

Non-breeding birds seemed to be everywhere and on one occasion a flock of 13 was seen coursing the tundra. It is significant that both lemming and breeding shorebird populations were very much lower in numbers from the 1966 nesting period. It was also noted that both Snowy Owls and Rough-legged Hawks were rare in the 1967 season, yet both nested in 1966. It appears from these observations that in late seasons and when lemming and shorebird populations are low jaegers do not breed.

Arctic vertebrate populations typically fluctuate greatly in numbers. Pitelka (1959) has commented on variations in shorebird populations at Barrow, Alaska and Pitelka, Tomich and Treichel (1955) have discussed the relationship of jaegers and owls to the brown lemming population at

Barrow. Non-breeding of Long-tailed Jaegers in a year following a lemming high was reported in northeast Greenland by Manniche (1910).

LITERATURE CITED

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ANNUAL MAY DAY BIRD COUNT, SASKATOON

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This year, 42 observers in eight parties established a record of 146 species, one more than on May 27, 1967, when 29 observers recorded 145 species. The early morning birding was best. By 10 a.m. a strong SSE wind had sprung up, and for the rest of the day the wind ranged from 20 to 30 miles per hour. Temperatures ranged from 47° at 5 a.m. to a high of 74°. The sky was clear at first, becoming partially clouded in the afternoon with widely scattered showers. Observers drove a total of 1178 party-miles and logged 43 party-miles on foot.

The area covered in the annual May count is a square block consisting of 100 townships (3,600 square miles) centering on Saskatoon. Obviously, complete coverage of an area this size is impossible, but we are refining our techniques in an attempt to cover representative sections of all types of habitat, in addition to canvassing every major slough, lake and reservoir in the region. As usual, the area was divided into quadrants but this

year, for the first time, we had enough participants to field eight separate parties. Among the innovations was an attempt to count all individuals of 18 common species: Mallard, Coot, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Magpie, Crow, Mountain Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Clay-colored Sparrow. In addition, all individuals of every other species were counted until a total of 25 was reached; beyond that number, flocks of 50 or more were recorded. To facilitate counting, we prepared two sheets, both listing birds in alphabetic order rather than in A.O.U. sequence. Further changes may be introduced next year. In all likelihood, we will record total numbers only for those species readily observable from a moving car or gathered in large flocks on bodies of water. The idea is to increase our knowledge of changes in bird popula-

tion from year to year without, at the same time, making the count so demanding that participants have to forego the pleasure of a day afield in the attempt to record every one of the thousands of birds that flit across their field of vision. After ten hours, even the most ardent bird-watcher gets a little exasperated adding yet another Yellow Warbler or Clay-colored Sparrow to the list!

Among the highlights of this year's count were Jim Hogg's discovery of the nest of a Common Snipe in the SE quadrant, a new breeding record for Saskatoon; a record number of 137 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, observed in three of the four quadrants; a single Forster's Tern at Pike Lake; a Red-headed Woodpecker in the SE quadrant; a total of 210 Lark Buntings, indicating the second influx in ten years of a normally uncommon species; and five McCown's Longspurs, a species first recorded in the Saskatoon area in 1967. The warbler count was particularly disappointing, only nine species being observed. It appears to be an off-year for owls as well: only one Burrowing, one Long-eared, and one Short-eared Owl were reported. Despite the late date, no Black-billed Cuckoos, Nighthawks, Red-eyed Vireos, or Goldfinches were recorded. Both Cedar Waxwings and Long-billed Marsh Wrens were seen on the day following the count.

Species by region for Annual May Day Count, Saskatoon, May 25, 1968

Compiled by A. L. Nijssen and
W. S. Richards

Species	Grand Total	Quadrant Totals			
		SW	NW	NE	SE
Red-nk Grebe	2	x			x
Horned Grebe	107+	x	x	x	x
Eared Grebe	50	x	x	x	x
West Grebe	12	x		x	x
Pied-b Grebe	17	x	x	x	x
Dc Cormorant	6	x			x
Gr Bl Heron	2		x		x
Am Bittern	5+	x		x	x
Wh Swan	3	x			
C Goose	3	x			x
*Mallard	671	x	N	N	x
Gadwall	143+	x	x	x	x

Species	Grand Total	Quadrant Totals			
		SW	NW	NE	SE
Pintail	294+	x	x	x	x
Gr-wgd Teal	51+	x	x	x	x
Bl-wgd Teal	220+	x	x	x	x
Am Widgeon	241+	x	x	x	x
Shoveler	306+	x	x	x	x
Redhead	109+	x	x	x	x
Ring-nk Duck	4	x		x	x
Canvasback	267+	x	N	x	x
Lesser Scaup	91+	x	x	x	x
C Goldeneye	11	x			x
Bufflehead	8	x	x	x	x
Wh-wg Scoter	3	x			
Ruddy Duck	133+	x	x	x	x
Cooper Hawk	3	x		x	x
R-tail Hawk	8	x	N	x	x
Swains Hawk	14	x	x	x	x
Marsh Hawk	53	x	x	x	x
Pigeon Hawk	3				x
Sparrow Hawk	5	x			
Ruffed Grouse	6	x	x		x
Sh-t Grouse	19	x	N	x	x
R-n Pheasant	5		x	x	x
Gray Part	27	x	x	x	x
Sora	31	x	x	x	x
*Am Coot	2,307+	x	x	x	N
Semipal Plov	7		x	x	
Killdeer	90	x	N	x	x
Gldn Plover	2		x		
Bl-b Plover	103	x	x	x	x
Ru Turnstone	30		x	x	x
C Snipe	1				N
L-b Curlew	1				x
Upland Plover	10		x	x	x
Spot Sandp	26	x	x	x	x
*Willet	60	x	x	x	x
Lesser Ylegs	11		x	x	x
Knot	3		x		
Pector Sandp	82+		x	x	x
Wh-r Sandp	55+		x	x	x
Baird Sandp	207+		x	x	x
Least Sandp	117+	x		x	x
Dowitcher	7		x	x	x
Stilt Sandp	1,093+	x	x	x	x
Semipa Sandp	529+		x	x	x
Buff-b Sandp	137		x	x	x
*Marbl Godwit	100±	x	x	x	x
Sanderling	117+		x	x	x
Am Avocet	170+	N	N	x	x
Wils Phalar	165+	x	x	x	x
N Phalarope	2,403+	x	x	x	x
Herring Gull	1			x	
Calif Gull	198	x	x	x	x
Ring-b Gull	202+	x	x	x	x
*Frank Gull	830±	x	x	x	x