

observations of birds moving against the moon and records of birds pausing on migration indicate that night migrants often move simultaneously over wide areas. However, there appears to be little information on daytime migration in the Prairie Provinces. While there is not yet enough data from Saskatoon to define the characteristics of such migrations there, it would be interesting to build up a prairie-wide picture to determine the timing and actual routes of these flights throughout western Canada. The information required for such a Centennial project is date, location and period of observation, weather conditions, route and time of flights, and the numbers of birds and flocks of each species over a period of five years.

REPORT ON BARN OWL AT REGINA

by H. C. Smith, 1357 Minto St., Regina

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on May 3, 1966 my wife and I were driving north down a dirt road which goes past the west end of the Provincial Correctional Institute east of Regina. Trees line both sides of this road for approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, and there were no leaves on the trees at this time. I had stopped the car just prior to turning around when my wife drew my attention to a large light-coloured bird sitting in a tree. I immediately got out and put my field glasses on it. While I was looking at it through my glasses it turned its head toward me. The mottled, cream-coloured back, light cream-coloured breast, and distinctive heart-shaped face identified it as a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). The tree in which the bird was sitting was approximately 25 - 50 feet from the car and the bird was approximately 15 feet off the ground. The bird was viewed in good light but, for only a minute before it took flight. As soon as it took flight I checked Peterson's field guide (1961) for confirmation of my identification. The description of the Barn Owl outlined in the guide fit the bird I had just observed.

My wife and I went into the Provincial Correctional Institute grounds and contacted Mr. and Mrs. Al Binnie to ascertain if they had seen this bird. Although they live on the grounds and make regular observations in the area, the Binnies had not previously seen the bird. All four of us then began a search of the trees in the grounds. The bird was flushed on three occasions, but unfortunately the Binnies were never able to observe it while sitting. While in flight this bird appeared to have a long wing span. Although a skilful flier, its wing beat did not seem to be exceptionally strong. The bird gave the impression to me of floating through the air rather than flying.

When Glen Fox (1963) reviewed the occurrences of the Barn Owl in Saskatchewan, he listed records for Saskatchewan as follows: Aylesbury, May 5, 1924; Balcarres, May 1, 1910; Kindersley, May 18, 1960. Thus the date of this record for Regina coincides with the dates when this species has previously been seen in Saskatchewan.

This bird is listed as a "straggler" in the *Field check-list of Saskatchewan birds*, and as "casual" by Peterson (1961). Belcher (1961) has no record of this species for Regina.

R. W. Nero (pers. corresp.) reports the following records for Manitoba: La Rivière, April 8, 1945; Whitewater Lake, October 1927; Sperling, January 1925; and St. Anne's, November 6, 1912. Salt and Wilk (1966) do not list this species as occurring in Alberta.

LITERATURE CITED

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