

## XV. FAVORITE FOODS OF SOME OKLAHOMA BIRDS

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During the past three or four years the feeding habits of many of our birds have received close attention by a large number of persons; the principal reason for this being a desire on the part of the investigators to prove that with but few exceptions birds choose as food materials which are detrimental to man, or at best are worthless to him.

My own observations along this line, in the Oklahoma Panhandle, cover a period of fourteen or fifteen years and were carried on in the summer months under natural conditions in the fields, and in winter at feeding tables and in the field.

The following thirty-six species and subspecies have proved especially interesting to study and the food eaten by them are given in the order of their preference by the birds. Grain was eaten at the feeding tables and not to any great extent in the fields, except where it had been scattered on the ground during harvest. The sources of my information are indicated as follows: \* means stomach examination of one or more specimens; † feeding table record; ‡ field observation.

\*†‡1. *Colinus virginianus virginianus*: Bob-white. Grasshoppers, flies, crickets, aphids, burdock, pigweed, lamb's quarter, and Russian thistle seeds, milo maize, kaffir and millet.

\*†‡2. *Callipepla squamata pallida*: Arizona Scaled Quail. Grasshoppers, flies, ants, beetles, sunflower seeds, Russian thistle and lamb's quarter seed, milo maize and kaffir.

\*‡3. *Zenaidura macroura marginella*: Western Mourning Dove. Snails, leaf-worms, lamb's quarter seeds and leaves, maize and kaffir.

\*‡4. *Circus hudsonius*: Marsh Hawk. Meadow mice, ground squirrels, rabbits, lizards, small snakes and large insects.

\*‡5. *Buteo swainsoni*: Swainson's Hawk. Gophers, field mice, grasshoppers and crickets.

\*‡6. *Asio wilsonianus*: American Long-eared Owl. Meadow mice, and house mice.

\*†‡7. *Geococcyx californianus*: Road-runner. Lizards, snakes, centipedes, beetles, grasshoppers, and cactus fruit.

\*†‡8. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*: Red-headed Woodpecker.

Grasshoppers, beetles, woodworms, wasps, insect larvae.

\*†9. *Asyndesmus lewisi*: Lewis's Woodpecker. Grasshoppers, crickets, wood-worms, insect larvae, ants, beetles and flies.

\*†10. *Colaptes cafer collaris*: Red-shafted Flicker. Ants, beetles, choke-cherry, hackberry, virginia creeper, sumac, poison-ivy and wild grapes.

\*†11. *Tyrannus verticalis*: Arkansas Kingbird. Grasshoppers, moths, winged ants, butterflies, and caterpillars.

\*†12. *Pica pica hudsonia*: American Magpie. Small rodents, young birds, such as sparrows, and warblers, crickets, grasshoppers.

\*†13. *Cyanocitta cristata cristata*: Blue Jay. Mast, milo maize, corn, fresh meat, grasshoppers, and caterpillars.

\*†14. *Aphelocoma woodhousei*: Woodhouse's Jay. Grasshoppers, pine nuts, acorns.

\*†15. *Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*: Pinyon Jay. Pinyon nuts, cedar berries, grasshoppers, corn.

\*†16. *Sturnella neglecta*: Western Meadowlark. Grasshoppers, and their eggs, beetles, crickets and earth-worms.

\*†17. *Icterus bullocki*: Bullock's Oriole. Web-worms, grasshoppers, wild grapes, stinking sumac berries, and choke-cherries.

\*†18. *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*: Bronzed Grackle. Beetles, earth-worms, corn and maize.

\*†19. *Carpacus mexicanus frontalis*: House Finch. Russian thistle seed, ragweed, and nettle seeds, millet and wheat, and sunflower seed.

\*†20. *Spinus pinus*: Pine Siskin. Pine and Pinyon cones, Russian thistle, ragweed, pigweed and sunflower seed.

\*†21. *Passer domesticus*: English Sparrow. This is one bird which fails to pay for his keep. His food consists of nearly everything edible, some of it being green garden plants, maize, kaffir, Indian corn, millet, bread crumbs, and meat. To his credit he eats Russian thistle, nettle, ragweed, and pigweed seeds, and some grasshoppers and moths.

\*†22. *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*: Gambel's Sparrow. Cut-worms, larvae, caterpillars, Russian thistle, dock and nettle seeds.

\*†23. *Junco aieni*: White-winged Junco. Russian thistle, pigweed, ragweed, and nettle seeds, milo maize, kaffir and millet.

\*†24. *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*: Slate-colored Junco. Same as White-winged Junco.

\*†25. *Junco hyemalis mearnsi*: Pink-sided Junco. Same as

White-winged Junco.

\*†‡26. *Junco phœneotus caniceps*: Gray-headed Junco. Same as White-winged Junco.

\*†‡27. *Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus*: Canyon Towhee. Grasshoppers, moths, winged ants, Russian thistle, and pigweed seeds, maize and kaffir.

\*†‡28. *Passerina amoena*: Luzuli Bunting. Grasshoppers, sunflower, Russian thistle, ragweed and pigweed seeds.

\*†‡29. *Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*: Cliff Swallow. Ants, winged ants, moths, gnats and flies.

\*†‡30. *Bombycilla cedrorum*: Cedar Waxwing. Cewar berries, canker-worms, leaf beetles, plant lice, hackberries and choke-cherries.

\*†‡31. *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*: White-rumped Shrike. Mice, grasshoppers and English Sparrows.

\*†‡32. *Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*: Western Mockingbird: Drupes of the Virginia creeper, wild grapes, earth-worms, winged ants, web-worms and grasshoppers.

\*†‡33. *Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus*: Rock Wren. Earth worms, and grubs from the bark of trees.

\*†‡34. *Sitta pygmaea pygmaea*: Pygmy Nuthatch. Leaf beetles, moths, larvae, pine nuts, grasshoppers.

\*†‡35. *Baeolophus inornatus griseus*: Gray Titmouse. Grasshoppers, insect eggs, larvae, pigweed, Russian thistle, and dock seed, and millet, kaffir, and wheat, also sunflower seeds.

\*†‡36. *Sialia currucoides*: Mountain Bluebird. Dried grapes, Virginia creeper, drupes, weevils, ants, moths, and locusts, sumac berries, and cedar berries.