

laterally, not angled, pubescent, tipped with the minute curved style, 1-ovuled, maturing very irregularly.

This *Ranunculus* closely resembles *R. affinis*, R. Br. *var. validus*, Gray, in the heterophyllous character of the leaves, but these are not succulent as they are said to be in that variety. No trace of petals can be discerned in bud, half open flower or fully matured bloom; but the sepals have a decidedly petaloid appearance owing to the margins being quite yellow and glabrous.

It was found growing by the roadsides at Banff, Alberta.

RICHARDSON'S MERLIN.

I notice that very little reference is made in the "Catalogue of Canadian Birds" in connection with the nesting habits of Richardson's merlin, and think, perhaps, it would not be out of place for me to give my own experience of this bird while spending the summer of 1904 at Lethbridge, Alberta.

During the first week of May, 1904, I observed several pairs of these birds in the poplars that abound in the bottoms of the Belly River. I thought at the time that they were pigeon hawks, and that they were probably nesting in natural cavities in trees; but events proved otherwise.

On May 7th I made another visit to the locality where one pair was seen and was surprised at not being greeted with the usual harsh and scolding cries of the birds. Everything being quiet, I thought they had left the district or had been shot. While passing underneath a dilapidated magpie's nest, which was placed some 7 feet overhead in a scrubby poplar, I was surprised to see the female merlin flush from the same. The nest contained a pretty set of five eggs, which were simply laid on crumpled mud. The eggs are of a dark reddish brown color, resembling the duck hawk's eggs, being, of course, much smaller. The male bird came over from some of the adjacent poplars and the pair became pugnacious, sometimes darting within a foot of one's head, and uttering harsh cackling cries.