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Georger F. Knowlton
Utah State University

William P. Nye
Utah State University

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Insect Food of the Vesper Sparrow

G. F. KNOWLTON and W. P. NYE,¹ *Utah Agricultura Experiment Station, Logan*

An examination has been made of 116 stomachs of the western vesper sparrow, *Pooecetes gramineus confinis* Baird. The birds were collected throughout Utah during the seasons of 1934 to 1945, inclusive.

Among the injurious insects eaten were:

One hundred two grasshoppers, 10 Mormon crickets, several lygus bugs, 74 false chinch bugs, 16 pentatomids, 268 leafhoppers of which 251 were *Eutettix tenellus* (Baker), 87 aphids including 64 *Macrosiphum pisi* (Kalt.), 4 click beetles, 24 scarabaeids, 48 leaf beetles including injurious flea beetles, a pea weevil, 48 alfalfa weevils and alfalfa weevil larvae, 2 clover leaf weevils, 80 lepidopterous caterpillars, 1 mosquito, 2 horseflies and 188 ants. The insects recognized were predominantly injurious, although a few beneficial forms were present, such as ladybird beetles, ground beetles, chrysopids, damsel bugs, big-eyed bugs and wild bees.

Recognizable insect food of the sparrow consisted of the following:

Thysanura 1

Orthoptera 111²

Locustidae 102 (50 nymphs)²—*Camnula pelucida* (Scudder), 1, *Melanoplus packardi* Scudder 1, and *M. mexicanus* Riley 1.

Tettigoniidae 10

Anabrus simplex Hald. (10 nymphs)

Neuroptera 3

Chrysopidae—*Chrysopa* sp. 3

Odonata 3

Zygoptera 2

Anisoptera 1

Hemiptera 185 (20 nymphs)

Corixidae 1

Miridae 18 (8 nymphs)—*Lygus elisus* Van D. 3, *L. hesperus* Knight 1

Nabidae 2—*Nabis ferus* (L.) 1

Lygaeidae 89—*Nysius ericae* (Schilling) 78 (4 nymphs), *Geocoris decoratus* Uhler 1

Coreidae 8

Pentatomidae 10—*Brochymena* 2; (also 6 eggs)

Scutelleridae 2—*Eurygaster alternatus* (Say) 1

Homoptera 373 (60 nymphs)

Cercopidae 3—*Clastoptera brunnea* Ball 1

Membracidae 7—*Campylenchia latipes* (Say) (1 nymph)

¹ Research professor and former graduate research assistant, respectively.

Cicadellidae 268 (59 nymphs)—*Eutettix tenellus* (Baker) 251 (55 nymphs), *Aceratagallia* 3

Fulgoridae 1—*Scolops pallidus* Uhler

Chermidae 3

Aphididae 87—*Drepanaphis* sp. 1, *Macrosiphum pisi* (Kalt.) 64, *M. coweni* Hunter 1, *M. granarium* (Kby.) 1

Coleoptera 350 (32 larvae)

Cicindelidae 1

Carabidae 17 (1 larva)

Staphylinidae 1

Melyridae 1

Meloidae 2—*Epicauta oregona* Horn 1

Elateridae 4

Dermestidae 1

Coccinellidae 2—*Hippodamia convergens* Guerin 1

Tenebrionidae 1

Scarabaeidae 24—*Aphodius distinctus* (Mull.) 12

Chrysomelidae 48—*Monoxia debilis* Lec. 3,

Systema bitaeneatus Lec. 1, *Pachybrachis* sp. 1

Bruchidae—*Bruchus pisorum* (L.) 1

Curculionidae 67—*Phytonomus posticus* (Gyll.) 48 (29 larvae), *Hypera punctata* (Fabr.) 2, *Sitona hispidulus* (Fabr.) 3, *Thricolepis inornata* Horn 1

Scolytidae 7—*Ips* sp. 1

Trichoptera 1

Lepidoptera 84 (80 larvae)

Pyrallidae 3—*Lorostege sticticalis* (L.)

Sphingidae 1 (larva)

Noctuidae 31 (larvae)—*Agrotis* 2

Diptera 40—(7 larvae and 3 pupae)

Chironomidae 2

Culicidae 1

Bibionidae 2

Tabanidae 2 (1 larva)

Dolichopodidae 1

Syrphidae 1

Ephydriidae 1

Hymenoptera 221

Braconidae 1

Formicidae 188—Many *Pogonomyrmex* sp. and *Formica* sp.

Andrenidae 2

Miscellaneous insect eggs 3

Spiders 9

Solpugida 2

Pseudoscorpion 1

3158 plant seeds plus numerous seed and plant fragments.—5-4-48.

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