

On October 11 I stood on the bank of Wascana Lake watching the crowds of waterfowl on the open stretches — Mallards, Bufflehead, Ruddies, Gadwalls, Widgeons, Shovelers, Canvasbacks, Scaups, Goldeneyes, Blue-winged Teal, Eared, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Coots and gulls. Standing on the ice at the edge of the water was a Water Pipit and over the island a Sharp-shinned Hawk hovered and circled. Moving around the lake I eventually stood on the south bank looking north across a narrow channel to the island. A small stretch of open water was crowded with ducks, some of which immediately flew, but others, needing a run for a take-off, remained—three Pied-billed Grebes, three Ruddy Ducks, a female Scaup and four Coot. Idly scanning the group I noticed that one of the Coots was larger and then it turned its head and I saw two white patches on the head, and the profile of the bill—a scoter, but what kind? Much too small for a White-winged, so probably a Surf Scoter. An hour later I was back with Elmer and Reg Fox and a headful of facts—often the White-winged Scoter does not show the white in the wing at rest, and a large Surf Scoter is larger than a small White-winged Scoter. In a few minutes she told us which she was—she sat on her tail and flapped her wings vigorously: not a trace of white, so a Surf Scoter she must be.

There are not too many Surf Scoter records for Saskatchewan—Fred Lahrman lists six occurrences in *The Blue Jay* for March, 1958, and Dr. Stuart Houston reports Saskatchewan's "first resident bird watcher," Geo. F. Guernsey, in the

following issue as taking a specimen in the fall of 1883 at Fort Qu'Appelle and classifying it then as a rare migrant, first arrival date May 1.

Another larger hawk was seen briefly that day in the Legislative Grounds but too briefly to determine species. However, at the Cameron Street footbridge a large poplar held a fine Rough-legged Hawk—so nice to see one of the large buteos in a colour phase.

That day Fred Lahrman found an Arctic Loon on the Marsh. Elmer and I at that time did not see the loon close enough to identify it, but we found four unmistakable White-winged Scoters, 2 Hooded Mergansers and a Red-breasted Merganser on the following day. During the week Fred found seven Hoodies, two Common Mergansers and two Arctic Loons. It was not until the following Sunday, the 18th, that I found one of the Arctic Loons patrolling the edge of a great duck raft; an hour later Elmer Fox and Betty Cruickshank were also viewing it, at close enough range to note the straight lower mandible as well as general plumage details. There have been only two previous records for the province, Kronau (1947) and Nipawin (1948).

Among the ducks were some Ring-necks and Redheads and even a Pintail drake. There were Fred's Canada Geese, 13 Pelicans, a Great Blue Heron and several Western Grebes. A lone Marsh Hawk hunted the reed beds while a rowdy gang of 15 Crows abused us from the nearby trees. While the storm did have the effect of halting waterfowl movement southwards, I could not see that it had any visible ill effects in Regina among the migrants.

JUNCO RECOVERED IN ALASKA By S. Houston, Yorkton

Since 1943 I have banded over 16,800 birds of 137 species, but a recent recovery of a Slate-colored Junco is one of the most exciting of all. It is my first recovery from 381 juncos banded, and the junco is the 29th species for which I have a recovery. The junco was banded as an adult in our backyard banding station in Yorkton on October 3, 1957. It was killed by a cat at Soldotna,

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, on July 10, 1959, and the band was given by its finder, Mel Carlson, to Mrs. Mary A. Smith, regional editor of *Audubon Field Notes* at Coho, Alaska. It had never occurred to me that some of the juncos that migrate through Yorkton are birds that breed in Alaska! This is another example of how a single banding recovery can be of great scientific interest.