

# FURTHER NOTE ON KNOT RECORDS FOR MANITOBA

by **Martin McNicholl**, Zoology Dept., University of Manitoba, Winnipeg

Mr. Gordon J. Smith of Winnipeg as kindly drawn my attention to two Manitoba Knot records not included in my recent report on this species (*Blue Jay*, 27:28-35). One is of a male specimen taken at Lake St. Martin on June 13, 1935, and reported in *The birds of the Lake St. Martin region, Manitoba* by T. M. Shortt and S. Waller (Contr. Roy. Ont. Mus. Zool., No. 10, 51 pp., 1937). These authors state: "This species can only be recorded as a rare spring and early summer migrant." The other is an observation by Mr. Smith and Harold J. Hosford of a close group of seven Knots observed at West Shoal Lake on May 28, 1961.

In addition, I overlooked a record of eight Knots "noted by Taverner's 1937 party" on June 2, 1937 at Reader

Lake, near The Pas (W. E. Godfrey, 1953. *Notes on birds of the area of intergradation between eastern prairie and forest in Canada*. Bull. No. 128, Ann. Rept. Nat. Mus. 1951-52, 52 pp.). There is also a record of four seen on June 9, 1946 at Crean Lake within the boreal forest of Saskatchewan (J. D. Soper, 1952. *The birds of Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan*. Can. Dept. Res. and Devel. Nat. Parks Branch, Can. Wildl. Ser. Series 2, No. 4, 83 pp.).

I would like to point out a typographical error in my paper (*Blue Jay*, 27:28-35). The personal communication with D. R. M. Hatch (Table 1) should read 1968, not 1966. The date, June 2, 1968, for his observation at Oak Lake is correct.

## A KNOT RECORD FOR THE ALBERTA-SASKATCHEWAN BORDER

by **Hans Blokpoel**, Canadian

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On June 16, 1968, my wife and I observed a Knot resting on the west shore of Cold Lake, which is located within the Boreal Forest on the Alberta - Saskatchewan border. The bird was observed at English Bay (latitude 54° 34'), a flat, sandy shore. We observed the bird from our car for about 15 minutes with telescope and binoculars, using Peterson's *A field guide to western birds*, 1961, and *The birds of Alberta* by Salt and Wilk, 1966. This observation helps to fill the "considerable gap in locations of Knots] on the prairies" described by Martin K. McNicholl (*Blue Jay*, 7:28-35).

When discussing this gap in locations McNicholl remarks that "These factors indicate that there may be two different pathways involved, one passing through western or central Alberta, the other east of Manitoba, and occasionally through eastern Saskatchewan and Manitoba." I do not

think that this hypothesis can be supported. McNicholl takes his data for Alberta mainly from Salt and Wilk who map the Knot's migration over the eastern part of this province. In Saskatchewan Knots have been observed in the area around Saskatoon for several successive years. Since the number of reporting bird watchers is not large in the area between Saskatoon and the Saskatchewan-Alberta border, it may not be wise to attach much significance to a vacuum for that area.

I agree with McNicholl that more information is needed to determine in more detail the course of the Knot's migration. The fact that all but one of the recent records for southern Saskatchewan involve spring observations might be due (at least partially) to the fact that spring migrants are more conspicuously coloured and usually migrate in larger flocks than fall migrants.