

30 Years Ago

An unusual contribution to ornithology in Saskatchewan was published unpretentiously in the April-May-June, 1943, issue of the *Blue Jay*. Laurence B. Potter of Eastend, Saskatchewan, submitted an article entitled "Saskatchewan Bird Records Made Since The Publication Of Mitchell's Catalogue Of Saskatchewan Birds In 1924". There were 27 species in the list, including 12 records that were still sufficiently noteworthy as to be referred to, either specifically or generally, in W. E. Godfrey's "Birds of Canada" in 1966. Taken verbatim from the article, the 12 are:

AMERICAN (COMMON) EGRET. — Specimen taken at Davidson by Reuben Lloyd, August 7, 1937.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER. — Sight record, J. Dewey Soper near Bracken, June, 1939.

BARN OWL. — Specimen obtained from Aylesbury, May 5, 1924.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD. — Specimen picked up at Eastend in dying condition, Aug. 10, 1929 by Henry Clarke. Sent by L. B. Potter to Provincial Museum.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD. — Specimen taken by Charles Guiguet at Shaunavon, August 22, 1935.

PINYON JAY. — Sight record by L. B. Potter at Eastend, September 16, 1910.

BULLOCKS ORIOLE. — Sight record by Potter at Eastend, May 27, 1937. Specimen of young bird taken by Potter, July 10, 1937.

HEPBURN'S (GRAY-CROWNED) ROSY FINCH. — Specimen taken by Spencer Pearse, Ravenscrag, March 1, 1933.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE. — Specimen taken by Norman Clarke at Tregarva, June 6, 1929.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. — Specimen taken by John Nelson at Percival, October 21, 1936.

SAGE THRASHER. — Specimen taken south of Shaunavon on Frenchman River by Charles F. Holmes, June 24, 1933.

MOCKINGBIRD. — First seen by Potter at Eastend, May 31, 1928. Specimen collected June 4. Second specimen collected by S. A. Mann, Skull Creek, Nov. 1, 1929.

Four of the other records were:

HUDSONIAN CURLEW. — Specimen taken by Mitchell at Last Mountain Lake, May 29, 1924.

BLACK VULTURE. — Sight record, E. M. Knowles, Regina, September 19, 1939.

SCREECH OWL. — Specimen taken by Mitchell, Souris Valley, 1926.

CHIMNEY SWIFT. — Two specimens secured by F. G. Bard from the Pasco Hills, May, 1939.

The other 11 species were: Caspian Tattler, Blue Goose, Little Brown Crane, Yellow Rail, Knot, Cooper's Hawk, Crested Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, Rough-winged Swallow, Connecticut Warbler and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

JUNCOS WINTERING NEAR THE CHURCHILL IN SASKATCHEWAN

According to "Birds of Canada" by W. E. Godfrey, the Slate-colored Junco has been recorded wintering as far north as the Nipawin area. It might be of interest to note that there has been one Slate-colored Junco here on the banks of the Churchill this winter. I observed it on Feb. 13, 14, and 15, 1973, for a few minutes on each of those dates, always between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. It was on a wooden platform which was leaning against the side of a plywood shed in our yard, about 14 feet from the windows. As these mornings were cold, the bird was obviously taking advantage of the morning sun's rays which shone against the shed, and were reflected by the plywood.

Seven years ago in Pine House Lake (about 15 miles south of the Churchill) in December, 1966, I had seen a flock of perhaps a half a dozen of these juncos near our house a few times, but being a relatively new bird watcher I did not realize they were out of their supposed winter range. — Mrs. Theresa Zaitsev, Stanley Mission, Saskatchewan

WINTERING RAVENS AT SYLVAN LAKE, ALBERTA

On December 20, 1972, I sighted a Raven, which is not a common sight in this part of Alberta. Then, on New Year's Day, I saw a pair of these birds flying across the road. Again on January 14, 1973, while I was having breakfast a Raven flew past my house. I went outside to investigate and saw two more birds flying above the tree tops. A