

## NOTES ON BIRDS IN COLORADO, 1902.

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While staying in Denver, during the past winter, I have been noticing some things about bird life that have interested me a good deal. My home being in Winnipeg, I have naturally noticed the effect of the different climatic conditions of this comparatively southern State upon the birds. The spring having now come here, I have also been on the look out for the migration of birds common to this State and North-west Canada.

First, I may mention the surprise with which I found ducks and various other birds here all through the winter. I at least had always imagined they went further south to the lower Mississippi and Gulf States. But in January I saw mallards, pintails, teal and red-heads, which were got on the lakes among the mountains just west of this. They were in good condition, indicating good feeding. What food they find is not clear to me, for though this winter was mild up to January 25th, we have had very cold spells since, and the cold in the mountain must have been pretty severe, as it froze up the lakes. In ordinary winter, during the most severe weather they are said to be found in lakes out on the plains. The northward flight seemed to me to begin about two weeks ago (say March 15th); it is now in full swing, and the birds which are shot are in much better condition than those we usually get in Manitoba in the spring. Is it lack of food or hard work that accounts for their leanness?

The first robins appeared about the same date, at first, stragglers, the advance guard. A week later the robins were in bands of ten or twelve, slipping about the lawns feeding on berries of Virginia Creeper, also on seeds of Russian thistle and other seeds growing on vacant lots. It is very amusing to watch their bustle and unrest, quite after the fashion of other biped tourists so common here. Even their feeding seems to be hurried, lunch counter style; it only needs the toothpick to complete the likeness. The only exception to this hurry was during stormy weather, as last week, when we had high winds with snow. Then, wisely enough, the robins took their leisure and really "did" the city. During the past few days—since April 1st—they have been fewer, evidently the crest of the wave has passed.