

BIRDS

OF

MOUNT MCKINLEY
NATIONAL PARK
ALASKA

by

ADOLPH MURIE

Illustrated by OLAUS MURIE

with

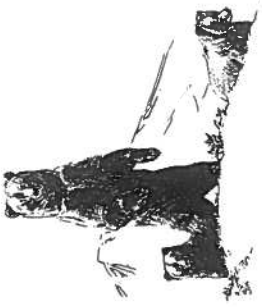
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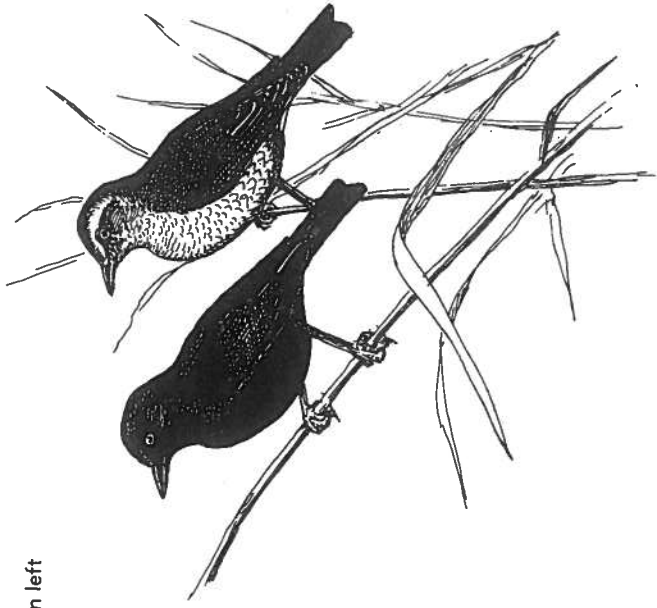
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Rusty blackbird—male on left



Rusty Blackbird

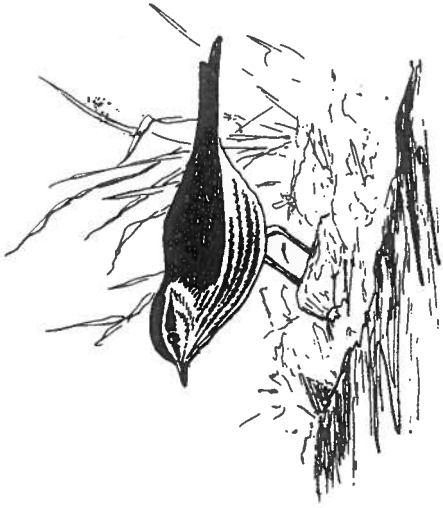
Euphagus carolinus

In its northern migration the rusty blackbird, like several other eastern species, travels northwestward across Canada into Alaska. In spring the males are glossy black and the females are slate-colored. The fall plumage of both sexes is tipped with rust, the young of the year being especially rusty about head and shoulders. The rusty blackbird is not plentiful but is occasionally seen feeding along ponds. One year a late straggler was seen on November 22, long after the advent of subzero weather.

Pine Grosbeak

Pinicola enucleator alascensis

The mature male pine grosbeak is rosy red with blackish wings and tail, and two white wing bars. The female is gray with a dull golden crown and rump patch. The bill is short and thick. The soft, liquid call notes and warbles seem in harmony with the beautiful plumage, and



Northern Waterthrush

Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis

The northern waterthrush has forsaken the more usual habits of warblers. Instead of foraging among branches and twigs it feeds on the ground like a thrush. It may be found along streams and ponds, in wet areas under heavy brush, and in moist mossy woods. These warblers walk or run instead of hopping, and have the habit of continually teetering and moving the tail up and down. The upper parts are uniformly dark olive-brown; the underparts are yellow, sharply streaked with blackish; and a prominent yellow line passes over the eye and extends back on side of head.

Wilson's Warbler

Wilsonia pusilla pileolata

The black glossy cap, yellow forehead and underparts characterize the Wilson's warbler. The nest is built on the ground in the moss or under matted dead grass, usually in alder or willow thickets. No nests have been found in the park but it apparently nests in willows along Igloo Creek and in other similar areas where it has been heard singing during the nesting season.