

1971 BIRD HOUSE REPORT, SASKATOON JUNIOR NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Our main project for the past three years has been the construction and maintenance of a bluebird-house trail. It extends from Delisle to Raymore and consists of 412 houses spaced about one-third of a mile apart. Our houses are part of a 500-mile trail that has been established in conjunction with Dr. Jack Lane of Brandon and Lorne Scott of Indian Head, extending from Delisle to Macgregor, Manitoba.

Only the 208 houses in the study area to be covered by the forthcoming *Birds of Saskatoon* could be visited regularly in June and July of this year.

We were encouraged by the further increase of Mountain Bluebirds from eight to 12 pairs and Tree Swallows from 130 to 172 pairs. Above all, our occupancy rate has increased to approximately 91%. (Table 1). However, we were discouraged by the increase of unwanted House Sparrows from 11 to 17 pairs; it seems they prefer aged and weathered houses.

This fall we are diversifying our program and have put up four Golden-eye duck nesting boxes and nine Great Horned Owl nesting platforms. We hope to carry this project further, with more outdoor activity, as well as more talks and films during our meetings.

TABLE 1.

	1969	1970	1971
Total Houses	207	(368)	(412)
In study area	(115)	182	208
Tree Swallows	128	130	172
Mountain			
Bluebirds	3	8	12
House Sparrows..	1	11	17
House Wrens	2	0	0
Total houses			
occupied	134	145*	191**
Intact but empty	11	15	12
Damaged, empty	62	22	5
Occupancy rate.....	65%	80%	91%

*By 149 pairs, in 1970. Four houses were used by two species in one year—

two were Tree Swallow- Mountain Bluebird and two were Tree Swallow- House Sparrow.

**By 201 pairs in 1971. Ten houses were used by two species in one year— five were Tree Swallow - Mountain Bluebird and five were Tree Swallow- House Sparrow.

Totals are calculated on underlined numbers, not on numbers in parentheses, since repeated checks are now restricted to houses within 60 miles of Saskatoon.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

In the June, 1971, Game Bird Breeders, Aviculturists, Zoologists and Conservationists' *Gazette*, John Perry, Assistant Director of the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. reports as follows: The Bengal Tiger is now listed as endangered and all Indian States have banned hunting for five years. Costa Rica has established a national park to allow undisturbed nesting of the endangered Green Turtle. A new national park in India encompassing most of the remaining range of the fewer than 80 Indian Rhinoceroses will attempt to save the rhinos from extinction. The U.S.S.R. has banned all hunting of the Polar Bear and attempts are being made to restrict hunting in Alaska and Canada. In the Philippines attempts are being made to save the Monkey-eating Eagle which is now one of the rarest birds with a total population of only about 40 individuals.

LOOKING AHEAD

At the SNHS Annual Meeting plans were made for next summer's field meet and for the 1972 Annual Meeting. Since then, the Board of Directors has established provisional dates for these important society activities:

Summer Meeting at North Battleford, June 9-10-11.

Annual Meeting at Yorkton, October 13-14 (tentative date).