

SUGGESTIONS FOR ORNITHOLOGICAL WORK
IN CANADA*

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In surveying the results of ornithological work done in the Dominion to date, one is struck with the number of blank spaces in our knowledge, and the fine field yet offered for original research.

In the subject of life-histories, there is hardly a species, amongst our typical Canadian forms, that has been comprehensively worked up. Most of the work accomplished along these lines has been done in the adjoining republic and describes conditions abroad, slightly foreign to us zoologically as well as politically. Of course, our workers have been fewer both actually and proportionally in Canada than in the United States, and perhaps under the circumstances the broader generalizations that our few have accomplished has been of more pressing nature than the detailed surveys accomplished in the older community.

In geographical distribution our knowledge of Canadian avifauna is fragmentary and, if it were not for the results of work accomplished in the United States, would still be but an outline. The Maritime Provinces have been touched but locally. The Labrador and the Gulf of St. Lawrence has been worked intermittently. From Montreal west to the Toronto region but high spots have been touched; in fact, the southern peninsula of Ontario is perhaps the only area of any size in Canada, that has had anything like adequate attention from an ornithological standpoint. From a line east of Georgian bay to the Manitoba boundary we know practically nothing of bird conditions. Continuous systematic work in Manitoba ceased some years ago and the other Prairie Provinces—Saskatchewan and Alberta—have received but desultory attention from visiting naturalists. British Columbia is being investigated in spots but most of its area except locally in the southern portions is a *terra incognita* as far as exact ornithological knowledge is concerned.

In the northern regions, on the Yukon river and some of its tributaries and main highways, considerable work has been done by occasional visitors. Along the route from Lake Athabasca

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