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## POPULAR AND PRACTICAL ORNITHOLOGY.

### III.—THE UPLAND PLOVER.

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When viewed from a short distance, Upland Plovers might be described, briefly, as grayish-brown above; the colour in reality, is made up of gray-brown and black markings. Beneath, they are white with black arrowhead-shaped dashes on the upper breast and along the sides. They average about twelve inches in length.

This plover, so far as Canada is concerned, is a bird of the Middle West and though it is found in migration, casually, from coast to coast, its chief breeding grounds are western Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan, extending, however, southward to Virginia and northwesterly to Alaska. It winters in Mexico and South America.

This bird has previously passed under a variety of names, many of them local. Until recently, it has been known as Bartiamians Sandpiper. The popular tongue however, was never able to master such a cumbersome title and so the A.O.U. changed it to one more easily uttered and which was already in common use in various parts of the bird's range. The name, as it is, is also a very appropriate one, applying as it does to a bird that is decidedly upland in habit, preferring the dry prairies which are broken by small bluffs, particularly if the land be sandy. There is reason to suspect, however, that this preference for sandy soil is, after all, due not so much to an actual liking for the soil as for the food found upon it. Such soil, on account of its extra heat and inability to support as dense a vegetation as the richer land, proves much more suitable for the breeding locusts, more particularly those species that lay their eggs in the ground. Here they flourish and if not checked, often become troublesome pests. Now, the chief food of Upland Plovers is these very members of the order Orthoptera—locusts, grasshoppers or any other of the hopper tribe. Hence, the association is more than probable due to food considerations.