

In Ontario every hawk and owl should be protected except that the owner of poultry or other domestic animals and the members of his immediate household

and his bone fide employee may destroy by shooting any hawk or owl which is doing real damage to the said poultry or other domestic animals.

Regina Natural History Society: List of Winter Birds (1955-56)

By E. L. FOX, Chairman, Bird Group,

Species listed are those observed November 1 to February 29 in the Regina area by F. Bard, M. Belcher, F. Brazier, E. Cruickshank, E. Fox, S. Jordan, F. Lahrman, G. Ledingham, M. Ledingham, L. Murray, and R. Nero.

During the winter, the open water at the Powerhouse supported a number of waterfowl. Supplementary feeding was carried on by the Powerhouse staff with the Regina Fish and Game League supplying food. Species present: Pied-billed Grebe 2; White Pelican (one on the lake for a week early in November - E. Fox); Whistling Swans 2; Canada Geese 24 (three killed and one injured by intruders late in the winter); Mallard 200 est.; Pintail 3; Green-winged Teal 2; Lesser Scaup 5; American Goldeneye 5; American Merganser 1 (F. Lahrman); Coot 1.

A feeding station in the Legislative Building Grounds proved productive. Black-capped Chickadees, Hudsonian Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatch could be observed feeding or in the area on most occasions. A Brown Creeper, a Slate-coloured Junco, and a White-throated Sparrow stayed until well into December. A Northern Shrike, probably attracted by the small birds, was also present. On one occasion the Shrike was observed carrying a freshly killed Red-breasted Nuthatch in its feet (F. Brazier). In the same area there were Pigeon Hawk 2; Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers; Golden-crowned Kinglets until late December); Pine Grosbeaks; Evening Grosbeaks 1 (F. Brazier); Purple Finch 2 (F. Brazier); Hoary Redpolls; Common Redpolls; Red Crossbills; White-winged Crossbills.

It is interesting to note the influx of winter birds into the Regina area this year, and to compare this list

with that of 1954-1955 (Blue Jay, Vol. XIII, No. 2). Pine Grosbeaks, Red and White-winged Crossbills have been observed on most field trips and in greater numbers than for the past few years. The Hudsonian Chickadee observed occasionally most years has been resident this winter. Hoary Redpolls, recorded on a number of occasions in the city, have been observed in large flocks along roads leading out of the city. This frosty little bird which had been considered quite rare in this area was a very interesting addition to our winter list.

(Editor's Note: Stuart Houston and Frank Roy have both reported Hoary Redpolls near Saskatoon this winter, and we have a record from Wm. Anaka who identified a Hoary twice this winter at Spirit Lake. See also the Christmas Bird Count 1955. Apparently the Hoary Redpoll is more prevalent this year throughout the province.)

Interesting too is the fact that the Short-eared Owl reported frequently last year was not recorded. The Snowy Owl was rare, indicating an approach to the low point of its cycle of migration. No doubt the very severe winter and deep snow were factors in a more southerly migration of many species.

The following additional species were reported from other areas of the city: Sharp-tailed Grouse (group of 8 in the Provincial Nursery); Hungarian Partridge; Ring-billed Gull (one in November by F. Brazier); Snowy Owl 1; Saw-whet Owl (one by S. Jordan); Magpie; Robin (3 in November); Bohemian Waxwings (frequently throughout the city); Cedar Waxwing (one with a flock of 16 Bohemians observed on several occasions in November); English Sparrow; Rusty Blackbird; Pink-sided Junco (November); Snow Bunting. Total: 42 species (21 winter birds; 10 waterfowl on open water; 11 stragglers).