

BIRD OBSERVATIONS AT MONTREAL LAKE

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5X3

The south end of Montreal Lake is 95 km north of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. The lake stretches northward for 50 km from that point, ranging from 5 to 15 km in width. Between 11 May and 25 July 1987 the authors worked independently on the lake. We saw a combined total of 116 species, of which 28 of interest are documented here.

RED-NECKED GREBE Found nesting on the lake 18 June.

WESTERN GREBE A colony nested between Ferguson Island and the east shore of Montreal Lake and near the cormorant colony at the north end of the lake.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN Always present, fishing on the lake. Local residents reported nesting but no nests were found.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT A colony of 50 nests was found on a rocky island south of O'Connor Bay (northeast corner of Montreal Lake). Eggs had hatched by 26 June.

GREAT BLUE HERON A nesting colony was found on Johnston Island; we counted 20 nests.

CANADA GOOSE A flock of 19 large birds was seen daily throughout the month of June.

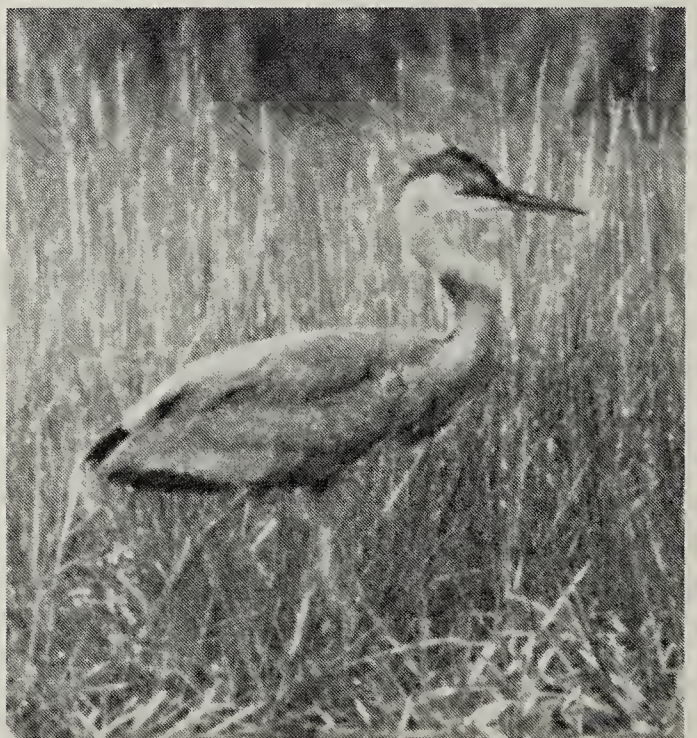
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER Six birds were seen on 10 June at the north end of Ferguson Island.

OSPREY A single bird was seen occasionally, flying along the east shore of Montreal Lake.

BALD EAGLE Four active nests were found along the lakeshore.

NORTHERN HARRIER One was seen hunting over a marsh on Ferguson Island on 27 June.

AMERICAN KESTREL Many birds were seen perched on the power line along Highway #2. The first was seen 24 June.



Great Blue Heron

Andrius Valadka

MERLIN One was seen along Highway #2 on 24 July.

SANDHILL CRANE A lone bird flew over Weyakwin townsite 30 May. Additional birds were seen in the Thunder Hills (south of Weyakwin Lake and west of Montreal Lake) throughout the summer. Rosemary Nemeth indicated that cranes were commonly flushed from the pulp haul road ditches.

CASPIAN TERN A lone bird flew near Ferguson Island 9 June.

NORTHERN HAWK-OWL Two adults exchanging food were seen on 22 June. One young owl was found on 28 June. This family group was found in a swampy area between Weyakwin townsite and Montreal Lake.

GREAT GRAY OWLS were reported twice by Dodge on 11 and 21 May, on the latter date near Two Forks River north of Montreal Lake.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER One was seen 20 May about 20 km north of

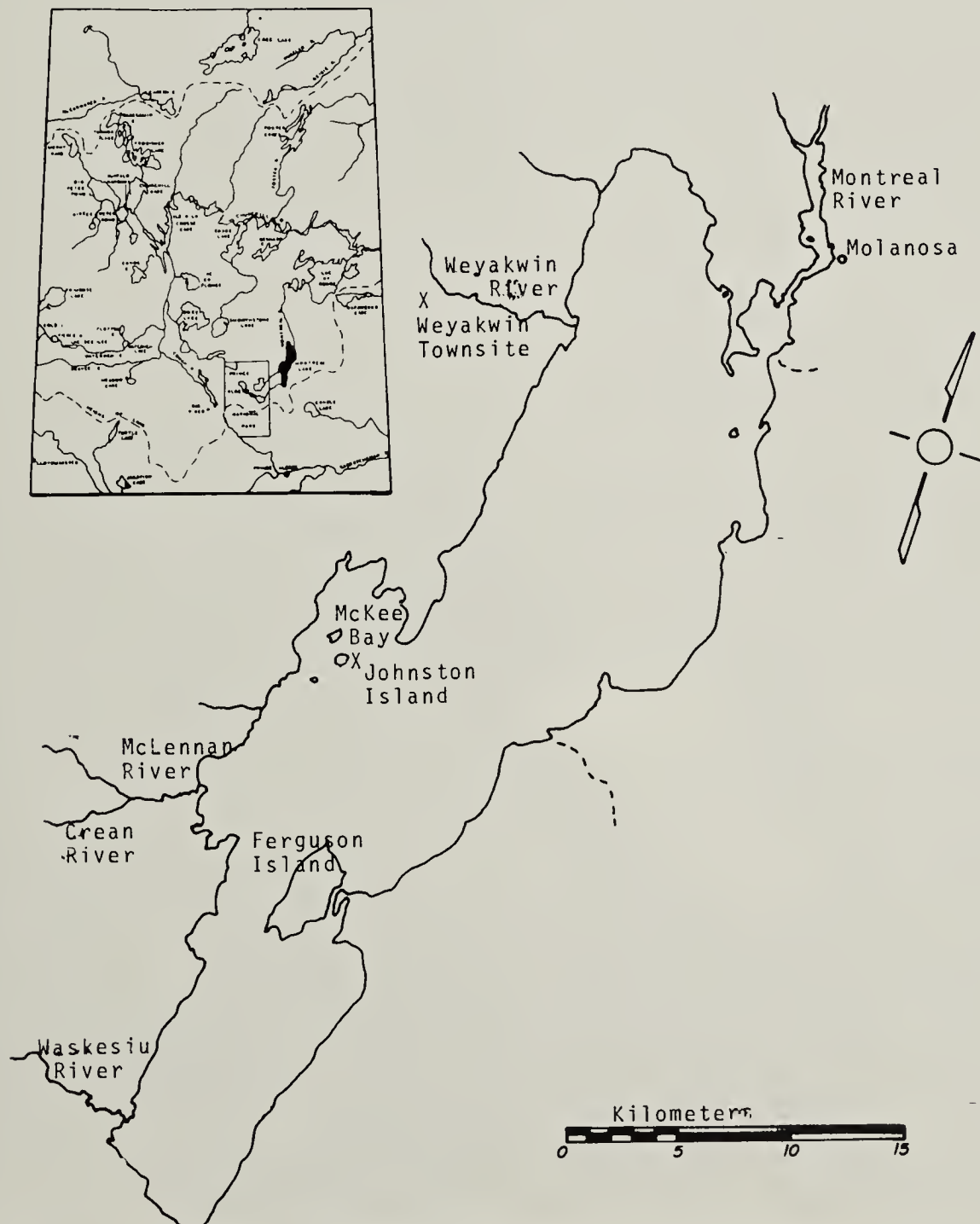


Figure 1. Location and place names on Montreal Lake

the north end of Montreal Lake by Dodge.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER One reported 11 May by Dodge.

PILEATED WOODPECKER One was seen 10 June.

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE A single bird was near the western shore of Montreal Lake on 8 June.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER One bird was found on an island south of O'Connor Bay 18 June.

CLIFF SWALLOW These swallows nested on the gable ends of some of the homes in the Weyakwin townsite.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE Only one bird; seen 26 May near the old campground on the west shore of Montreal Lake.

BROWN CREEPER This species was reported by Dodge 12 May, 20 km east of Weyakwin Lake.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD A pair was located 20 km north of the north end of Montreal Lake 20 May (Dodge).

WINTER WREN A bird was heard at Weyakwin Lake 8 July.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER A male was seen 18 June near the Molanosa Campground at the northeast corner of Montreal Lake.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK One was reported 20 May by Dodge 20 km north of Weyakwin townsite in a dried swamp. This is at the northern edge of its Saskatchewan breeding range.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD A few were found on Ferguson Island.

HOUSE SPARROW This species is noteworthy only for its absence.

The other 88 species recorded in the area were as follows:

Common Loon, American Bittern, Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Common Nighthawk, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Gray Jay, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sedge Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Connecticut Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Grackle, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin.