

## Saskatchewan Natural History Society

# Summer Meeting

MacIntosh Point, Emma Lake, June 13, 14, and 15, 1958

**The Area:** The Emma Lake area lies some 40 miles north of Prince Albert, and on the same latitude as the lower part of the Prince Albert National Park. It was described by Farley M. Mowat (Can. Field-Naturalist, 61: 105-115) in this way, "The country is low and fairly level, although there are a few small stony ridges in the northern sector. There are many lakes, ponds and waterways. Emma, the largest lake, is about seven miles long and three miles across at its widest point. A few of the larger lakes contain islands and rocky or shingle reefs.

"The entire area was originally well forested and is still largely tree covered, although much altered by fires and by lumbering activity. The only settlements are in the southern district where there are two small summer resorts together with a handful of homesteads, many of which are abandoned.

"In the north, the area is largely covered with coniferous second growth timber, predominantly jack pine, spruce and tamarack. The northeasterly section has suffered badly from fire and is partly reduced to tangles of pine slash, and raw burned areas. A few stands of mixed timber, including poplar and birch, exist along the northern margins of the big lakes and on the larger islands.

"To the south, the forest is again partly second growth, but is of mixed composition with deciduous trees, mainly poplar and birch, predominating.

"Throughout the whole of the coniferous area small muskegs and muskeg ponds abound, and these are frequently surrounded by dense growths of tamarack. Small forest streams and marshy rivulets are common and are usually bounded by heavy belts of willow shrubbery.

"Most of the large lakes contain extensive areas of marsh and some sparse reed beds extend from the few open sandy beaches."

## BIRDS OF EMMA LAKE

The fauna of the Emma Lake area is predominantly Canadian in character, but a few species common to the Transition Zone such as Ruddy Duck, Franklin's Gull and House Wren occur quite frequently. Birders at the summer meeting will be interested in the list of 156 species for the Emma Lake area submitted by Farley Mowat to the **Canadian Field-Naturalist (61:105-115)**. This list recorded observations made June 26—July 22, 1939 by Mowat, Banfield and Hord, and a few notes from previous visits to the area in 1936 and 1937. The list includes the bulk of the resident species which are normally to be expected, but does not include many species which are normally only encountered in migration.

**ANNOTATED LIST:** Common Loon, Red necked Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup Duck, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Willow Ptarmigan, Greater Prairie Chicken, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Sora, Yellow Rail, American Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Herring Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Bonapart's Gull, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Black-backed Three-Toed Woodpecker, Northern Three-Toed Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Gray Jay, Blue Jay, Raven, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Winter Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Mourning Warbler, Yellowthroat, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Redwinged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Cowbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Leconte's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting.

**Route:** No. 2 Highway north from Prince Albert—30 miles. Take Sunnyside turn-off, proceed  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, turn left, follow lake road 3 miles to MacIntosh Point. Look for markers along route from Highway No. 2.

**Registration:** at Registration Tent upon arrival. Fee \$1.00 per adult, no charge for children accompanied by parents.

**Accommodation:** Keys are available at Registration Tent for reserved cabins, tenting and trailer facilities. General store on camp site. Those desiring to stay in Prince Albert make their own arrangements.

If you wish accommodation at MacIntosh Point and have not already sent in the application form from the March issue of the **Blue Jay**, phone Miss Jean MacKenzie, 10-22nd St. East, Prince Albert. Since the Prince Albert society has limited accommodation listed (6 cabins on the north shore, 8 cabins on the south shore, and 9 rooms at the hotel), you should phone **immediately** for last-minute accommodation.

## PROGRAMME:

### Friday, June 13

7:00-11:00 p.m. Registration.

9:00-11:00 p.m. Forest Inventory programme — Aerial photography forest cover mapping. Trained forest technicians in charge.

### Saturday, June 14

6:00-7:30 a.m. Morning stroll, at your own inclination (suggest Murray Point for birds—3 miles).

7:30-8:15 a.m. Breakfast Club—Hotel—late arrival registration.

8:15-8:45 a.m. Headquarters—final instructions re: transportation, introduction to guides, programme for day.

8:45-8:15 a.m. En route to north end Christopher Lake—"follow the leader."

9:15-12 noon. Forest field trip—conducted by trained personnel—identification of forest plant life and their relationship.

12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch on parking site. Sandwiches, doughnuts may be purchased. Tea and coffee free. Display of forest fire suppression equipment.

1:00-4:00 p.m. Forestry (special field trip—to be explained at programme for the day); Forest Pathology (field trip will be conducted by experts. Tree diseases, fungi, malformations, etc. will be described); Photography (bring your cameras and your skill).

4:00-4:30 p.m. Coffee break.

4:30-6:30 p.m. Free time.

6:30-7:30 p.m. Dinner.

7:30-9:15 p.m. Game Management (at Headquarters Hall)—films and speaker: Wildlife and its place in the forest.

9:15-9:30 p.m. Coffee break.

9:30-10:15 p.m. Guest speaker, A. T. Davidson, Assistant Deputy Minister of Natural Resources.

### Sunday, June 15

6:00-7:30 a.m. Sunrise Serenade: fishermen, bird watchers or what have you.

7:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel.

8:30-8:45 a.m. Headquarters Hall—day's programme, introductions, etc.

9:00-12:00 a.m. Fish Biology—lectures, displays, films, etc. Fisheries biologist in attendance. "Allah does not deduct from man's allotted span the hours he spends in fishing."

12:00-1:30 p.m. Dinner: northern menu.

1:30-3:30 p.m. Forest Entomology in the Hall—speaker, films and displays—insects of the forest.

3:30-4:00 p.m. Summary—A. Dickson, Forester.

4:00-5:00 p.m. Lunch.