

OREGON JUNCO AT ISLAND LAKE, MANITOBA

by **A. Edward Wilson**, Island Lake, Manitoba

In the fall of 1967 I banded 207 Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) at Island Lake. Four late arrivals fed under my feeder from October 22 to October 28. On the 29th, I noticed that one of the four seemed to be slightly different. I spent some time observing the bird and finally concluded that it was either an Oregon Junco (*Junco oregonus*) or a hybrid between an Oregon Junco and a Slate-colored Junco. I hastily set up my mist nets on top of the snow and almost immediately captured the bird. According to W. Earl Godfrey, *The birds of Canada* (1966: 389-90), the hood of the Oregon Junco stops short of the brown on the sides, a feature that was apparent in the bird I had captured. I then sent the live bird in

a cage by air to Dr. Robert Nero, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, Winnipeg, who agreed that the bird appeared to be an Oregon Junco. This identification was confirmed by W. Earl Godfrey, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, who identified it as *Junco oregonus montanus*. This is a subspecies of the Oregon Junco which breeds in the interior of British Columbia and western Alberta. Island Lake is about 300 miles north-northeast of Winnipeg and about 1000 miles northeast of the nearest known breeding range of this species. This is the northernmost locality for which the Oregon Junco has been reported in Manitoba. The specimen, an adult male, is in the Manitoba Museum collections 1.2-2510).

VARIED THRUSH AT ROSETOWN, SASKATCHEWAN

by **Wayne Renaud**, Rosetown, Saskatchewan

Thanksgiving day, October 9, 1967 was an unusual day for me, because of an unexpected observation of a straggler from the Rockies, the Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). I was gazing out of our porch window at the overcast sky and the garden, bare of all plants at this season, when I caught sight of a bird in the far corner. At first I thought it was a Robin; from a distance its actions were very similar to those of this well-known bird of lawn and garden. But as it came closer I became aware of the black stripe across its breast, a narrow orange stripe above both eyes, and two light orange wing bars. I knew then it was definitely not a Robin, but because of its actions I was sure it must be a member of the Thrush Family. But which one?

The bird kept coming closer, hopping on both feet in the manner of a Robin, until it was only 10 or 15 feet from the window. My curiosity was

getting the better of me, and I wanted to go at once for a bird guide, but I watched the bird until it finally flew off.

In my guide books later I found that the bird was a Varied Thrush which inhabits the Rocky Mountains from Alberta to California. I also learned that it was a rare straggler in Saskatchewan, and so I knew that I had seen one of the rarest of our birds right in my own back yard. I wrote to Doug Gilroy, who writes the "Prairie Wildlife" column in the *Western Producer*, and he agreed with my identification.

The following day I saw the bird again in the garden while I was waiting for the school bus, but after that I never saw it again. However, I shall not forget this remarkable observation.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The status of the Varied Thrush in Saskatchewan has