

# Second Annual Spring Bird Census

REGINA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, MAY 12, 1962

Saturday, May 12, 1962, the light rain of early morning cleared and the day was sunny with a SSW wind, fairly strong at noon. Thirty-eight members of the Regina Natural History Society, organized into eleven teams by Frank Brazier, worked in seven zones to count the birds of the Regina area (15 mile diameter). The following list includes the 143 species of birds identified in 1962 and a few additional species which were seen only in 1961. The numbers following the species names indicate the number of birds seen. Numbers in brackets are for birds seen in 1961. Although an effort was made to count the number of birds of each kind, some of the numbers are estimates only; for example, Lapland Longspurs were abundant in each zone, and Mr. Brazier suggests that there may have been 500,000 in the count area during the day instead of the 45,000 listed.

SPECIES LIST: Common Loon 1 (0); Horned Grebe 70 (108); Eared Grebe 53 (26); Western Grebe 54 (18); Pied-billed Grebe 3 (22); White Pelican 0 (8); Great Blue Heron 6 (7); Black-crowned Night Heron 7 (8); American Bittern 0 (2); Mute Swan 3 (4); Whistling Swan 1 (2); Canada Goose 191 (126); White-fronted Goose 2 (0); Snow Goose 1 (0); Mallard 340 (372); Gadwall 49 (56); Pintail 150 (138); Green-winged Teal 17 (141); Blue-winged Teal 100 (457); American Widgeon 140 (175); Shoveler 84 (216); Redhead 30 (63); Ring-necked Duck 1 (2); Canvasback 50 (35); Lesser Scaup 200 (1110); Common Goldeneye 0 (1); Bufflehead 3 (16); White-winged Scoter 1 (0); Ruddy Duck 80 (107); Hooded Merganser 1 (0); Common Merganser 4 (15); Red-breasted Merganser 4 (0); Red-tailed Hawk 10 (3); Broad-winged Hawk 1 (0); Swainson's Hawk 16 (12); Rough-legged Hawk 6 (3); Ferruginous Hawk 1 (0); Marsh Hawk 32 (22); Peregrine Falcon 1 (0); Sparrow Hawk 14 (0); Ruffed Grouse 0 (1); Sharp-tailed Grouse 1 (0); Ring-necked Pheasant 4 (5); Gray Partridge 9 (8); Sora 3 (10); American Coot 400 (1630); Semipalmated Plover 6 (16); Killdeer 150 (49); Golden Plover 8 (49); Black-bellied Plover 1 (2); Common Snipe 5 (6); Upland Plover 0 (1); Spotted Sandpiper 13 (14); Solitary Sandpiper 2 (12); Willet 79 (60); Greater Yellowlegs 0 (19); Lesser Yellowlegs 8 (42); Pectoral Sandpiper 7 (270); Baird's Sandpiper 10 (77); Least Sandpiper 8 (106); Long-billed Dowitcher 3 (40); Stilt Sandpiper 13 (0); Semipalmated Sandpiper 0 (67); Marbled Godwit 61 (24); Sanderling 14 (0); Avocet 35 (42); Wilson's Phalar-

ope 47 (67); Northern Phalarope 2 (0); Ring-billed Gull 100 (236); Franklin's Gull 270 (59); Bonaparte's Gull 0 (1); Forster's Tern 1 (0); Common Tern 21 (28); Black Tern 118 (20); Rock Dove 100 (105); Mourning Dove 66 (55); Great Horned Owl 7 (2); Burrowing Owl 11 (4); Short-eared Owl 0 (7); Belted Kingfisher 1 (3); Yellow-shafted Flicker 13 (8); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1 (0); Downy Woodpecker 1 (0); Eastern Kingbird 5 (1); Western Kingbird 0 (9); Eastern Phoebe 2 (0); Say's Phoebe 7 (2); Traill's Flycatcher 1 (0); Least Flycatcher 22 (48); Western Wood Pewee 1 (0); Horned Lark 250 (120); Tree Swallow 97 (165); Bank Swallow 23 (12); Rough-winged Swallow 1 (0); Barn Swallow 127 (39); Purple Martin 37 (13); Black-billed Magpie 21 (21); Common Crow 250 (91); Black-capped Chickadee 2 (6); Red-breasted Nuthatch 4 (0); Brown Creeper 1 (0); House Wren 3 (2); Long-billed Marsh Wren 1 (0); Mockingbird 1 (0); Catbird 3 (0); Brown Thrasher 12 (1); Robin 172 (43); Hermit Thrush 3 (0); Swainson's Thrush 400 (179); Gray-cheeked Thrush 30 (23); Veery 1 (1); Ruby-crowned Kinglet 0 (1); Water Pipit 1 (0); Sprague's Pipit 5 (2); Loggerhead Shrike 25 (7); Starling 21 (57); Philadelphia Vireo 0 (3); Black-and-white Warbler 2 (2); Orange-crowned Warbler 44 (38); Yellow Warbler 46 (51); Magnolia Warbler 0 (1); Myrtle Warbler 60 (135); Audubon's Warbler 1 (0); Blackpoll Warbler 12 (9); Palm Warbler 4 (9); Ovenbird 0 (1); Northern Waterthrush 14 (33); Yellowthroat 1 (6); House Sparrow 1250 (520); Western Meadowlark 202 (128); Yellow-headed

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## PARTIAL ALBINO REDWING SIGHTED FOR FOURTH YEAR

by Bernard Haysom, Regina

On May 12, 1962, we hoped to see some water birds at a slough adjacent to the Saskatchewan Falconry Association Banding Station, about five miles west of the city, but when we got there "the cupboard was bare," our fine slough having dried up completely. However, we did find a few Redwinged Blackbirds valiantly holding on to their territories on what was dry land. Among these we spotted an old acquaintance, an adult male redwing which was easily recognizable by several white outer primaries in each wing. This conspicuous feature had served to call the bird to our attention each season

during the past three years. This year, as before, it was on territory on an edge of the slough close to the road as previously reported by Dr. G. F. Ledingham who observed the bird on several occasions in 1960 (see **Blue Jay**, 18 (3): 120). Dr. R. W. Nero has pointed out to me that there are few records of albinistic individuals through several seasons and that our observations show that the partial albino trait as seen in this redwing has apparently remained constant for four years. Furthermore, this individual must be at least five years old, since the adult plumage is attained in the second year.

If there is any weakness in the voice recordings at all I'd say it was the gopher. I've heard a lot better gopher whistling than that, but maybe this one had a case of laryngitis. (This is what you call good-natured kidding, Dr. Gunn.)

The jacket is most attractive, being a photo of the snow and blue goose exhibit at the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. Although it doesn't say so, this exhibit and painted background were prepared by museum artist, Fred Lahrman (another plug for good old Fred). I might also add the recordings of the rock wren and sandhill crane were made by Fred Lahrman and Fred Bard.

Like the other six records in the "Sounds of Nature" series, "Prairie Spring" plays at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  which gives you approximately 30 minutes of playing time. The record may be obtained from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Edwards Gardens, Don Mills, Ontario, or the **Blue Jay Bookshop**, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina. Please add exchange and 18 cents tax.—**Doug Gilroy** in the Western Producer, Prairie Wildlife nature column, June 7, 1962.

**HUNTERS OF THE BURIED YEARS.** By Alice B. Kehoe. 1962. School Aids and Text Book Publishing Co. Ltd., Regina. Price \$2.00.

Ten thousand years of unwritten history are described in **Hunters of the Buried Years**, an introduction to the archaeology of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. Through text and pictures, the reader is told the story of the prairie provinces' past and is shown how scientists painstakingly discovered that story.

In the pages of "The Buried Years," a Folsom hunter ambushes a giant buffalo; a band of foragers camp beside a prairie lake; Indians of the northern forest gather for the whitefish run; a village of corn-farming natives decides to take up the roving life, and one of the last great buffalo drives is held. Through these vignettes, the theme of the book is developed: how men first came to North America, and how their way of life changed over the centuries. The problems of today's Indians are illuminated by their prehistory.

**Hunters of the Buried Years** will be of value to the relic collector and

to the amateur archaeologist as well as to the student of Canadian history. A wealth of photographs by Thomas F. Kehoe, Provincial Archaeologist for Saskatchewan, and clear, detailed drawings by Ralph D. Carson, staff artist of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, supplement the text with demonstrations of how the archaeologist works and what he finds. Based on the investigations of professional scientists, **Hunters of the Buried Years** is the first reliable guide to the prehistory of the prairie provinces. Available at the **Blue Jay Bookshop**.—**A. B. K.**

**LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS OF PREY.** Volumes 1 and 2. 1962. By A. C. Bent. Dover Publications, 180 Varick St., New York 14, N.Y. Price \$5.20 for the set. Unabridged and unaltered reproductions of the original bulletins #167 and 170.

Joseph S. Larson, Conservation Education Division, University of Maryland, comments in the Wildlife Society News, May, 1962, as follows: "Of greater importance to ornithologists is Dover's announcement on the back covers of these volumes of their intent to reprint the entire Bent series (now twenty bulletins) at inexpensive prices. Society members who have been trying to obtain a complete set of this series and have had to pay stiff prices to used book sources will welcome this news. If Dover is true to their intent, prices of the used originals should fall considerably since the quality of the covers and binding of the reprints is far superior to the original paper covered National Museum Bulletins."—Sent in by **R. V. Folker**, Saskatoon.

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Blackbird 1350 (222); Redwinged Blackbird 700 (497); Baltimore Oriole 6 (6); Rusty Blackbird 8 (13); Brewer's Blackbird 275 (119); Common Grackle 175 (85); Brown-headed Cowbird 45 (48); Rose-breasted Grosbeak 3 (1); Purple Finch 1 (8); Pine Siskin 0 (1); Rufous-sided Towhee .6 (10); Lark Bunting 1 (0); Savannah Sparrow 50 (89); Baird's Sparrow 17 (11); Vesper Sparrow 31 (36); Lark Sparrow 1 (2); Slate-colored Junco 0 (5); Oregon Junco 0 (1); Tree Sparrow 0 (6); Chipping Sparrow 19 (43); Clay-colored Sparrow 58 (188); Harris' Sparrow 70 (217); White-crowned Sparrow 275 (265); White-throated Sparrow 75 (454); Fox Sparrow 0 (6); Lincoln's Sparrow 100 (328); Swamp Sparrow 16 (0); Song Sparrow 21 (45); McCown's Longspur 5 (5); Lapland Longspur 45,000 (475); Chestnut-collared Longspur 142 (63); Snow Bunting 150 (20).—Compiler: **Frank Brazier**, Regina.