

# SIGHT RECORD OF DIPPER NEAR EASTEND, SASKATCHEWAN

by **Elizabeth Cruickshank**, 2329 Athol Street, Regina

Sight records of the Dipper, *Cinclus mexicanus*, in Saskatchewan were reviewed in the *Blue Jay*, 16:65, June, 1958. Reference is made to sightings at Ravenscrag, May 22, 1917, by Spencer Pearse, at the Pearse ranch at Eastend by Pearse and Neil Pratt and by Bob Friel at Farwell Creek. No specific dates are given for the latter records (presumably in the 1930's or early 1940's), but it is significant that all these observations were made on the southern slopes of the Cypress Hills.

In the same general area Ruth Baker and I on May 6, 1969 observed one alight on a boulder and then walk into and under the water as it rushed, in flood, over the concrete crossing of the Frenchman (Whitemud) River 10

to 11 miles west of the steel bridge at the town of Eastend. We had driven off the river road, under a railway trestle, leading into Alf Pearse's ranch.

Sharon Haggerty of Regina reports having seen a Dipper a few days later, on May 9, in the Cypress Hills Park. The bird was also seen by Miss Haggerty's companion, who was familiar with Dippers in the mountain streams at Jasper, Alberta.

I returned with Margaret Belcher on June 15 to show the location to her and to Dr. George Ledingham, on our way home from the S.N.H.S. annual field meeting. However, a brief search for the Dipper along the creek was without success.

## NINTH ANNUAL MAY BIRD CENSUS, REGINA

On Saturday, May 17, 38 persons counted a total of 150 species and 7909 individual birds in the Regina area. The total of 150 species is a new record and surpasses by six the previous high of 144 established in 1966 and equaled in 1967. Although we were obviously short of counters to cover the area adequately, it was encouraging to note that included in the total were 10 teen-aged girls. The girls belong to the St. Chad's Science Club and were brought into the field by Lorne Scott, our youth program co-ordinator.

Weather conditions were favorable; extensive cloud cover in the morning was followed by bright sunshine in the afternoon; SE winds gusted to 25 mph, temperatures ranged between 35° and 65°.

The highlight of this year's count was the discovery by Father Bedard and Greg Bobbitt of a male Prothonotary Warbler; this find constitutes a first for our area and places this

eastern warbler well out of his range. It is also worthy of note that a Winter Wren, rarely observed in the area, was seen by George Ledingham.

### SPECIES LIST

(Numbers for May 11, 1968 in parenthesis for comparison)

Horned Grebe, 18 (71); Eared Grebe, 62 (66); Western Grebe, 24 (41); Pied-billed Grebe, 2 (15); Black-crowned Night Heron, 4 (0); American Bittern, 1 (2); Mute Swan, 5 (2); Whistling Swan, 10 (34); Canada Goose, 340 (305); Mallard, 301 (332); Gadwall, 30 (94); Pintail, 157 (64); Green-winged Teal, 13 (25); Blue-winged Teal, 77 (147); American Widgeon, 52 (175); Shoveler, 77 (70); Redhead, 26 (170); Ring-necked Duck, 6 (2); Canvasback, 63 (86); Scaup, 130 (355); Bufflehead, 7 (11); Ruddy, 34 (43); Hooded Merganser, 1 (0); Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 (1); Red-tailed Hawk, 2 (5); Rough-legged Hawk, 1 (1); Swainson's Hawk, 9 (6); Marsh Hawk, 7 (33); Sparrow Hawk, 1 (2); Ruffed Grouse, 2 (0); Gray Partridge, 3 (5); Virginia Rail, 1 (0); Sora, 7 (8); Coot, 39 (460); Semipalmated Plover, 16 (38); Killdeer, 84 (153); American Golden Plover, 55 (0); Black-bellied Plover, 9 (1); Common Snipe, 1 (0); Spotted Sandpiper, 22 (22); Solitary Sandpiper, 2 (25); Willet, 22 (55); Greater Yellowlegs, 2 (7); Lesser Yellowlegs, 13 (50); Pectoral Sandpiper, 64 (83); Baird's Sandpiper, 78 (46); Least Sandpiper, 13 (19); Dowitcher,



9 (16); Semipalmated Sandpiper, 28 (9); Marbled Godwit, 7 (29); American Avocet, 62 (38); Wilson's Phalarope, 27 (22); Northern Phalarope, 21 (0); Herring Gull, 2 (0); California Gull, 2 (0); Ring-billed Gull, 78 (106); Franklin's Gull, 10 (238); Forster's Tern, 2 (0); Common Tern, 43 (22); Black Tern, 20 (10); Rock Dove 81 (57); Mourning Dove, 62 (40); Great Horned Owl, 5 (1); Burrowing Owl, 2 (11); Long-eared Owl, 1 (0); Short-eared Owl, 2 (0); Belted Kingfisher, 4 (11); Yellow-shafted Flicker, 38 (42); Red-shafted Flicker, 1 (0); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2 (2); Downy Woodpecker, 1 (3); Eastern Kingbird, 16 (0); Western Kingbird, 55 (6); Eastern Phoebe, 5 (6); Least Flycatcher, 63 (3); Western Wood Pewee, 5 (0); Olive-sided Flycatcher, 2 (0); Horned Lark, 415 (572); Tree Swallow, 139 (26); Bank Swallow, 21 (0); Cliff Swallow, 2 (1); Barn Swallow, 86 (10); Rough-winged Swallow, 1 (0); Purple Martin, 29 (32); Magpie, 42 (42); Crow, 102 (105); Red-breasted Nuthatch, 14 (0); Brown Creeper, 1 (1); House Wren, 21 (1); Winter Wren, 1 (0); Catbird, 4 (0); Brown Thrasher, 84 (3); Robin, 160 (169); Hermit Thrush, 2 (2); Swainson's Thrush, 81 (200); Gray-cheeked Thrush, 52 (93); Veery, 1 (0); Eastern Bluebird, 2 (1); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2 (11); Sprague's Pipit, 2 (0); Loggerhead Shrike, 21 (17); Starling, 42 (32); Solitary Vireo, 2 (0); Warbling Vireo, 2 (0); Prothonotary Warbler, 1 (0); Black-and-white Warbler, 9 (0); Tennessee Warbler, 9 (0); Orange-crowned Warbler, 11 (21); Yellow Warbler, 45 (9); Myrtle Warbler, 52 (204); Blackpoll Warbler, 9 (1); Pine Warbler, 1 (0); Palm Warbler, 2 (13); Ovenbird, 3 (0); Northern Waterthrush, 9 (6); Yellowthroat, 1 (1); Wilson's Warbler, 1 (0); Redstart, 1 (1); House Sparrow, 457 (669); Bobolink, 4 (0); Western Meadowlark, 249 (276); Yellow-

headed Blackbird, 53 (192); Red-winged Blackbird, 545 (698); Baltimore Oriole, 15 (1); Rusty Blackbird, 2 (2); Brewer's Blackbird, 226 (487); Common Grackle, 136 (179); Brown-headed Cowbird, 141 (136); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 27 (1); Purple Finch, 20 (4); American Goldfinch, 18 (0); Rufous-sided Towhee, 3 (3); Lark Bunting, 13 (0); Savannah Sparrow, 17 (55); Baird's Sparrow, 1 (0); Vesper Sparrow, 42 (82); Lark Sparrow, 1 (0); Chipping Sparrow, 52 (144); Clay-colored Sparrow, 118 (160); Harris' Sparrow, 108 (177); White-crowned Sparrow, 93 (263); White-throated Sparrow, 90 (212); Fox Sparrow, 2 (0); Lincoln's Sparrow, 18 (168); Swamp Sparrow 1 (11); Song Sparrow, 10 (21); McCown's Longspur, 82 (13); Lapland Longspur, 1252 (5695); Chestnut-collared Longspur, 124 (55); Snow Bunting, 1 (0).

Total species, 150. Total individuals, 7909. Participants: Jessie Bailey, Father Bedard, Margaret Belcher, Al and Betty Binnie, Greg Bobbitt, Bill Brownlee, Marilee Cranna, Sandra Crooks, Betty Cruickshank, George Dodd, Pearl Guest, Gayl Hipperson, John Horton, Jim Jowsey, Fern Lawrence, George Ledingham, Christine MacDonald, Joyce Munn, Connie Pratt, Joe Roberts, Barbara Ross, Shirley Sather, Lorne Scott, Mrs. Sykes, Elisabeth Wagner, Holly Wallace, Janie Wilhelm, and 10 girls from St. Chad's Science Club.—Compiled by Al and Betty Binnie.

## SPRING BIRD OBSERVATIONS ON LANGARA ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA

by **R. Wayne Campbell**, Burnaby, B.C.

In the spring of 1966 Norman Clarkson, Lowell Orcut, Ken Kennedy and the writer visited Langara Island for the purposes of banding Ancient Murrelets, collecting birds for the University of British Columbia and collecting intertidal marine mollusca. Since little is recorded on bird distribution in the northwestern corner of the province, field notes were made on the birds encountered.

Langara Island lies just north of Graham Island (the largest island) in the Queen Charlotte Islands Biotic Area. The island is "slightly over five miles long and four miles wide at the widest point. The shores are precipitous, the interior partly forested with conifers and partly muskeg" (Munro

and Cowan, 1947). Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) is the climax tree with associated stands of western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) being common. The trees are covered with beard moss (*Usnea sp.*) and the forest floor carpeted with salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) consequently making interior travel difficult.

The island is best known for its nesting Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) and is considered one of the few remaining strongholds for this magnificent bird in British Columbia. As well, Langara Island supports a large and varied population of breeding seabirds. (Drent and Gui-