

in Astotin Lake, a mile or so north of where this Flycatcher was first noted.

Mr. T. E. Randall, who has been observing birds in the Park for some time, informed me that he had never detected the species there.—

R. D. USSHER.

CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE IN THE ALBERTA FOOTHILLS.—On November 12, 1939, the writer was observing a mixed flock of Black-capped, Gambel's, and Brown-headed Chickadees in Lodgepole Pines near the headquarters of the Kananaskis Forest Experiment Station, Seebe, Alberta, about forty miles west of Calgary.

The notes of one dark looking bird attracted attention, and when examined through glasses, it proved to be a Chestnut-backed Chickadee. The bird was watched for some time, coming within a few feet on more than one occasion. The writer has had little time for observations here, and this is the only time this Chickadee has been noted.

The altitude is about 4,300 feet and Gambel's Chickadee was not observed during the previous May and June, being first seen in early November, on the writer's return to the Station.

The prevailing forest cover is mostly Lodgepole Pine of rather small size, with patches of Poplar and some Spruce, practically all second growth.—

R. D. USSHER.

Placocephalus kewensis IN MANITOBA.—*Placocephalus kewensis* was first noticed in the greenhouse of the University of Manitoba in September, 1933, during the annual search for breeding *Oniscus*. Its introduction has no doubt been with nursery stock as has been the case throughout America and Europe coming originally from Samoa.

Placocephalus von Graff has recently been changed to *Bipalium*, eight species of which are now recorded from Java, Sumatra and Bali. *Bipaliidae* have flat elongated bodies (4 to 8 inches) with dorsal stripes, and a broad placate head with marginal eye spots.—V. W. JACKSON.

SPREAD OF NEBRASKA COTTONTAIL IN MANITOBA.—

Nebraska Cottontail (*Sylvilagus yoridanus similis*) has now crossed Latitude 52° in Manitoba and possibly 53° in Saskatchewan. Anthony gave its northern limit as Fargo, North Dakota, in 1924. In 1926 the first specimen for Manitoba was sent from Kaleida. In 1928 many had reported "a brown rabbit in midwinter" and in 1930 it had reached Winnipeg. January 1932 Joe Morton reported it 100 miles north and on November 11th that year Peter Durant sent in a specimen from Dauphin, 200 miles north. So this sudden migration northward was very rapid, nearly 100 miles a year. Since reaching Latitude 52° the spread has been general throughout the Province but not farther northward. Has the Eastern Cottontail made a similar advance?—V. W. JACKSON.

1. Records of "cottontails" from Saskatchewan should be carefully investigated, as the Black Hills Cottontail, *Sylvilagus nuttallii grangeri*, has been known to occur in Saskatchewan for at least 30 years, and is known to be increasing and spreading in some areas.—R. M. ANDERSON.

OCCURRENCE OF GRAY SQUIRREL IN MANITOBA.—

Gray Squirrels are quite a novelty on the streets of Winnipeg this winter. They first crossed the Manitoba boundary from the south in 1930¹—perhaps the first wave of retreat from the inter-specific war said to have been raging at the time,—when thousands of squirrels swam the Mississippi. 3 years later they were in St. Boniface and young ones were seen that summer. They have now spread northward to East Selkirk and to Latitude 51° and westward to Portage la Prairie and the Pembina ridge, i.e.—the Red River valley. They are darker than the eastern Gray Squirrel less white below and their furry tracks prove them to be the Merriam or Minnesota Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis hypophaeus*).—V. W. JACKSON.

1. The National Museum of Canada has one skin in the black (melanistic) phase, taken near Sewell, Manitoba, in November, 1916, but in the absence of further details an isolated occurrence of a common caged pet might be considered as an "escape."—R. M. ANDERSON.



Ussher, R. D. 1940. "Chestnut-backed Chickadee in Alberta Foothills." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 54(5), 75–75. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.340233>.

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