

SOMME, Dec. 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Calm, temp. 35°, cloudy, 15 in. snow. 3 hours and 20 miles by tractor; 4 hours on foot. Total, 13 species, 1064 indiv., add. 6 species, 21 indiv. **Ronald and Donald Hooper**.

SPIRIT LAKE, Dec. 30, 8 to 5:30 p.m. Clear with cloudy intervals; temp. 35°; windy; snow 6 to 20 in. deep. 2 observers separately. 10½ hrs. and 9 miles on foot. Total, 15 species, 133 indiv.; add. 2 species, 10 indiv. **Bill Anaka, Joyce Gunn**.

WALLWORT, Dec. 27. Mild, no wind. Around farm, and 22 miles by car. Total, 7 species, 101 indiv. **J. Turnquist**.

WYNYARD, Dec. 30. Total, 6 species, 38 indiv. Add: 2 species, 2 indiv. Robin was noted on Dec. 27. **D. Bardal**

YORKTON, Dec. 26, 8 a.m. to 5:30

p.m., temp 32° to 36°; 20 in. snow. 14 observers in 6 parties. Total party hours, 19½ (9 by car, 10½ on foot); Total party miles, 62 (51 by car and 11 on foot). Total, 16 species, 542 ind. **Wayne Bjorgan, Brother Clarence, Brother Clement, Henry Chillman, Jr., Ronald Coleman, Tom Cursons, Archie Fraser, Art Gellert, Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Houston**, (compilers), **Phil Pawluck, Bob Pearce, Cliff Shaw and Jeff Smith**. (Yorkton Natural History Society).

MINITONAS, Manitoba, Dec. 22. Around farm. Ruffed Grouse, 4; Blue Jay, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; English Sparrow, 40; White-winged Crossbill, 30. Total, 5 species, 79 indiv. Add: Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1; Magpie, 3; Raven, 3; on additional days. **Fay and Will Ranson**. (This Manitoba count is not included in the Saskatchewan table following).

Bird Notes

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER at **SASKATOON** — **Mrs. J. Gerrard** reports that none of the usual winter birds have come to their feeding station this winter. However, three times, January 13, 24, 31, they have seen a Yellow-shafted Flicker come and feed on the shrivelled berries of the Highbush Cranberry and the Virginia Creeper.

SLATE-COLOURED JUNCO WINTERING? — Noted by **Dr. L. G. Saunders** at Saskatoon on January 30.

IS THE HOODED MERGANSER RARE IN SOUTHERN SASKATCHEWAN? — This question is posed

by the following report from **E. M. Callin**, Fort San: "On October 27, 1956 I recorded this bird for only the second time—an apparent indication of its scarcity in the territory which I have been able to cover properly. A well-plumaged male was shot at the head of our group of lakes here and later shown to me. However, a resident at the head of the lakes and who seems to know his game birds very well states that each spring and fall he sees considerable numbers of Hooded Mergansers."

GOLDEN - CROWNED KINGLET AT YORKTON — Re: Anaka's record of the Golden-crowned Kinglet at Spirit Lake on Oct. 31, 1956 (**Blue Jay**, XIV, 119), **Dr. Stuart Houston**,

Yorkton, writes: "This is the fourth record for the Yorkton district—all since publication of **The Birds of the Yorkton District** (1949). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was found dead on Tupper Ave., Oct. 9, 1951 by Andrew Burant (**Blue Jay**, IX, Dec., p. 12). I saw two in the Yorkton hospital grounds on Dec. 22, 1953 (**Blue Jay**, XII, Jan., p. 32). On April 24, 1955, on a Y.N.H.S. outing to Hopkin's Lake on the western edge of Yorkton, I located a male in song, and later we observed a female from only four feet away. These were likely in migration.

GOLDEN - CROWNED KINGLET AT FORT QU'APPELLE — On Nov. 2, 1956, a single bird was seen by **E. M. Callin** on the Sanatorium grounds. Mr. Callin was attracted by the very high, shrill and somewhat rough quality of the call notes which were uttered insistently, and which he had never heard before. As far as he can recall, Mr. Callin has seen a Golden-crowned Kinglet only once before in the Fort Qu'Appelle area. He notes however, that the **Chickadee Notes** records two seen on November 5, 1956 (three days later than his own record) by Stanley Harrison of Fort Qu'Appelle. Mr. Harrison found them in his barn where they stayed for about an hour.

BIRD BANDING RECORDS FROM SWIFT CURRENT, 1956—The following species were banded in 1956 by Arthur Ward on his farm at Burnham or at his home in Swift Current: Horned Grebe (1), Least Flycatcher (1), Barn Swallow (5), House Wren (4), Catbird (1), Brown Thrasher (2), Robin (26), Nashville Warbler (1), Yellow Warbler (4), Magnolia Warbler (1), Myrtle Warbler (1), Pine Warbler (1), Connecticut Warbler (6), Bronzed Grackle (1), Purple Grackle (3), Slate-colored Junco (42), Tree Sparrow (60), Chipping Sparrow (1), Clay-colored Sparrow (29), Harris's Sparrow (3), White-crowned Sparrow (5), White-throated Sparrow (1), Lincoln's Sparrow (7), Song Sparrow (29).

EDITOR'S NOTE: It should be noted that the Pine Warbler recorded by Mr. Ward is not included in the Saskatchewan check-list; but that Bent (1953) gives its breeding range as north to central Alberta and central Saskatchewan (Wingard) . . . and west to southern Saskatchewan (Indian Head).

PROBLEM OF HOUSE SPARROWS AT FEEDING STATIONS — O. A. Stevens, Fargo, N.D., wants to add to Mrs. Skinner's observations about sparrows (*Blue Jay*, XIV, 136). "I find," he says, "they eat about everything. One neighbor keeps them well supplied with bread but still they hang around the shelf to filch nuts or sunflower seeds. I have never used crumbled suet but they do pick up the crumbs dropped by other birds, making a belly-landing on the snow when the weather is very cold. My longest tale is of the sparrow that seized a piece of partly loosened suet, hung by his bill and fanned with his wings to pull it loose. Their fondness for raisins is exasperating. The one thing that has them baffled is my special chickadee cage. A one-inch opening in a screen allows the chickadees to pass (some squeezing). At the moment I have about a 10x4x3 tray on the shelf. The nuthatches do not approve but I try to leave the tray inside within stretching distance until the sparrows get too persistent."

FOOD FOR BIRDS IN FLOWER GARDENS — Elsie Dobryden of Sanford, Manitoba notes how popular flower seeds are with winter and migrant birds. She finds the Goldfinches like to feed on cosmos, and that Juncos and Sparrows favour

petunias. Birds obviously appreciate the untidy gardener who does not remove plants from his garden in the fall.

WATCH FOR COLOUR-MARKED MALLARDS

The Illinois Natural History Survey has requested observers throughout the flyway to be on the lookout for two groups of colour-marked Mallards. Group 1, consisting of 200 drakes, was subjected to artificial lighting for a period of six weeks to advance their breeding condition, Group 2 serves as the controls. Prior to their release in January, the wings of Group 1 were dyed pink and of Group 2, green. Purpose of the experiment is to determine if the internal differences in these two groups of ducks will be reflected by their movements. **Please report any observation of these birds to Frank C. Bellrose, Illinois Natural History Survey Laboratory, Havana, Illinois.**

INFORMATION WANTED RE: DISTRIBUTION OF SASKATCHEWAN THRUSHES

In Eastern Canada, as one goes north, or gains altitude, one encounters the thrushes in this order: Hermit Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, and finally, Grey-cheeked Thrush. A similar situation is shown for Western Canada in a thrush distribution map in the September 1956 issue of "The Wilson Bulletin." The map, even in a general way, is only accurate for the Veery. In my experience, the ranges of the Hermit Thrush and Olive-backed Thrush in this province nearly coincide. Indeed, in Cypress Hills, the Olive-backed occurs without the Hermit. Similarly at Somme, the Hoopers record the Olive-backed as an occasional resident, the Hermit only as a migrant. Carlton is the only locality where I have found Hermit Thrushes without the Olive-backed. Both species occur at Flotter Lake, Prince Albert National Park, Nipawin and Madge Lake.

If there is an area where, even with suitable habitat for both, only the Hermit Thrush occurs, it must be a narrow strip indeed. Obser