

Houston's coverage of certain species that were abundant in the early days of the district, or at one time were a common breeding species, such as the Prairie Chicken, Whooping Crane, Sandhill Crane and others is excellent. The material recorded is of much interest and great importance to the faunal records of the Province.

Congratulations, Stuart, for the compiling and publishing of this splendid list which has greatly added to our knowledge of Saskatchewan Wildlife.

This model publication brings to mind the need for an up-to-date list for the entire Province of Saskatchewan. It is this reviewer's hope that in the not too distant future we will hear further from this gifted young ornithologist.

(Copies of "The Birds of the Yorkton District" are available at 25¢ from C. C. Shaw, 3 Rotstein Apts., Yorkton, Saskatchewan.)

SUMMARY OF 8th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1949

Compiled by Stuart Houston

The eighth annual Saskatchewan Christmas Bird Count encountered the coldest weather in its history. However, in spite of twenty below zero temperatures and penetrating winds, counts were taken at fifteen localities and disclosed a total of 24 species and over 3350 individuals. Fewer species were recorded at most points, probably because the extreme cold made the birds less active than usual. For the first time, no new species were definitely identified, so the official total for the eight counts remains at 60 species.

Snow Buntings and English Sparrows were most often recorded, followed by the Magpie, whose numbers appear to be on the increase. Sharp-tailed Grouse, Hungarian Partridge and Ruffed Grouse appear to be plentiful, and are probably at the top of their cycle. Snowy Owls have been seen during the holidays in five of the fifteen localities reporting, but there is no evidence of a mass migration such as has been witnessed in the eastern provinces and states.

Following are the individual reports:

BLADWORTH: Dec. 26, 1949: 8.40 a.m. to 12 noon. Clear with a few scattered clouds; temp. -12° to -8° ; wind N.W. to W. at 8 m.p.h.; an average of three inches of snow. Covered five miles of rolling cultivated land with many poplar bluffs and willow-rimmed slough bottoms. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 13; Hungarian Partridge, 30; Horned Lark, 1; Magpie, 3; English Sparrow, 50 (est.)
-- P. LAWRENCE BECKIE

GRENFELL: January 4, 1950: 9 a.m. 5 1/2 miles by car on Highway 47. Clear; temp. -30° . Sharp-tailed Grouse, 65; Hungarian Partridge, 37; English Sparrow, numerous; Snow Bunting, 24.
-- MRS. JOHN HUBBARD, JR.

HAWARDEN: December 24, 1949: Prairie with no trees except for groves around farms. Observations made around farm from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; temp. -3° ; depth of snow 6 inches. Golden Eagle, 1; Hungarian Partridge, 14; English Sparrow, 125 (est.); Snow Bunting, 2.
-- HAROLD KVINGE

HIGH HILL: December 27, 1949; 1.30 to 3.15 p.m. Clear and cold, with strong wind. 6 miles through spruce swamps, poplar bush and small fields. Ruffed Grouse, 6; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 4; Great Horned Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Canada Jay, 2; Magpie, 3; Raven, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Snow Bunting, 40 (est.).
-- ANTON WAYCHESHEN

LANG: Dec. 26, 1949. Birds noted around farmyard. Hungarian Partridge, 17; Snowy Owl, 1; Horned Lark, 3; English Sparrow, 14. Snow Buntings were heard the same day.
-- LEN DREGER

NAICAM: Jan. 1, 1950. Weather clear; light northerly winds; temp. -20°. Cross country walk of three miles. Ruffed Grouse, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; English Sparrow, 11.

-- W. YANCHINSKI

NIPAWIN: December 26, 1949; 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Calm, bright sunshine; temp. -12°. A drive of 59 miles by car, north and east of Nipawin. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 2; Willow Ptarmigan, 1; Hungarian Partridge, 15; Snowy Owl, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Canada Jay, 3; Blue Jay, 3; American Magpie, 23; Raven, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Northern Shrike, 1; English Sparrow, 50 (est.); Evening Grosbeak, 4; Pine Grosbeak, 2; Common Redpoll, 238 (est.); Snow Bunting, 587 (est.).

-- BILLY MATTHEWS, WALTER MATTHEWS, and MAURICE G. STREET

REGINA: Dec. 27. One observer on foot for an hour walk from the 30 block Argyle St. across the Parliament Building Grounds to Broad St. and back. The only birds noted were a few English Sparrows.

-- E. BARKER

REGINA: January 4, 1950. Covered 5 or 6 miles just west of Regina. Weather bitterly cold. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1; Hungarian Partridge, 21.

-- S. P. JORDAN

REGINA to MOOSE JAW: Dec. 27, 1949. Forty miles by car. A group of hen Ring-necked Pheasants, a Snowy Owl and a flock of Snow Buntings.

-- MR. and MRS. H.C. ANDREWS

RIDGEDALE: Dec. 28, 1949; 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Temp. -20°; wind from west at 15 m.p.h. Two miles on foot along Carrot River. Magpie, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; English Sparrow, 100 (est.).

-- JOHN H. MORE

SCOTT: December 25, 1949. One mile walk at noon. Clear; temp. -10°; wind S.E. at 10 m.p.h. Hungarian Partridge, 18; Magpie, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; English Sparrow, 250 (est.).

-- F. ROUSE

SHEHO: Dec. 28, 1949. Taken while going about chores on farm. Slightly overcast in morning, clearing by noon; light N.W. wind; temp. -20°, rising to -10°. Snow 4 to 5 inches deep on level, drifted 12 to 18 inches deep in bluffs. Hawk (Cooper's or Peregrine Falcon?), 1; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 32; Great Horned Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Magpie, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Pine Grosbeak, 12; Snow Bunting, 35 (est.).

-- WILLIAM NIVEN

WALLWORT: Dec. 29, 1949. Clear sunshine; wind south, 10 m.p.h.; temp. -20°. Nine miles through spruce wood, poplar and open farm lands. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 13; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Canada Jay, 3; Magpie, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 4.

-- J. TURNQUIST

YORKTON: (area 15 miles in diameter with Yorkton as center) - Dec. 26, 1949; 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Overcast with snow flurries in morning, clear in afternoon; temp. 0° at start, 6° at noon; wind E, 3 m.p.h.; snow averaging three inches in depth. Twelve observers in 4 groups. Total party-hours afield, 11 1/2 (6 by car, 5 1/2 on foot); total party miles, 40 (34 by car, 6 on foot). Ruffed Grouse, 2; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 46; Hungarian Partridge, 28; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Canada Jay, 2; Magpie, 8; Black-capped Chickadee, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; English Sparrow, 441 (est.); Common Redpoll, 38; Snow Bunting, 821 (est.).

-- WAYNE BJORGAN, JERRY BULITZ, LIONEL COLEMAN, DOUG LOGAN, DARCY WERSHLER, MERLE WERSHLER, (members Simpson School Nature Club) and JIM ALLEN, BROTHER CLARENCE, DR. G. J. HOUSTON, DR. S. C. HOUSTON, C. STUART HOUSTON, BROTHER VINCENT (Yorkton Natural History Society).

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"I have seen a number of Downy Woodpeckers in the heavier woods, but we have none at our feeding trays at all. We have three Canada Jays though that are tame enough to eat out of our hand. The Black-capped Chickadees feed when the Jays are not around, but I am afraid the latter are very definitely monopolizing the trays this winter."

-- JOYCE GUNN, Spirit Lake, Sask.