

introduced to the breeding habitat or behaviour of birds which we have only in migration. Nothing charmed us more than to hear the aerial flight song of water pipits as we ate our lunch at 10,800 feet in the Bear Tooth Pass on an alpine meadow from which the snow had just melted to reveal the first clumps of mountain marigold, carpet pink and alpine forget-me-not.

Driving on over the pass from that alpine meadow our view was often cut off by the high snowbanks, for we were on the road the first day that it was open to traffic. One bank along the road, we later learned, measured 29' 6", and yet everywhere over the snow the horned larks and pipits

rose in song. The pink Chev, with its nose nudging a Highways Department patrol truck, was only travelling five or ten miles an hour, so we had time to watch them, and to get a good look at a black rosy finch which thrilled us by perching briefly on the highway railing.

To do our expedition justice, it should be said that it was more productive botanically than bird-wise. However, the two weeks of plant collecting gave us opportunities to watch for new birds; that is, when our eyes weren't glued to the ground looking for *Astragalus*! In addition to the *Astragalus* collections, we brought back a lively interest in the birds less commonly seen in Saskatchewan.

Sixth Annual May Day Count

Saskatoon Natural History Society, May 26, 1962

As an experiment the Saskatoon Natural Society decided this year to record the birds seen within a 25-mile radius of the city. Because the area was so extensive, it was impossible to make a count of individuals. Instead, the circle was divided into segments, and a record of occurrence kept within each segment. The 24 observers were divided into 5 parties. Observations extended from 4.30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Temperatures ranged from a low of 47° at 5:00 a.m. to a high of 78° at 5:30 p.m. Winds were light; the sky varied from clear to slightly cloudy. 127 species were identified, 27 more than last year, and 15 more than the previous record of 112 set in 1959 (within a 7½ mile radius).

SPECIES LIST: Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Partridge, Sandhill Crane, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone,

Long-billed Curlew, Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Knot, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Common Tern, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Mountain Bluebird, Water Pipit, Sprague's Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Yellowthroat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur. Compiler: **Frank Roy**, Saskatoon.