

# ANOTHER SUMMER CONCENTRATION OF COMMON LOONS

by **Ronald G. Predy**, Conservation Officer, Snow Lake, Manitoba

As an addition to the records of summer flocking of Common Loons reported in the June 1972 *Blue Jay* (30:85-86) by R. W. Nero, we wish to note the following.

About noon on July 25, 1972, Fire Ranger Russel Bartlett and I were out on patrol on Reed Lake in Grass River Provincial Park, Manitoba. In about the center of the lake, within a square mile area, we encountered a remarkable concentration of about 200 loons. Then, travelling on a bit, we realized that we were surrounded by loons; we estimated 500 birds altogether on the lake. I had never seen a concentration of loons like this before, though on previous patrols in this particular area of Reed Lake I recall always seeing at least a few.

The loons were gathered in pairs, but with only a few appearing to be in the close vicinity of others. No young birds were observed in the immediate area, but some loons were far away and young birds could have been missed. The birds were spaced fairly evenly throughout the area and there were no compact groupings. The birds were diving occasionally, but mostly they were just swimming around or simply resting. The day was sunny and the lake was calm with a light northeast wind.

As previously pointed out by Nero, most large concentrations of Common Loons in this region have been reported for an area within 50 miles of Flin Flon. It is thus of interest to note that Reed Lake lies just 50 miles east of Flin Flon.

## THE PASSENGER PIGEON — ADDENDUM AND ERRATUM

by **C. Stuart Houston**, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon

The article on "The Passenger Pigeon in Saskatchewan" (*Blue Jay* 30:77-83, June 1972) was material gathered to assist Dr. Arlie W. Schorger, Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin. When he wrote me on November 23, 1971, for assistance concerning a point of history and geography, he was preparing a second, revised edition of his book, *The Passenger Pigeon*, which first appeared in 1955.

This book was an example of historical ornithology at its best. The bibliography listed well over 2,000 references, including many items Schorger gleaned from newspapers of the 1850's and 1860's. Not surprisingly, however, he was confused by the different "Pine Islands" on the Saskatchewan, and confused Cross Lake (there were actually three lakes by

this name between York Factory and Cumberland House) and Ile-a-la-Crosse; these accounted for two errors on page 261 of his book. Again, he can be forgiven for assuming that the younger Alexander Henry's Terre Blanche post (in present-day Alberta) was on Henry's Terre Blanche River (in modern Manitoba).

Since Doctor Schorger died on May 26, 1972, before he could complete his revision, it is perhaps best to record the following errors concerning his Manitoba migration records on page 284 of his book: Park River post was not in Manitoba, but in present-day North Dakota, about 43 miles south of the 49th parallel; Pine Island of Henry's observation was not a named locality; the Swan River observation of Daniel Harmon was not a migration date; the A. Henry observation