

A REVIEW OF SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: 1942-1976 (PART I)

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This is the first of a two-part review that deals comprehensively with the large volume of information that has been collected during 35 years of Christmas Bird Counts since 1942 in Saskatchewan. Part I summarizes information about each of the 127 species that has been recorded during these counts.* Part II, which will appear in a future issue of the *Blue Jay* will discuss (1) the frequency and abundance of species within groups (waterfowl, raptors, etc.), (2) aspects of early winter species diversity, and (3) population changes that have occurred over the 35-year period.

In 1942, the Saskatchewan Christmas Bird Count became the first organized field activity of the newly-formed Saskatchewan Natural History Society. Prior to this time, published Christmas bird counts in the province had consisted of 14 reports (nine of which were from Eastend) between 1913 and 1941.⁴ Since 1942, these bird counts have generally followed the procedures developed by the National Audubon Society; however, for various reasons (the most important of which was likely the opportunity to publish the counts provincially) few counts were published in *Audubon Field Notes* or *American Birds*. Counts published in the *Blue Jay* from 1943 to 1977 form the basis of this review.

With few exceptions, we have incorporated all the information presented in the 946 counts reviewed in this paper. Counts from near the Saskatchewan border at Swan River,

Manitoba, have been excluded. One other count at Webb in 1965 was rejected as it seemed likely that the single Western Meadowlark was reported to the editor as an incidental observation rather than an actual count. Responsibility for the accuracy of these records lies solely with the observers.

We have evaluated the status of each species recorded during the past 35 years of Saskatchewan Christmas Bird Counts by looking at five aspects of each species' occurrence: regularity, frequency, abundance, high counts (and area) and early winter distribution. Each species account presents the following information:

- 1) regularity (number of years recorded),
- 2) frequency (number of counts during which the species was recorded on count day or as an additional species),
- 3) abundance (total number of individuals recorded on count days),
- 4) high count (largest number of individuals reported, together with the locality and date, on count day or as an additional species during count period),
- 5) all observations of species recorded fewer than six times during count period,
- 6) northernmost or southernmost observations (if applicable); this information does not appear for species covered by distribution maps. Fig. 1 shows the locations of all localities mentioned in the text.

To provide an indication of relative status, the 60 most frequently recorded and the 60 most abundant species have been ranked in descending order of importance in the annotated

*The annual summaries of Christmas Bird Counts have traditionally followed the 1957 A.O.U. Checklist and thus have recognized 129 species.¹

Table 1. Thirty most frequently recorded and 30 most abundant species observed on Christmas Bird Counts in Saskatchewan, 1942 to 1976. See Table 2 for ranks beyond 30. (T=tied)

	Rank			Rank	
	Fre- quency ¹	Abun- dance ²		Fre- quency ¹	Abun- dance ²
Black-billed Magpie	1	6	Starling	19	15
House Sparrow	2	1	Northern Shrike	20	—
Black-capped Chickadee	3	11	Common Raven	21T	16
Snow Bunting	4	2	Ring-necked pheasant	21T	19
Sharp-tailed Grouse	5	10	Gray Jay	23	29
Common Redpoll	6	3	Golden Eagle	24	—
Downy Woodpecker	7	18	Mallard	25	7
Gray Partridge	8	8	Goshawk	26	—
Hairy Woodpecker	9	21	Short-eared Owl	27	—
Pine Grosbeak	10	12	Hoary Redpoll	28	25T
Bohemian Waxwing	11	4	White-breasted Nuthatch	29	—
Great Horned Owl	12	25T	Merlin	30	—
Ruffed Grouse	13	22	Canada Goose	—	9
Snowy Owl	14	27	Common Goldeneye	—	17
Rock Dove ³	15	5	White-winged crossbill	—	23
Blue Jay	16	20	Cedar Waxwing	—	24
Evening Grosbeak	17	14	Red Crossbill	—	28
Horned Lark	18	13	Lapland Longspur	—	30

¹Based on 921 counts; range from Black-billed Magpie (844 counts, rank = 1) to Merlin (82 counts, rank = 30).

²Based on 916 counts; range from House Sparrow (217,058 individuals, rank = 1) to Lapland Longspur (259 individuals, rank = 30).

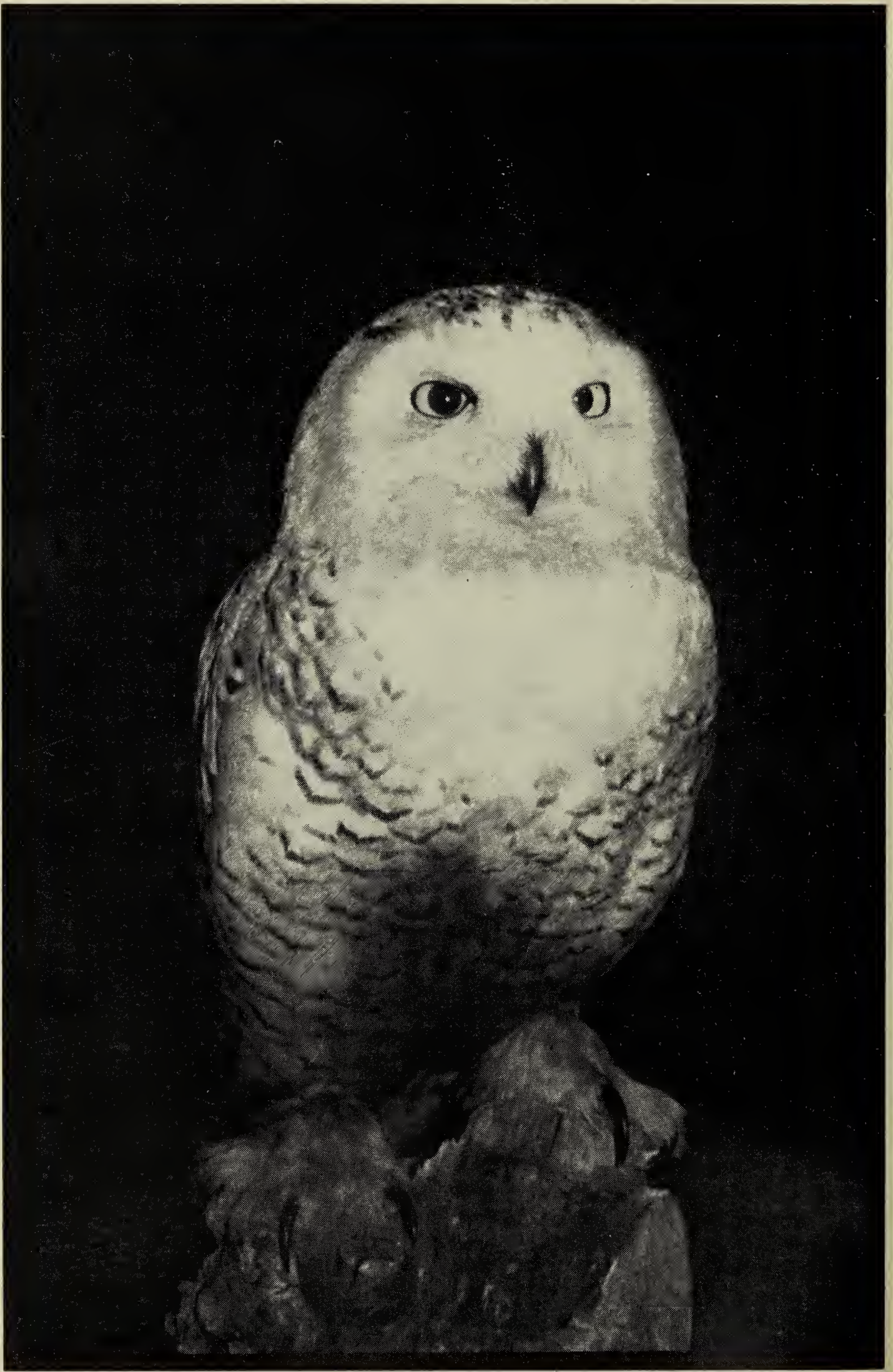
³See Additional Notes at end of Annotated List.

list of Table 2. The 30 most frequently recorded and 30 most common species are shown in Table 1. Where two or more species are tied for frequency or abundance, this is also indicated.

Both ranking procedures were used because a rank based on frequency often is not a reliable indication of a rank based on abundance. A major factor explaining this apparent anomaly is the species' social habits. A dispersed species, e.g., Hairy Woodpecker, usually has a frequency rank much higher than its abundance rank, and is typically recorded in small numbers on a large number of counts. Conversely, a highly gregarious species, e.g., Bohemian Waxwing, usually has a much higher abundance than frequency rank, and is recorded in large numbers on a relatively smaller number of counts. In fact, the Hairy Woodpecker was the 9th most frequently recorded but

only 21st most abundant species; the Bohemian Waxwing was the 11th most frequently recorded but 4th most abundant species. Clearly, both frequency and abundance must be considered in evaluating the status of a species.

Only counts completed within the official count period in each year have been included in the calculation of regularity, frequency, abundance, high counts and lists of all observations of rare species. Counts longer than a day, e.g., counts recording maximum numbers of each species observed during Christmas week, are excluded from data used to determine abundance. Where more than one count was submitted from one location in one year, the count with the highest species total on the day of the count was considered as count day. Species observed only on other counts completed at that location in that year were considered to be ad-



Snowy Owl

Wayne Gemmell

Table 2. Annotated List for Saskatchewan Christmas Bird Counts — 1942-1976

Species	Years	Counts	Rank	Birds	Rank	High Count, Location and Remarks (Unless otherwise noted, month is December)
Red-neck Grebe	1	1	—	1	—	1 Regina 28/68
Horned Grebe	3	3	—	3	—	1 Regina 26/59 & 26/60 & 24/61
Eared Grebe	5	5	—	6	—	2 Regina 30/62. All Regina.
Western Grebe	2	2	—	2	—	1 Regina 26/56 & 26/69
Pied-bill Grebe	8	8	—	9	—	2 Regina 27/55 & 26/73. All Regina.
White Pelican	3	3	—	4	—	2 Regina 26/59; 1 on 26/67 & 26/69. (All)
Am Bittern	1	1	—	1	—	1 Yorkton 26/53. Injured.
Mute Swan	18	18	58 ³	107	44	12 Regina 26/58. All Regina.
Whistling Swan	17	17	61 ³	75	49	8 Regina Jan. 3/65. All Regina.
Trumpeter Swan	1	1	—	1	—	1 Regina Jan. 3/65.
Canada Goose	22	27	48 ²	9427	9	1639 Regina 26/75. N to Kutawagan Lake. In Regina annually 1955-1976
White-fr Goose	1	1	—	1	—	1 Saskatoon 26/74
Snow Goose	1	1	—	1	—	1 Regina 26/74
Ross' Goose	2	2	—	2	—	1 Regina 30/62 & 26/74
*Mallard	29	110	25	12387	7	990 Regina 28/63
Black Duck	1	1	—	1	—	1 Regina 26/73
Gadwall	10	13	—	12	—	2 Regina 24/61 & Jan. 3/65 CP 2 Regina 24/63. N to Saskatoon
Pintail	18	23	54 ²	36	59	3 Regina 26/56 & 27/55 & 26/60, Saskatoon 26/74. North to Saskatoon
Green-wgd Teal	3	3	—	2	—	2 Saskatoon 26/74; CP 1 Regina/55, /56 & (All)
Blue-wgd Teal	6	6	—	4	—	2 (1 inj) Regina 30/62. All Regina
Am Wigeon	8	11	—	17	—	7 Regina 28/63. N to Saskatoon
N Shoveler	4	4	—	5	—	2 Regina 26/75; 1 Regina 30/62, Saskatoon 26/67 & 26/74. All observations.
Redhead	11	14	—	31	—	8 Regina 26/69. N to Saskatoon
Canvasback	16	18	58 ³	24	—	4 Regina 26/70. N to Saskatoon
Greater Scaup	1	1	—	1	—	1 Regina 26/74
*Lesser Scaup	21	39	40	211	34	15 Regina 27/71
*Com Goldeneye	24	69	33	1152	17	207 Saskatoon 26/76
Bufflehead	4	4	—	3	—	2 Regina 26/73, 1 Regina 26/69. CP 1 Reg/60 & /74. (All)
Oldsquaw	1	1	—	—	—	— CP 1 Ft. Qu'Appelle 21/68; collected, 1st Saskatchewan record.
Wh-wgd Scoter	1	1	—	2	—	2 Cold River 15/74
Ruddy Duck	15	15	—	42	56	7 Regina 30/62. All Regina
Hood Merganser	3	3	—	6	—	3 Estevan 30/60; 2 Gardiner Dam 20/72; 1 Reg 26/74. (All)
Com Merganser	12	18	58 ³	29	—	7 Gardner Dam 30/76. N to Squaw Rapids and Cold River
Red-br Merganser	3	4	—	5	—	2 Regina 26/56 & Saskatoon 26/73; 1 Regina 26/69. CP 2 Ft. Qu'Appelle 24/69. (All)
*Goshawk	32	99	26	100	46	5 Yorkton 26/43 & Little Bear Lake 26/58
Sharp-sh Hawk	4	4	—	3	—	1 Carlton 30/56 & Moose Jaw 26/70 & Big Gully 18/74. CP 1 Nipawin-Squaw Rapids 26/69. (All)
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	—	—	—	— CP 1 Battleford 28/59
*Rough-leg Hawk	18	37	43	21	—	3 Val Marie 26/66
*Golden Eagle	33	136	24	120	43	5 Skull Creek 26/69
*Bald Eagle	16	26	50	56	54	19 Nipawin-Squaw Rapids 26/69
Marsh Hawk	7	7	—	4	—	1 per count. N to Harris, Kenaston, Hawarden.
Gyrfalcon	5	8	—	8	—	1 Gull Lake, Harris, Lady Lake, Last Mt. Lake, Reg, Saskatoon (2 yrs), White Bear per count. CP 2 Regina/60, Skull Creek/76
*Prairie Falcon	22	43	39	24	—	1 per count. N to Squaw Rapids-Carrot R.
Peregrine Falcon	7	8	—	4	—	1 Saskatoon 26/72 & 26/75
*Merlin	25	82	30	84	47	6 Lumsden 29/58 & Skull Creek 27/69.
Am Kestrel	3	3	—	2	—	2 CP 1 Spring Valley 17/72
*Spruce Grouse	12	13	—	38	57	29 Nipawin 31/48
*Ruffed Grouse	35	329	13	712	22	17 Battleford 26/60
*Willow Ptarmigan	10	14	—	76	48	32 Stony Rapids 31/71
*Sharp-t Grouse	35	568	5	9069	10	386 Harris 17/72. See below.
Sage Grouse	8	8	—	29	—	11 Shaunavon Jan. 1/62 & Masefield 27/62. N to Maple Creek
*Ring-nk Pheasant	31	165	21 ²	1133	19	55 Woodrow 26/59
Chukar	2	2	—	37	58	30 Lumsden 29/58; 7 Battleford 29/47. (All). See below.
*Gray Partridge	35	483	8	10795	8	532 Saskatoon 26/70

*See Distribution map.

²Two-way tie.

³Three-way tie.

Species	Years	Counts	Rank	Birds	Rank	High count, Location and Remarks (Unless otherwise noted, month is December)
Am Coot	22	24	54 ²	71	51	11 Regina 28/63. All Regina except 2 at Gardiner Dam & Ft. Qu'Appelle
Glaucous Gull	2	2	—	4	—	3 Gardiner Dam 22/75 & 1 on 30/76 (All)
Herring Gull	1	1	—	—	—	CP 1 Regina 30/56
Ring-bill Gull	2	2	—	1	—	1 Saskatoon 26/58. CP 1 Regina 23/69 (All)
Rock Dove	19	309	15	21462	5	1846 Saskatoon 27/71. See below
*Mourning Dove	8	12	—	10	—	3 Round Lake 28/75
*Great Horn Owl	35	364	12	555	25 ²	11 Harris 19/71
*Snowy Owl	35	325	14	521	27	15 Regina 26/75
*Hawk Owl	15	17	61 ³	12	—	2 Masefield 30/60. CP Nipawin 31/56; Radisson 20/69
Barred Owl	3	4	—	1	—	1 Klogei Lake-High Hill 27/59. CP 1 Radisson 20, 27/68 & Regina 23/69 & 31/72
Great Gray Owl	4	7	—	6	—	2 Nipawin 29/73. 1 Carrot River, Cowan L — Cowan R, Nipawin (twice), Nipawin-Squaw Rapids, Pas Trail, Saltcoats
*Long-eared Owl	12	12	—	8	—	2 Shaunavon 23/60. CP 3 Masefield 23/62
*Short-eared Owl	27	92	27	191	38	23 Regina 26/69
Boreal Owl	8	9	—	6	—	1 per count. South to Dilke, N to Nipawin
*Saw-whet Owl	9	12	—	5	—	1 per count.
*Common Flicker	19	39	41	55	55	6 Regina 26/67. Only "Red-Shafted" was at Regina 26/70
*Pil Woodpecker	31	52	37	35	60 ²	2 Nipawin 26/42 & Wallwort Jan. 1/45 & Somme 26/53 & Big River 30/55. CP 2 Nipawin/52 & Big River 26/58 & 30/59
*Hairy Woodpecker	35	439	9	874	21	13 Saskatoon 26/72
*Downy Woodpecker	35	503	7	1146	18	23 Saskatoon 26/73 & 26/76
*B-b 3-t Woodpeck	16	19	56	17	—	3 Somme 27/52
*N 3-t Woodpecker	17	25	51	35	60 ²	7 Somme 27/52
*Horned Lark	32	227	18	5688	13	519 Moose Jaw 26/68
*Gray Jay	35	162	23	448	29	67 Besnard Lake 27/74
*Blue Jay	35	259	16	874	20	25 Saskatoon 26/70
*Bl-bill Magpie	35	844	1	17007	6	381 Saskatoon 26/74
*Common Raven	33	166	21 ²	1548	16	195 Besnard Lake 27/74
*Common Crow	19	30	45	66	52	33 Prince Albert 27/57 (9 ravens also); 5 Moose Jaw 26/62
*Bl-cap Chickadee	35	695	3	8524	11	218 Saskatoon 26/73
Mount Chickadee	1	1	—	1	—	1 Piapot 28/66
*Boreal Chickadee	31	70	32	253	31	31 Besnard Lake 27/74
*Wh-br Nuthatch	30	83	29	124	42	4 Wallwort Jan. 1/45 & Somme 27/52 & Big River 31/52 & Moose Jaw 26/62 & Spirit Lake 29/63
*Red-br Nuthatch	25	53	36	217	32	60 Fort Walsh 31/76
*Brown Creeper	15	23	54 ²	29	—	5 Fort Walsh 31/76
North Mockingbird	1	1	—	1	—	1 Regina 26/67
Brown Thrasher	2	2	—	1	—	1 Saskatoon 26/60. CP 1 Regina 21/68
*Am Robin	27	73	31	194	36	44 Saskatoon 26/70
Mount Bluebird	1	1	—	—	—	CP 1 Ft. Qu'Appelle 26/73
Town Solitaire	5	6	—	6	—	1 Regina (4 yrs.), Moose Jaw, Ft. Walsh
*Gold-cr Kinglet	13	28	47	213	33	45 Big Gully Creek 19/74
Ruby-cr Kinglet	1	1	—	1	—	1 Biggar 16/72
*Bohemian Waxwing	34	422	11	68329	4	12442 Saskatoon 26/75
*Cedar Waxwing	21	38	42	582	24	90 Saskatoon 26/75
*Northern Shrike	33	172	20	153	39	6 Saskatoon 26/63 & Pike Lake 28/69
*Starling	32	208	19	2524	15	124 Moose Jaw 26/68
Yel-rump Warbler	1	1	—	1	—	1 Saskatoon 28/54. (Myrtle)
*House Sparrow	35	781	2	217058	1	4333 Saskatoon 26/70
*West Meadowlark	11	17	61 ³	12	—	3 Skull Creek 26/71
*Red-wg Blackbird	14	24	52 ²	71	50	30 Estevan 27/62
*Rusty Blackbird	17	56	34	206	35	38 Regina 26/73
*Brewer Blackbird	20	27	48 ²	58	53	23 Wolseley 31/63
*Common Grackle	12	14	—	13	—	3 Regina 26/67
Brown-h Cowbird	1	1	—	—	—	CP 11 Masefield Jan. 2/60
Cardinal	1	1	—	1	—	1 Craven 29/60. Collected, 1st Sask. specimen record
*Evening Grosbeak	34	255	17	3725	14	202 Nipawin 26/72
Purple Finch	8	9	—	26	—	14 Saskatoon 26/69. N to Saskatoon
*Pine Grosbeak	35	437	10	7550	12	422 Saskatoon 26/69
Gray-c Rosy Finch	4	4	—	140	40	140 Ft. Walsh 31/76. CP 25 Dollard/45, 3 Dollard/46, 1 Spring Valley 30/75. (All)
*Hoary Redpoll	25	89	28	555	25 ²	62 Cumberland House 31/69
*Common Redpoll	35	541	6	72785	3	3651 Nipawin 26/52
*Pine Siskin	8	14	—	193	37	50 Moose Jaw 26/72
*Red Crossbill	15	29	46	471	28	235 Nipawin 31/48
*Wh-wgd Crossbill	21	51	38	702	23	230 Emma Lake 30/75
Ruf-side Towhee	1	1	—	1	—	1 Moose Jaw 26/63
Vesper Sparrow	1	1	—	1	—	1 Saltcoats 27/52. Injured wing.

Species	Years	Counts	Rank	Birds	Rank	High Count, Location and Remarks (Unless otherwise noted, month is December)
*Dark-eyed Junco	24	54	35	127	41	50 Yorkton 26/53. Only 3 "Oregon" records: 2 Saskatoon 26/58, CP 1 Moose Jaw 23/63, CP 1 Ft. Qu'Appelle Jan. 1/64
*Tree Sparrow	24	32	44	103	45	28 Skull Creek 30/56
Harris Sparrow	7	9	—	7	—	1 per count. N to Nipawin
Wh-cr Sparrow	1	1	—	1	—	1 Saskatoon 26/74
Wh-thr Sparrow	6	6	—	5	—	1 per count. N to Nipawin
Fox Sparrow	1	1	—	—	—	1 CP 1 Val Marie 22/67
*Song Sparrow	8	10	—	9	—	1 per count
*Lapland Longspur	9	13	—	259	30	200 Caron 27/71
*Snow Bunting	35	655	4	133058	2	11561 Nipawin 26/52

ditional species, i.e., species observed during count period but not on count day. Counts with slightly different count names such as Nipawin — Squaw Rapids and Nipawin — White Gull Creek were maintained as separate counts.

Distribution maps are included for 63 of 75 species recorded more than nine times during the 35-year period. The Rock Dove was not mapped because it was not counted prior to 1958. Eleven species of waterfowl were excluded because they were very locally distributed. All localities are given for species recorded fewer than six times. Northernmost or southernmost localities are provided for species noted six to nine times and for species recorded more than nine times but for which accompanying distribution maps are not included.

The information used to draw the distribution maps followed the same general criteria as those used to determine frequency except that counts completed in Saskatchewan outside the official count period were also used. It was felt that these counts provided significant additional information on early winter distribution of several species.

A total of 946 counts was reviewed for this summary; 945 were published in the *Blue Jay* and the other (from Black Lake in 1972) was published in *American Birds*. A total of 920 counts was used to evaluate regularity and frequency and to establish high counts for common species and lists of all observations for rare species;

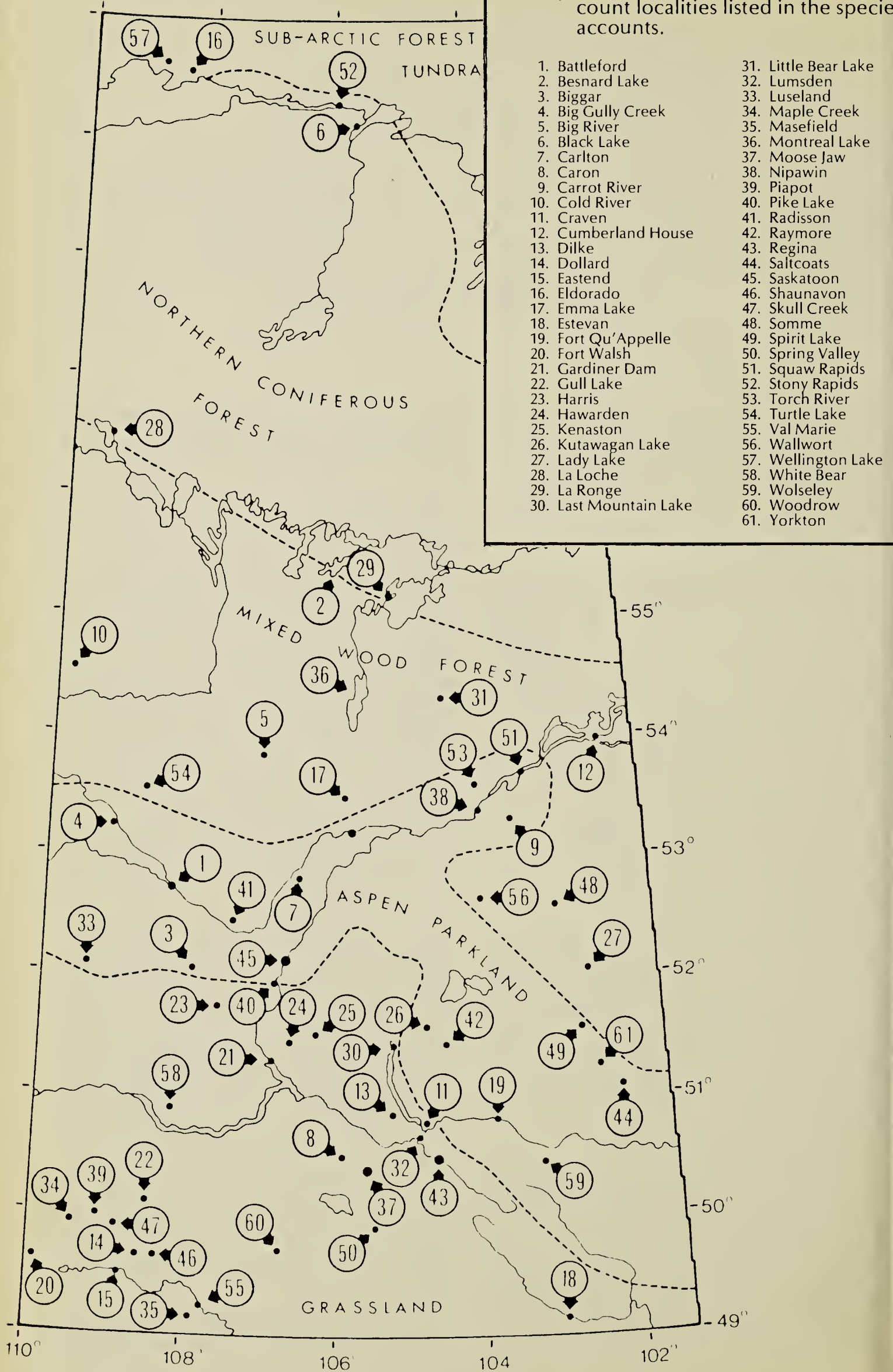
916 counts were used to establish abundance; and distribution maps are based on 933 counts.

Information on the number of hours spent counting and miles travelled was often not provided; therefore, analysis by party-hours (the procedure used in *American Birds* to map distribution) or party-miles could not be used here. The small number of observers participating in most counts often resulted in a small number of species on count day and a relatively large number during count period when additional species are included. We felt that, for mapping purposes, the most accurate indication of a species' frequency in an area was its presence during the count period (i.e., either on count day or as an additional species).

The distribution maps show the frequency of occurrence of each species in blocks that are two degrees longitude by one degree latitude; these areas, referred to here as degree blocks, are based on the 1:250,000 scale maps published by the Surveys and Mapping Branch, Department of Energy Mines and Resources. The total number of counts in each degree block is presented on the first distribution map. The percent of counts on which a species was recorded (during count period) is presented diagrammatically in the circle contained in each degree block.

To provide more accurate range information for the earlier years, the

Fig. 1. Vegetation zones⁵ and locations of count localities listed in the species accounts.



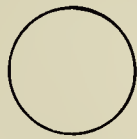
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|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Battleford | 31. Little Bear Lake |
| 2. Besnard Lake | 32. Lumsden |
| 3. Biggar | 33. Luseland |
| 4. Big Gully Creek | 34. Maple Creek |
| 5. Big River | 35. Masefield |
| 6. Black Lake | 36. Montreal Lake |
| 7. Carlton | 37. Moose Jaw |
| 8. Caron | 38. Nipawin |
| 9. Carrot River | 39. Piapot |
| 10. Cold River | 40. Pike Lake |
| 11. Craven | 41. Radisson |
| 12. Cumberland House | 42. Raymore |
| 13. Dilke | 43. Regina |
| 14. Dollard | 44. Saltcoats |
| 15. Eastend | 45. Saskatoon |
| 16. Eldorado | 46. Shaunavon |
| 17. Emma Lake | 47. Skull Creek |
| 18. Estevan | 48. Somme |
| 19. Fort Qu'Appelle | 49. Spirit Lake |
| 20. Fort Walsh | 50. Spring Valley |
| 21. Gardiner Dam | 51. Squaw Rapids |
| 22. Gull Lake | 52. Stony Rapids |
| 23. Harris | 53. Torch River |
| 24. Hawarden | 54. Turtle Lake |
| 25. Kenaston | 55. Val Marie |
| 26. Kutawagan Lake | 56. Wallwort |
| 27. Lady Lake | 57. Wellington Lake |
| 28. La Loche | 58. White Bear |
| 29. La Ronge | 59. Wolseley |
| 30. Last Mountain Lake | 60. Woodrow |
| | 61. Yorkton |

DISTRIBUTION MAPS

SHADED PART OF EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS PER CENT OF COUNTS ON WHICH THE SPECIES WAS RECORDED DURING COUNT PERIOD, 1942 TO 1976.

(CIRCLES ARE SMALLER IN DEGREE BLOCKS WITH FEWER THAN 10 COUNTS)

EG.



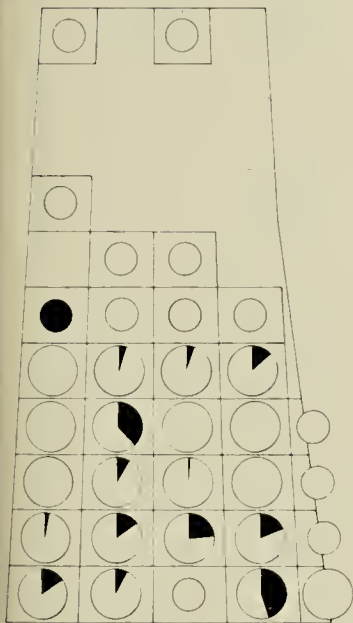
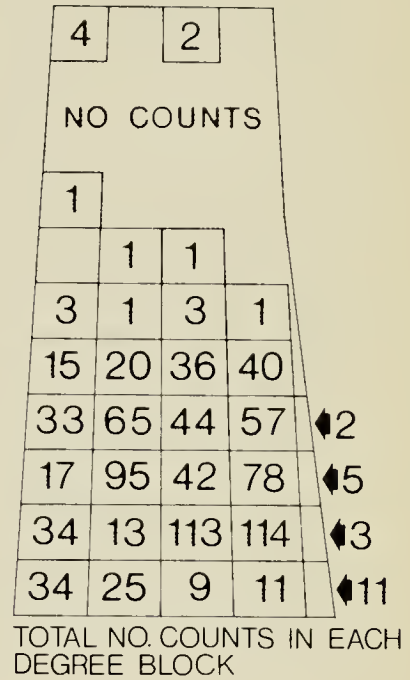
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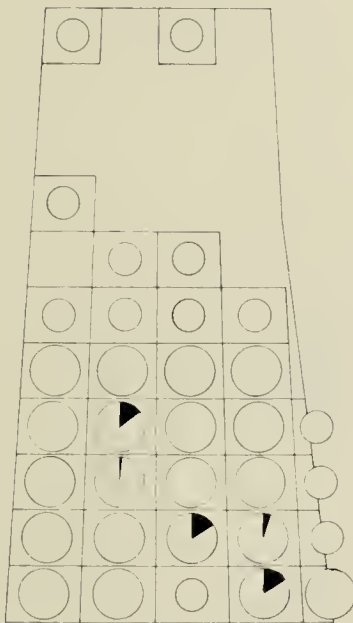
25 % OF COUNTS



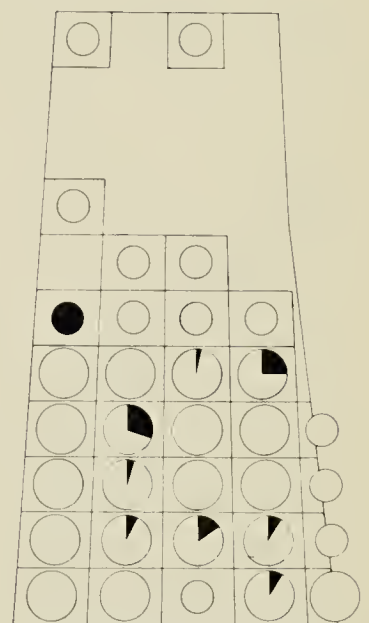
ALL COUNTS



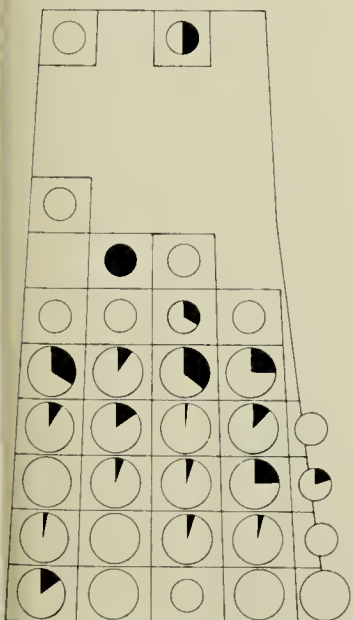
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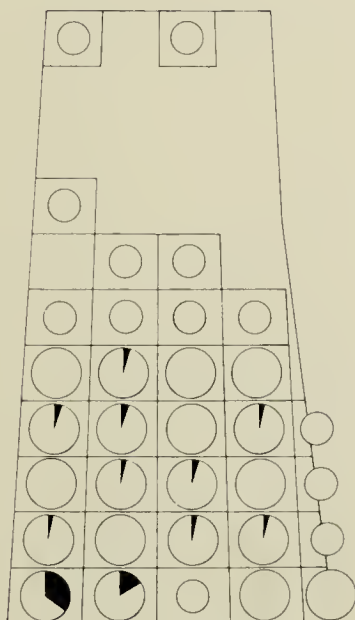
LESSER SCAUP



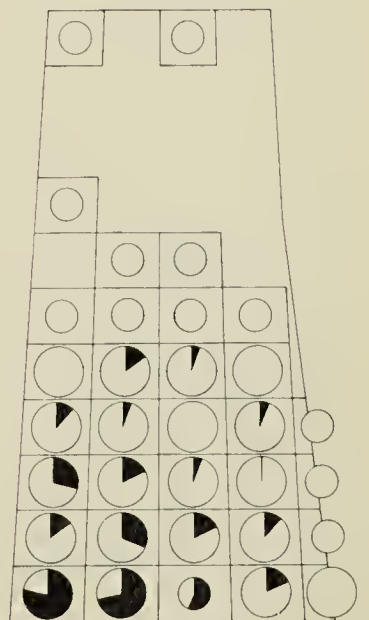
COMMON GOLDENEYE



GOSHAWK

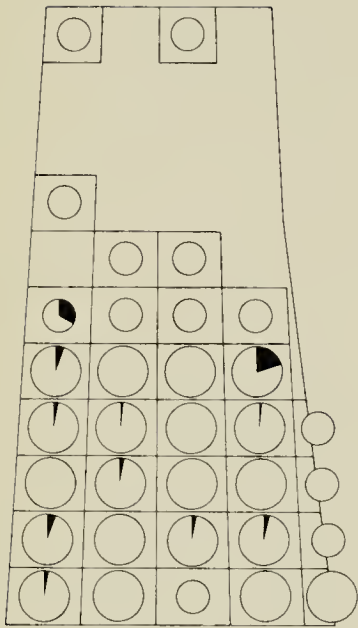


ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

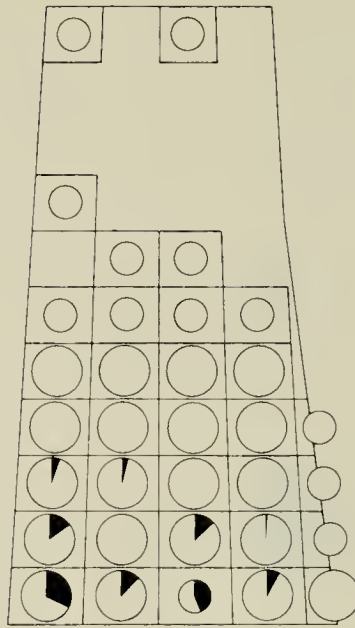


GOLDEN EAGLE

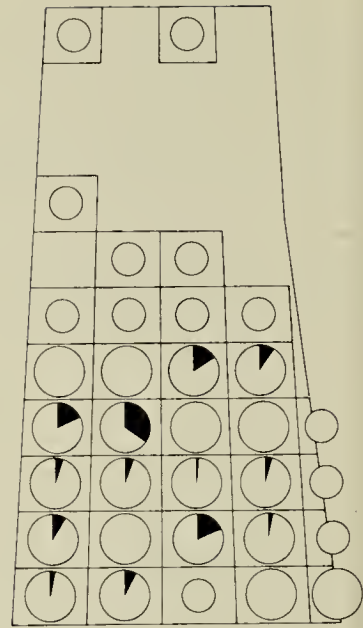
DISTRIBUTION MAPS



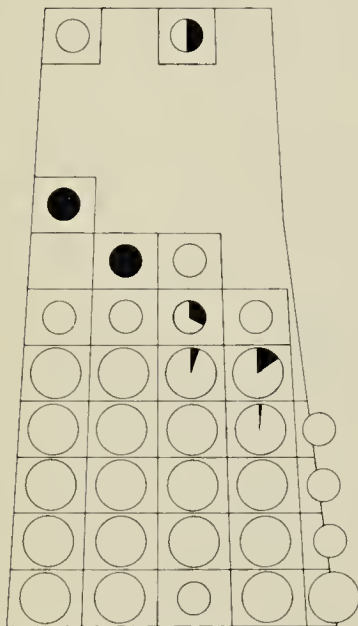
BALD EAGLE



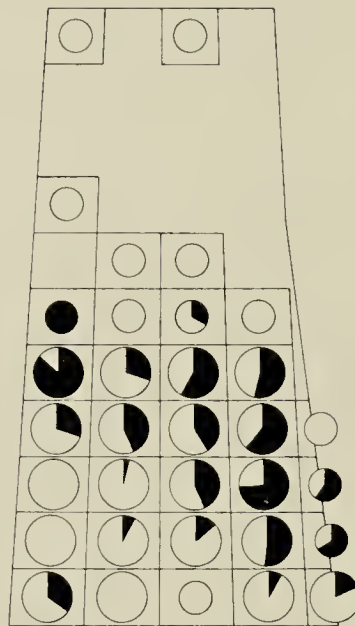
PRAIRIE FALCON



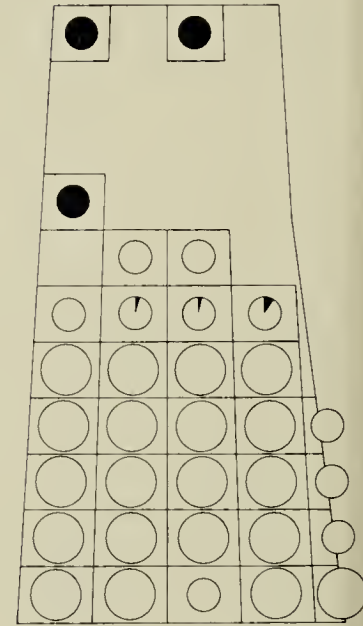
MERLIN



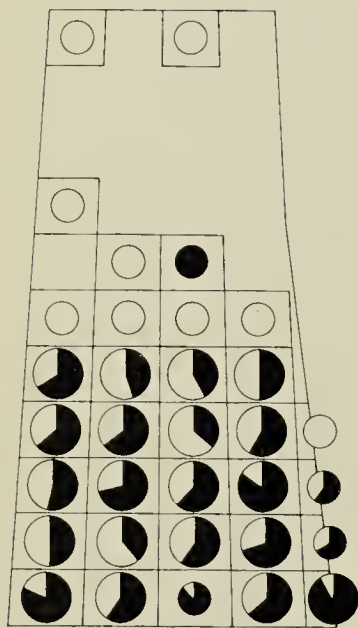
SPRUCE GROUSE



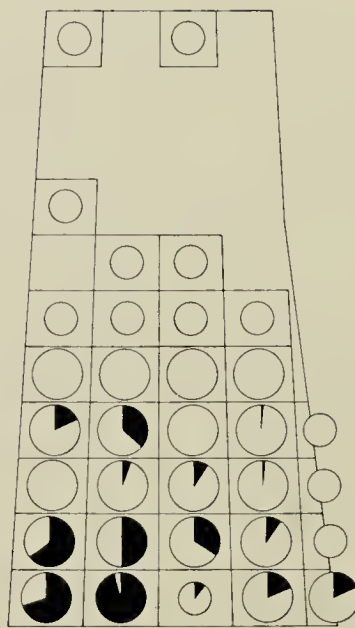
RUFFED GROUSE



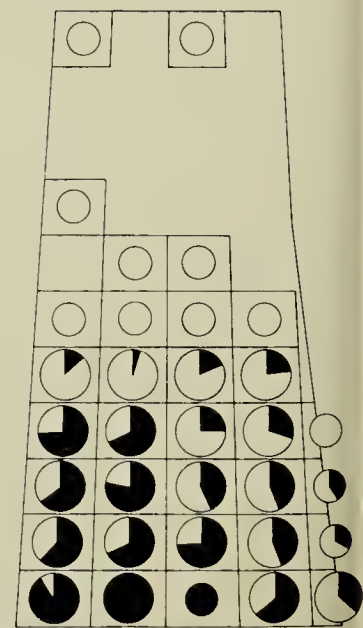
WILLOW PTARMIGAN



SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

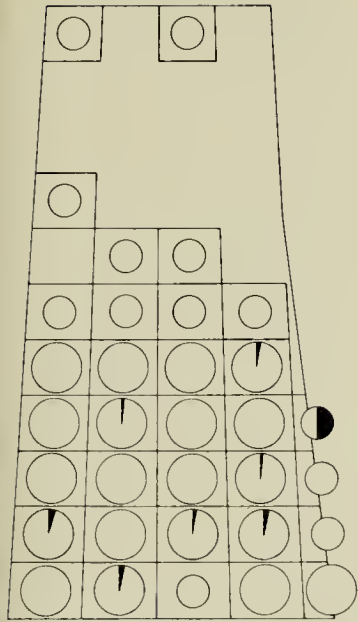


RING-NECKED PHEASANT

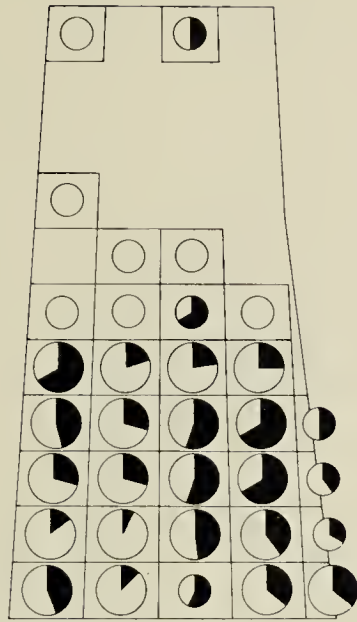


GRAY PARTRIDGE

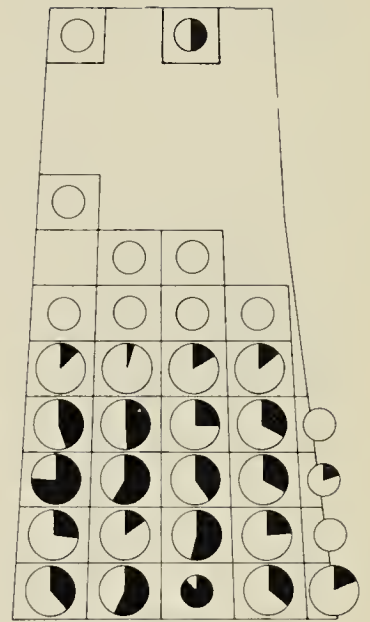
DISTRIBUTION MAPS



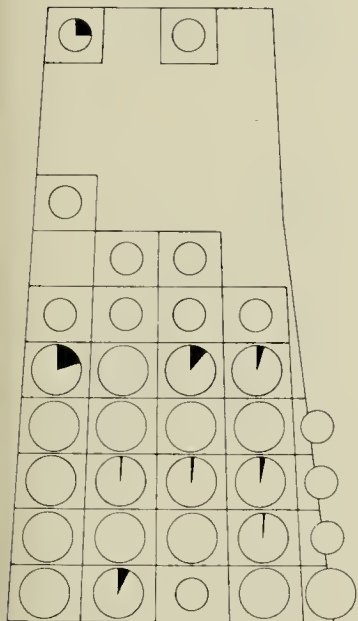
MOURNING DOVE



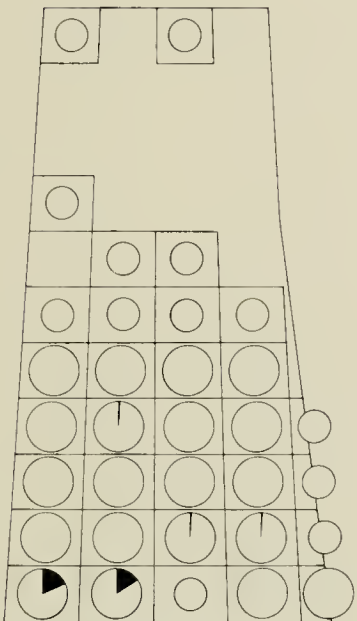
GREAT HORNED OWL



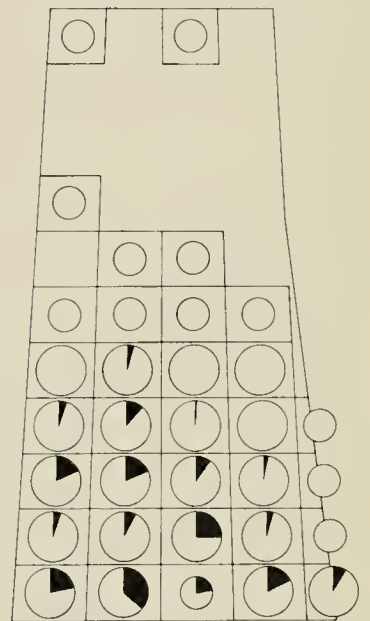
SNOWY OWL



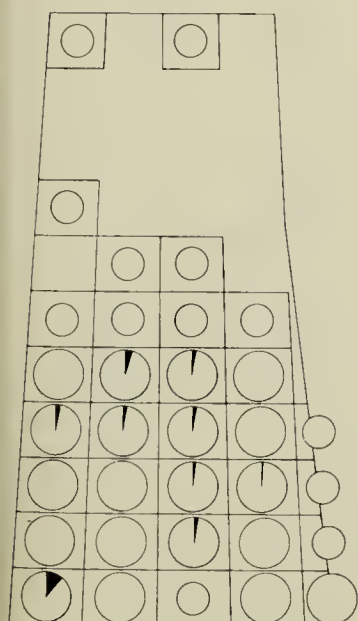
HAWK OWL



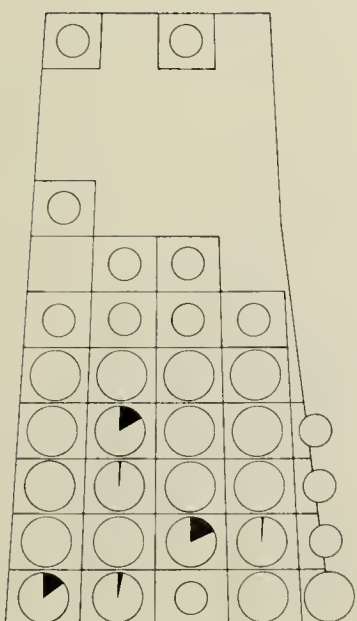
LONG-EARED OWL



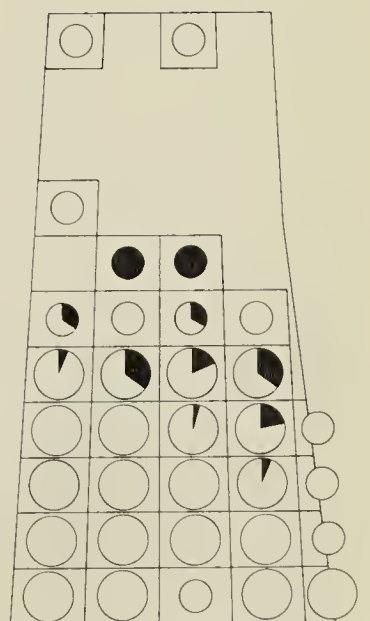
SHORT-EARED OWL



SAW-WHET OWL

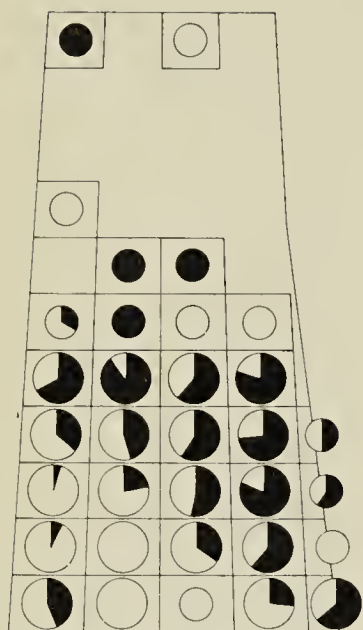


COMMON FLICKER

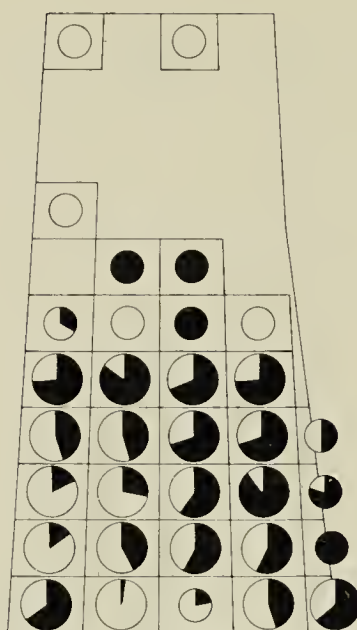


PILEATED WOODPECKER

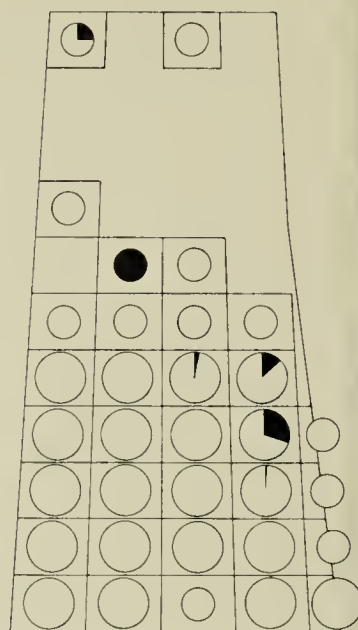
DISTRIBUTION MAPS



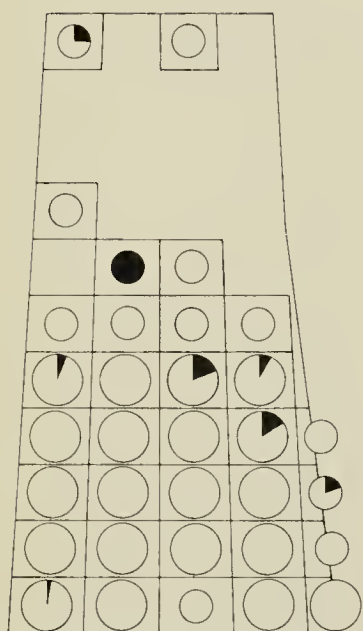
HAIRY WOODPECKER



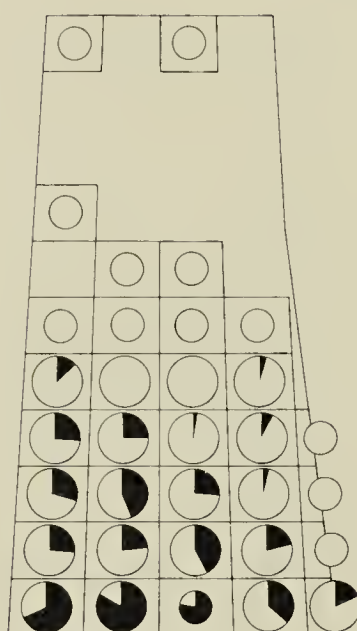
DOWNY WOODPECKER



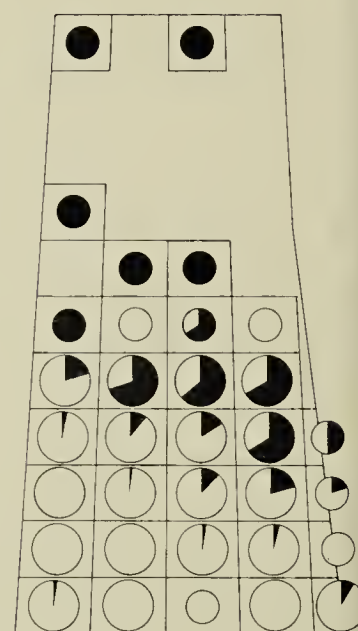
BLACK-BACKED 3-TOED WOODPECKER



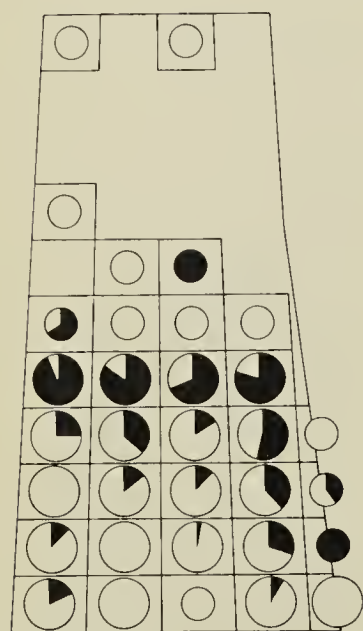
NORTHERN 3-TOED WOODPECKER



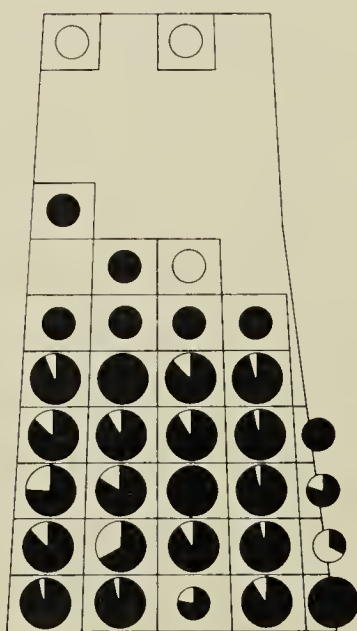
HORNED LARK



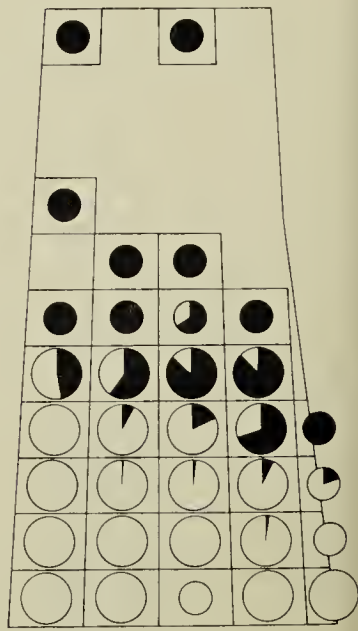
GRAY JAY



BLUE JAY

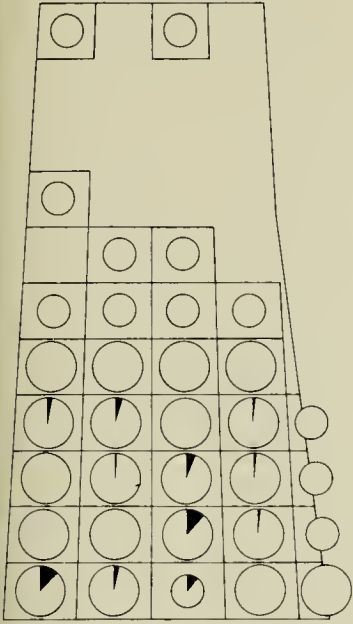


BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE

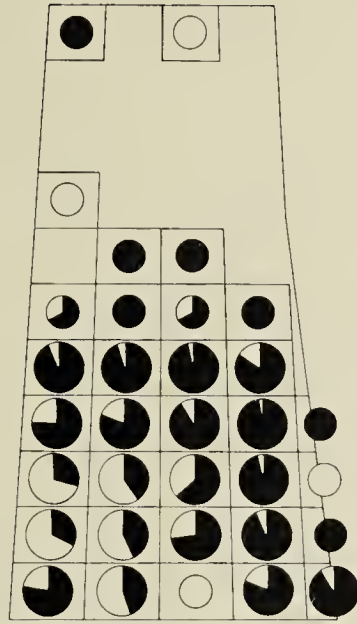


COMMON RAVEN

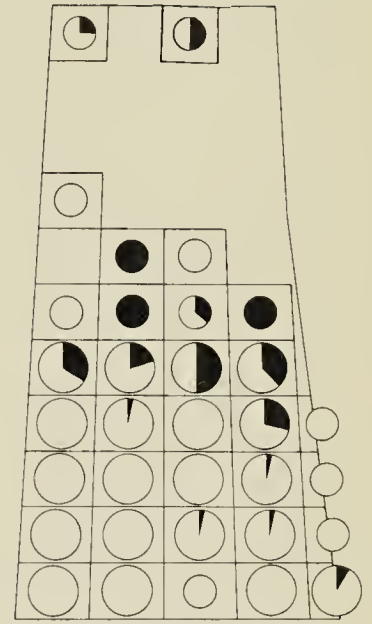
DISTRIBUTION MAPS



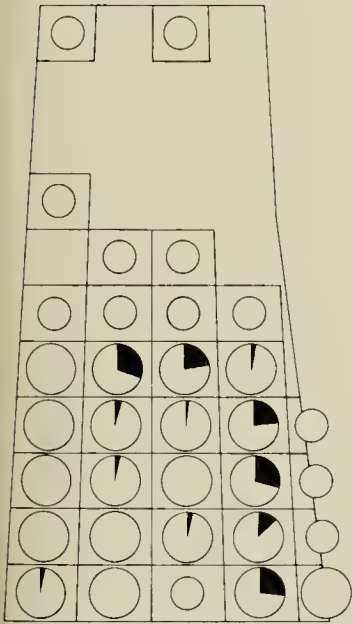
COMMON CROW



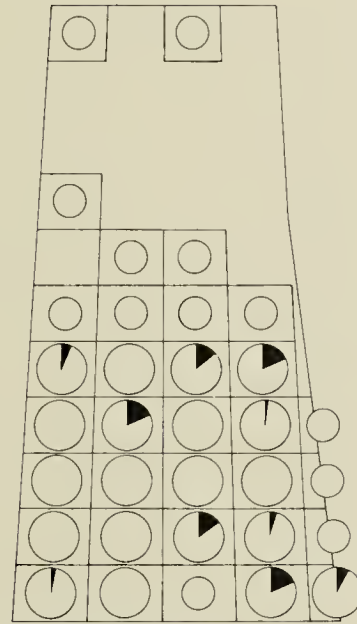
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE



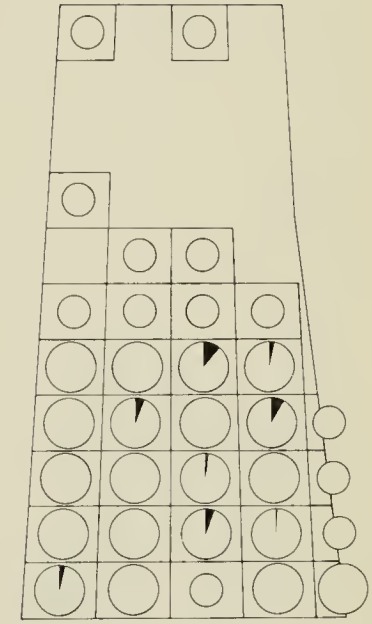
BOREAL CHICKADEE



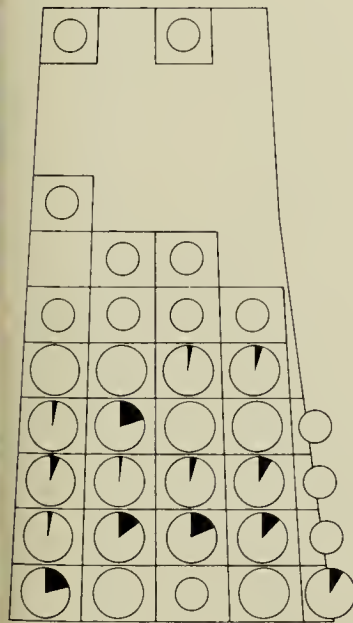
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH



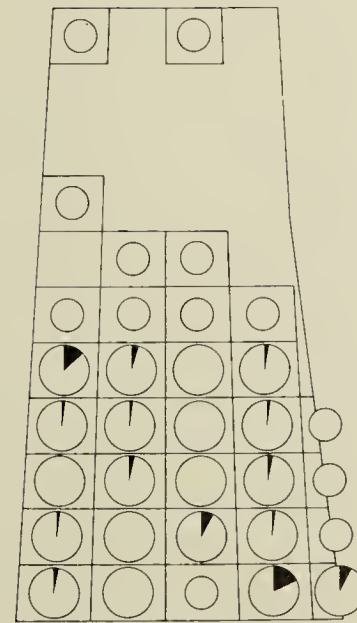
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH



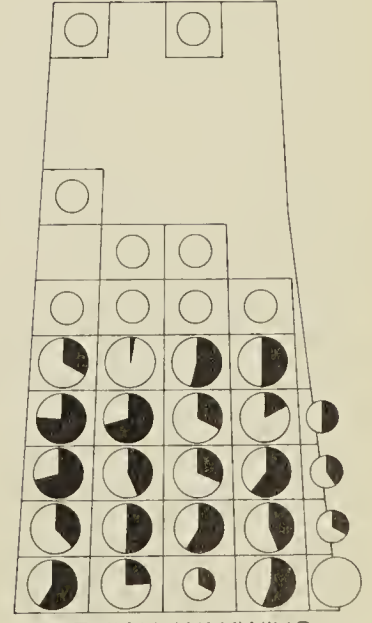
BROWN CREEPER



AMERICAN ROBIN

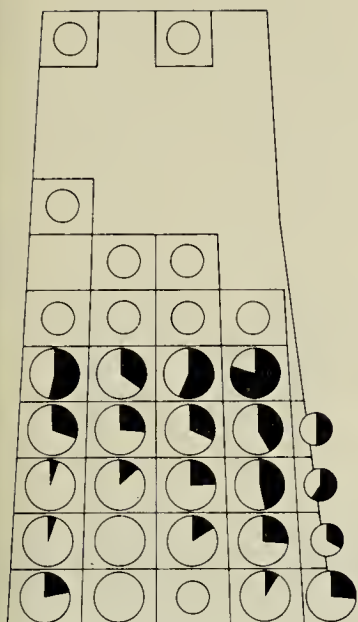


GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

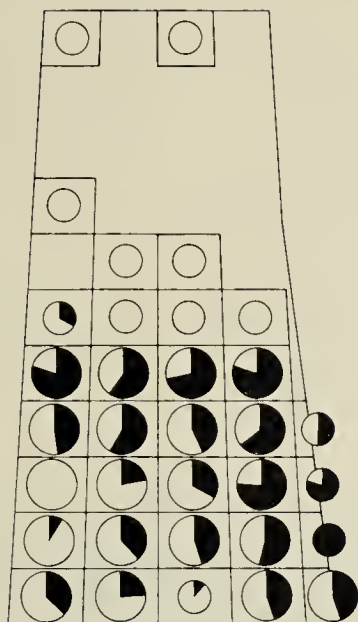


BOHEMIAN WAXWING

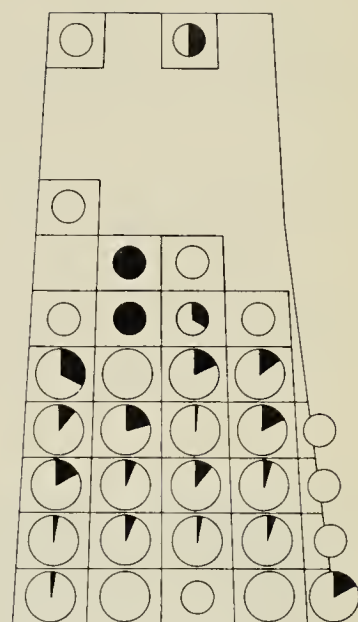
DISTRIBUTION MAPS



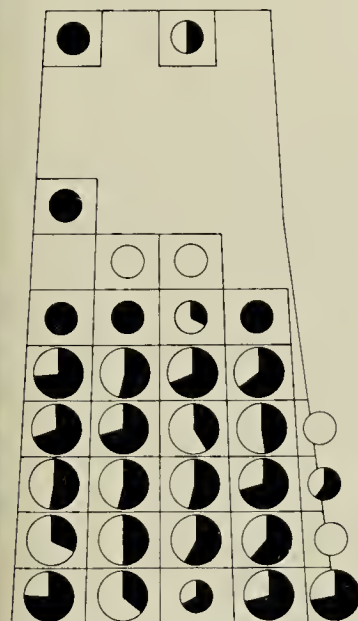
EVENING GROSBEAK



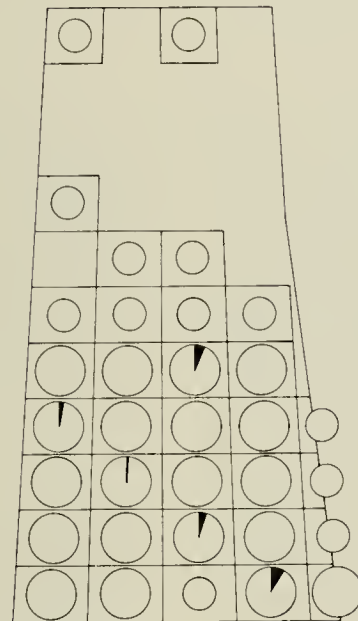
PINE GROSBEAK



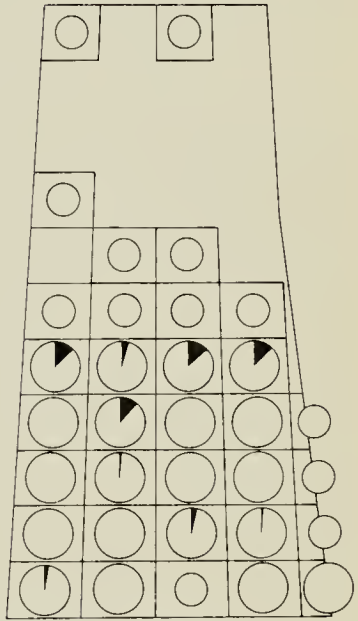
HOARY REDPOLL



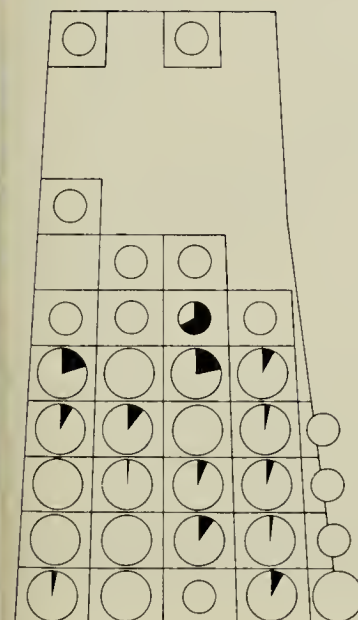
COMMON REDPOLL



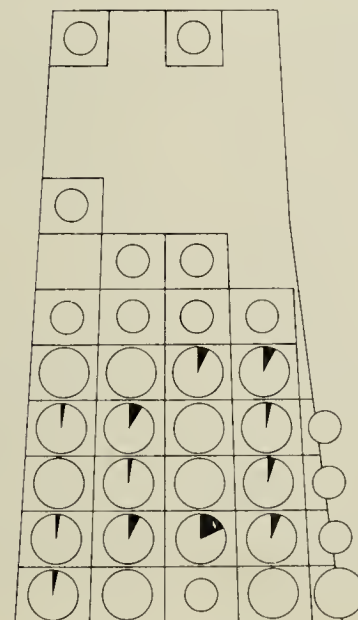
PINE SISKIN



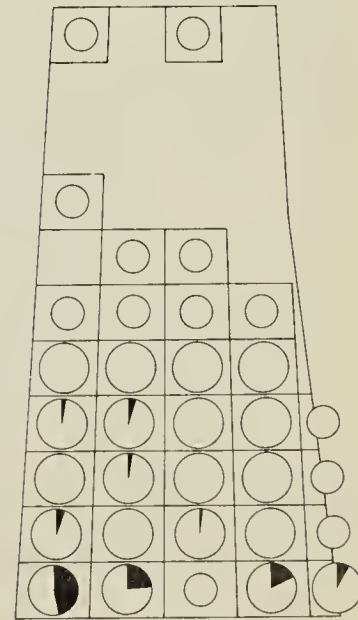
RED CROSSBILL



WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

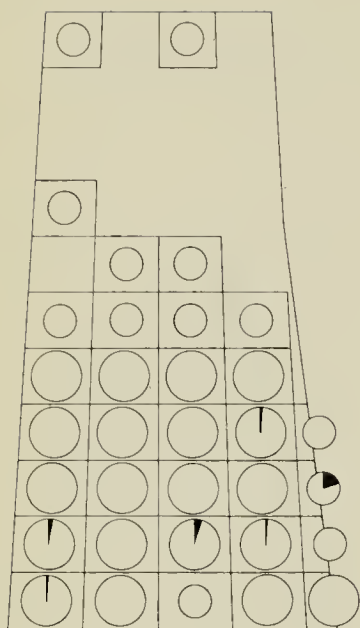


DARK-EYED JUNCO

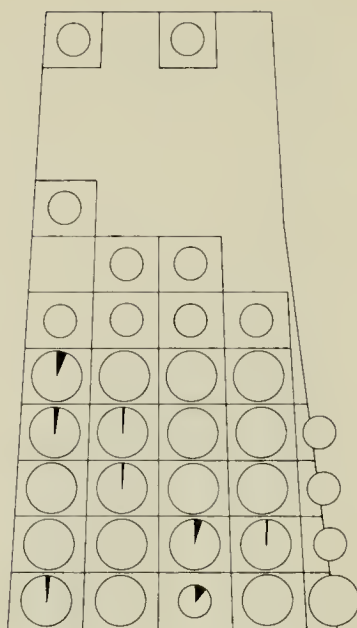


TREE SPARROW

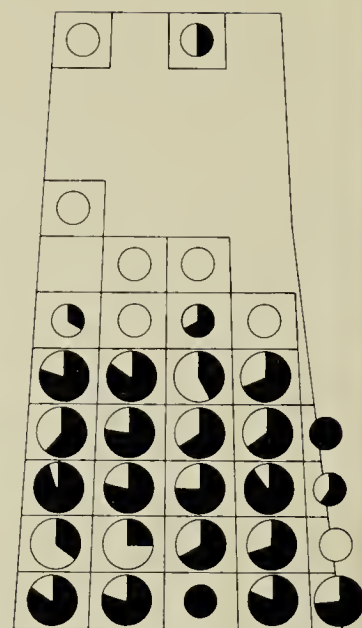
DISTRIBUTION MAPS



SONG SPARROW



LAPLAND LONGSPUR



SNOW BUNTING

distribution maps have incorporated observations of species that were present during the latter half of December or early January, but not necessarily during Christmas week. When organized Christmas Bird Counts were first undertaken in the early 1940's, the count period was relatively short, extending only from Christmas Day to New Year's Day. This period was later lengthened to 14, then 16 days from mid-December to early January.

An example of the regularity, frequency and abundance summary is as follows:

HAIRY WOODPECKER. 35 years; 439 counts (rank, 9); 874 individuals (rank, 21). This indicates that the Hairy Woodpecker was recorded in all 35 years; on 439 of a possible 920 counts (making it the 9th most-frequently recorded species); with a total of 874 individuals on count day (making it the 21st most abundant species).

Common names of species and the order in which they are presented follow the latest American Ornithologists' Union Checklist and revisions^{1 2 3}; thus Red-shafted and Yellow-shafted Flicker are regarded

as one species, Common Flicker; Oregon and Slate-colored Junco are treated together under Dark-eyed Junco. Each of these four subspecies has been recorded at least once on Saskatchewan Christmas Bird Counts. Subspecific common names are maintained in the respective species accounts.

Within the province of Saskatchewan 121 species have been recorded on count day and six species have been recorded as additional species during count period. In the following annotated list, count period observations (made during count period but not on count day) are preceded by CP; often no date is available. Distribution maps are included for species marked with an asterisk (*).

Additional Notes

Sharp-tailed Grouse. A Greater Prairie Chicken X Sharp-tailed Grouse hybrid was observed at Raymore on December 24, 1971 (CP observation).

Sage Grouse. A higher Christmas Bird Count total of 30 individuals was made at Eastend on December 26, 1935.⁴

Chukar. These observations followed local

releases. The species were unable to survive the severe winters. None of the introductions was successful.

Rock Dove. Rock Doves were not counted on Christmas Bird Counts prior to 1958. Much higher ranks for frequency and abundance would be expected if the species had been counted over the entire 35-year period.

¹A.O.U. 1957. Check-list of North American Birds. 5th Ed. American Ornithologists' Union. 691 pp.

²A.O.U. 1973. Thirty-second supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American birds. Auk 90:411-419.

³A.O.U. 1976. Thirty-third supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American birds. Auk 93:875-879.

⁴HOUSTON, M. I. and C. S. HOUSTON. 1976. Prairie Christmas Bird Counts, 1906 - 1941. Blue Jay 34:214-219.

⁵RICHARDS, J. H. and K. I. FUNG. 1969. Atlas of Saskatchewan. University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. 236 pp.



Dark-eyed Junco

Doug Gilroy