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We ship on approval to any address in Canada, without any deposit, and allow **15-DAY TRIAL**. It will not cost you one cent if not satisfied after using bicycle 15 days.

**DO NOT BUY** a bicycle, pair or sundries at any price until you get our latest illustrated catalogue and learn all about our special proposition. The low prices will astonish you. **ONE CENT** is all it will cost to write us a postal, and catalogue with full particulars will be sent to you **Free, Postpaid**, by return mail. **Do not wait. Write it now.**

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**LIVE POULTRY WANTED**

We guarantee to pay you prices quoted below:

|                             |         |        |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|
| Live Hens (large and small) | Per lb. | 13c    |
| Young Roosters              |         | 12c    |
| Old Roosters                |         | 10c    |
| Ducks                       |         | 12c    |
| Turkeys                     |         | 13-15c |
| Geese                       |         | 12c    |

These prices are for live weight, f.o.b. Winnipeg. Let us know what you have and how many you have, and we will forward you crates for shipping. Prompt returns.

**Golden Star Fruit & Produce Co.**  
91 LUSTED ST., WINNIPEG

**Live Old Hens Wanted**

|                |         |        |
|----------------|---------|--------|
| Old Hens       | Per lb. | 13c    |
| Young Roosters |         | 12-14c |
| Old Roosters   |         | 10c    |
| Turkeys        |         | 12-13c |
| Ducks          |         | 15-16c |

This ad. will not appear again for two weeks, and the above prices will hold good for that time. Let us know what you have to sell and we will forward crates for shipping. Prompt cash on receipt of shipment. Reference, Canadian Bank of Commerce.

**ROYAL PRODUCE & TRADING CO.**  
97 Aikens Street, Winnipeg

**Your Live Poultry and Produce**

will obtain better results by shipping to us. Quotations guaranteed till June 9th.

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Hens, large or small        | 13c |
| Hens, extra heavy           | 14c |
| Ducks                       | 14c |
| Turkeys                     | 14c |
| Spring Roosters             | 12c |
| Springs (this year's hatch) | 20c |

Coops supplied free, F.O.B. Winnipeg. We also handle eggs, butter and beef hides. Highest market prices guaranteed, with prompt cash returns on receipt of goods.

References: Bank of British North America, Selkirk Ave., Winnipeg

**NATIONAL POULTRY CO.**  
389 Pritchard Ave. Winnipeg

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**CUNNINGTON & CAMPION**  
Butchers  
595 PORTAGE AVE. WINNIPEG

**Common Prairie Birds**

By Dr. H. M. Speechly, Pilot Mound, Man.

Photos Copyright by H. & E. Pittman

Article VI.



The Barn Swallow

A native-born friend of mine has just been telling me that he has been driving extensively thru Southern Manitoba this spring, he has seen "such a few birds." Of course, he meant such a few large or easily noticed birds, which is only natural when the eye is unaccustomed to spot birds and the sloughs are empty. Our only pigeon, the mourning dove, not much larger than the American robin, often escapes notice owing to its rather dull grey-brown plumage, tho it frequents elevators. It should be strictly preserved, as it eats large quantities of weed seeds, 64 per cent. of its entire food. It eats no insects, only waste grain and weed seeds, such as sorrel, fox-tail, hawk weed and grasses. Like all pigeons it nests from 10 to 20 feet up in trees and builds a mere stick platform for its two pure white eggs. Look out for the mourning dove any time after April 21.

**The Swallow Tribe**

The swallow tribe has four representatives called swallows which migrate into the West as well as the purple martin, all splendid and strenuous insect-eaters and graceful in flight. As they fly so far, so swiftly and so constantly they need an abundance of insect food to quell their appetites. There is the cliff swallow, sometimes called cave swallow, which prefers cliffs on which to fasten its flask-shaped mud nests, but will build under the eaves of a barn. Its color is very like that of a barn swallow, but it has a whitish forehead and the tail is only slightly forked. The barn swallow is very familiar, especially when it chases round and round your rig going into town. Its forked tail and burnished blue back and head are finely set off by the chestnut brown of its throat and breast. The barn swallow likes building under the larger culverts that span creeks and ditches. The tree swallow has no brown, but is steely-blue on the back and white on the belly; it likes to use hollow telephone poles and greatly appreciates the convenient holes bored by flickers. Then there is the dull colored bank swallow which digs tunnels from one to three feet long into a dry sand bank and lines the end of the tunnel with a grass nest lined with feathers. Cliff and barn swallows lay white eggs with brown spots, but the other two lay white eggs. So does the purple martin lay white eggs, but it is not nearly so common in Manitoba as the swallows. Both at Morden and Portage la Prairie I have seen the purple martin, which likes boxes in which to build. What do these birds eat? Swallows take insects on the wing almost exclusively of which flies form one-third, but they also eat beetles and ants. The purple martin, which is larger than the swallows and of a lustrous steely-blue color all over, devours huge quantities of wasps, bugs, and beetles, also moths, May flies, and dragon flies.

**A Sparrow and the Kingfisher**

I must not forget to mention among the sparrows a very handsome fellow with a bright flesh-colored bill and black face and throat, Harris' sparrow or the plaintive sparrow, as it might be called on account of its way of piping, "Too, too, too," and then "Tee, tee, tee," very plaintively. On page 342 of Chester Reed's Canadian Bird Book is a very good illustration of this weed-seed eater. It breeds further north than Southern Manitoba, because it stays here about two weeks round about May 1, and then disappears, but its range is still unknown. Those of our settlers who live along the banks of the Red, Assiniboine, Qu'Appelle and Pembina rivers must be

very familiar with the belted kingfisher the only kingfisher in temperate North America. It is a solitary-crested bird seen sitting on a branch over the water-side. Its color is bluish grey and white, with a bluish grey band across its white breast and touches of reddish-brown on its sides. The nest is usually in a tunnel in a bank dug by the birds themselves, at the end of which the eggs are laid often on a collection of smelly fishbones. The pure pinky-white of the five to eight eggs contrasts with the surrounding mess.

**Three Thrushes**

The thrush tribe has already been touched upon when speaking of the robin and the bluebird, but I have not mentioned the three thrushes which look the part. I mean that when you talk of a thrush you think of a brown bird with more or less white breast spotted with black. If you are an old-country-born settler, you will think of one of the brightest and sweetest songsters in the world. Not so with our Western thrushes. Some writers rave about what these thrushes are supposed to do vocally, but for my part I can never catch them at it. In fact, the silence of Wilson's thrush, the commonest of the three, is as marked as its great numbers. Early in May they come as a rule, but this year I saw the first on April 16. The other two thrushes are known as the grey-checked and the olive-backed. These three thrushes build either on the ground or in low trees or bushes not more than three or four feet up. Wilson's thrush lays a blue egg, but the other two blue with brown spots, in a nest of grasses, leaves and bark, lined with fine grasses. Like all of this tribe these thrushes are of the greatest value as devourers of insects and all kinds of grubs, but they do not nest in our small Western towns like robins do.

**Not Canaries**

When anyone tells you that they have seen a canary in this West, you may know that they have seen nothing of the sort, because there are no canaries in North America; but you may be sure that they have seen the summer warbler or American yellow-bird, if it is in the first half of May, or the goldfinch in the latter half of May. The lovely little yellow warbler is a bright yellow, with sides and belly streaked with brown touches. Note that there is a greenish tinge on the back and wings. They are very common and build in or out of town, in the farm garden or in the bush. The nest is beautifully wrought of vegetable fibres and fine grasses, woven together compactly and lined with plant down and hair. You will find them in crotches or forks of a tree or bush from four to ten feet up. In June, the eggs, greenish white, spotted with brown or lilac, are laid in the elegant cup. Like all warblers the yellow warbler is a most painstaking insect-eater. Note its sharp pointed bill. How different is the stout strong beak of the goldfinch, another really beautiful bird, but a weed seed eater from thistles to dandelions. Yellow as a dandelion where it is not black or white as on the wings, tail and head, you cannot mistake this gay little friend who calls "spink, spink" as he dances thru the air in wavy flight. Plant a few tall sunflowers in your garden so that in the late summer the goldfinches may have a treat in eating the seeds. This bird will nest in Manitoba as late as September and builds an exquisite cup-shaped nest from five to thirty feet up in trees, made of fine grass, strips of bark and moss, lined with thistle down, wherein you will find four or five pale bluish white eggs. There are a number of other warblers with plenty of yellow about them and very common, too, but it would puzzle you to do more than allude to the fact that such exquisites as the cape may, the magna, the blackburnian and other warblers with bright yellow markings migrate as far as Hudson Bay to nest.



Nest of American Goldfinch



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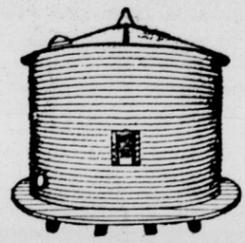
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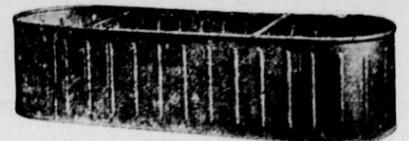
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