

familiar figures at the annual Summer Meets. They missed only two of these outings in 22 years. He was in the nucleus of local naturalists from which the Saskatoon Natural History Society evolved. A charter member, he served on the executive and was often a field trip leader. Jim's Bluebird Hike each spring became a local institution. He could be counted on in other ways too — helping with arrangements, forming work parties, contributing to programs — the conscientious rock-steady member at the core of the well-being of any society.

Many members of the provincial and local societies will recall seeing his nature slides. However, his photographic artistry was not limited to nature studies. A first-rate photographer, Jim had been continuously active in the Saskatoon Camera Club since 1941, being one of its past presidents and an honorary life member. He always placed well in Club competitions and often took awards. However, he had established a reputation in black-and-white photography long before then. While still in his twenties he had several of his works accepted in exhibition salons in the United States.

Jim was a good observer of birds and contributed much to the bird lore of the Saskatoon area. On two occasions he discovered species not previously recorded in the district.

His greatest contribution, however, was introducing others to bird watching, including the author of this memorial. The groups he led — for 20 years — on the Christmas and Mayday Bird Counts were invariably the largest of all the groups, people simply appreciating being with Jim for the day.

Jim didn't express in words what nature meant to him or his beliefs about conservation or his understanding of ecology. He didn't have to. His empathy with the natural world was somehow transmitted to others. He made one aware how often one observes without really seeing or feeling. I count myself fortunate to have known a man as tuned to his surroun-

dings as Jim Hogg was. Two instances among many stand out in my mind: on a hiking trip in the north woods one December, watching Canada Jays and crossbills fly down and feed out of his hand as if it were the most natural thing on earth; and on a pack horse trip in the Rockies, standing on a mountain ridge with Jim, and realizing that he too felt the immensity of the scene force some of the wonder of creation into the consciousness. Words were not needed.

It was while leading a field trip that Jim died, on the banks of Eagle Creek, where he loved to be — outdoors.



BREEDING BIRDS OF NORTH DAKOTA

By Robert E. Stewart, Tri-College Center for Environmental Studies, Fargo, N.D. 1975. 295 pp. \$18.50 U.S.

This is a truly magnificent book. Chan Robbins correctly states in the introduction that "No other state can boast so complete a picture of the distribution and abundance of breeding birds as this volume now supplies." This book is remarkable in its thorough historical research, intensive fieldwork, superb ecological correlation, beautiful photographs and maps, and thorough bibliographic citation.

Stewart's fieldwork covered the state for more than 10 years, with a special attempt to count every pair of breeding birds in 130 representative but randomly selected quarter sections, three times during the 1967 breeding season. Stewart discusses the typical bird life of 9 different ecologic regions (e.g., Missouri Coteau and

Agassiz Lake Plain) and of 33 different communities (e.g., badlands, towns, Turtle Mountain deciduous forest, domestic haylands, short-grass prairie and wet-meadow swales).

Sixteen beautiful color photographs by John T. Lokemoen highlight the 36-page environmental section. For each of 182 forms, including three pairs of recognizable subspecies, there is a half-page map detailing the distribution in each of 1950 individual 6-by-6-mile townships. For example, the summer distribution of the Red-winged Blackbird is recorded in, by my count, 1408 townships, making it the fourth most widely distributed and numerically the third commonest bird species in the state — yet the map depicting all this is neither cluttered nor confusing. Beautiful half page and full page photos, most by Ed Bry, add much to the pleasure of browsing in this volume. The comprehensive bibliographic citation list is supplemented by an annotated review of the ornithology of the state, by period and by topic. The reader must be warned that no mention is made of migrants.

With the advent of man and his ever-burgeoning technology, with the draining of marshes and the clearing of native grassland, whole groups of species have decreased appreciably. Six species have been extirpated as breeding birds — the Trumpeter Swan, Whooping Crane, Mountain Plover, Passenger Pigeon, Whip-poor-will and Common Raven, while there has been only one very recent nest each of the Sandhill Crane (after 57 years' absence). I disagree with his reason for the decline of the Common Raven, which he ascribes to poison and baited traps; the decline of available buffalo carcasses might best explain their demise, at least on the adjacent Saskatchewan plains.

Among the declining wetlands birds, Horned Grebe, Canada Goose, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser are singled out for special mention. The raptors have fared very badly, with special mention of the Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged

Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, American Kestrel, Short-eared Owl and Burrowing Owl. The latter two happen also to be examples of grassland habitat disturbance, together with the Long-billed Curlew, Upland Plover, Common Nighthawk, Sprague's Pipit, Brewer's Blackbird, Baird's Sparrow, McCown's Longspur and Chestnut-collared Longspur. In addition, the five upland game species cited as declining (two after initial great success following their introduction), are the Greater Prairie Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Partridge and Ruffed Grouse. The latter's decline may be related to a loss of woods, as is the case with the Mourning Warbler and Red-headed Woodpecker. Only two native species are noted as having shown a definite increase, the Wood Duck and the Western Kingbird. Most of these changes correlate very well with historical changes in adjacent Saskatchewan.

I do wish that Stewart had shared more of his unique statistical information with us. His use of such approximate, easily misunderstood and often abused terms as "common" and "fairly common" is a great pity when he had valid numerical estimates available for most species. From his technical paper in *The Auk* 89: 766-788, October 1972, one can obtain directly the population estimates for the 50 commonest bird species in North Dakota in 1967. One can obtain estimates for another 81 species by multiplying by 2200 the total pair counts on the 130 quarter-section study areas (since they together represented a sample of one in 2200 of the 70,599 square miles in the state). These numbers become progressively less accurate with decreasing sample size, yet provide a "ball-park figure" for most species.

Bob Stewart's book is now the envy of every other state and province. It is a beautiful and very important publication. Buy one! — C. Stuart Houston, 863 University Drive. Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8.





Avocet.

Lorne Scott

BIRDS OF THE ROSETOWN-BIGGAR DISTRICT, SASKATCHEWAN

By Wayne E. Renaud and Don H. Renaud
Special Publication No. 9,
Saskatchewan Natural History Society,
Box 1121, Regina, Saskatchewan.
121 pp., 1975, \$4.00

The Rosetown-Biggarr district covers an area of 1512 square miles lying 30 miles west of Saskatoon and 73 miles from the Alberta boundary. It will be a surprise even to some residents of the study area to learn that 236 species of birds have been recorded of which 111 stay and nest. On a single day in May, 1975, at the height of migration, 180 species of migrant and resident birds were recorded.

In compiling the list the authors drew upon the literature, unpublished field notes by J. Dewey Soper, records from Saskatchewan Natural History files, and notes from numerous other observers. The bulk of the information, however, is based on observations from 1968 to 1975 made by the

authors, brothers who were born and raised in the vicinity. Accounts of species are well written and loaded with information. This is waterfowl country, lakes, ponds, sloughs and creeks together with meltwater in stubble fields attracting spring migrants and resident breeding birds. Accordingly, accounts of waterfowl deal with large numbers; e.g., at peak periods the authors recorded: 2000 Whistling Swans, 10,000 Canada Geese, 1800 White-fronted Geese, and 50,000 Snow Geese. Twenty species of ducks, some in large numbers, were documented.

One of the more significant aspects of this report is the extent to which species' occurrence is related to land use. Being a farmer's sons, the authors view farming with sympathy and understanding. There is a thorough discussion of changes in land use over the past several decades, emphasizing the effect on habitat and birdlife. This is supported by relevant information in the accounts of species. Alteration of the landscape by man has had both

good and bad effects, depending on one's point of view and depending on the adaptability of the species concerned. The Long-billed Curlew, for example, described as an "uncommon summer resident" occurs in pairs "well distributed throughout the area." This is heartening news. On the other hand, the Upland Sandpiper (Plover) "unlike the Long-billed Curlew . . . has been unable to adapt to the change from grassland to farmland. As a result Upland Sandpipers are now restricted to a few of the larger native pastures and parklands in the area." Curiously, the Burrowing Owl, which appears to be doing well in the Saskatoon area, is listed as a "rare summer resident." I can't imagine why Burrowing Owls have "dry cow manure and dry frog skins" in their nest chamber, but such details are typical of the careful observations reported in this book.

Unfortunately, the publication was hurriedly put together to be available at the Winnipeg meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union. By a careful examination of those features which can easily go awry, I discovered some mistakes. Of 10 works referred to one or more times in the first 19 pages, six were unfortunately omitted from the Literature Cited section; one reference that is cited has an incorrect date. In the "Bird Species Index" there are six typographical errors. There are some inconsistencies in the Literature Cited section, e.g., the use of full names for authors in nine cases on p. 118 though none is given on p. 117. Six maps are suitably identified as Figures 1 to 6 (pp. 10-23), but four photos which appear in these pages are twice shown as Figures 1 and 2 (p. 14-15), a point of possible confusion.

Printers' errors and faults are a bother, but the omission of a page number (13!), insufficient ink on pp. 46-47 and 108-109, and some faulty printing in two paragraphs on p. 19 may be mentioned (I examined two random copies of the book; both had the same faults). Some of the latter material needs to be deciphered: in the second paragraph from the bottom read "species in *adjacent* regions . . . Wherever breeding *records* . . . data

given by Godfrey . . ." The faulty binding and trimming of page 121, and the irregular positioning of the page numbers must be blamed on the printers.

This is more than a guide to the birds of the district, it is particularly a guide to birding in the area, for the authors give specific localities (nicely mapped), indicate appropriate seasons and even include names of landowners where good birding may be found. It is this intimate treatment that makes the book especially useful. It also contains much original information on bird behavior, habits and ecology that will be of interest to other investigators. This book should be in every library in the province as an example and model of what students can accomplish. It should be a useful guide and reference in nature science classes. It supplies good information on geography, demography, ecology, economics and land use relative to the occurrence of birds. It is a useful publication.

That this latest Special Publication by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society should have resulted from the efforts of two former junior naturalists should be no surprise in view of the number of younger members of this Society who have rapidly advanced in careers in biology and related fields. This subject is ably discussed in the "Foreword" to this book, written by C. Stuart Houston, M.D. Dr. Houston may be held personally responsible for having fostered and directed the enthusiasm of numerous young people in Saskatchewan.

To this reviewer, then, this book is one more example of the way in which the delight and satisfaction of good natural history work has been brought to fruition by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society. All members of the Society should feel proud to be a part of this venture which is getting people involved with natural history and helping to build a better understanding of our environment. — *Robert W. Nero*, 546 Coventry Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3R 1B6.





Sharp-tailed Grouse.

Bob Gehler

Plover indicates, among other things that there are substantiated breeding records (B) from two of the latilongs in the northeast corner of the state and an unsubstantiated (b) record from a third. It has occurred in one of the latilongs of central Montana but there are no breeding records (t). While this method may indeed be unfamiliar to many of us, it is a method which, in a slightly modified form, has been the basis for several European bird atlases (see *British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) News* No. 66, June 1974).

Never having done any serious birding in Montana, I cannot vouch for the accuracy of Dr. Skaar's compilations. However, the value of these works (along with the recent *Birds of Idaho* by T. D. Burleigh, 1972, Craxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho 467 pp.) to prairie birdwatchers is immense in that there are now available, rather complete documentations of the distribution and occurrence of birds immediately south of our borders. To the serious student of bird distribution on the Canadian prairies, these Montana works should become standard

references. What's more, they suggest a system, i.e., the latilong, to which we may look for a future, more advanced text on bird distribution. — *D. V. Chip Weseloh*, Provincial Museum of Alberta.



MANITOBA BIRD STUDIES A Bibliography of Manitoba Ornithology.

Martin K. McNicholl. 1975. Manitoba Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, Winnipeg. 146 pages. No charge.

This smartly designed publication is a comprehensive compilation of published and unpublished works on Manitoba birds, covering all aspects of the subject including check-lists, game bird surveys, biological and ecological studies of all types. Although the author admits that it may be incomplete, it contains a surprising number of titles and thus provides a basic document for anyone working on birdlife in this region or on species that occur in Manitoba. As the next

best thing to an annotated check-list of birds, it is an invaluable tool for all working ornithologists. For the naturalist and historian with an interest in workers in this region of Canada it presents a remarkable summary of who did what and when.

A former Winnipeg birder, Martin McNicholl's name has appeared on numerous reports in the *Blue Jay* and other journals. Now working towards a Ph.D. in ornithology at the University of Alberta, Martin was persuaded to put this report together so that it could be published in time for the American Ornithologists' Union 93rd Stated Meeting at Winnipeg, August 25-29, 1975. The date on the publication is given as August 9, 1975; actually, it came from the printer just in time to be distributed at the A.O.U. banquet on the evening of August 28 . . . a pretty close call! Nevertheless, it is carefully done and remarkably free of errors. This publication should provide impetus for further Manitoba studies. Congratulations to all involved.

Copies may be obtained free of charge by writing to: Miss Marge Cox, Publications Section, Box 9, 989 Century Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W4.



COMMON WEEDS OF CANADA

By Gerald A. Mulligan

Common Weeds of Canada by Gerald A. Mulligan is a recent (1976) paperback publication by McClelland and Stewart Limited in association with *Information Canada* and the Department of Agriculture containing 117 colored illustrations of the most common weeds of Canada. Most of the illustrations are reproduced from colored photographs taken by Mr. Mulligan of the weeds in their natural habitat. They are so clear and realistic that everyone, including beginners, should have no difficulty in identification by visually comparing wild plants with the colored plates.

The completely bilingual text of each species give its scientific and

common names as well as the family to which it belongs. The brief description that follows includes the life duration, distribution across Canada, habitat and poisonous properties to both humans and livestock.

This pocket-size (20 cm. x 13 cm.) paperback should be welcomed by teachers as an invaluable addition to the school library. Children should now be able to easily identify the weeds in their own school yard and anyone curious to know our common weeds, either as a first step in eradication or just for general knowledge, would benefit from this book. For the more technically minded who wishes to study weeds in more detail and to identify related species, the standard edition of *Weeds of Canada* by Clarence Fankton and Gerald A. Mulligan should be used. — *Thelma Pepper*, 1015 Temperance St., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



THE ABC OF A SUMMER POND

By Judith C. Friedman

Johnny Reads, Inc.,
Box 12834,
St. Petersburg, Florida. 33733
36 illus., 1975. \$4.50 paperback

A new book on nature is always a welcome addition to any school library or children's bookshelf. This one is no exception.

In her note to parents and teachers, Mrs. Friedman says *The ABC of a summer pond* is a book written to encourage children to examine environments and express their observations creatively by writing their own ABC books. The book was prepared mainly for children ages 5 to 9 and was field tested in 2nd grade classes in Connecticut.

I conducted my own observation of the book by having it read to 23 five-year-olds at the Institute of Early Childhood Education, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. My conclusion was that the children were unfamiliar with some of the wildlife in

the book and, therefore, they lost interest. Although the book did not hold the complete attention of the five-year-olds, older children would find it more interesting. The black and white drawings and photos, although well reproduced, would have much more appeal if they were in colour. — *Kathy Black*, 1133 - 3rd Street E., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



A SECOND LOOK

By Liz Roley

Published by the Regina Branch of the Media Club and the Regina Leader-Post P. 91 In book form 1976. \$3.00 (+35 cents handling charges) and may be ordered from:

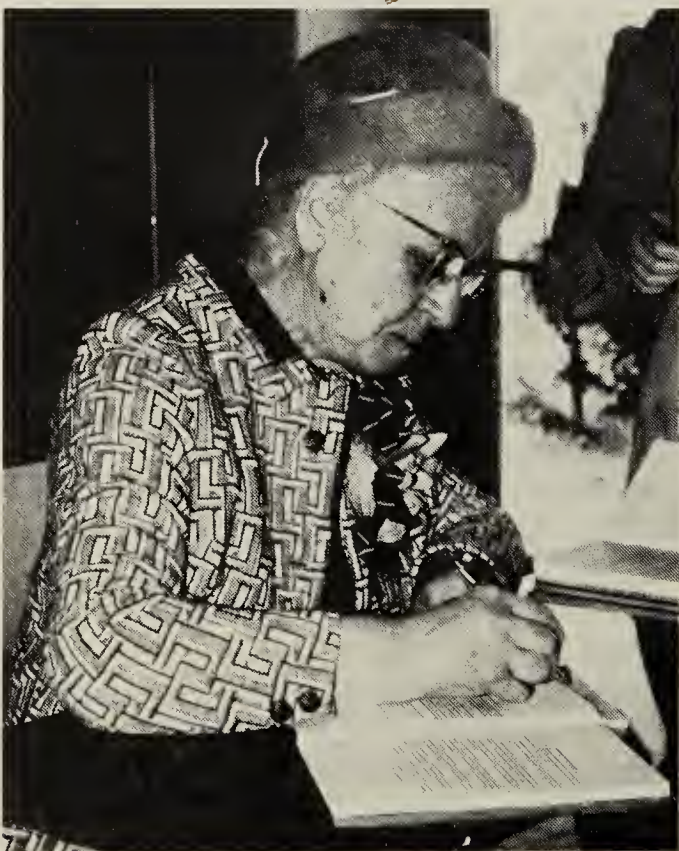
Regina Branch of the Media Club, 75 Deergrove Crescent, Regina, Sask., S4S 5M2. (Make cheques payable to Media Club Book Account)

For the past 20 years the Regina Leader-Post has published a weekly column called "Liz Roley's Nature Notes", with sketches by Mollie Lawrence. Now, thanks to the Regina

Media Club and the Leader-Post, a selection of these columns has been combined into an enchanting little book, "A Second Look".

After reading Liz Roley's pieces no one can doubt her vast knowledge of nature which she so willingly shares with everyone, nor can there be any doubt that she has tremendous respect and love for all God's creations whether birds, animals, plants, the sky with everchanging light and cloud, or even the weather. Most of all I find her imagination a delight. She sees a dry stalk of crested grass covered with ice crystals and it immediately becomes "a set of fairy bells"; the Western Meadowlark is "a master minstrel"; brilliant autumn leaves blowing by in the wind become "crusaders in procession"; Goldfinches are "feathered sunbeams" and a Veery "plucks his harp strings". About Thanksgiving — "we have much to be thankful for — not only the productive year but for the spectacular galaxy of glory with which fields and trees have ended their song of life." It is very colorful writing, and truly descriptive of our beloved prairies where too many people fail to see any beauty.

The book has been arranged in four parts — Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter — each section made up of many short articles pertinent to the particular season. It is a perfect book for picking up at bedtime or off the coffee table. It is a perfect book to read while resting in the garden or some quiet spot outdoors. While the book may be read one column at a time, I must admit it is difficult to put it down once one starts it. I am sure it will be read and reread many times over by enthusiastic owners and, best of all, one doesn't have to belong to a specific age group to love it. Every time you reread "A Second Look" you will learn something new, and be bathed again in the peace and beauty that only God can create, and only a person like Liz Roley can properly convey in words. It is that kind of book! — *Pat O'Neil*, 1125 Elliott Street, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0V4



Liz Roley (Mrs. Elizabeth Cruickshank) autographing *A Second Look*.

