

many of the bridges along the railway. As three years ago this region, through which the line now runs, was practically uninhabited, and the Swallows consequently could hardly have then found suitable nesting-places, it seems probable that the range of the species has been considerably extended in that time—an instance, doubtless, of the rapidity with which some species follow man as he extends the area of civilization.

At least one species of Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*, is common and breeds, building its nest largely of the stalks of a species of *Gnaphalium* in the branches of the low, scrubby oaks that cover the sand-hills.

The little Goldfinch, *Astragalinus tristis*, is fairly common on the edges of the bluffs.

The little Baywing, *Poæcetes gramineus*, is one of the most familiar of prairie birds, and nightly sings a subdued kind of vespersong as the sun goes down. Its most notable peculiarity, however, is its habit of flitting along a trail or pathway in front of an advancing wagon or person, alighting every few yards. As it is but comparatively recently that there have been any human trails over the prairies, it seems probable that this proceeding is a relic of a habit acquired by the bird of flitting before the buffaloes along the paths made by those animals.

About the second week in September the slatey Snowbirds or Juncos, *Junco hyemalis*, began to become abundant, and remained so for at least a month.

The Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, is of course common. I saw birds in both the black and buff plumage together near Carberry on August 30th.

The Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelæus phæniceus*, is very abundant, and breeds in the rushes round most of the lakes, afterwards collecting into flocks.

The gorgeous Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*, is far from rare, and its hanging nest is often to be found in the poplar trees growing on the sand-hills.

No bird is more characteristic of the prairies than the Meadow Lark, *Sturnella neglecta*. It is very common in summer, and breeds abundantly. Its clear, musical whistle (almost, if not quite,