

1945 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

Thanks to the co-operation of our members, almost every section of the province was covered by our fourth Christmas Bird Census, 23 counts being made. In all, 37 different species of birds were recorded - this is two more than last year's count of 35.

Seven species not recorded on any of the previous counts were noted. These were Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Red Crossbill, and Slate-coloured Junco at Nipawin; Rosy Finch and Lapland Longspur at Dollard, and Brewer's Blackbird at Skull Creek and Wallwort. It also seems probable that Pine Siskins were observed at Indian Head. These new records bring the total number of different species of birds recorded by all four Christmas Censuses to the rather amazing total of 49 different species. (Who will dare to say there are no birds in Saskatchewan in winter?)

The Chickadee and Magpie still head the list as being the two birds most commonly seen. Sportsmen will regret to hear that Sharp-tailed Grouse only appear on 11 of the 23 lists, and Hungarian Partridge on 9. Worse still is the news that greatest number of "chicken" seen in any one locality is 17 at Sheho. Examination of the lists will show how few game birds were recorded. In this connection it may also be pointed out that the number of predators is also low.

Winter bird visitors from the north such as the Pine and Evening Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings all seem scarce. The Redpoll is rather more in evidence than last year but by no means plentiful and Snow Buntings are also down in numbers except in the south-western part of the province. (This may be due to the greater amount of snow on the fields this season) Rather interesting is the fact that the Hairy Woodpecker is just about as common as the Downy - we had always thought the "pint-sized" Downy was the more plentiful.

Owing to the number of censuses we are omitting details as to weather conditions in order to save space, but we are glad to have these for our records.

BENITO, Man. Dec. 26. Distance covered 9 miles in open sleigh -  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles along highway and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles through heavy forest and over open fields. Ruffed Grouse, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Magpie, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 60 (est.); Pine Grosbeak, 10; unidentified birds, probably Crossbills, 3; Snow Bunting, 70 (Est.) Total, 8 species, 152 individuals.  
A. ISFELD.

BULYEA Dec. 25. Five miles along country roads with bush. Chickadee, 4. (Birds remarkably scarce. No "prairie chicken" even noted) CLIFF SHAW.

BURNHAM Jan. 1. Home grounds and open prairie. Hungarian Partridge, 7; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Redpoll, 50. Total, 3 species, 60 individuals.  
ARTHUR WARD.

1945 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS (continued)

CLAIR Dec. 24. Home yard and around the hamlet. Downy Woodpecker, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Pine Grosbeak, 12; Redpoll, 5. Total 4 species, 23 individuals. - A flock of 50 to 60 Redpolls passed through around noon on Christmas Day. - A. SLOAN.

DOLLARD (Birds seen around the farm from Christmas to New Year) Hungarian Partridge, 6; Horned Lark, 7; Magpie, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; English Sparrow, 20; Rosy Finch, 25; Lapland Longspur, 1; Snow Buntings, several. Total, 8 species, 65 individuals, Snow Buntings not included. - Chickadees do not remain unless fat is put up for them. - CHARLES F. HOLMES.

EASTEND Dec. 27. Four miles on foot over pasture, stubble and very rough range land. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 7; Hungarian Partridge, 4; Magpie, 11; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; English Sparrow, 75 (est); Redpoll, 50 (est.); Snow Bunting, 200 (est.) Total, 7 species, 349 individuals (est.) - A Golden Eagle observed on Christmas Day. - ROBERT E. YOUNG.

GRENFELL Jan. 6. Two observers on skis,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles over stubble fields dotted with bluffs. Great Horned Owl, 4; (three noted in one spot); Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Redpoll, 2. Total, 3 species, 9 individuals. Tracks of Sharp-tailed Grouse seen. Magpies are usually in evidence, also Snow Buntings and Hairy Woodpecker. - MR. & MRS. JOHN HUBBARD, JR.

HAWARDEN Dec. 26. Open prairie, no trees except groves planted around farms, about one foot of snow, distance covered one mile. Mallard, 3; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1; Hungarian Partridge, 14; Snowy Owl, 1; English Sparrows, 200 (est.); Snow Buntings, 2. Total 6 species, 221 individuals. The ducks stay around a flowing well, two males and one female. - HAROLD KVINGE.

INDIAN HEAD Dec. 26. Walk of three hours around a square mile of the Forestry Farm. Magpie, 1; English Sparrow, many; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; large flocks of small birds in the tree tops, (Pine Siskins ?) Total, 4 species. Birds are scarce all through this area. - BILL WILSON.

NAICAM Dec. 30. Walk of two miles. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; English Sparrow, 4; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Total 5 species, 14 individuals. The two woodpeckers and chickadees are daily visitors at a feeding station. - W. YANCHINSKI.

NIPAWIN Dec. 26. Walk of six miles through town of Nipawin, south for two miles on east bank of Saskatchewan River, across river to return on west bank. Through spruce swamp and Jackpine ridges. 10 inches of snow. Ruffed Grouse, 2; Great Horned Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 3; Magpie, 4; Hudsonian Chickadee, 5; Black-capped Chickadee, 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 2; English Sparrow, 250 (est.) Evening Grosbeak, 16; Pine Grosbeak, 28; Red Crossbill, 1; Redpoll, 36; Slate-colored Junco, 4. Total, 16 species, 365 individuals. Certain species quite common in the area, such as Canada Jay, Three-toed Woodpeckers and Bohemian Waxwings were not observed on this trip. MAURICE G. STREET. DAVID H. WRIGHT.

1945 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS (continued)

PEEBLES Dec. 30. Five miles by team and sleigh, little wind, 12 inches of snow. Three observers. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 9; Hungarian Partridge, 5; Snowy Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Magpie, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Redpolls, 17. Total, 7 species, 40 individuals. - OLIVER ENGLISH.

SASKATOON Jan. 1. Three miles along the river bank southwest of Saskatoon. Magpie, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; Bohemian Waxwing, 5. Total, 3 species, 9 individuals. - F.A. BLAIN.

SCOTT Jan. 1. Walk of 3 miles, one mile along bank of coulee, two miles near planted trees and hedges of experimental station. Hungarian Partridge, 11; Great Horned Owl, 1; English Sparrows, 75. Total, 3 species, 87 individuals. Birds very scarce this winter. Bohemian Waxwings seen the end of October. F. ROUSE.

SHEHO Dec. 27. Count made while going about chores on the farm, light snow falling. Sharp-tailed Grouse (at straw stacks) 15; Great Horned Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Magpie, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Snow Bunting, 200 (est.) Total, 6 species, 224 individuals. Winter birds such as Redpolls, Grosbeaks and Waxwings scarce. - WM. NIVEN.

SKULL CREEK Jan. 1. Walk of one hour along ranch trail, and drive of 15 miles into Piapot. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 7; Hungarian Partridge, 8; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Great Horned Owl, 2; Snowy Owl, 1; Saw-whet Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Horned Lark, 14; Magpie, 74; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Bohemian Waxwing, 32; English Sparrow, 90 (est.) Brewer's Blackbird, 4; Evening Grosbeak, 3; Redpoll, 15; Snow Buntings, 800 to 1000. Total, 17 species, 1260 individuals. Golden Eagle and American Rough-leg Hawk seen in December. - STEVE A. MANN.

TISDALE Dec. 26. At feeding station. Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 11. Along valley of Dog Hide River, Magpie, 3; Bohemian Waxwings, 17; English Sparrow, 40. Total, 7 species, 77 individuals. - E.V. VAN BLARICOM. K.C. MRS. VERNA PICKERING.

TORCH RIVER Birds seen around barn-yard and farm between Dec. 25 - Dec. 31. First occurrence of each bird recorded. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 16; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Canada Jay, 4; Blue Jay, 3; Magpie, 7; Raven, 8; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Hudsonian Chickadee, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Northern Shrike, 2; English Sparrow, 13; Pine Grosbeak, 14; Redpoll, 100 to 125. Total, 15 species, 168 individuals. C. STUART FRANCIS.

TULLIS Dec. 30. Over fields and through the hamlet of Tullis. Distance covered 10 miles, 7 by car, and 3 on foot. About 6 inches of snow on ground. Prairie Falcon, 1; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 6; Hungarian Partridge, 26; Snowy Owl, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; English Sparrow, 185 (est.) Total, 6 species, 185 individuals. Snowy Owls scarce. Prairie Falcons are regularly seen every winter. - WARREN S. ROY. JAMES B. TULLIS. J. FRANCIS ROY.

1945 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS (continued)

WALLWORT Dec. 31. Three-mile walk through heavy timber and second growth, open meadowland, cultivated fields and muskeg and lake shore. Also around yard. 10 inches of snow on ground. Ruffed Grouse, 1; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 6; Great Horned Owl, 2; small Owl (unidentified) 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 2; American Three-toed Woodpecker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Canada Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Magpie, 11; Black-capped Chickadee, 18; Hudsonian Chickadee, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Bohemian Waxwing, 8; English Sparrow, 25; Evening Grosbeak, 2; Pine Grosbeak, 34; Snow Buntings, 25; two unidentified hawks. Total, 20 species, 150 individuals. Five Brewer's Blackbirds seen on oat-sheaf stack Dec. 26, flock of 20 Starlings Dec. 23. - JOHN D. RITCHIE.

WAUCHOPE Dec. 25. Walk of about a mile around the farm. Snowy Owl, 1; Magpie, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; English Sparrows, 25. Total 4 species, 31 individuals. All birds very scarce this winter. Meadowlark and Brewer's Blackbird remaining around. Redpolls and Snow Buntings have been seen. BILL CARRICK. BETTY NIXON.

YORKTON Dec. 26. Area covered 15 miles in diameter with Yorkton as centre. 6 inches of snow on fields. 10 observers in 6 groups; total party miles, 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Goshawk, 1; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 6; Hungarian Partridge, 13; Snowy Owl, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Canada Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Magpie, 6; Common Starling, 5; English Sparrow, 139 (est.) Snow Bunting, 568 (est.). Total, 12 species, approximately 748 individuals. Two Black-capped Chickadees were noted Dec. 29. This species has been decidedly scarce here this winter. -RAY ADAM. MRS. BARRIE. BROTHER CLARENCE. C. STUART HOUSTON. DR. C.J. HOUSTON. F. LANGSTAFF. EDDIE LAWRENCE. MRS. J. MEEKMA. DIANA PRIESTLY. MRS. I.M. PRIESTLY.

SANDWICH Dec. 30. Hike of about seven miles over hills, pasture, small fields and bush. Goshawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 14; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Magpie, 23; Black-capped Chickadee, 13; English Sparrow, 32; Snow Bunting, 17. Total, 9 species, 104 individuals. Very few Great Horned Owls this winter. Pine Grosbeak noted Jan. 1. GUS YAKI.

Number of censuses	23
Number of species observed	37
Number of birds observed	5240 (approximately)

Note: In 1944 thirteen censuses produced a count of approximately 4000 birds.

As we "go to press" three additional censuses have been received from Mrs. D.C. Dickson, Wiseton; J... Gunn, Spirit Lake near Yorkton; and D. Murray, Laird. All remark on a scarcity of birds this season. Mr. Gunn reports a wintering robin.