

FIRST SASKATCHEWAN WOOD THRUSH

by PAT O'NEILL*

On May 24, 1973, about 4:30 p.m., I glanced out my "bird-watching" window, which is over the kitchen sink, and was not surprised to see a thrush feeding under the apple tree in the back yard. There had been quite a number throughout the day, mostly Swainson's. Suddenly I realized that this bird was quite different from the others. It was a bit larger and his breast, so snowy white, showing none of the usual obvious yellowish colour, was covered with round spots which were large, dark-coloured and relatively disorganized. While only about 30 feet separated us, I used the binoculars on him and was flabbergasted to realize that this was surely a Wood Thrush. I consulted my bird books and every detail — dark brown back, white eye ring, other markings coincided with "my" bird's appearance. Fortunately I was able to contact Mary Houston who came immediately with son Donald and was followed closely by Dr. Stuart Houston and David. We also got the Shadicks, Stan and John, to come over quickly. All agreed the bird was without any doubt a Wood Thrush. The bird seemed very hungry and lingered for 2 or more hours feeding. In the meantime three other Saskatchewan bird-watchers, Dale Hjertaas, Wayne and Don Renaud, arrived to view the thrush and identified it as a Wood Thrush — a first authenticated record for Saskatchewan.

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Ed. Note: Godfrey in *The Birds of Canada* (1966) and Peterson in *A Field Guide to the Birds* (1947) show the nearest breeding in Canada to be in Ontario east of Lake Superior and in southeastern South Dakota and central Minnesota in the United States. There is also a record for Grand Forks, North Dakota, on Sept. 24, 1971, in *American Birds* 26:79, 1972.

SECOND SASKATCHEWAN WOOD THRUSH

On Oct. 5, 1973, Elmer L. Fox carefully studied a Wood Thrush in Regina.

LITTLE GULL VISITS REGINA by FRANK SWITZER*

On the afternoon of April 20, 1973 Bob Luterback and I were looking around the Wascana Waterfowl Park and the Legislative Building grounds to see if any unusual bird species had been brought in by a storm centre that moved across the northern states. The weather in Regina was a cold 36° with a 20 to 25 mph wind from the northeast which was slowly swinging to the northwest.

I was scanning the surface of Wascana Lake north of the Legislative Buildings to see if any Western Grebes were mixed in with the Lesser Scaup feeding there. Bob asked me what kind of tern was feeding from the lake surface. I looked around without binoculars and casually mentioned that it acted like a Bonaparte's Gull. However, Bob said he thought not and after seeing the bird through binoculars, I agreed with him. At this point it was rather embarrassing to be caught without a field guide. We watched the bird for half an hour and then left the area about 3:30 p.m. Upon returning home, we looked for the bird in *Birds of North America*⁴, *A Field Guide to the Birds*³ and *The Birds of Canada*.¹ We soon realized that we were not seeing a native North American bird. All indications pointed to the bird being a Little Gull, a European species.

Jim Jowsey, Marg Belcher, George Ledingham, Frank Brazier and I gathered at the south shore of Wascana Lake by 5:00 p.m. The Little Gull was

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