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NATURAL HISTORY NOTES FROM CALGARY, ALTA.

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The following notes are from observations recorded at and in the vicinity of, Calgary, during the months of January, February, March and April, 1911.

Calgary is chiefly situated in a valley caused by the shiftings of the Bow and Elbow Rivers; it is surrounded for the most part, by rolling prairie and as there are few trees of natural growth, the situation, though a picturesque one, is not of the best from a collector's point of view. The river banks, however, yield some interesting life, and a few miles to the west, all in the city limits, is a large bank well wooded with aspen poplar, spruce and various shrubs. Here, too, is situated a gray sandstone quarry showing numerous fossils, and no doubt systematic work would bring to light much of interest. There are, also, some balsam, poplar, and other trees along the river banks, and numerous fine young trees may be seen in the city itself. In fact, there are many interesting objects in nearly every branch of natural history, and the enthusiastic young society formed for just such a study will find lots to do for many years to come.

The winter climate is usually a mild one, but as I witnessed, can be extremely cold at times. The changes in temperature are, also, remarkably rapid, and it is these sudden changes coupled with the small snow fall that make successful tree-planting, especially deciduous trees, so difficult to accomplish.

For the first two months little wild life was observed. Redpolls were the only common birds that could be seen daily among the weeds on vacant lots, doing what others had neglected, namely, destroying weed seeds. On March 3rd, I made this note in my journal: "So far the following birds have been seen during the winter: Magpies, Northern Shrike, Snow Buntings, Redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks and House Sparrows." The first spring arrival was a Slate-coloured Junco, on March 21. Other birds were first observed on the following dates—it