

# Seventh Annual May Day Bird Count

Saskatoon Natural History Society — May 18, 1963

Saturday, May 18, 25 observers in 5 groups uncovered 137 species of birds within the Saskatoon study area, a square block consisting of 100 townships (3,600 square miles) centered on Saskatoon. In last year's count, the first made in the extended study area, 127 species were identified. The day was cloudy with frequent showers; a north-west wind blew from 15 to 20 miles per hour. The temperature ranged from 45° to 54°. Highlights of the day included the sighting of a Mockingbird and the addition of two new species to the Saskatoon list: the Surf Scoter and the Golden-crowned Sparrow. (These records will be written up in the **Blue Jay** at the end of the year.)

**SPECIES LIST:** Red-necked Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose (Pike Lake), Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck (Pike L.), Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter (Pike L.), Surf Scoter (Rice Lake), Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser (Rice Lake), Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Pigeon Hawk (S.E.), Sparrow Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Partridge, Sandhill Crane, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Snipe, Up-

land Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull (Pike L. - 2), Common Tern, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl (2 nests), Snowy Owl (S.W.), Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird (S.E.), Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Mountain Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Sprague's Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink (S.W.), Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Leconte's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow (S.E.), Chipping Sparrow, Clay-coloured Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow (San.), White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting. Compiler: **Frank Roy.**

# Third Annual May Day Bird Count

Regina Natural History Society — May 18, 1963

The 1963 Spring Census for the Regina area was scheduled for May 12, to allow comparison with counts of the two previous years (May 13, 1961, and May 12, 1962). However, because of rain and impassable country roads, the count was postponed until May 18. On May 18 there was again intermittent rain, but 21 observers in 8 parties spent the day in the field. An effort was made to count the total number of birds of each species seen, but these numbers cannot, of course, be regarded as a complete census of birds in the area. During the day, 140 species were seen, compared with 143 species on May 12, 1962, and 131 on May 13, 1961. Of the 140 species seen, 18 had not previously been recorded on the Regina spring census.

**SPECIES LIST:** (figures in brackets indicate numbers counted May 12, 1962): Horned Grebe 24 (70); Eared Grebe 47 (53); Western Grebe 37 (54); Pied-billed Grebe 7 (3); White Pelican 4 (0); Great Blue Heron 5 (6); Black-crowned Night Heron 5 (7); Mute Swan 14 (3); Whistling Swan 7 (1); Canada Goose 375 (191); Mallard 182 (340); Gadwall 47 (49); Pintail 39 (150); Green-winged Teal 10 (17); Blue-winged Teal 221 (100); American Widgeon 146 (140); Shoveler 112 (84); Redhead 28 (30); Canvasback 96 (50); Lesser Scaup 164 (200); Common Goldeneye 3 (0); Bufflehead 6 (3); Ruddy Duck 38 (80); Red-tailed Hawk 2 (10); Swainson's Hawk 8 (16); Rough-legged Hawk 1 (6); Bald Eagle 1 (0); Marsh Hawk 9 (32); Sharp-tailed Grouse 10 (1); Ring-necked Pheasant 4 (4); Gray Partridge 1 (9); Sora 15 (3); American Coot 683 (400); Killdeer 104 (150); American Golden Plover 1 (8); Black-bellied Plover 5 (1); Ruddy Turnstone 1 (0); Common Snipe 1 (5); Upland Plover 14 (0); Spotted Sandpiper 47 (13); Solitary Sandpiper 3 (2); Willet 40 (79); Pectoral Sandpiper 172 (7); White-rumped Sandpiper 1 (0); Baird's Sandpiper 83 (10); Least Sandpiper 17 (8); Short-billed Dowitcher 4 (0); Stilt Sandpiper 5 (13); Semi-

palmated Sandpiper 25 (0); Buff-breasted Sandpiper 5 (0); Marbled Godwit 16 (61); Hudsonian Godwit 1 (0); Sanderling 4 (14); American Avocet 36 (35); Wilson's Phalarope 46 (47); Northern Phalarope 6 (2); Ring-billed Gull 96 (100); Franklin's Gull 46 (270); Forster's Tern 1 (1); Common Tern 57 (21); Black Tern 728 (118); Rock Dove 48 (100); Mourning Dove 48 (66); Great Horned Owl 8 (7); Burrowing Owl 2 (11); Long-eared Owl 2 (0); Common Nighthawk 1 (0); Belted Kingfisher 5 (1); Yellow-shafted Flicker 15 (13); Eastern Kingbird 25 (5); Western Kingbird 25 (0); Eastern Phoebe 1 (2); Say's Phoebe 1 (7); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 2 (0); Traill's Flycatcher 1 (1); Least Flycatcher 62 (22); Western Wood Pewee 2 (1); Olive-sided Flycatcher 2 (0); Horned Lark 144 (250); Tree Swallow 308 (97); Bank Swallow 328 (23); Rough-winged Swallow 9 (1); Barn Swallow 82 (127); Cliff Swallow 14 (0); Purple Martin 73 (37); Black-billed Magpie 36 (21); Common Crow 86 (250); Red-breasted Nuthatch 2 (4); House Wren 8 (3); Long-billed Marsh Wren 2 (1); Brown Thrasher 28 (12); Robin 121 (172); Swainson's Thrush 115 (400); Gray-cheeked Thrush 46 (30); Veery 6 (1); Mountain Bluebird 3 (0); Water Pipit 13 (1);

Sprague's Pipit 6 (5); Loggerhead Shrike 13 (25); Starling 26 (21); Warbling Vireo 1 (0); Black-and-white Warbler 2 (2); Tennessee Warbler 18 (0); Orange-crowned Warbler 10 (44); Yellow Warbler 43 (46); Myrtle Warbler 68 (60); Audubon's Warbler 1 (1); Blackpoll Warbler 16 (12); Palm Warbler 3 (4); Northern Waterthrush 6 (14); Yellowthroat 8 (1); Wilson's Warbler 1 (0); American Redstart 1 (0); House Sparrow 391 (1250); Bobolink 1 (0); Western Meadowlark 207 (202); Yellow-headed Blackbird 235 (1350); Red-winged Blackbird 768 (700); Baltimore Oriole 8 (6); Brewer's Blackbird 247 (275); Common Grackle 103 (175); Brown-headed Cowbird 90 (45); Rose-breasted Grosbeak 5 (3); Pine Siskin 17 (0); American Goldfinch 7 (0); Rufous-sided Towhee 4 (6); Savannah Sparrow 27 (50); Baird's Sparrow 1 (17); Vesper Sparrow 22 (31); Lark Sparrow 12 (1); Chipping Sparrow 110 (19); Clay-colored Sparrow 541 (58); Harris' Sparrow 5 (70); White-crowned Sparrow 17 (275); White-throated Sparrow 16 (75); Lincoln's Sparrow 53 (100); Song Sparrow 30 (21); McCown's Longspur 9 (5); Lapland Longspur 930 (45000); Chestnut-collared Longspur 36 (142). Compiler: **Frank Brazier.**

## First Annual May Day Bird Count

### Moose Jaw Natural History Society — May 26, 1963

The weather was not very auspicious for our first count. At 7 a.m. when the first group started out, the temperature was only 37° and it was foggy. The sky was overcast till about 3 p.m. and scattered clouds remained even after that time. The high temperature of the day was 59° which wasn't reached till about 4 or 5 p.m. The day was calm with the wind reaching a maximum of 13 miles per hour. The first group was out from 7 a.m. till about 10.30 a.m. A second party went out from 1 to 7:30 p.m. 58 species were seen by the 12 observers as follows:

SPECIES LIST: Horned Grebe, 3; Great Blue Heron, 2; Mallard, 44; Pintail, 2; Blue-winged Teal, 4; Swainson's Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 15; Gray Partridge, 4; Killdeer, 7; Least Sandpiper, 1; Ring-billed Gull, 116; Common Tern, 41; Rock Dove, 15; Mourning Dove, 11; Common Nighthawk, 4; Belted Kingfisher, 5; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 8; Eastern Kingbird, 27; Western Kingbird, 26; Least Flycatcher, 44; Olive-sided Flycatcher, 1; Horned Lark, 25; Tree Swallow, 10; Bank Swallow, 15; Rough-winged Swallow, 4; Barn Swallow, 5; Black-billed Magpie, 13; Common Crow, 27; House Wren, 11; Catbird, 3; Brown Thrasher, 11; Robin, 64; Hermit Thrush, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 8; Cedar Waxwing, 60; Starling, 11; Red-eyed Vireo, 15; Warbling Vireo, 10; Orange-crowned Warbler, 1; Yellow Warbler, 48; Blackpoll Warbler, 6; House Sparrow, 48; Western Meadowlark, 29; Red-winged Blackbird, 115; Baltimore Oriole, 32; Brewer's Blackbird, 45; Common Grackle, 25; Brown-headed Cowbird, 37; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; American Goldfinch, 47; Lark Bunting, 49; Savannah Sparrow, 11; Vesper Sparrow, 8; Chipping Sparrow, 4; Clay-colored Sparrow, 34; Song Sparrow, 10; Chestnut-collared Longspur, 5. Compiler: **Mrs. F. B. Taylor.**

## FAR TRAVELS OF TEAL BROOD

by C. Stuart Houston

If anyone needed convincing that a bird bander's accomplishments are dependent largely on the efforts of other people, he should have observed the spectacle at Upper Rousay Lake on August 1, 1958. Mary Houston waded knee deep into the muck of a shallow pond to scare a brood of ten Blue-winged Teal to shore, whereupon Margaret Belcher, Stan Houston and Maurice, Bonnie and Janice Street proceeded to "run down" and catch the ten young. Maurice sprinted nearly 100 yards over the short grass before catching the final bird, nearly able to fly.

These ten Blue-winged Teal resulted in a remarkably fine series of recoveries (for a species that has yielded only 4.8% recoveries from the 1491 banded). The first was shot near McGregor, Minnesota, on Oct. 4, 1958, and the second near La Gorgona, Valle, Colombia, South America, on November 23, 1958. Another visitor to South America was shot at Tatus, Venezuela, in the 1962 hunting season. The final report was of one shot at Lake Ariguanabo, Bauta, Cuba, southwest of Havana, on December 7, 1962.