

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.