

ERRATA AND ADDENDA

SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

A 35-YEAR REVIEW (PART I)

by Wayne E. Renaud and Guy J. Waple. *Blue Jay* 35(4):224-239.

P. 225. Table 1. First footnote should read "Based on 920 counts."

P. 227-228. Table 2. The second column of Pintail should read 24 "counts"; the third column (frequency "rank") should then read 52³ for Pintail, American Coot and Red-winged Blackbird, and 55 for Brown Creeper. Also frequency "rank" should read 57³ for Mute Swan, Canvasback and Common Merganser, and 60³ for Whistling Swan, Hawk Owl and Western Meadowlark. Remarks under Oldsquaw should read "1st Saskatchewan specimen record"; and under American Coot should read "All Regina except one each at Gardiner Dam and Ft. Qu'Appelle." The high count for American Kestrel should read 1; the date of the Skull Creek observation should read 27/59.

P. 232. On the distribution map for Willow Ptarmigan, each of the lower three degree blocks containing observations should be moved south one block.

In addition to the 127 species recorded on Christmas counts published in the *Blue Jay*, two additional species, Red-tailed Hawk and Northern (Baltimore) Oriole, have been reported in counts published in *Audubon Field-Notes*. In both instances the counts appeared in the *Blue Jay* and *Audubon Field-Notes*, but the *Blue Jay* did not list the species.

The Red-tailed Hawk was listed as an additional species on the Regina Christmas count in 1970 (*Am. Birds*

25(2):15). The Northern Great Plains Region report for the winter period (*Am. Birds* 25(3):593) stated that an immature male was seen at distances down to 15 feet on December 28, 1970. The observation was omitted in error from the results of the Regina count forwarded to the *Blue Jay* Christmas count editor, Mary Houston (pers. comm.) and hence was not listed in the *Blue Jay*. The observation was, however, within count period and therefore brings the total number of species reported in the province during count period to 128 species.

The Northern (Baltimore) Oriole was listed as an additional species on the Yorkton count in 1953 (*Aud. Field-Notes* 8(2):56). The oriole was banded by C. Stuart Houston (pers. comm.) on December 17, 1953 at a bird feeder where it had been present for the previous three weeks; it was not, however, observed after December 17, and, since count period that year did not begin until December 25, should not have been included.

RECOVERY OF BANDED PEREGRINE FALCON

S. O. Jordheim, RR #1, White Bear,
Saskatchewan S0L 3L0

On August 28, 1977, Grant Smith of Langley, B.C., found the dry carcass of a Peregrine Falcon, with carrion beetles on it, in a cattle feeder on the farm of Glenn Smith, near Sanctuary, Saskatchewan (northeast quarter of section 19, township 23, range 15, west of 3rd meridian). It carried a plastic band on one leg and a subsequent search disclosed an aluminum band on the other leg drawn up tight against the bird's body. On the blue plastic band were large letters, AK7, while the aluminum band bore number 617-

02475.

The cattle feeder had been cleaned on July 15 and the bird was not there then, so it probably died later in July.

I mailed the bands to Dr. Stuart Houston in Saskatoon, who reported them to the Canadian Wildlife Service in both Ottawa and Edmonton. Harry Armbruster of the C.W.S. office, Edmonton, promptly phoned Dr. Houston with the exciting news that this falcon had been raised in Dr. Tom Cade's captivity breeding program at Cornell University and had been "hacked out" at an artificial nest site in New Hampshire on July 17, 1976, by Dr. F. Prescott Ward.

It did not apparently return to its hacking site, as several others have done, but chose to wander more than 1800 miles west, only to die when little more than one year old.

LARGE CONCENTRATION OF COMMON NIGHTHAWKS

Ken de Graff, Conservation Officer,
Waboden, Manitoba, R0B 1S0

On August 8, 1977, at approximately 3:00 p.m., while returning from a trip to the Duck Mountains, my wife and I observed a unique spectacle on No. 10 highway about 20 miles north of The Pas, Manitoba.

We were driving along when suddenly we found ourselves in the middle of what appeared to be hundreds of darting, diving birds. I eased up on the gas pedal because we almost hit several of the birds which were flying only a few feet above the pavement. Large numbers of birds could also be seen a 100 feet or so above the ground.

Identification of the birds was easy due to the large numbers close to the car. The swept-back wings and prominent white wing patch were

unmistakable. These birds were Common Nighthawks. Nighthawks feed heavily on flying insects but insect activity was not obvious and therefore, the reason for such a large concentration is uncertain.

We proceeded a little farther north and the commotion ended as suddenly as it had begun. Although birds could still be seen behind us in the rear view mirror we were out of the flight.

Although I have watched and heard these birds on previous occasions usually in the evening over towns, I have never witnessed such a large concentration before, especially in the middle of the afternoon.



Common Nighthawk

R. E. Gehl

WHITE-FACED IBIS AND CATTLE EGRET AT LITTLE QUILL LAKE

J. B. GOLLOP, Canadian Wildlife
Service, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Several times in August, 1977, Joe Totten of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service saw up to seven Cattle Egrets and up to four White-faced Ibises at the Ding Darling project of Duck Unlimited at the southeast corner of Little Quill Lake, Saskatchewan. The egrets were last seen on August 31 and the Ibises on September 1. Mr. Totten was familiar with both species in the United States.