

Observations of Bohemian Waxwing Behaviour

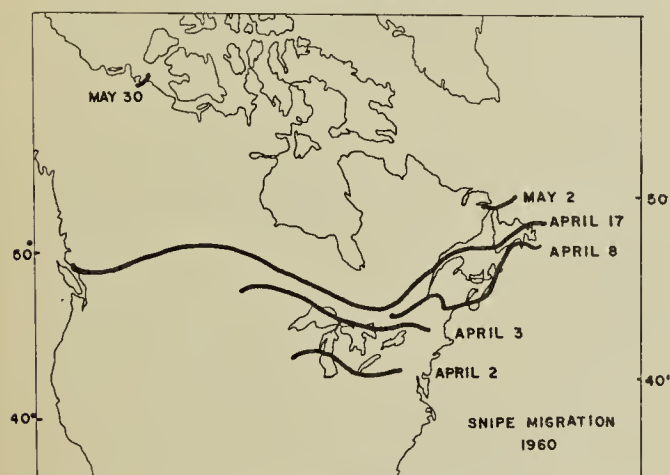
Waxwings bathing in winter.—On January 16, 1961, I was looking at my trapline in one of the coulees that runs into the Qu'Appelle Valley, when I came across a flock of about 150 Bohemian Waxwings. Most of them were sitting in balsam poplars but I was surprised to notice some bathing in the open water of a spring. This spring has a gravel bottom, and remains open all winter. About twelve feet away, where the water was 1½ inches deep and not running so fast, and near where it froze to ice, was where the waxwings liked to bathe. About six would go into the water at a time. They would duck under about six times and ruffle their feathers, then fly into the trees. I watched the whole flock do this and then they left. On this day it was 29°F., calm and cloudy, but the water must have been just about freezing temperature. I made a point to go back there every day for two weeks and found that the flock would come

in between 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. to take their bath. However, they would not take a bath if it was really windy or below zero. I wonder if it is common for Bohemian Waxwings to take baths in cold weather?— **George Chopping**, Dubuc.

Bohemian Waxwings hawking insects in winter.—On the afternoon of March 21, 1961, I observed some unusual feeding habits of Bohemian Waxwings and Starlings at the Souris River approximately 1½ miles south of Estevan. The afternoon was quite warm and a large number of small moths were observed. The two waxwings and four starlings were perched in the tops of some aspens and at intervals both species would dart out and catch a moth in an almost fly-catcher-like manner. They would chase the insect or hover momentarily as they caught it and would then return to the trees to eat their prey.—**Ross Lein**, Estevan.

INFORMATION WANTED

1961 COMMON SNIPE MIGRATION



Last year in the **Blue Jay** (18:78) I requested information on the 1960 spring migration of the Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago*). Persons who contributed information will be interested in the observations that can be made on the basis of data submitted.

It seems very likely that migrating snipe arrive first in the Great Lakes

region with the early April warm fronts. Then, they move progressively northwards (or NE or NW) with subsequent warm air masses. The map shows the pattern obtained from data submitted in 1960.

I am asking for information again for the 1961 spring migration. Please record locality, first arrival date, first winnowing date, peak arrival, first nest, comments, name and address of observer. In addition, I would like to get arrival dates for other years from people who have not previously submitted them, and any data on nesting. In Newfoundland where we have systematically searched our study areas, we find that the majority of nests are in high cover, such as alder. Finally, if you see "yellow" snipe, report them—they are birds marked with picric-acid for research purposes.

SEND ALL INFORMATION TO **Leslie M. Tuck**, Box E-5366, St. John's, Nfld. See also page 74.