



Photo by Robert R. Taylor

Society outing, June 12, White Swan Lake

## SUMMER MEETING AT CANDLE LAKE

### June 11-13, 1965

by **Mrs. Elizabeth Cruickshank**, Regina

The glowing beds of stemless raspberry "candles" were not essential to the warm welcome provided for the SNHS members on arrival at Candle Lake for their summer meeting. The weatherman cooperated. Skies and lakes could not have been bluer, beaches more glistening, nor the countryside greener. So much for the setting. Beyond that, the thorough planning and thoughtfulness of a tireless Prince Albert committee left nothing to be desired.

The opportunity afforded in a park to observe wildlife under natural conditions is a great attraction. In Candle Lake northern species of birds and plants delighted everyone, as did the freshness of the primeval forest of

birch, pine and spruce. Fishermen had fantastic luck.

Samples of species in the lakes were enjoyed at a most satisfying fish fry. The food was delicious and meal time made possible the renewal of friendships—friendships that have stood the test of many meetings and are eagerly enjoyed. Mosquitoes planned blood-thirsty attacks on each new arrival, but smudges and shared repellents kept discomfort to a minimum.

At 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, keen birders assembled at Fisher Creek, or were on their way with an alternative expedition to the Torch River. Sounds of birds heard as cabins were located the night before made early risers anxious to make their daylight



acquaintance. No one was disappointed. The trek to President Aschim's homestead in the Birch Bark Creek area was most exciting. Originally it was planned for plant and photography enthusiasts, as the beds of calypso orchids and other rarities are really out of this world! Beauty seekers trod on spongy bog and deer moss, over squirrel middens, beside honeysuckle, blueberry, bearberry, northern comandra, stemless raspberry, mertensia, orchids and Labrador tea. Encompassed by sounds, sights and songs of this unspoiled woodland the explorers hoped they might return often to revel in the refreshing environment. Interest reached a high pitch when a pileated woodpecker inadvertently led watchers to its nest.

The short visit to the Forest Pathology Laboratory on Saturday proved most illuminating. One wondered if ever before so many curious persons had crowded around the scientific establishment. Generously, Director and field men gave information and answered innumerable questions.

The drive to White Swan Lake Saturday afternoon, led by the conservation officer, was dusty due to the number of cars in the caravan. However, its destination made up for unpleasant travel conditions. Here was another gem of the north, a clear sandy shore and a lake teeming with fish. A field staff member got a whiff of smoke to discover an enemy of the forest. While this fire was found in time, the officer brought the danger of dire consequences home to the caravaners. They might have, had the fire made headway unobserved, been marooned for a week.

It would have been a disaster, too, to have missed the barbecue that night in front of the Lodge. Never did tender steaks have more flavour! Conversations mingled with laughter rose from the tables under the trees, and it was clear that David Chandler's friends were refusing to take him seriously when he tried to describe for identification strange birds seen flying in the dark by the ranchers at Val Marie!

Afterwards the crowd gathered for pictures in the hall. Everyone enjoyed the excellent kodachromes that showed the varied activities of the members over the past year. A former SNHS president, Mr. W. Yanchinski, had

been on safari to Africa and had brought back pictures of wildlife taken there, an interesting complement to those taken by other members closer to home.

Even on Sunday morning our gracious hosts rose at dawn again to tramp woodland trails to disclose bird haunts and orchids. Regrets were expressed when the meeting came to a close, regrets at parting but also for friends who had not been able to share the delights.

While suggestions were discussed for next summer's meet, most grateful and hearty thanks were tendered our President, Mr. Aschim, and his associates Ross Homer and Tony Capusten, for all the arrangements made. Hospitality, good guides and excellent cooks will long be remembered. They were all jolly good fellows!

#### List of Persons Registered

*Beechy*: W. Peters, D. Redley, D. Santy; *Bracken*: Mrs. Dorothy Harris, Nancy Stuart, Elaine Wright, Mrs. Laura Wright; *Candle Lake*: A. Freemont; *Dundurn*: Edith Stait, E. Sullivan; *Erinferry*: Mrs. E. A. Dodd, G. Dodd; *Indian Head*: C. Ashmore, Mrs. F. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. K. Skinner; *Kelvington*: Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, B. Irving, Mrs. C. Irving; *Lanigan*: G. Chandler, E. Halsey; *Maymont*: Mr. and Mrs. O. Beamish; *Montreal Lake*: Margareta Pauls, Margaret Siemens, Phyllis Siemens; *Moose Jaw*: Mrs. Ann Davis, Mrs. Nancy Dunn, Patricia Kern, Mollie Ritchie, Barbara Seed, J. Seed, Nerita Steele, Mrs. F. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. C. West; *Naicam*: W. Yanchinski; *Nipawin*: D. Riome, S. Riome, M. Street; *North Battleford*: Marion Fletcher, Mildred Huff; *Prince Albert*: Mr. and Mrs. A. Aschim, Lorna Black, E. Brooman, A. Capusten, J. Capusten, Edna Eastwood, Mr. and Mrs. B. Gordon, R. Homer, Mrs. Pat Homer, Jean MacKenzie, Cecily Seaman; *Regina*: Nellie Ballantyne, Mrs. M. Barnard, H. Beck, Margaret Belcher, Mr. and Mrs. F. Brazier, Dr. and Mrs. C. Clark, Mrs. E. Cruickshank, D. Dexter, Lucy Ely, Pearl Guest, Sylvia Harrison, Gwen Jones, J. Jowsey, Helen Keay, Ferne Lawrence, Christine MacDonald, Loraine MacPherson, H. Moulding, Connie Pratt, R. Taylor, T. White; *Rose Valley*: J. Brownlee, Mr. and Mrs. W.



Brownlee, Mrs. Minerva Roberts; *Saskatoon*: J. Black, Mr. and Mrs. Bluett, Mr. and Mrs. D. Bocking, Dr. and Mrs. R. Bremner, Mr. and Mrs. W. Cant, G. Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. V. Harper, Mr. and Mrs. Hodgekinson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hogg, Dr. and Mrs. S. Houston, Mr. and Mrs. Lotochinski, Mr. and Mrs. T. McMurchie, Margaret Mahon, Mr. and Mrs. M. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. G. Porteous, Mr. and Mrs. J. Shadick, Mrs. E. Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. R. Shemko, Mr. and Mrs. J. Slimmon, Lillian Strom, P. Walmsley, J. Wedgwood, Lucy Young; *Shaunavon*: D. Chandler, Ruth Chandler; *Wolseley*: D. Hayward; *Yorkton*: Mr. and Mrs. F. Switzer. *From Moose, Wyoming*, were Betty Wright and F. Wright.

#### List of Birds Recorded

A composite list was made of birds recorded in the Candle Lake - White Swan Lake area from June 11-13 by SNHS members attending the meeting. Species:

Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Horned Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Broad-winged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Herring Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Tern, Black Tern, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Gray Jay, Blue Jay, Common Raven, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Sprague's Pipit,

Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Yellowthroat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Note that the weekend sightings for June 11-13, 1965 did not include 19 species seen at Candle Lake in 1958 in a two week period, June 28 - July 13, when Elmer and Reg Fox and Frank Brazier were birding in the area (see report by Brazier in the *Blue Jay*, 16:160-162). The additional species seen in 1958 were: Western Grebe (one adult with young), Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, American Bittern, Canvasback, Cooper's Hawk, Osprey, Bald Eagle (nest on island), Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot (with young), Greater Yellowlegs, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch (one only), Brown Creeper (one only), Mountain Bluebird, Cape May Warbler (one only), Wilson's Warbler (one); Red Crossbill (one).

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#### DONATION RECEIVED

In accordance with my established tradition, please find remittance of \$15.00 which would have at least been my expense money had we been able to make the trip to the Candle Lake Summer Meet. Use this in the "cause", and put it up to the first meeting that an effort be made to persuade others to do likewise. After all, we are working for a cause which is a mighty worthwhile one even though we do enjoy it. If we make it to the annual events we pay our costs and forget about it. When we didn't spend it on the trip — let's contribute it where it is needed.—*Ernie Symons, Rocanville.*