

FOURTH ANNUAL MAY DAY COUNT SASKATOON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, MAY 23, 1960

May 23 was far from ideal weatherwise, with heavy showers falling throughout the day and the temperature at a constant 50°. Parts of the river bank at Moon Lake, normally covered in the May counts, had to be neglected this time. Fourteen observers in 3 parties identified 99 species, 13 fewer than in 1959 when we set an all-time record of 112 species in one day.

The list of birds seen follows. Last year's totals are given in brackets.

SPECIES LIST: Horned Grebe, 21 (2); Eared Grebe, 6 (1); Pied-billed Grebe, 4 (0); Mallard, 92 (114); Gadwall, 5 (15); Pintail, 23 (48); Green-winged Teal, 4 (2); Blue-winged Teal, 10 (72); American Widgeon, 19 (15); Shoveler, 25 (32); Redhead, 2 (1); Canvasback, 17 (16); Lesser Scaup, 50 (22); Ruddy Duck, 8 (2); Red-tailed Hawk, 1 (3); Ferruginous Hawk, 1 (0); Marsh Hawk, 5 (12); Pigeon Hawk, 3 (1); Sparrow Hawk, 2 (1); Sharp-tailed Grouse, 2 (3); Ring-necked Pheasant, 6 (14); Sora, 2 (0); American Coot, 55 (37); Killdeer, 12 (38); Spotted Sandpiper, 1 (5); Solitary Sandpiper, 1 (0); Willet, 9 (17); Lesser Yellowlegs 5 (5); Pectoral Sandpiper, 17 (34); White-rumped Sandpiper, 2 (1); Baird's Sandpiper, 60 (15); Least Sandpiper, 15 (54); Marbled Godwit, 1 (7); Sanderling, 1 (10); Wilson's Phalarope, 18 (74); California Gull,

50 (6); Ring-billed Gull, 110 (56); Franklin's Gull, 76 (52); Black Tern, 119 (22); Rock Dove, 24 (not counted in 1959); Mourning Dove, 29 (62); Great Horned Owl, 3 (1); Burrowing Owl, 1 (0); Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1 (0); Yellow-shafted Flicker, 3 (16); Hairy Woodpecker, 1 (2); Eastern Kingbird, 14 (18); Eastern Phoebe, 2 (2); Least Flycatcher, 26 (38); Horned Lark, 14 (9); Tree Sparrow, 16 (17); Bank Sparrow, 6 (12); Barn Swallow, 41 (13); Blue Jay, 2 (0); Black-billed Magpie, 34 (48); Common Crow, 71 (67); Black-capped Chickadee, 10 (3); House Wren, 14 (11); Catbird, 7 (2); Brown Thrasher, 26 (8); Robin, 33 (94); Swainson's Thrush, 18 (1); Veery, 1 (5); Mountain Bluebird, 7 (22); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 (0); Sprague's Pipit, 4 (3); Loggerhead Shrike, 3 (11); Starling, 29 (35); Red-eyed Vireo, 1 (0); Warbling Vireo, 4 (5); Tennessee Warbler, 2 (3); Yellow Warbler, 49 (67); Magnolia Warbler, 1 (0); Cape May Warbler, 1 (0); Black-throated Green Warbler, 2 (0); Ovenbird, 2 (0); Mourning Warbler, 1 (0); Yellowthroat, 1 (2); Redstart, 3 (3); House Sparrow, 162 (323); Western Meadowlark, 49 (150); Yellow-headed Blackbird, 39 (33); Redwinged Blackbird, 111 (64); Baltimore Oriole, 18 (11); Brewer's Blackbird, 79 (115); Common Grackle, 24 (23); Cowbird, 28 (48); Purple Finch, 1 (0); American Goldfinch, 12 (5); Rufous-sided Towhee, 9 (16); Savannah Sparrow, 26 (19); Vesper Sparrow, 59 (115); Chipping Sparrow, 24 (24); Clay-colored Sparrow, 67 (153); Harris' Sparrow, 1 (0); White-crowned Sparrow, 2 (0); White-throated Sparrow, 3 (1); Song Sparrow, 73 (35). Compiler: *Frank Roy*, Saskatoon.

BIRDS OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE SASKATOON AREA, SPRING, 1960

by **Frank Roy**, Saskatoon

Blue Goose—further records for Goose Lake (see *Blue Jay*, XVIII: 78)—13 seen on April 30; 12 on May 7. In both cases in company of Snow Geese. B. Gollop.

Rough-legged Hawk—a heavier flight of these hawks this spring than in any previous year. On several field trips they were the most common buteo observed. The migration lasted from April 2 to April 30.

Turkey Vulture—an erratic wanderer in this area. One observed on a sandpit in the South Saskatchewan River, May 7, 1960. R. Folker.

Long-billed Curlew—the first record within the immediate vicinity of Saskatoon—one adult, 14 miles southwest of the city, May 6, 1960. F. Roy.

American Avocet—particularly numerous this spring along the shores of the alkali lakes. A maximum count of 135 birds at Porter Lake, northeast of Saskatoon, May 29, 1960. B. Gollop.

Dunlin—first Saskatoon record; three observed at Burke Lake, 15 miles east of Saskatoon, May 25. R. Folker, J. Hogg, F. Roy.

Dowitchers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs—late record, June 25, 1960, at a slough 3 miles northeast of Saskatoon: 2 Dowitchers, 6 Lesser Yellowlegs, 1 Greater Yellowleg. B. Gollop.

Burrowing Owl—rarely recorded at Saskatoon. One, just west of the city, May 23, 1960. R. Bremner, F. Roy.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Purple Finch—unusually heavy spring