

# Summary of 13th Annual Saskato

By Dr. STUART

A record 108 observers participated in this year's count, including the 29 who divided up the Saltcoats district into ten segments. For the first time, Yorkton leads the number of species seen in one day — 20.

Six species were recorded for the first time, making a total of 73 species that have been seen in Saskatchewan during the Christmas season (Dec. 20 to Jan. 3). Regina had open water and no snow, and saw a Pied-billed Grebe and a Coot. An American Merganser and Myrtle Warbler were noted at Saskatoon, a White-throated Sparrow at Nipawin, and Harris Sparrows at Bladworth and at Doug Gilroy's farm near Regina.

44 species were recorded during the one day count, and seven others on other days between Dec. 20 and Jan. 3, for an all-time record of 51 species recorded during this Christmas season.

Note that the beneficial American Roughleg Hawks and Short-eared

**BIG RIVER**, Dec. 23, 1 mi. foot. 10 species, 69 indiv. Short-eared Owl, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Canada Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 6; Raven, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 30; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Common Redpoll, 21. (Additional: Magpie, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 7; Pine Grosbeak, 6; Snow Bunting, 12). **Mrs. S. Olson.**

**BLADWORTH**, Dec. 27, 5 mi. car, 5 mi. foot. 7 species, 63 indiv. Hungarian Partridge, 12; Horned Owl, 2; Snowy Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Magpie, 4; English Sparrow, 30; Common Redpoll, 13; (Additional: American Rough-leg Hawk, 1; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 9; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Bohemian Waxwing, 17; Harris Sparrow, 1 juvenile on Dec. 20; Snow Buntings). **Lawrence, Sam and Gerald Beckie.**

**BROADVIEW TO MOOSE MOUNTAINS**, Dec. 27, 132 mi. by car in 6 hours. 8 species, 128 indiv. Am. Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Horned Owl, 1; Magpie, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 12; English Sparrow, 100; Common Redpoll, 6; Snow Bunting, 1. (Add: Hungarian Partridge, 10; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Snowy Owl, 1; Horned Lark, 1.) — **Charles I. and Audrey Thacker.**

**DILKE**, Dec. 26, 34 mi car, ½ mi. foot. 7 species, 106 indiv. Golden Eagle, 1; Hungarian Partridge, 18; Magpie, 13; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; English Sparrow, 20; Common Redpoll, 51; Snow Bunting, 1. (Add: Falcon, likely Peregrine, on Dec. 25;

Horned Lark, 1.) — **Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Belcher, J. B. and Margaret Belcher.**

**GRAVELBOURG**, Dec. 31, 22 mi. car, ½ mi. foot. 5 species, 88 indiv. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 8; Hungarian Partridge, 9; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; English Sparrow, 50; Snow Bunting, 20 — **Dorothy W. Baker.**

**HAWARDEN**, Dec. 26, 30 mi. car. 5 species, 159 indiv. Mallard, 3; Snowy Owl, 4; Short-eared Owl, 1; Magpie, 1; English Sparrow, 150. (Add: Golden Eagle, 1 on Dec. 28) Hungarian Partridge, 15; Bohemian Waxwing, 1; European Starling, 1; Snow Bunting, 300.) — **Harold and Gerhard Kvinge.**

**McLEAN**, Jan. 1, 1955, 22 mi. car, 1 mi. foot. 5 species, 61 indiv. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 10; English Sparrow, 12; Snow Bunting, 30. (Add: Magpie.) — **Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bray, Mrs. Newton.**

**MULLINGAR**, Jan. 1, 1955, 8 mi. foot. 10 species, 58 indiv. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 7; Horned Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Canada Jay, 2; Magpie, 5; Raven, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 8; English Sparrow, 25; Common Redpoll, 7. (Add: Goshawk, 1; Am. Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Pine Grosbeak and Snow Bunting.) — **Ralph T. Cowell.**

**NIPAWIN to WHITE GULL CREEK**, Jan. 2, 1955, 120 mi. car in 6 hours. 17 species, 294 indiv. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 9; Horned Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Canada Jay, 2; Raven, 13; Black-capped Chickadee, 7; White-

# Saskatchewan Christmas Bird Count, 1954

## FOUNTAIN, Yorkton

Owls, were each still present in four widely scattered localities. This shows the fallacy of winter "Hawk and Owl Predator" campaigns — the Fish and Game League wrongly claim that beneficial hawks and owls are not present in Saskatchewan in winter. Goshawks were present in six localities, it must be admitted.

The most frequently reported species this year, in order of occurrence, were English Sparrow, Magpie, Black-capped Chickadee, Snow Bunting, Redpoll, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Snowy Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Hungarian Partridge, Pine Grosbeak and Horned Owl. The Snowy Owl was reported more frequently than usual, whereas the Sharp-tailed Grouse and Ruffed Grouse appear to have declined.

It is to be hoped that the Saskatoon observers can combine their efforts next year — they might even form the nucleus of a new Saskatoon Natural History Society.

Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; English Sparrow, 60; Evening Grosbeak, 29; Pine Grosbeak, 9; Hoary Redpoll, 1; Common Redpoll, 147; White-winged Crossbill, 3; White-throated Sparrow (present since Nov. 7th at Street's banding station), 1; Snow Bunting, 1. (Add: Goshawk, Ruffed Grouse, Hungarian Partridge, Snowy Owl, Hawk Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Magpie, Hudsonian Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Bohemian Waxwing, Red Crossbill). Total for Dec. 20 to Jan. 3 is 30 species. — **Anne, Walter and Billy Matthews, Maurice G. Street, Roy Lanz.**

PATHLOW, Jan. 3, 1955, 15 mi. car, 8 mi. foot. 9 species, 93 indiv. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Magpie, 5; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; Bohemian Waxwing, 10; English Sparrow, 25; Evening Grosbeak, 8; Common Redpoll, 30. (Add: Ruffed Grouse, Hungarian Partridge, Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Raven, Snow Bunting). — **T. M. and Dan Beveridge.**

PUNNICHY, Dec. 25, 16 mi. car. 6 species, 47 indiv. Sharp-tailed Grouse 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; English Sparrow, 12; Snow Bunting, 25. (Add: Ruffed Grouse, 1; Horned Owl, 1; Magpie, 3; Pine Grosbeak, 5). — **Carl, Madeline and Michael Runyan.**

R.R. No. 2, REGINA (BREDIN SIDING), Dec. 28, along Boggy Creek. No. snow. 5 species, 60 indiv. Downy

Woodpecker, 3; Magpie, 5; Black-capped Chickadee, 6; English Sparrow, 40; Common Redpoll, 6. (Add: European Starling on Dec. 20, Harris Sparrow on Dec. 23). — **Doug Gilroy.**

REGINA (KING'S PARK), Dec. 24, 23 mi. car, 2 mi. foot. 5 species, 60 indiv. Downy Woodpecker, 1; Magpie, 9; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; English Sparrow, 20; Common Redpoll, 28. — **Mr. and Mrs. T. K. Shoyama.**

REGINA (WASCANA LAKE), Dec. 21, 15½ mi. car, 3 mi. foot. No snow. 12 species, 240 indiv. Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Mallard, 93; Lesser Scaup, 15; Coat, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Robin, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 11; Bohemian Waxwing, 3; Northern Shrike, 1; English Sparrow, 20; Snow Bunting, 90. (Add: Snowy Owl, 1; Magpie, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Redpoll, 20). — **Dr. R. Bauermeister, Margaret Belcher, Frank, Brazier, Dr. G. F. Ledingham, Lucy Murray, J. H. Taylor, Mrs. Ruth Temple.**

SALTCOATS, Dec. 27 to Dec. 31. Each group reported on one day only. 29 observers in 10 groups. 7 party miles on foot (7 hours). 240 party miles by car (21½ hours). 15 species, 3179 individuals. Goshawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 11; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 96; Hungarian Partridge, 14; Horned Owl, 9; Snowy Owl, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Magpie, 37; Black-capped Chickadee, 37; Bohemian Waxwing, 7; English Sparrow, 267; Pine Grosbeak, 62; Common Redpoll, 198; Snow Bunt-

ing, 2428. School districts as follows: Crescent: **D. C. F. Baines**; Chatsworth: **Jim, Louise and Chrissy Rooke**; Llewellyn: **Evelyn, Gweneth and Mrs. Arthur Thompson, Verna Dawes**; Aston: **W. A. and Stuart Baines, Les and Gordon Turberfield**; Cutarm: **Jim Murray, Bob Barnhart, Hans Erickson**; Pennock: **Carl Almquist, Sidney Anderson, Arni Johnson**; Perley and Boakeview: **Mr. and Mrs. Glen Laycock**; Peachview: **Ben Maddaford**; Meadowvale: **Ed and Velma Wiley**; Tupper, Rothbury, Castleton: **Wilfred Anderson, Tommy Smith, Arthur, John and Gordon Shanks, Frank Baines**. (Saltcoats and District Conservation Society).

SASKATOON TO FRENCH FLATS, Dec. 27, 50 mi. car, 1 mi. foot. 9 species, 765 indiv. Am. Rough-legged Hawk, 2; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Snowy Owl, 1; Magpie, 10; Black-capped Chickadee, 10; Bohemian Waxwing, 600; English Sparrow, 50; Common Redpoll, 65; Snow Bunting, 25. (Add: Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 on Dec. 23). — **J. Hegg and J. Shadick**.

SASKATOON, Dec. 28, 22 mi. car, 3 mi. foot. 14 species, 433 indiv. Mallard, 2; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1; Snowy Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Magpie, 13; Black-capped Chickadee, 7; Bohemian Waxwing, 300; Myrtle Warbler, 1 (seen daily from Dec. 19th — yellow rump seen at close range); English Sparrow, 40; Hoary Redpoll, 3; Common Redpoll, 50; White-winged Crossbill, 10; Tree Sparrow, 2. (Add: Lesser Scaup, Dec. 21; Cedar Waxwing, Dec. 21; Pine Grosbeak, Snow Bunting). — **Susan S., Peter S., and M. Smith**.

SASKATOON, Jan. 1, 1955. 87 mi. car. 15 species, 1918 indiv. Mallard, 7; Am. Goldeneye, 5; Am. Merganser, 1; Hungarian Partridge, 3; Horned Owl, 1; Snowy Owl, 3; Short-eared Owl, 9; Magpie, 23; Chickadee, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Bohemian Waxwing, 65; English Sparrow, 855; Redpoll, 175; White-winged Crossbill, 8; Snow Bunting, 760. (Add: Ring-necked Pheasant, 9; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Northern Shrike, 1). — **Mr. and Mrs. F. J. H. Fredeen, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Gollop**.

SHEHO, Jan. 3, 1955, 5 mi. car, 3 mi. foot. 12 species, 130 indiv. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 12; Hungarian Part-

ridge, 6; Horned Owl, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Magpie, 5; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Bohemian Waxwing, 7; Evening Grosbeak, 6; Pine Grosbeak, 30; Common Redpoll, 5; Snow Bunting, 50. — **William Niven**.

SOMME, Dec. 24, 16 mi. tractor, 2 mi. foot. 13 species, 64 indiv. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 2; Snowy Owl, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Magpie, 1; Raven, 2; Canada Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 7; Brown-headed Chickadee, 6; English Sparrow, 15; White-winged Crossbill, 23; Snow Bunting, 1. (Add: Hungarian Partridge, 5; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Arctic three-toed Woodpecker, 1; American three-toed Woodpecker, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 5; Hoary Redpoll, 2). — **Ronald and Donald Hooper**.

SPIRIT LAKE, Dec. 26, observers separately, 12½ mi. on foot in 10 hours. 13 species, 207 indiv. Ruffed Grouse, 4; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 7; Horned Owl, 2; Snowy Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Magpie, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 26; Bohemian Waxwing, 2; English Sparrow, 35; Pine Grosbeak, 10; Common Redpoll, 5; Snow Bunting, 100. (Add: Goshawk, Hungarian Partridge, Blue Jay, Evening Grosbeak). — **William Anaka and Joyce Gunn**.

SWAN RIVER, MAN., Jan. 2, 1955, 20 mi. car, 2 mi. foot. 12 species, 463 indiv. Snowy Owl, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Magpie, 1; Raven, 2; Bohemian Waxwing, 4; European Starling, 2; English Sparrow, 27; Evening Grosbeak, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 8; Hoary Redpoll, 6; Common Redpoll, 57; Snow Bunting, 349. (Add: Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Canada Jay, 6; Blue Jay, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 6). — **Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McDonald**.

SWIFT CURRENT, Dec. 27, 4 species, 34 indiv. Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; European Starling, 12; English Sparrow, 20. — **Arthur Ward**.

TORCH RIVER, (Species seen Dec. 20 to Jan. 2: Goshawk, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; American three-toed Woodpecker, 1; Canada Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 2; Magpie 3; Raven, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Brown

capped Chickadee, 1; Bohemian Waxwing, 20; Northern Shrike, 1; English Sparrow, 15; Evening Grosbeak, 12; Pine Grosbeak, 5; Common Redpoll, 2; White-winged Crossbill, 15; Snow Bunting, 250). — **C. Stuart Francis.**

WYNYARD, Jan. 3, 1955. 1½ mi. foot. 4 species, 48 indiv. Downy Woodpecker, 4; Magpie, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 8; English Sparrow, 30. (Add: Canada Jay, 4 on Dec. 25). — **Dora Bardal.**

YORKTON, Dec. 26, 23 observers in 6 parties. 112 mi. by car in 15 hours, 14½ mi. on foot in 8 hours. 20 species 1910 indiv. Goshawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 5; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 43; Hungarian Partridge, 30; Horned Owl, 3; Snowy Owl, 9; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 2; Magpie, 47; Black-capped Chickadee, 65; Bohemian Waxwing, 287; Common Starling, 4; English Sparrow, 814; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Brewer's Blackbird, 7; Pine Grosbeak, 51; Common Redpoll, 57; Slate-colored Junco, 4; Snow Bunting, 474. — **Tyrone Balacko, Paul Barski, Wayne Bjorgan, Jim Bridgewater, Brother Clarence, Lionel and Ronald Coleman, Brother Halward, Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Houston, John Hutchinson, Preston McDonald, Dave McVey, Allan Nurse, Jack Park, Irving Pearce, Jack Shaver, Cliff Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Smith, Frank and Gillean Switzer, Brother Vincent.**

## Bird Census

Miss Margaret Cope, Calgary

Birds seen Dec. 25, 1954 — Jan. 2, 1955, inclusive.

Inglewood and adjoining wooded area and river flat. Open country just north and west of city limits.

3 Killdeer; 5 Snowy Owls; 42 Hungarian Partridge; 2 Horned Owls; 2 Short-eared Owls; 3 Marsh Hawks; 2 American Roughlegs; 1 Pigeon Hawk; 50 Evening Grosbeaks; 3 Starlings; 2 Baldpates; 3 Pintails; 1 Ross' Goose; 17 American Mergansers; 60 Magpies; 1 Red Breasted Merganser; 12 Ringneck Pheasants; 9 Black capped Chickadees; 4 Downy Woodpeckers; 2 Hairy Woodpeckers; 20 American Golden-eyes; 2 Sparrow Hawks; 4 Snow Buntings; 12 Redpolls; 125 Mallards; 20 Canada Geese. 26 species and 607 individuals.

## The Thistle Bird (from Page 27)

sweeeeet." Parting the needle masses, we look into the nest, built in early September. All but a thin outer casing of yellow grass is milkweed down. Within this immaculate cup lie four pearls, symmetrically arranged with points meeting at the centre. Nothing more exquisite ever graced Tiffany's show window.

Hastily but cautiously, we readjust the needle groups and tiptoe silently away. We are now on our way to the car, parked on the road perhaps one hundred and fifty yards from the nest. We have not advanced ten steps when both birds dive swiftly into the pine. The female remains there, but the male bird, after half-a-minute's inspection, shoots like an arrow from a bow straight up high into the air, then dives as steeply down. Up and down, up and down, the ordinary undulation of his flight is now exaggerated unbelievably. At each deep undulation he loudly sings, "perchicoree."

He flies in circles, a continuous succession of ever-enlarging circles. Each circle has as its most southerly point, the pine tree and as its most northerly point, the new position at which we had just arrived in walking toward the car. On each return he dives to within two or three feet of our heads — joy is in every note and movement.

At his last visit we have reached the road, and in a matter of seconds will be on our way. This time he dives to within inches of our faces, and loud and clear he shouts, "perchicoree." Then he breaks his circle and flies straight to the pine tree.

Conferring as we drive away, we find agreement in this: if the notes and manoeuvres of this bird could be translated into English phraseology, it would read very much as follows: "You people will surely think that I am crazy. I suppose I am. I'm just mad with joy. When we saw that you had accidentally found our nest, we were deeply concerned; but when we found that it had been discovered, not by enemies but by friends, our joy knew no bounds. I am trying to say thank-you, thank-you friends. Now you are leaving, so on behalf of my mate and myself, a final thank-you and farewell."