

don, April 20, 1882 (Wood). Shell River: 1885, first seen, two, on April 13; next seen, thirteen, on April 17; became common on April 24; male and female in flock; common all summer and breeds here (Calcutt). Qu'Appelle: Common summer resident; flocks of four or five about April 12 (Guernsey). Severn House, Trout Lake Station: The color is unusually bright in the specimens received (Murray).

On April 28, 1882, drove to the spruce brush; the country seems flooded with robins; the last mile of prairie, just before entering on the wooded and sand-hill region, was covered with an immense straggling flock. They were to be seen chiefly on the ground or making short flights. The general movement of the flock was northward. There must have been several thousands of birds in it.

On July 11, 1883, among the sand hills on the Portage Trail, I found a robin's nest; it was placed about 4 feet from the ground in a small isolated spruce, and contained three eggs which would have hatched within a week. This may have been a second brood.

Its song is first heard in the morning when the dawn is well advanced, the robin being more tardy to raise the matin song than many of his compeers. It is heard until the middle of the forenoon, then usually ceases until near sunset, when it recommences and continues until dusk. I have not yet noted this species singing by night. If when singing the bird be slightly startled by some noise close at hand, the loud cheery note is stopped, or at least altered, so that, although the song goes on, it is very faint and sounds as though coming from a great distance, and a close inspection will show the bird's bill to be shut. This was first pointed out to me by Dr. Brodie, but I have noted the same habit in several other species.

The loud rolling notes will remind Europeans of the voices of the Song Thrush and Blackbird, but there is a terminal bar of frequent occurrence that recalls the metallic notes of our own Wood Thrushes and reminds us of their near kinship to the Red-breasted Fifer (Toronto, 1885).

I have several times noticed that a nest containing young robins was lined with an inner coating of fibers, but can not say that this was added after the hatching of the young.

A friend informed me of a curious circumstance relative to a brood of this species. He had watched the old ones building in a silverbark or poplar, but shortly after the young were hatched he observed that the parents ceased to show themselves. After a little he climbed the tree and found in the nest the remains of the four young; nothing but the skins, all in shape with great staring eyes, but perfectly hollow and dried with the sun, while in and about them were hordes of ants, evidently the devourers if not the destroyers of the callow brood.

266. *Sialia sialis*. Bluebird. Blue Robin.

Rare summer resident; chiefly about the large towns. Winnipeg: Rare summer visitor (Hine). Red River Valley: Summer resident; tolerably common; noted a number of nests last year, 1884, inside city