

MOURNING DOVE NEAR FORT SMITH, N.W.T.

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Salt and Wilk (1966) indicate that in Alberta the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) breeds mainly in river valleys and coulees and in lightly wooded parklands. These authors report the Mourning Dove as rare in northern Alberta, but occurring at least as far north as Fort Vermilion and Fort Chipewyan. Nero (1963) does not report the Mourning Dove from the area in Northern Saskatchewan where he carried out studies in 1960, 1961 and 1962, nor does he mention it from an exhaustive survey of published and unpublished records of other workers, chiefly in the area within 30 miles of Lake Athabasca. Stewart (1966) has not listed the Mourning Dove among birds observed in 1955 in the Slave River-Little Buffalo River area.

On August 26, 1966 my wife and I observed a Mourning Dove at close range in the vicinity of the D.O.T. radio station about five miles S.E. of Fort Smith. The record was made a few miles south of the N.W.T. boundary. Both observers are familiar with the bird from previous observations in Saskatchewan. The dove was studied through 7 x 50 field glasses as it perched on a branch of a dead jack-pine.

Mr. Henry Mann of the Northwest Territories Game Section Staff later informed me that he had seen a Mourning Dove on September 18, 1966. The dove was observed near Salt River. That location, about 20 miles N.W. of Fort Smith would place it in the Northwest Territories, about 100 miles N.W. of the Fort Chipewyan location given by Salt and Wilk.

Finally on September 30, 1966 I saw — on two occasions — a Mourning Dove less than a mile north of Peace Point in Wood Buffalo National Park. This bird was feeding on the road.

LITERATURE CITED

- Nero, R. W. 1963. Birds of the Lake Athabasca region, Saskatchewan. Spec. Pub. No. 5, Sask. Nat. Hist. Soc., Regina.
- Salt, W. Ray, and A. L. Wilk. 1966. The birds of Alberta. Queen's Printer, Edmonton.
- Stewart, Robert E. 1966. Notes on birds and other animals in the Slave River - Little Buffalo River area, N.W.T. Blue Jay, 24: 22-32.

A SIGHT RECORD OF THE RED PHALAROPE IN ALBERTA

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According to Salt and Wilk in their *Birds of Alberta*, revised edition, 1966, there are few definite records for the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in Alberta: a specimen taken near Didsbury in September, 1903; one collected at Beaverhill Lake in September, 1925; and a female collected on Pigeon Lake on July 13, 1960. There are also sight records from Banff and Beaverhill Lake.

On October 23, 1966 a Red Phalarope in winter plumage was seen on Carseland Dam by Bob Masters, Kevin van Tighem, and ourselves. The Carseland Reservoir is some 30 miles southeast of Calgary on the Bow River. We saw the phalarope first at about 3:30 p.m. within a few feet of the shore, and observed it with binoculars and a spotting scope for over half an hour. It was very tame and Richard Klauke was able once to approach within four feet of it. It flew off several times but always returned to within a few feet of where it flew from. All field marks—the clear gray back, short stubby beak, yellow legs, black ear patch and black along the back of neck—were seen by all from a few feet. The bird appears to have been an immature since the yellow at the base of the beak was absent. The bird was at first thought to be a commoner species, the Northern Phalarope, for it had white wing stripes, unlike the Wilson's Phalarope, but the stouter beak, unstreaked back and yellowish legs convinced us that it was the rarer Red Phalarope.