

over, a brief, brilliant pattern of black and orange flashed against the grey bole of a logwood. I waited, to be absolutely sure that he was real, as he flickered hither and yon. Yes, it was an American redstart (Butterfly Bird, *setophaga ruticilla*). His bright trimmings toned in perfectly with the red of the cup-like flowers of a nearby spathodea. My glance fell to the foreground just beyond the

stone wall. A little clump of deep blue forget-me-nots in the grass provided an artist's contrasts. It was for only a matter of seconds, since the redstart did not linger.

I continued toward the house. Half a dozen ground doves (*columbigallina passerina*) flew up from the lawn as I approached. I looked at my watch. I had spent exactly one hour on the drive.

## Spring Migration

*Arthur Ward, Swift Current*

Migration, again was greatly disturbed by the unusual cool cloudy wet weather. Nearly every species arriving before the leaves of trees were out. Large flocks of Horned Larks, covering many miles of territory were observed during the first week of March. In our district, the Slate-coloured Junco and the Tree Sparrow were not seen in the usual numbers, but the Olive-backed Thrush was seen to have greatly increased. The Sandhill Cranes were well represented. One flock passing over, going northwest, was estimated to be over six hundred. Of the rare birds to pass through here with a light increase was the Northern Water Thrush. I caught and banded a male and a female of this species.

Coots are as plentiful as last year, but there is a slightly diminishing number of Horned Grebes. Two of these were observed just practising a repeated performance of last year in our yard, trying to lay a foundation on the branch of a willow tree edging the dugout and level with the water. They would carry sticks of dead wood, a foot long and lay them on the branch, then dive for a mouthful of dead vegetable matter. If the stick

was too long they both took a hold. After a day's work they moved over to another slough, just like they did last year—must have been the same pair.

## Birds in Sweden

*E. K. Forsberg, Riceton, Sask.*

Following are a few notes about birds I saw at Vato, Sweden, from December 1952 to February 1953:

Talgoxen (or Chickadee). About the size of our Chickadee. Some have black and white heads with yellow on back and breast. Others are blue on the head and yellow on back and breast.

Skatan (Magpie)—similar to ours only smaller.

Krakan (Crow)—grey on breast and smaller than ours.

Hackspetan (Woodpecker)—more colorful and larger than ours.

Another bird was grey with rust breast, about the size of a young Robin. I did not find out its name. This bird and the Talgoxen were quite tame and used to feed in a little bird house every morning by our window.

I might add that everyone in Sweden loves and feeds the birds.