

published distribution data included on the map. The manuscript was critically read by F. R. Cook who offered suggestions for its improvement.

¹Conant, R. 1958. A field guide to reptiles and amphibians of the United States and Canada east of the 100th meridian. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

²Ditmars, R. L. 1936. The reptiles of North America. Doubleday and Company, Inc., New York.

³Logier, E. B. S., and G. C. Toner. 1961. Check-list of the amphibians and reptiles of Alaska and Canada. Second Edition. Royal Ontario Museum Life Sciences Division, Contributions 53:1-92.

⁴Schmidt, K. P., and D. D. Davis. 1941. Field book of snakes of the United States and Canada. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

⁵Stebbins, R. C. 1966. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

⁶Wright, A. H., and A. A. Wright. 1957. Handbook of snakes of the United States and Canada. Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, New York.



RECENT POPULAR TITLES IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES AT SASKATOON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Compiled by DIANE WEIR

The Saskatoon Public Library, like most city and regional libraries, has considerable information on natural history and conservation, most of which is non-technical, designed for general interest. Although some books deal with a specific topic, the treatment as a rule is intended for the layman.

An annotated listing of some of the recent additions to our library in the natural history area follows. Call numbers have been included for the convenience of those able to use Saskatoon Public Library. However, the call numbers may not be exactly the same in other libraries using the Dewey Decimal System. A person who wishes to read any of these books but finds it is not in his regional library, may obtain it on interlibrary loan by giving the librarian the author's name, title and the fact that the book is in the Saskatoon Public Library. The books can also be obtained by Saskatchewan residents from the Provincial Library, Regina, by mail. There is no charge for either of these services.

BARRINGTON, Rupert. *The joys of a garden for your birds*. 1972. How every garden can be turned into a sanctuary for many kinds of wild birds. 598.2073 B27

BROWN, Dolores. *Yukon trophy trail*. 1971. The adventures of the first woman to set foot on many of the big game trails of the Yukon. 799.297121 B87

BRUEMMER, Fred. *Encounters with Arctic animals*. 1972. Superb photographs of Northern landscapes and animals, with an account of the author's experiences while living with the Eskimos. 599.0998 B88

COSTELLO, D. F. *The world of the gull*. 1971. All aspects of the gull's life cycle - courtship and nesting habits, rearing of young, colony formation, food, and migrations. 598.33 C84

COUSTEAU, J. Y. *The whale, might monarch of the sea*. 1972. A beautiful illustrated narrative of the author's encounters with sperm whales in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. 599.5 C86

CURRY-LINDAHL, Kai. *Conservation for survival*. 1972. A programme for the intelligent use of the earth's renewable natural resources. 333.72 C97

CURRY-LINDAHL, Kai. *Let them live*. 1972. A worldwide survey of animals threatened with extinction. 591.042 C97

DAVIDS, R. C. *How to talk to birds and other uncommon ways of enjoying nature year round*. 1972. Unusual ways of enjoying the woods, fields, marshes, and "even your own backyard." 500.9 D27

DURDEN, Kent. *Gifts of an eagle*. 1971. The fascinating story of a golden eagle that spent sixteen years in captivity, giving us swerving loyalty and affection to one man alone. 598.91 D97

FADIMAN, Clifton. *Ecocide*. 1971. Thoughts toward survival by thirteen writers who examine the fundamental causes of a possible solution to the ecological threat to our world. 301.31 F17

LANCOCK, D. A. *Wild islands*. 1970. A book of short stories and photos designed to stimulate our interest in our outdoor heritage. 591.925 H234

MILLEN, W. J. *Blackwater River*; Toa-thal-las. 1971. The author's entertaining account of his wildlife adventures in British Columbia's great wilderness area. 799.297112 H651

ENNINGS, T. J. *Collecting from nature*. 1971. How to collect, preserve, mount, and display natural specimens. 574.075 J54

ENSEN, A. C. *The cod*. 1972. The uncommon history of a common fish and its impact on American life from Viking times to the present. 639.3758 J54

MACSURNEY, Owen. *Six came flying*. 1972. The story of how the author and his family made friends with a pair of swans and their various broods of cygnets. 598.4 M175

MMANNEY, G. D. *Lost Leviathon*. 1971. A survey of facts about the whale, its relationship with men, and its future, by a member of the team who investigated the "lost Leviathon" of the Antarctic. 599.5 O55

RINGLE, Laurence. *Wild River*. 1972. Colour photos accompany text that illustrates some of the living and non-living features of North American rivers which flow through wilderness. 574.52632 P957

ALCOTT, M. M. *Wild flowers of America* 1963, c.1952. Four hundred flowers in full colour, based on paintings by Mary Vaux Alcott as published by the Smithsonian Institute of Washington. 581.97 W156

ORTH, C. B. *Of mosquitoes, moths and mice*. 1972. An entomologist buys a farm and proceeds to investigate the wildlife he has inherited. 591.9749 W932.

REPORTS OF MOOSE MOUNTAIN, SASKATCHEWAN. 1971

Robert W. Nero and M. Ross Lein. Saskatchewan Natural History Society, Spec. Publ. 7. 55 pp. Price \$2.00

Moose Mountain in extreme northeastern Saskatchewan stands as an island of forest rising 500 feet above the surrounding grasslands. Actually, it is not a mountain but a group of glacial drift hills covering several hundred square miles. The surface is characterized by a knob and kettle topography, reaching a maximum elevation of 2,725 feet and containing many lakes. The forest is considered part of the aspen

parkland, aspen poplar being the principal tree species. Although coniferous trees do not occur naturally, several kinds of spruces and pines have been planted.

The geographic location of the area and the variety of habitats present provide an interesting region for birds including some breeding species with affinities for the boreal forest. This report lists 210 of the 326 species reported for Saskatchewan. Of these, 173 are species recorded within the 150-square-mile Moose Mountain Provincial Park, including 106 considered to be breeding birds (definite records for 68 species) and 67 to be mainly transients and winter visitants. Also included are 11 other breeding species that nest in close proximity to the park and 26 (not 24 as stated on p. 15) other species that may be expected to occur in the park or for which information is available on their status within 20 miles of the park. Usually included is information on status, abundance, dates noted, and breeding records, if available. A comprehensive review has been made of the published and unpublished reports of many investigators starting with Macoun's work in 1880. Of special note are extracts by Mary Houston and Dr. C. Stuart Houston of bird records from newspaper articles and from field notebooks of two early residents near the park.

The emphasis in this report is on the breeding birds, and most of the information contained is based on 6 weeks of field work from May 4 to June 19, 1965. Unfortunately, the latter part of the nesting season was not covered, and relatively few records are available during migration. Thus, the status and abundance of some species are incomplete and, as the authors point out, other species may be expected to occur in the park.

The various terms used to indicate the status and abundance of species are not given in the introduction; hence, one does not know the range of terms used in the species accounts and the criteria on which they are based. No attempt has been made to define the status of some of the less commonly observed species,

but this is probably wise because more field work will undoubtedly show some or all of these to occur more frequently than the records to date indicate. An observer's report of a nesting of the Little Blue Heron far north of its known breeding range is presented without the authors' interpretation of its reliability. Also, it would have been interesting if the authors had indicated which of the two easily recognized races of the Rufous-sided Towhee breed at Moose Mountain.

The categorization of the Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher and Rose-breasted Grosbeak as "particular boreal biociation species" seems strange since the flycatchers also commonly frequent deciduous forest edge while the grosbeak is also characteristic of deciduous forest. The authors state that the known breeding range of the Yellow-throated Vireo and Scarlet Tanager nearest to the park is in southeastern Manitoba; however, recent work in North Dakota by Robert Stewart shows that these species breed closer in the Turtle Mountains. This was also suggested earlier by the records of Judd (1917, List of North Dakota birds . . . in the Turtle Mountains . . .). In this regard, a striking similarity exists between the avifauna of Moose Mountain and the Turtle Mountains.

In conclusion, the authors have provided a useful service in summarizing information of the birds of this interesting and distinctive area, and their studies have revealed extensions to the known breeding ranges of a number of species. Undoubtedly, publication of this booklet by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society will advance the knowledge of the area by stimulating the reporting of other records that already exist. In a recent note to the *Blue Jay* (30:133), for example, Gray Partridge was added to the species seen within the park. The list will also direct observers in the future to focus their attention on the more poorly known species — Paul F. Springer, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, North Dakota 58401

SPECIAL PLACES — CANADA'S NATIONAL PARKS.

Published by the National and Historic Parks Branch. IAND Publications No. QS-0281-000-BB-A-1. Simpson Press, Montreal. 72 pp.

Two significant events in the history of National Parks in Canada took place in 1972. The best known was the June 12 announcement by the Honourable Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that the proposed Village Lake Louise Development would not take place as planned. The other, less-noticed, event occurred on February 20, when the establishment of three new parks in the North — Kluane, Nahanni, and Baffin Island — was announced. Although the creation of each new park is important in itself, the significance of this particular event lies in the fact that now, for the first time in Canada's history, each province and territory contains at least one National Park. This little booklet commemorates that achievement.

The book contains an introduction by Mr. Chrétien, a table of contents, 10 pages of colour photographs broken only by a four-page section consisting of two graphs and a map, and a short summary of the history and extent of each park. Every National Park is represented by at least one photograph, and some of the newer parks by many. Additional photographs are of wildlife and plants but these are not labelled as to locale. With minor exceptions, the photographs are pleasing and well produced.

In connection with the preservation aspect, the graphs and map are particularly interesting. A graph plotting years against number of National Parks in Canada shows a tremendous increase in new parks over the last few years. This is further emphasized by reading the summary of each park at the end of the book. However, any elation or optimism generated by this impression is dampened by noting the sharp rise in park use by visitors, and, by noting the map the vast areas of the country which are without a park. The book, although primarily a picture-book,

publication contains much food for thought.

As a conservationist, I cannot avoid commenting on the great amount of blank space in the book. The text is given in both English and French, which might be expected in a publication by the Federal Government (although such space per book would be saved by having English and French editions). Less excusable are the three pages occupied by title and publishing information and the many large blanks on the picture pages. This might lead to the question of whether the publication of this book is justified at all. I feel, though I deplore the waste space, that it is justified on the grounds that it marks what is said to be the *beginning* of the National Parks system.

In his introduction, Mr. Chrétien writes, "We are in a race against time. There is still much to be done if we are to truly protect our national heritage." Let us hope that politicians of all political stripes will back up these words with the establishment of many more National Parks in Canada. — *Martin K. Nicholl*, Edmonton.

POPULATIONS, MOVEMENTS and SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF MERGANSERS, 1972.

A. J. Erskine.
Canadian Wildlife Service Report Series, Number 17. 36 pp. Information Canada, Ottawa. \$1.00.

This publication describes the seasonal fluctuations and movements of Common Mergansers on the Margaree River system of Cape Breton Island and the impact of year-round shooting on their populations and movements.

The program was part of a joint study of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service to examine the interaction between Common populations and their predation by mergansers.

Earlier studies in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick demonstrated that populations of salmon in their young

stages can increase when merganser predation is sufficiently reduced. The present study was expected to demonstrate that the return of grilse and mature salmon from the sea was also increased by reducing merganser numbers.

The breeding population of mergansers on the Margaree River system was estimated at 15 pairs of Common Mergansers and 2 pairs of Red-breasted Mergansers from 1957 through 1962. Systematic shooting by a Fisheries Research Board crew reduced this to one or two pairs from 1965-68. Mergansers present during migration and in the winter were also reduced in number. In all, 1,038 mergansers were killed by the shooting crew during the period 1962 to 1968.

I find it difficult to justify programs in which fish-eating mammals and birds are slaughtered to satisfy sport and commercial fishing interests. I find it even more difficult to justify such a program when one considers that foreign fishing interests work off our coasts to deplete our fish stocks with impunity while other agencies distribute toxic chemicals which must have a far greater impact on a fishery than does the lowly merganser.

Nevertheless, I feel that the Canadian Wildlife Service made every attempt to gain as much biological information as possible from the shooting program. Their data demonstrates the sedentary nature of the merganser populations of Cape Breton Island, how easily they can be decimated and the slow and irregular nature of their recovery. — *Phil Ould*, Winnipeg.

Please take 5 minutes to fill out and return the questionnaire at the end of this "Blue Jay."