

The ninth pair abuts proximally against the accessory plate only.

The neurals of *S. nebrascensis* shew variations to a limited extent. In the majority of specimens of this species the second and succeeding neurals are hexagonal with the maximum breadth well forward. In the type of *Testudo culbertsoni*, Leidy, now generally regarded as properly referable to *S. nebrascensis*, the second neural is octagonal and the third quadrangular; also there is an additional bone between the eighth neural and the first suprapygal. The presence of a ninth pair of costal bones, seven pairs of costal scutes and an additional vertebral scute is considered to be, in the specimen from Sage creek, a unique example of extreme individual variation. So far as the writer is aware, in no turtle, belonging to any of the groups having large epidermal scutes in the carapace, has so great a development of vertebral and costal scutes hitherto been recorded.

EXPLANATION OF PLATES.

Plate I—Carapace of *Testudo præextans*, viewed from above; one-fourth the natural size.

Plate II—Plastron of the same shell, inferior aspect; one-fourth the natural size.

Plate III—Carapace of *Stylomys nebrascensis*, as seen from above, to shew the abnormal number of costal and vertebral scutes etc.; one-half the natural size.

Plate IV—Plastron of the same specimen, inferior aspect; one-half the natural size.

IS BARTRAM'S SANDPIPER DISAPPEARING FROM THE PRAIRIES?

Twenty years ago the Bartramian Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) was a common summer resident on the prairies of Alberta, but for the past ten years it has become one of our rarest birds, at least in central Alberta. During the summer of 1892 and several years following one could see a dozen pairs in as many miles. About the year 1900 I did not see this many in a whole season, and from that time until the present they have gradually become rarer each year until this present season I have only seen one pair.

I cannot find a reason for this disappearance, and I would like to have the experience of other observers of this bird given in the NATURALIST.

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