

a small cormorant roost and noticed a few immature Pelagics, three Double-crested and one Brandt's Cormorant. Neither Double-crested nor Brandt's nest on Mitlenatch but in time may do so. We soon reached the cliffs and watched the black, naked young cormorants feed and scramble about the nest. Just below, feeding among the seaweeds was a Greater and Lesser yellowlegs. As we left the nesting cormorants and neared camp four Spotted Sandpipers (two in non-breeding plumage) flitted low over the water. Just before camp a dampish, immature Brown-headed Cowbird concluded our afternoon total.

At camp, after a good drying, we tallied the birds we recorded for the afternoon. We found we had recorded 38 species, 14 of which were new summer records and of these, seven were new records for the island. To many, this is not an impressive figure for six hours birding but when one considers that we recorded only 73 species for the entire summer, August 24 was outstanding. A new hatch of mosquitoes, the extremely low tide and the weather conditions no doubt had considerable influence in attracting the birds. August 24 was an excellent day on Mitlenatch and it will probably be some time before such a day will occur again.

VARIED THRUSH CONTINUES TO VISIT REGINA

by **Frank H. Brazier**, Regina

On October 12, 1965, as I was passing the great Siberian crabapple tree growing at the rear of the Legislative Buildings in Regina, I was overtaken by a flock of perhaps 20 Robins headed for that tree; one of the flock swept past me low and fast and I caught a glimpse of a gray bird with a wing stripe. "Aha," I thought, "a Townsend's Solitaire!" and approached the tree cautiously since I had no binoculars with me. Standing at the tree I examined all the Robins, then noticed a bird at the back, somewhat smaller than the others, with a striking tawny eyebrow line. It graciously moved a little closer and came into the sunlight to show itself to be a Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). This individual did not have the conspicuous black breast band we often associate with the species; however, the bright tawny underparts, throat and cheeks, with the wide tawny eyebrow and wing patches left no doubt as to its identity. It was probably either a young bird or a female.

The Varied Thrush seen in this neighbourhood October 24, 1964 (see *Blue Jay*, 22:153) was the first of its species seen in Regina by more than one person the others previously reported having been observed singly

by one person on one occasion only, with other observers who looked for it later being unable to find it. I was quite surprised, therefore, when passing the same tree at 9:00 a.m. the following day to find the thrush there feeding on Siberian crabapples. I telephoned Robert Nero, who arrived somewhat later and was also able to see the bird. In the late afternoon of the same day, he pointed the bird out to Dr. J. W. Gerrard, a visitor from Saskatoon, and Margaret Belcher.

Over a week later (October 23, 1965) Margaret Belcher called me to report a second observation of a Varied Thrush, seen in the same location near the Legislative Buildings, flying and resting in the Siberian crabapple and nearby trees. This bird was seen by Margaret and a small group of birders from the Regina Natural History Society who meet in the Legislative Grounds on Saturday afternoons. On the morning of October 24 I was able to see the bird too. We were both struck by the fact that this bird had a much more distinct breast band, and I thought it much brighter in colouring; this suggested to us that it was actually a second Varied Thrush, and probably a male, rather than the bird observed earlier.