

Additions to the Birds of Somme

By **Ronald and Donald Hooper**, Somme, Sask.

Since the publication of the *Preliminary List of the Birds of Somme District, Saskatchewan* (Contribution No. 3, Yorkton Natural History Society) in April, 1954, four new species have been identified in the area, four additional species collected (#) and seven additional species found nesting (N). This brings the totals to 210 species identified (plus 4 hypothetical), 157 species collected, and 95 species breeding.

Nesting Records

N# EARED GREBE. About 50 nests at Neely Lake, June 18, 1955.

N# BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. Several seen and one collected July, 1954. Nest with two young found July 16, 1954.

N LONG-EARED OWL. Nest with one egg along MacNab Creek, May 19, 1954.

N WESTERN WOOD PEEWEE. Nest found in fork of tree, June 22, 1954.

N PHILADELPHIA VIREO. Nest in top of an aspen, June 15, 1954.

N TENNESSEE WARBLER. Nest with six eggs, on ground, June 18, 1954, southeast of Somme.

N YELLOWTHROAT. Nest with three young in sapling, Aug. 3, 1954.

In addition, a second nesting record was established for the BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE when a nest was found in a hole in a poplar, June, 1958.

New Species Observed

PIED-BILLED GREBE. *Podilymbus podiceps*. Four found near Dunlop Lake, July 29, 1954.

YELLOW RAIL. *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. Abundant at marsh at junction of Bowman and Shand Creeks, June 1, 8, and 10, 1954. Two collected June 10, 1954.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. *Loxia leucoptera*. Occasionally in mixed forest, November and December, 1954.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR. *Calcarius pictus*. One seen in field in company with Lapland Longspurs, May 12, 1954.

NOTE: Copies of *The Birds of Somme* are still available for 25 cents from Stuart Houston, M.D., Box 278, Yorkton, Sask.

A Pintail Drake - Mallard Pair Association

By **Alex Dzubin**, Canadian Wildlife Service, Saskatoon, Sask.

An association of a drake Pintail (*Anas acuta*) with a pair of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) during a two-week period in May, 1958, may be worthy of note, especially as to a possible explanation for the origin of Mallard x Pintail hybrids in the wild. Such crosses are relatively rare, but have been reported by Cockrum (Wilson Bull. 64:140-159) and Sibley (Condor 59:166-191). (In Saskatchewan I trapped an adult drake hybrid at Teo Lake, Kindersley, on October 14, 1957, which clearly showed dominant Mallard coloring except for having a narrow, light-blue bill, grey-orange tarsus, elongated tail and an indistinct cinnamon-brown chest region.)

The "trio" was first seen on May 3 during a routine census of the Canadian Wildlife Service study area, 15 miles W.S.W. of Kindersley. They were flushed and flew to a nearby slough, the male Pintail keeping be-

tween the male Mallard and the hen. At 7.15 a.m. on May 9, the group was seen on a road allowance 20 feet from the water's edge. The hen appeared to be slowly moving toward nesting cover with the male Pintail three feet behind her, and the drake Mallard some four feet behind the Pintail. On four occasions within the next ten minutes, the male Pintail rushed, with head down and bill open, toward the male Mallard and chased him some six to eight feet, the male Mallard running once and flushing three times. After each rush, the Pintail returned to the vicinity of the hen, occasionally pumping his head and whistling, i.e., "burping." The hen made no aggressive movement toward the male Pintail and continued to walk into nesting cover.

Again on May 10, at 11.40 a.m., the group was observed swimming on a slough. The drake Pintail and hen Mallard were swimming close to-