

SUMMARY of 11th ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN

DR. STUART I.

WITH a record 27 localities reporting, a total of 49 species were noted during the Christmas season (Dec. 20 to Jan. 2). This represents 9 more than last year's all-time high of 40 species, and includes 3 species never before recorded in a Saskatchewan Christmas bird count:—A Bald Eagle noted 2 miles north of the Qu'Appelle Valley by the Hubbards of Grenfell; a Richardson's Owl noted at Nipawin on January 1; and a Vesper Sparrow with an injured wing noted by Baines and Wiley near a grain bin on John Trowel's farm east of Saltcoats. The eleven year list now totals 65 species noted in the Christmas season!

The sixteen species most commonly reported were, respectively, Magpie, Black-capped Chickadee, English Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Redpoll, Snow Bunting, Pine Grosbeak, Ruffed Grouse, Bohemian Waxwing, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Canada Jay, Blue Jay, Great Horned Owl, Hungarian Partridge and Snowy Owl. Pine Grosbeaks, Waxwings and Redpolls appeared more frequently than last year. Sharp-tailed Grouse and Ruffed Grouse remained plentiful. Hungarian Partridge appear to have decreased.

Because of the mild weather, a number of summer birds remained: Mallards

- Big River** (wooded); Dec. 31, 1952, 1 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Clear, 3 inches snow. 4 miles on foot. 9 plus 3 species.—**Anne and Sam Olson.**
- Bladworth** (rolling cultivated land, many low spots rimmed with willow and poplar); Dec. 26, 1952, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Clear, ½ inch snow. 6 miles on foot. 6 plus species.—**P. Lawrence Beckie.**
- Bredenbury** (parkland); Jan. 2, 1953. Clear, 20 above. 23 miles by car. 4 species.—**Stuart and W. A. Baines.**
- Broadview** (parkland plus Qu'Appelle Valley); Dec. 28, 1952; noon to 5 p.m. Clear, 1 inch snow. 66 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. 9 plus 1 species.—**Audrey and Charles Thacker.**
- Brora** (wooded banks of Boggy Creek); Dec. 29, 1952; 1 to 3:30 p.m. Clear, 2 inches snow. 3 miles on foot. 5 plus 4 species.—**Doug Gilroy.**
- Craven** (Regina to Hungry Hollow and to the valley near Craven); Dec. 30, 1952; 2 to 5 p.m. Clear, 1 inch snow. 37 miles by car, 3 on foot. 4 species plus an unidentified owl.—**S. P. Jordan.**
- Dilke** (rolling prairie with sparsely scattered "bluffs"); Dec. 25, 1952; 8 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 4.15 p.m. Cloudy, partly covered with snow. Three observers in two parties. 19 miles by car, 5 on foot. 8 plus 4 species. —**J. B., Margaret and S. R. Belcher.**
- Grenfell** (parkland and across Qu'Appelle Valley); Jan. 1, 1953; 2.30 to 5 p.m. Clear, 3 inches snow. 47 miles by car, 1 on foot. 11 plus 1 species.—**Mr. and Mrs. John Hubbard.**
- Hawarden** (prairie and fields); Jan. 1, 1953; 3 to 5 p.m. 3 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. 3 species. — **Harold Kvinge.**
- McLean** (pastureland, partly treed); Dec. 30, 1952; 1 to 5 p.m. Clear, 1½ inches snow. 4 miles on foot. 3 plus 3 species.—**Mrs. T. H. Bray, Mrs. P. L. Newton.**
- Naicam** (partially wooded); Jan. 2, 1953; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clear, 5 inches snow, 20 above. One hour by car, 5 hours on foot. 9 plus 6 species. — **W. Yanchinski.**
- Nipawin** (Nipawin to Fishing Lake; also farm area east of Codette); Dec. 26, 1952; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cloudy, 2½ inches snow. 4 observers in 2 parties. 9 party hours by car, 1½ on foot; 112 party miles by car, 3 on foot. 24 plus 3 species.—**Ralph E. Street, M. G. Street, Walter and Billy Matthews.**
- Pathlow** (roads, open fields, some woodland); Jan. 1, 1953; 2½ hours between 8.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Cloudy, 5 inches snow. 1½ hours by car, 1 on foot. 32 miles by car, 3 on foot. 8 plus 3 species.—**Rev. T. M. Beveridge.**
- Regina** (residential and Wascana Park); Dec. 22, 1952, 2 to 4 p.m. Clear, 1 inch snow. 2 species.—**E. Barker.**

SWAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT-1952

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and Goldeneyes on open water below the power plant at Saskatoon, and a Mallard at Kvinge's flowing well near Hawarden; a Flicker, Robin and Red-winged Blackbird at Skull Creek; a Robin at Yorkton (where the City disposal water flows into Little Whitesand Creek); a Brewer's Blackbird near an open spring west of Yorkton; and a Meadowlark at Dilke.

An interesting feature was the number of unidentified hawks reported. These were omitted from the count, but were as follows: Lawrence Beckie saw either a Golden Eagle or American Roughleg Hawk at Bladworth on Dec. 22nd; a Hawk or Eagle was seen by George T. Wiley at Saltcoats, Dec. 21st; a hawk, likely a goshawk, was noted at Naicam Dec. 20th by W. Yanchinski; a falcon (duck hawk) was observed by Margaret Belcher at Dilke, Dec. 23rd; and Cliff Shaw saw a small falcon flying over Yorkton on Dec. 24th.

The coniferous areas have a greater variety of bird life in winter than the open prairie, and the Nipawin group led the list for the sixth time in eleven years, with an amazing total of 27 species (24 species and 17,794 individuals during the one day outing).

Rose Valley (Nut Lake Indian Reserve); Dec. 28, 1952. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear, 7 inches snow. 4 hours and 18 miles by car, 3 hours and 1½ miles on foot. 14 species.—**W. A. Brownlee.**

Round Lake (Saltcoats to Round Lake via Bangor and Stockholm); Dec. 21, 1952; 10.20 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fog, then clear, 25 above. 47 miles by car. 7 species.—**Lawrence and George T. Wiley.**

Saltcoats (parkland); Dec. 27, 1952, 2 to 5.15 p.m. Clear, 3 inches snow, calm, 20 above. 50 miles by car. 9 species.—**Frank Baines, George Wiley.**

Saskatoon (10 mile radius); Dec. 24, 1952; 8.15 a.m. to 2 p.m. Partly cloudy, calm, 1 to 2 inches snow, 5 above. Hoar frost. 71 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. 15 plus 2 species.—**F. J. H. Fredeen, Bernard Gollop.**

Sheho (parkland); Dec. 25, 1952; 9 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. Partly cloudy, 2 to 3 inches snow. 3 mile walk in afternoon. 12 plus 1 species. — **Wm. Niven.**

Skull Creek (ranchland). Birds noted during work around ranch. 20 species between Dec. 20 and Jan. 2. — **S. A. Mann.**

Somme (spruce, poplar and birch forest; open fields and poplar bluffs); Dec. 27, 1952, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear, 3 inches snow. Total party hours, 18, while doing bushwork. 14 plus 10 species.—**Ronald, Donald and Edna Hooper.**

Spirit Lake (woods, brush and meadows); Dec. 25, 1952, 1 to 4 p.m. Clear, 2 inches snow. 5 miles on foot. 8 plus 6 species.—**William Anaka.**

Swan River, Man. (10 miles from Sask. border); Dec. 31, 1952; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 9 plus 8 species.—**Mrs. J. H. McDonald.**

Tisdale (feeding station and one mile south to disposal grounds); Dec. 26, 1952; 2 to 5 p.m. Clear, 2 inches snow. 9 plus 1 species.—**E. W. Van Blaricom, Q.C.**

Torch River (open fields, mixed forest, muskeg); Dec. 24, 1952; 1 to 4 p.m. Cloudy, 2 inches snow, 15 above. 4 miles by car, 3 on foot. 6 plus 18 species.—**Stanley, *Stuart Jr., and C. Stuart Francis.**

Wallwort (side road and highway, part in spruce timber). Cloudy, 4 inches snow. 3 hours and 4 miles by team, 2 hours and 3 miles on foot. 6 plus 3 species.—**J. Turnquist.**

Yorkton (parkland); Dec. 26, 1952; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast, 2 inches snow.

11 to 22 above, wind E. 10 mph. 24 observers in 6 parties. 10 party hours and 104 miles by car; 17 party hours and 29 miles on foot. 18 plus 2 species.—**Norma Beck, Henry Chilman, Jr., Brother Clarence, Lionel and Ronald Coleman, Dr. C. J. Houston, Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Houston, Professor and Mrs. C. W. Lightbody, Allan Nurse, Jack Park, Tony Pawluck, Gordon Greg, Irving and Wayne Pearce, Ray Riesz, Cliff Shaw, Jeff Smith, Frank and Gillean Switzer, Darcy and Merrill Wershler.**