, of which claw is about half; toes reach beyond the tail; stomach full of coleoptera. It differs from Baird's description as follows: It has vibrissæ, the outer tail feathers not entirely white; the outer toe not quite free; first primary not longest, but second and third are; tail even, not emarginate; legs and bill not yellow, but flesh-colored. It is an extremely shy bird, and for long I confounded it with the shore-lark, whose song and habits on the wing are so similar.

On May 10, I counted twelve skylarks singing far up in the sky, during a 3-mile walk in the morning.

May 13. Skylarks very numerous now, and in full song.

On May 14, I watched a skylark that was singing on high with
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