

Second Annual Manitoba Christmas Bird Count, 1963

by Lawrie B. Smith,, Winnipeg, Man.

This year 49 species were reported by 57 observers, 12 species not recorded in 1962 bringing the two-year total to 57.

Two uncommon visitors from the south were present, the Red-bellied Woodpecker which has been at feeding stations in the south of Winnipeg since early October, and 2 male Cardinals which have been in the Metro Winnipeg area since the first of December, although only one was in the count area on December 26. The vagrant Red Crossbill common in southern Manitoba this summer was represented by stragglers at Winkler and Winnipeg. Of the permanent residents in Manitoba, Gray Partridge were reported from five localities, but the only report of Ruffed Grouse was from Norway House. The northern localities have added the Spruce Grouse, Rock Ptarmigan and Willow Ptarmigan to the list of Christmas Bird Count species. The only report of a Hawk Owl this year was from Norway House. The number of Blue Jays reported from Winnipeg jumped from nine last year to 81 this year, possibly because of a good acorn crop. The seven localities reporting Ravens except for Winnipeg were all in the eastern and northern parts of the province. The ubiquitous Black-capped Chickadee was reported from all stations except Churchill, while the Boreal Chickadee was only seen in Winnipeg and Thompson. It is interesting to note that at Thompson the Boreal Chickadee was much less common than the Black-capped.

The winter visitors this year included the Goshawk, reported from three localities and a total of six Snowy Owls from four localities. Bohemian Waxwings were more common in Brandon and Winnipeg than last year. Hoary Redpolls were reported from two widely separated localities, Oak Lake and Churchill. Snow Buntings were not as plentiful as on the 1962 count.

Of the species usually classified as summer residents in Manitoba, representatives of 14 were found during the official count period, possibly as a result of the mild weather until the

end of November this fall. Some of these were the Pigeon Hawk at Oak Lake, Red-breasted Nuthatches at Winnipeg, Brown Creepers at Brandon and Winnipeg, Robins at Pointe du Bois and Winnipeg, Golden-crowned Kinglets at Brandon and Winnipeg, the Rusty Blackbird at Winnipeg, the Brewer's Blackbird at Oak Lake, and Slate-colored Juncos from no less than four localities, Pointe du Bois, Winnipeg, Winkler and Margaret.

This report owes its existence to the enthusiasm and cooperation of all the participants, particularly David Hatch who began the Manitoba Count and Harold Hosford who assisted in the compilation of the results.

Sixteen localities participated (nine for the first time), with coverage from Great Falls and Pointe du Bois in the east to Oak Lake and Brandon in the west, and from Winkler and Boissevain in the south to Thompson, Norway House and Churchill in the north.

BALMORAL, Man. Dec. 22 to 28; semi-open country with poplar woods. 9 species, 52 individuals. Goshawk, 1; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 3; Gray Partridge, 11; Snowy Owl, 1; Black-billed Magpie, 1 (Dec. 26); Black-capped Chickadee, 8; Evening Grosbeak, 3; Pine Grosbeak, 10.—**Mrs. Catherine Thexton.**

BOISSEVAIN, Man. Dec. 26. 5 species, 125 individuals. Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 8; Bohemian Waxwing, 56; House Sparrow, 18; Common Redpoll, 42.—**J. D. Smith.**

BRANDON (West), Man. Dec. 26. Experimental Farm; partly wooded, some barns and dwellings; 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; overcast then clearing; temp. 9° to 4°F.; wind N.W. 5-10 m.p.h.; snow depth 14 inches; 2 party hours (1 by car, 1 on foot); 10 party miles (9 by car, 1 by foot). 6 species, 23 individuals. Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Black-billed Magpie, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 7; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Evening Grosbeak, 6.—**Mamie McCowan, Mrs. Barbara Robinson (compiler), Beverley Robinson, Dale Robinson.**

BRANDON (South), Man. Jan. 1; mostly residential including several spruce groves in the Fair Grounds, Agricultural School Grounds and Patmore's Nursery; 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; mostly sunny; temp. 34° to 38°F.; wind N.W. 15-20 m.p.h. to W. 10-15 m.p.h.; snow depth 10-12 inches; 3¾ party hours on foot, 4 party miles on foot. 9 species, 66 individuals. Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black-billed Magpie, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Bohemian Waxwing, 9; Starling, 30; Evening Grosbeak, 18.—**E. J. Finch, Mamie McCowan** (compiler).

CHURCHILL, Man. Dec. 29; tundra and bush, composed of black spruce, birch and willow; 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; clear; temp. -16°F.; wind W.N.W. 15 m.p.h.; snow depth 6 inches to 3 feet; 2 party hours (½ hour by car, 1½ hours on foot); 20 party miles (18 by car, 2 on foot). 4 species, 103 individuals. Rock Ptarmigan, 3; Raven, 17; Hoary Redpoll, 5; Snow Bunting, 78.—**C. W. Clabaugh, Boris Oszurkiewicz, Mrs. I. H. Smith** (compiler).

GREAT FALLS, Man. Dec. 26; woods, ravines and hay fields; 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; overcast; temp. 0°F.; wind light; snow depth 6 inches; 3 party hours on foot; 4 party miles on foot. 8 species, 69 individuals. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Gray Jay, 1; Raven, 9; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Starling, 5; House Sparrow, 25; Evening Grosbeak, 18.—**Dennis Larson, Cliff Martin** (compiler).

LANGRUTH, Man. Dec. 31; 20% open fields and marshes, 80% deciduous woods, mostly scrub; 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; clear; temp. 34°F.; wind light; snow depth 6 inches; 5 party hours on tractor; 14 party miles on tractor. 8 species, 199 individuals. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 70; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black-billed Magpie, 12; Black-capped Chickadee, 25; Pine Grosbeak, 10; Common Redpoll, 25; Snow Bunting, 55.—**Raymond O'Connor**.

MARGARET, Man. Dec. 27; deciduous woods; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; overcast; temp. 5°F.; wind N.W. 5-10 m.p.h.; snow depth 12 inches; 6 party hours (1½ by car, 4½ by foot); 17

party miles (12 by car, 5 on foot). 6 species, 28 individuals. Black-billed Magpie, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; House Sparrow, 20; Pine Grosbeak, 3; Common Redpoll, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 2.—**E. J. "Bud" White**.

MELITA, Man. Dec. 31; rolling fields both stubble and fallow, flatland, some bluffs, part of Scuris River bottom (wooded); 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; light to heavy overcast; temp. 35°F.; wind S.S.W. light; snow depth 5 inches; 2¼ party hours (2 hours by car, ¼ hour by foot); 47 party miles by car. 10 species, 307 individuals. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 2; Gray Partridge, 3; Snowy Owl, 1; Horned Lark, 3; Black-billed Magpie, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Northern Shrike, 1; House Sparrow, 20; Common Redpoll, 120; Snow Bunting, 150. (Add: Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Starling, 1, Dec. 30.)—**Mr. and Mrs. David Braddell**.

OAK LAKE, Man. Dec. 28; all points within a 15 mile diameter circle centred on Oak Lake Post Office, including portions of the Assiniboine River valley; 8:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.; clear; temp. -21° to -6°F.; wind N.W. 5-10 m.p.h.; snow depth 10 inches; 9 party hours (6 by car, 3 on foot); 51 party miles (46 by car, 5 on foot). 17 species, 1536 individuals. Goshawk, 1; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 30; Gray Partridge, 13; Snowy Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Black-billed Magpie, 35; Black-capped Chickadee, 22; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; House Sparrow, 218; Brewer's Blackbird, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 10; Hoary Redpoll, 11; Common Redpoll, 1150; Tree Sparrow, 1; Snow Bunting 35. (Add: Pigeon Hawk, 1; Great Horned Owl, 1; Horned Lark, 8; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 1.)—**David Hatch** (compiler), **Harold Hosford, Lawrie Smith**.

POINTE DU BOIS, Man. Dec. 26; 50% jack pine ridges, 50% poplar bluffs; 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; overcast; wind N.W. moderate; temp. 2° to 4°F.; snow depth 10 inches; 3 party hours (½ hour by car, 2½ by foot); 5 party miles (2 by car, 3 by foot). 13 species, 104 individuals. Common Goldeneye, 28; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Black-billed Magpie, 5; Raven, 23; Black-capped Chickadee, 9; Robin, 2; Northern Shrike, 1; House Sparrow,

25; Pine Grosbeak, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 1.—**Robert Anderson, C. G. Anderson** (compiler).

SEVEN SISTERS FALLS, Man. Dec. 22; 65% deciduous woods, 15% coniferous woods, 15% cultivated fields, 5% open water on the river; 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; clear a.m., overcast p.m.; light snow falling 3:00 p.m.; wind southerly light; temp. -12° to 0° F.; snow depth 6 inches; 6 party hours (1 by car, 5 by foot); 27 party miles (24 by car, 3 by foot). 10 species, 99 individuals. Common Goldeneye, 1; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1; Great Horned Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Blue Jay, 3; Raven, 13; Black-capped Chickadee, 11+; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 60.—**Harold Hosford** (compiler), **Warren Johnston**.

THOMPSON, Man. Jan. 1: 20% residential, 80% coniferous forest; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; overcast; temp. 34° to 20° F.; wind light a.m., N. 20 p.m.; snow depth 5 inches; 7 party hours (3 by car, 4 by foot); 41 party miles (35 by car, 6 on foot). 5 species, 64 individuals. Spruce Grouse, 4; Raven, 37; Black-capped Chickadee, 15; Boreal Chickadee, 1. (Add: House Sparrow, 3.)—**Terry Lindsay**.

WINKLER, Man. Dec. 27; flat, open, cultivated fields broken by willow and cottonwood bluffs along a creek, trees around farm building including one spruce plantation; 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.; partly cloudy; temp. 0° to -6° F.; wind N.W. 5 m.p.h.; snow depth 3 inches; $2\frac{1}{2}$ party hours ($\frac{1}{4}$ by car, $2\frac{1}{4}$ by foot); 5 party miles ($2\frac{1}{2}$ by car, $2\frac{1}{2}$ by foot). 11 species, 167 individuals. Falcon (unidentified), 1; Great Horned Owl, 1; Gray Partridge, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; House Sparrow, 100; Common Redpoll, 10; Red Crossbill, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 2; Snow Bunting, 35.—**Steve Ens** (compiler), **Sam Klippenstein, Tim Klippenstein**.

WINNIPEG, Man. Dec. 26; all points within a 15 mile diameter circle, centre Portage Ave. and St. James St., to include the banks of the Assiniboine, Red and Seine Rivers, suburbs of Assiniboia, Charleswood, Fort Garry, St. Vital, West Kildonan, and Assiniboine, Crescent, Kildonan and

St. Vital Park; deciduous woods, 55%; open fields and pastures, 25%; gardens, 10%; municipal disposal grounds, cemeteries, 10%; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; overcast, clearing in p.m.; temp. 4° to 10° F.; wind N.N.E. 5-10 m.p.h.; light snow falling in a.m.; snow depth 6 to 18 inches; most waters frozen; 60 party hours (14 by car, 46 on foot); 205 party miles (153 by car, 52 on foot) 32 species, 3882 individuals. Mallard, 3; Goshawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 6; Gray Partridge, 42; Great Horned Owl, 2; Snowy Owl, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 15; Downy Woodpecker, 24; Blue Jay, 81; Black-billed Magpie, 7; Black-capped Chickadee, 98; Boreal Chickadee, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 63; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 7; Robin, 3; Bohemian Waxwing, 286; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 238; House Sparrow, 2419; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 333; Pine Grosbeak, 5; Common Redpoll, 187; Red Crossbill, 30; Slate-colored Junco, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Snow Bunting, 12. (Add: Raven 3, Dec. 20; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1, Dec. 21.)—**Dr. R. D. Bird, J. J. Burgerjon, H. Copland, F. J. Coutts, M. Dederick, A. Heidrick, H. V. Hosford, Dr. K. Johnson, W. Johnston, W. D. Kyle, Miss P. Lawson, M. McNicholl, Mr. and Mrs. H. Messop, D. Plews, E. O'Brian, B. Simmons, D. Smith, L. B. Smith, R. W. Sutton, L. Wallace; Feeding Station Operators—Mrs. Goodwin, Mr. Lesperance, Mr. H. Macdonald, Mrs. McCallum, Mrs. Pothier, Mr. A. H. Shortt, Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Simmons, Mr. A. West**.

The following report was made outside the official count period but is included since no other report was received from this part of the province.

NORWAY HOUSE, Man. Jan. 4; mixed woods and muskeg; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; overcast; temp. 10° F.; wind N.W. light; 9 party hours (3 by bombardier, 6 by foot); 45 party miles (36 by bombardier, 9 on foot). 5 species, 13 individuals. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 2; Gray Jay, 3; Raven, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Common Redpoll, 2. (Add: Willow Ptarmigan, 2, Dec. 23; Ruffed Grouse, 1, Hawk Owl, 1, Dec. 26.)—**Rev. S. O. Fowke**.