

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

by E. Kuyt, Canadian Wildlife Service,  
Fort Smith

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where he carried out studies in 1960, 1961 and 1962, nor does he mention it from an exhaustive survey of published and unpublished records of other workers, chiefly in the area within 30 miles of Lake Athabasca.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

by Wayne Smith, 8220 Elbow Drive, Calgary  
and Richard Klauke, 2043 - 35th Ave., S.W.,  
Calgary

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.

On October 30, 1966 a Red Phalarope was seen on Cochrane Lake by Bob Masters and ourselves. Cochrane Lake is about 20 miles west of Calgary. This bird also was in winter plumage, and we viewed it about 40 feet from the shore with a 30-power scope. The weather was cool and windy as dusk approached. Once again, however, because of the unstreaked back, stouter bill and yellowish legs we felt positive that our identification was correct.

### **MORE BALD EAGLE SIGHTINGS IN THE LAKE ATHABASCA REGION**

by Brian Wood, 34 Qu'Appelle Apts., Regina

As an addition to Wayne Davis' account of Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) sightings (*Blue Jay*, 24:160-167), I would like to report the location of three nests northwest of Lake Athabasca (74-N-14-W) in the summer of 1966. The area referred to is in the northern part of the Canadian Shield in a region of granite rock outcrop, muskeg, and jack pine.

On June 2, two mature eagles were sighted near Nettle Lake. During the following week these eagles were observed frequently but no nest site was located.

Two eaglets in the down condition were observed at Dragon Lake on June 10. Their nest was located in a live jack pine approximately 20 yards from the lake.

On my return to Nettle Lake, June 13, a pair of mature eagles was located with their nest containing young. This nest was located in a prominent jack pine about 40 yards from the lake. The young were very vociferous but unable to leave the nest. Although I could not observe the nest, nest building material up to one inch in diameter was found at the base of the tree. Droppings were numerous and three unidentified fish skeletons were found four yards from the tree. I don't believe these were the same eagles as the ones seen on June 2. In eight sightings the birds

seen previously were never observed near the area in which the eagles with the young were located.

On August 14 another Bald Eagle nest containing young was located on Northwest Bay of Tazin Lake but it was impossible to determine the number of young.

### **P.N.R.S. NEST RECORDS FOR 1967**

Careful records of breeding birds, both common and uncommon, add to our information about resident species. Every birder familiar with the local species in this area is urged to complete nest records cards and submit them to

#### **PRAIRIE NEST RECORDS SCHEME**

SNHS, Box 1121, Regina, Sask.

Any person who can contribute should write for cards (give estimated number needed) to the above address.

#### **CO-OPERATIVE SPRING MIGRATION STUDY**

Records are again requested for the continent-wide survey being made under the auspices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As soon as it is available, we shall have a list of species for which reports are wanted; please write for the list and then submit your records by June 15, 1967, to

Mrs. Mary Houston  
863 University Drive, Saskatoon

#### **LOOK FOR OWL NESTS**

If you know of any nesting Great Horned Owls, or other owls, please write or telephone collect as soon as you find the nest, to

Dr. Stuart Houston or  
Mrs. Stuart Houston  
863 University Drive, Saskatoon.  
Telephone 244-0742