

information on whether or not all birds of this species normally breed when a year old. Nor are there weather data on hand at this time that might suggest that breeding was unsuccessful in some area in 1971.

It is also interesting that both species of godwits remained through August and into September in 1970. The most noticeable weather factor during the week in 1971 that the birds left was 2.8 inches of rain with strong north winds on July 24.

This movement into the Prairies may be something new in the life cycle of the species. There are no summer-fall Saskatoon records prior to 1970. It is, nevertheless, possible that a significant portion of the population has stopped over on a lake in the grassland-parkland sections of the Prairie Provinces more often than the records indicate.

The writer wishes to thank C. S. Houston and J. A. Wedgwood for comments on the manuscript.

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EUROPEAN WIDGEON SIGHTING AT CUMBERLAND HOUSE, SASKATCHEWAN

by David T. Little, Cumberland House

Three students and I observed a pair of European Widgeon at Cumberland House on May 7, 1971. The male was identified as a bird of this species; the female was presumed to be the same. The birds were first spotted swimming in a ditch on Cumberland Island. We first watched them from the car about 100 yards away, using two pairs of field glasses, 7 X 35 and 7 X 50. We then slowly approached to within 50 yards, at which distance we could see very easily the male's reddish head with the pale yellow forehead. The forehead marking was not so pronounced as that shown in the picture on page 76 of Earl Godfrey's *Birds of Canada*. The male's body was light greyish in colour; the female was more of a brownish colour on the breast than the male.

At this point a horse and rider scared the pair and they flew away. Though I watched the ditch for several weeks afterwards and also visited the surrounding sloughs, I did not see the ducks again.

Because I have hunted and watched ducks since I was a young boy, I can readily recognize most ducks of Saskatchewan. Also, we had Godfrey's *Birds of Canada* in the car with us and while watching the birds we carefully checked every duck. They were definitely European Widgeons.

SIGHT RECORD OF A SNOWY EGRET AT CYPRESS LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN

by Wayne C. Weber, Vancouver, B.C.

On June 19, 1970, at about 6:00 p.m., I had the good fortune to observe a Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) at the Cypress Lake dam, south of Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. As I drove onto the dam, I flushed the egret, which was then about 75 feet from me, as well as several Great Blue Herons which accompanied it. The egret

alighted about 250 feet away in the marsh below the dam. I observed the bird with 7x35 binoculars as it flew and with a 20x to 45x zoom telescope when it alighted. The egret appeared to be about half the size of the Great Blue Herons, and had a rather slender black bill and black legs. When it flew, I was able to see clearly the yellow feet contrasting with the black legs. The light was from behind me, providing excellent viewing conditions. I am familiar with all four species of North American egrets, and at the time was just returning from a vacation trip to California and Texas, where I had seen numbers of Snowy Egrets together with other species of herons.

Apparently the only previous records of Snowy Egrets in Saskatchewan are several sight records in 1956 (W. Anaka, *Blue Jay* 14:89-90, September 1956). Joyce Gunn saw a Snowy Egret at Spirit Lake, May 23-29, 1956, and Anaka saw the bird on May 26. George Ledingham, in an addendum to Anaka's article, notes that Snowy Egrets were seen on July 9, 1956 and several other dates by Mr. E. Fox and Mr. A. Swanston near a Common Egret nesting site in the Qu'Appelle Valley east of Craven. Snowy Egrets are also listed as casual in occurrence in Montana (Clifford V. Davis, *Birds of Montana*, Montana Fish & Game Department, undated). Unfortunately the species must still be considered hypothetical in Saskatchewan until a specimen or recognizable photograph is obtained.

I wish to thank Dr. C. Stuart Houston for help with this note.

INFORMATION WANTED ABOUT HAWKS, TREES AND "GOPHERS"

Saskatchewan readers are asked to contribute information concerning hawk populations and land use over the years.

For the Ferruginous Hawk, does it still nest in your area, or when did it last do so? Has anyone seen this species nest successfully except where there was at least a square mile of pasture nearby with good numbers of

"gophers" (Richardson's Ground Squirrels)?

For the Swainson's Hawk, is the Saskatchewan range identical with the range of the Richardson's Ground Squirrel (as the Atlas of Alberta shows for our neighboring province)? Have you records of the Swainson's Hawk or Richardson's Ground Squirrel in summer north of Number 5 Highway (Lloydminster - Kamsack)? Has Swainson's Hawk moved north as land has been cleared? Or have they decreased in your district, and if so, has the Red-tailed Hawk increased at the same time?

For the Red-tailed Hawk, has it moved south or increased in numbers as poplar "bluffs" grew up in the forty years following control of prairie fires? Which present "parkland" areas were virtually open prairie in the early days?

Hawks have been legally protected in Saskatchewan since 1960, but are they still being persecuted in your area?

Anyone with information concerning any of these questions is asked to contact **Dr. Stuart Houston** at 863 University Drive, Saskatoon.

GREAT GRAY OWL RECORDS WANTED

Anyone who has unpublished records of the Great Gray Owl in Saskatchewan is requested to send these to **Wayne Renaud**, Box 327, Rosetown, Saskatchewan. Information on location, habitat, date(s) seen and other details would be appreciated. The writer wishes to prepare a summary account for the *Blue Jay* on the occurrence of this species in the province.

CORRECTION

Authors of the article "Spotted Sandpipers as possible indicators of mercury contamination of rivers" in June, 1971, *Blue Jay* should be **Kees Vermeer** and **James A. Windsor**. The Editor regrets that Mr. Windsor's name did not appear with the article and expresses his sincere apologies for the omission.