



Photo by Dr. Stuart Houston

### Young Caspian Terns, Dore Lake, July 13, 1956

Richardson did not record this species when he was second-in-command to the first and second expeditions of Sir John Franklin in 1820 and 1827. However, I have recently come into possession of an account of Richardson's expedition in search of the missing ships of Franklin's final and ill-fated expedition. On his way to the Arctic, Richardson again passed through Saskatchewan. With him, as second-in-command, he had Dr. John Rae. They left Cumberland House on June 14, 1848, passed through the southern end of Amisk (Beaver) Lake on June 16, and passed up the Sturgeon-Weir

River to Lake Mirond on June 17. On that day, Dr. Rae shot a Cayenne Tern, *Sterna cayana*. (In those days, even Audubon still grouped the Royal and Caspian Terns under this name.) Their record of the Caspian Tern in what was to become the province of Saskatchewan, thus antedates that of Mitchell by 79 years.

This was not far south-east of what is now Pelican Narrows. Other birds noted by Richardson that day included the Bald Eagle ("a nest may be looked for every twenty or thirty miles"), Raven, Pelican, Sandhill Crane, and Black Tern.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- BENT, A. C. — 1929. Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns. p. 203.  
 BRADSHAW, F. — 1928. Report of the Game Commissioner. (Saskatchewan). p. 36.  
 RICHARDSON, SIR JOHN — 1851. Arctic Searching Expedition.  
 Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans, London. Volume I, p. 87.

### 15th Annual Sask. Christmas Bird Count, 1956

Send in your report for the ONE BEST DAY between December 22nd and January 1st. (Note these dates carefully; they correspond with the dates chosen by the Audubon Society for the rest of the continent.)

List the numbers of each species seen during that day. Following this, list other species seen between Dec. 22 and January 1, other than the day of the count. List numbers of individuals and the date seen for these birds. List species in the order of the Sask. Field Check-list, Petersons Field Guide, or Taverner's "Birds of Canada".

If possible, the area should not be more than 15 miles in diameter. Preferably, six or more hours should be spent afield. Counts covering less than two hours will not be printed.

Note the date, hour of starting and of finishing, wind, temperature, whether clear or cloudy, and how many inches of snow. List the total party miles by car and on foot and the total party hours by car and on foot.