

MOCKINGBIRD AT P.A.

by **Auguste Viala**, Prince Albert

On October 5, 1962, a Mockingbird appeared on my property in Prince Albert and I observed it several times during the next ten days. Then it disappeared and I did not see it until it returned on November 14 and 15. Its next appearance was on December 6, following which it followed the pattern of disappearing for a few days and then returning. Until the 29th of December (date last seen) it continued to visit my feeding station in the back yard. It would perch for long periods on a branch or even on an apple box I have placed on the south side of my house six feet from the ground. On December 29, for example, it remained from 10:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. perched on a honeysuckle.

The weather until the end of the year was mild, with only a light snow cover. After the snow had covered the ground the Mockingbird fed on honeysuckle or mountain ash berries and at my feeder. I put out mostly bread, but it ate raisins, mashed hard boiled eggs, etc.

[ED. NOTE: There is no record for the Mockingbird in the Prince Albert area in Houston and Street's **The Birds of the Saskatchewan River, Carlton to Cumberland**, Spec. Publ. No. 2, S.N.H.S., 1959. As far as we know, this is the most northern record for this species in N. America.]

BARRED OWL RECORD AT DORE LAKE

by **Robert V. Folker**, Saskatoon

This owl was heard hooting on September 27, 1962. At the time, I was operating a checking station situated along the Dore Lake road where it crosses Rat Creek (Sec. 9—Twp. 61—Rge. 10—W3rd).

The call of the Barred Owl is quite familiar to me, having heard it several times in New York State and once while on vacation in Florida. This was a typical call, a series of distinct hoots, the last composed of two notes with a rising inflection on the second note. I answered this owl and, although the "talk" went back and forth for some time, was unable to entice it close enough for observation.

To date, Saskatchewan Barred Owl reports have been restricted to

the east side of the province. The most recent record was of a pair nesting in the Porcupine Forest Reserve north of Kelvington recorded by Houston (**Blue Jay**, 19:114-115). Other records have come from the Cumberland House region. Al Oeming (**Blue Jay**, 15:153-154) has reported ample evidence of this owl's occurrence in Alberta, so it was to be expected that the Barred Owl would one day turn up in western Saskatchewan.

HAWK OWL COLLECTED AT RAYMORE, SASK.

by **James Luthi**, Punnichy

On January 8, 1963, I saw what I believed to be a Hawk Owl four miles west of Raymore, Saskatchewan. The owl flew to a power line and settled on the wire about 75 yards from me. I collected the owl to mount as a specimen for my little museum.

[ED. NOTE: Apparently there has been an unusual southward movement of Hawk Owls this year—Edwin C. Weiland of Marquette, Michigan, collecting data on Hawk Owls and Snowy Owls, had 22 reports of the Hawk Owl for Upper Michigan and 8 reports for N. Minnesota by January 3, 1963.]

GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN AT SIMPSON, SASK.

by **James Luthi**, Punnichy

One Greater Prairie Chicken (Pinnated Grouse) was seen on May 12, 1962, about eight miles west of the junction of Highways #2 and #15 north of Simpson, Sask.

[ED. NOTE: This report of the Greater Prairie Chicken is of interest since the last record we have for the area is the specimen taken east of Simpson by F. G. Bard, on October 24, 1940. In the 1930's the area north of Last Mountain Lake was one of the areas most frequently reporting the Greater Prairie Chicken, but in recent years the question has been raised of whether the Greater Prairie Chicken has actually disappeared from all Saskatchewan. We think the number of reports justifies the belief that this grouse may still be present in certain areas. An attempt to review the current status of this species in Saskatchewan was made in the **Blue Jay**, 19:76-77, June, 1961.]