

restoration of Peturrson's Ravine, spring and fall bird counts, submission of bird observations for *The Birds of Saskatoon* (published 1996) to studies of lakes and marshes for the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Rev. Annabelle Wallace, who knew Ron for many years, says of him: "He lived simply so he could be generous. He gave of himself constantly, yet he served quietly. Happy, learned, humorous, proud of his heritage, he was a joy to be with."

-Written By Frank Roy



## BAND-TAILED PIGEON IN SASKATOON, SK

On June 29, 2011 my husband was in his living room chair when he looked up to the back yard bird feeders and said "There's a hawk sitting on the feeder hanger". I quickly went to the window and said "Not a hawk, but a pigeon". Because it looked different I quickly got the camera and took pictures. When we compared the pictures to our bird books we identified the bird as a Band-tailed Pigeon and realized this bird was not supposed to be in our area.

The Pigeon sat on the arms of the feeders and then flew to a tree in the yard West of us and appeared to be eating. I quietly went into the back yard to see if I could get any other pictures. It flew back to the Shurbert Chokeycherry in the SE corner of our yard and when I moved and walked toward it it flew away. We did not see it again.



- Trish Santo, 144 Delaronde Rd,  
Saskatoon Sk S7J 3Y4  
<tsanto@sasktel.net>



## ROCK PTARMIGAN - A NEW BIRD FOR ALBERTA

Kevin Kuipers<sup>1</sup>, Natalie Kuipers, Peter Storer  
<sup>1</sup>PO Box 90, Garden River, AB, T0H 4G0, Email: <kpkuipers@gmail.com>

On December 18 2011, we participated in the first Garden River Christmas Bird Count (CBC). After being in the province for only three and a half months, and having yet to experience a winter in the 'North', our familiarity with winter Alberta species was mostly limited to our printed resources. Nonetheless we had a very good idea of what we may run into due to range maps. Furthermore, due to the remoteness of Garden River, there was

a sense of potential discovery. If a rare winter resident had yet to be identified in the province, surely this was the location it was hiding.

For the CBC, the temperature was -24°C and sunny, with some bird activity in the Jack Pine stands. While driving eastbound 15 km west of Garden River, we encountered a Ptarmigan on the road. Peter was quick to note he almost