

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUSES

Nipawin, Sask. (through spruce muskegs and jackpine ridges on both sides of Saskatchewan River within a radius of 4 miles of Nipawin).- Dec. 26; Bright and sunny; temp. around zero. Goshawk, 1; Spruce Grouse, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Willow Ptarmigan, 9; Great Horned Owl, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Canada Jay, 7; Blue Jay, 11; Magpie, 4; Black-capped Chickadee, 23; Hudsonian Chickadee, 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5 (no details-ED.); Bohemian Waxwing, 28; English Sparrow, 43; Evening Grosbeak, 14; Pine Grosbeak, 8; Redpoll, 271. Total, 18 species, 444 individuals.-M. G. STREET.

Saltcoats, Sask. (noted from home in country 6 mls. W. of Saltcoats). Dec. 26. Hungarian Partridge, 10; Snowy Owl, 1; Snow Bunting, 150 (est.). Total, (excluding English Sparrows) 3 species, approximately 161 individuals.-FRANK BAINES.

Saltcoats, Sask. (farm 3 miles E. of Saltcoats). Dec. 31; 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Calm; slightly overcast. One observer, 3 miles, 2 hours. Ruffed Grouse, 2; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 6; Saw-whet Owl, 1 (Specimen shot for positive identity; it is now being stuffed); Black-capped Chickadee, 1; English Sparrow, 15; Magpie, 1; Snow Bunting, 50 (est.). Total, 7 species, approximately 176 individuals.-JIM ROGERSON.

Scott, Sask. (open prairie country some 30 miles south of the park belt). Jan. 1. Hungarian Partridge, 9; English Sparrow, numerous; Bohemian Waxwing, 11. Total, 3 species, over 20 individuals. Several Snowy Owls and a Great Horned Owl seen during December. Prairie Chickens have not been seen since summer of 1940.-F. ROUSE.

Sheho, Sask. (farm 6 miles N. of Sheho). Day between Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Ruffed Grouse, 1; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 5; Hungarian Partridge, 9; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; American Magpie, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; English Sparrow, numerous; Pine Grosbeak, 5; Redpoll, 30; Snow Bunting, 44. Total, 10 species, over 102 individuals. Other birds noted in December: Goshawk, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, Bohemian Waxwings. A Western Meadowlark has been wintering on the farm of a neighbor.-WM. NIVEN.

Skull Creek, Sask. (near Piapot, Sask.). Census of bird life seen during Xmas week, 1942, while going about farm work. Amounts listed for each species are the most individuals seen during one day. Golden Eagle, 1; Prairie Falcon, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 11; Hungarian Partridge, 9; Great Horned Owl, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Western Horned Lark, 16; American Magpie, 15; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Bohemian Waxwing, 6; Northern Shrike, 1; English Sparrow, 27; Pine Grosbeak, 4; Redpoll, 22; Western Tree Sparrow, 2; Snow Bunting, 450 (est.). Total, 17 species, 574 individuals.-STEVE A. MANN.

Tullis, Sask. (Fields $\frac{1}{2}$ mile E., $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles N., $\frac{1}{4}$ mile W., $\frac{1}{4}$ mile S. of and including the hamlet of Tullis). Dec. 27; 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Overcast; about 8 in. snow, with drifts as deep as 30". Wind, light E. at first, by 1:00 p.m. moderate S.E.; temp. 25° at start, 29° at return. One observer afoot. Total hours afield, $6\frac{1}{2}$; 6 miles covered. Goshawk, 2; Pin-tailed Grouse (Sharp-tailed or Pinnated?-ED.), 5; Hungarian Partridge, 24; Snowy Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Northern Shrike, 1; English Sparrow, 175 (est.); Western Meadowlark, 1; (this is a winter resident, seen nearly every day around the yard since Dec. 12) Redpoll, 5; Snow Bunting, 25 (est.). Total, 10 species, 240 individuals.-J. FRANCIS ROY.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUSES (continued)

Yorkton, Sask. (area 15 miles in diameter with Yorkton as center).-Dec. 27; 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear, bright day; strong wind from the south-east; only a thin covering of snow on the fields, abnormally light for this time of year; temp. -5° at start, 5° at 2:00 p.m., and -10° at finish. 9 observers in 7 groups. Total party hours afield, 11 (4 by car and 7 on foot); total party miles, $77\frac{1}{2}$ (64 by car, $13\frac{1}{2}$ on foot). Sharp-tailed Grouse, 22; Hungarian Partridge, 15; Great Horned Owl, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; American Magpie, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 19; Bohemian Waxwing, 43; English Sparrow, 188 (est.); Redpoll, 35 (est.); Snow Bunting, 426 (est.). Total, 10 species, approximately 753 individuals. No Grosbeaks noted so far this winter. Snowy Owls have been common for the past two months, but they have now left this district. Snow Buntings were probably so abundant due to the scarcity of snow, leaving a good food supply available. - VERNON BARNES, BROTHER CLARENCE, DR. C.J. HOUSTON, DR. S. C. HOUSTON, C. STUART HOUSTON, ETHEL LLOYD, MRS. I.M. PRIESTLY, MICHAEL PRIESTLY, JIM ROGERSON. (Members Yorkton Natural History Society).

BOOKS TO BUY

Two books published in 1942 which should be in the possession of every out-of-door enthusiast in Saskatchewan, are "Wild Flowers of the Prairie Provinces," by Elizabeth Burnett Flock, well-known naturalist of Regina, and "The Stone Age on the Prairies" by W.G. Orchard, First President, Saskatchewan Archaeological Society.

Mrs. Flock's book includes all the more common flowers of the West, listed alphabetically under their popular names. Each flower is vividly described in a few telling sentences and illustrated by a characteristic pen and ink drawing by the author's husband, J.H. Flock. In addition the book contains several chapters of general botanical interest and some beautiful photographs taken by Dick Bird. The price is seventy-five cents. Mrs. Flock's book has already received a warm welcome from nature lovers.

"The Stone Age on the Prairies," which appeared more recently, is just the book that many of us have been wanting on this subject. It gives valuable and interesting information regarding the ancient tools to be found on the western plains and seventy full page plates of hundreds of "Indian" relics from Mr. Orchard's own personal collection and other sources. In it Mr. Orchard also correlates what is known of the Stone Age on this continent, with the same long period of human history in other parts of the world. The Bibliography at the end of this small volume will be most useful to those who wish to do more extensive reading or study. "The Stone Age on the Prairies" sells for \$1.25 and, like Mrs. Flock's flower book, is published by School Aids Publishing Company, Regina.

CONSERVATION STAMPS

The first set in a series of Conservation Stamps to be brought out by the Science Association, University of Alberta, to raise funds for the investigation of problems of wild life, are now on sale. In a letter received from Prof. Wm. Rowan, of Edmonton, he points out that huge sums of money have been raised in the United States through the sale of such stamps and that, although the present moment does not seem a very auspicious time to launch this scheme in Canada, many wild life problems which have a direct bearing on our economic life have, due to the war, assumed a new importance. The first set depicts five common game birds and it is planned to bring out new sets annually, so that in time a complete set of attractive pictures of Canadian game birds and animals will be offered. The stamps sell for twenty-five cents each or one dollar for the set of five, and it is hoped all interested in the conservation of our wild life will support this project.