

**TRANSFER OF FOOD IN AIR BY RED-TAILED HAWKS.**—On June 26, 1959, I saw a marvelous feat performed by a pair of Red-tailed Hawks. I was working beside a bush when I noticed a hawk, about 50 feet high, coming towards it with a mouse held in one foot. As it neared the bush another hawk, apparently its mate, flew out in the direction of, but slightly lower than the first. When the two were in a vertical line the top one dropped the mouse, which fell about two feet, when the lower one grabbed it with its talons, wheeled, and went back into the bush. The first hawk also turned and went in the direction from which it had previously come. The manoeuvre which these two birds went through was very interesting and the precision with which it was done made it all the more so.—**Jack Provick, Hazelcliffe, Sask.**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** When we were out at Pilot Butte with an English birder Tim Dixon on June 15, 1959, a similar transfer of food between a pair of Marsh Hawks was observed by Dixon. He considered this observation one of the highlights of the days' birding.

**SNOWY OWL CONCENTRATIONS NEAR DODSLAND SASK.**—Predatory birds are generally solitary except during migration when they may flock together in quite large groups. An unusual concentration of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) was observed during the three days of March 30, 31, and April 1, 1959. During this period 55 Snowy Owls were seen in an area four miles by six miles, just west of Dodsland, Sask. All of the birds with one exception were in pairs, both birds of a pair being generally within 100 yards of each other. The area where the owls were found was dotted with small snow banks while immediately south, east and west no snow remained. Since the birds were seen almost exclusively in or near the snow this concentration may have been a direct result of the presence of snow in this limited area.—**R. W. Fyfe, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History.**

**SONG OF PARULA WARBLER (*Parula americana*) RECORDED AT MOOSE MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK, SASK.**—Mr. and Mrs. J. Lane and I left the Chalet at Moose

Mountain Park about 10:00 a.m. on June 14, 1959, and had driven eastward only a few hundred yards when I heard the unmistakable "zeeeeee-up" song of a Parula coming in clearly from the north side of the road. We were still in the townsite and the bird was singing from a row of tall spruces beside the road, at the foot of somebody's garden. It was singing steadily about eight times a minute, meanwhile moving about from tree to tree about 15-20 feet from the ground. Now and then we were able to get a clear look at it through binoculars and were able particularly to note the vari-coloured pattern on the back, characteristic of the male Parula.

When we began to think about recording the song, it flew off to the north where we could still hear it faintly. A little investigation along the next street to the north revealed another row of conifers along the south margin of that street, and we found that the bird alternated between the two spruce stands, spending about 10 or 15 minutes in one stand before returning to the other. I was delighted to find that it sang both of the two major song types of the species: the "zeeeeee-up" song and a song where several preliminary notes are given prior to a shorter "zee-up" phrase. Examples of both these songs appear on the record of warbler songs produced by Donald Borrer and myself. The bird would sing a number of songs of one type and then switch to the other.

At first, I was only able to obtain recordings of the song at a rather low level and with some interference from other sounds. However, by playing back this first recording to the bird, its interest was at once alerted and it came over to investigate. It sang repeatedly from surrounding trees, including an aspen, and it was then not difficult to make a better recording at a higher level. Before we were through, we had quite a group of interested cottagers watching the bird's fine performance.

From the frequency of singing at the time of day when we first heard it, I imagine that the bird had set up a territory to take in just about the only conifers for some considerable distance around, and was stead-

ily advertising his presence through its singing. The odds against a female hearing him there were surely very great and though it was still singing steadily when we left, I expect that after a few days it would move off to some other location.—W. H. Gunn, Toronto.

ED. NOTE: The Parula Warbler was added to the Sask. list on the strength of Callin's 1956 record from Fort Qu'Appelle (*Blue Jay* 14: 90-91). The *Blue Jay* has since published an earlier record for Emma Lake—one seen June 27, 1939, by Farley Mawat and F. Banfield (*Blue Jay* 16: 158, 1958). We know of only one other record west of Man.—one collected by D. Boag 20 miles west of Turner Valley, June, 1958 (*Can. Field-Nat.* 72: 173-74, 1958).

## The Need for Local Bird Records

A message from the President, Manley Callin, Fort San

As the past president, Frank Roy, pointed out in the September, 1958 *Blue Jay*, Saskatchewan is very badly in need of an up-to-date book on the birds of the province. Roy dealt with the subject in some detail but it is a subject which must be kept alive and, therefore, merits repetition.

A book on the birds of Saskatchewan will be an ambitious project—it will require a tremendous amount of work in sorting and analysing thousands of records from all parts of the province. Regional lists are essential and will play a very important part in the compilation of a new provincial list; and the more regional lists that are submitted the more accurate, interesting and successful the provincial list will be. During the next year or two the Society expects to receive for publication lists covering the Qu'Appelle Valley, Carlton, Cumberland, the Coteau region in the elbow of the South Saskatchewan River, Saskatoon, and Regina. However, these areas represent only a small part of the province and more lists are needed. Every area is important and undoubtedly every person who has kept even a minimum of records can add information of value. There may be gaps of months or even years in your records; you may have only isolated records; your list of species may be large or it may be small; your area may be close to an area covered by a list. Please do not be diffident on account of such factors—your records are needed.

Information is needed on spring arrival dates, spring departure dates of transients, nesting records, fall arrival dates of transients, fall departure dates, and also general information such as wintering of migrants, definite population changes, and be-

haviour. Some birds are rare or uncommon in the entire province, others may be scarce in only some parts of the province. Your notes should include **all** records of species which are rare or uncommon in your area, even though they may be common in other areas. Please do not feel that you do not have enough information to be worth recording or submitting it—any part of the above information is of value.

Depending upon the discretion of the Publications Committee, available finances, etc., your list may be filed for reference, reviewed in the *Blue Jay*, mimeographed, or even printed. The most important thing, however, is that you submit your records so that they can be used in compiling a summary for the province. Every expert, advanced or amateur observer in the province probably has records which are needed for general or specific inclusion in a provincial list.

A number of our members have already been active in this regard. Some years ago Dr. Stuart Houston of Yorkton, Maurice Street of Nipawin, and Ronald and Donald Hooper of Somme compiled check-lists of the birds in their areas. They are to be heartily congratulated for their efforts, and the rest of us could not show our appreciation in any better way than to follow their example. Members who have kept records of birds will get a great deal of satisfaction in making a summary of their information. Members who have not kept records will get a great deal of satisfaction in starting to do so. This is the year of the A.O.U. meeting in Saskatchewan and a most appropriate year for us to resolve to record our observations and to make them available to our Society.