

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

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I.

THE BIRDS OF SOUTHERN SASKATCHEWAN.

The following annotated list is the result of a few researches during the last five years in the southern part of the Saskatchewan Territory, mainly in the region between 105° and 106° west longitude, and $50^{\circ} 30'$ and $53^{\circ} 20'$ north latitude. This small portion of the "rolling" prairie belongs chiefly to the partly wooded prairie, its south-west corner however showing the vicinity of the open prairie country. In the middle of it runs the Birch Hill range, with its three summits, the "Matinasse," the Birch Hill and the Red Deer Hill, that cut the south branches of the Saskatchewan.

Throughout the country are found a number of drainage basins, marshes, ponds, and lakes of considerable size, of these only one, the head waters of the Carrot River, is teeming with fish. These waters are more or less alkaline and contain a species of *Amblystoma*. West of these hills are found a great number of erratic boulders of the glacial period and a great number of dried up rivers, showing there was at one time an epoch of greater humidity. The commonest tree is the Aspen, *Populus tremuloides*, of which with *Salix rostrata*, the "bluffs" or "iles" throughout the country chiefly consist. With the exception of a few small areas in the south, the coniferous forest begins north of Prince Albert.

NATATOIRES—SWIMMING BIRDS.

Order PYGOPODES.

1. *Colymbus auritus*. This bird is here a common summer resident, breeding in great numbers in all the marshes and ponds of the prairie. It arrives about the middle of May and remains rather late in the autumn.
2. *Colymbus nigricollis californicus*. Sometimes met with, but much rarer than the preceding.
3. *Urinator imber*. This splendid bird breeds on every large lake or pond, preferring those where fish are plentiful. It arrives in May and remains till late in the fall, like the above mentioned species.