



The next day I did not see any goshawks at the farm. The second morning one was again pursuing pigeons, but being between me and the rising sun I could not identify it as being the colored bird. The third morning one flew directly over my head and it was the marked bird. Off and on all day it attempted to capture pigeons but was unable to do so. The fourth morning, when I went out to do the chores, there were pigeons out flying. Since this was before the sun was up it was a good sign that something was in the coop. On investigating I found the marked goshawk. It had killed four pigeons, eating part of one and wounded another; again these birds seem to kill when the opportunity exists.

The hawk measured 21.5' in length and had a wingspan of 40'; it weighed 1 lb. 10 oz., so apparently was slightly undernourished. It had found its way through a 4 x 5' hole.

RAVENS SNOW BATHING!

In an article in the March 1984 issue of the Blue Jay, I described House Sparrows and a Boreal Chickadee snowbathing. (I received a request for a copy of this article from a university in Brazil. Such a subject, I am sure would be of considerable interest in the tropics.) On 21 December 1985 I observed some more snowbathing activities while taking part in the annual Christmas Bird Count. Near the grain elevators at Somme, 15 House Sparrows were snowbathing at the base of willow clumps, in the railway ditch. It was 11 a.m., the temperature was 0o, and the recent snow was fluffy.

At 2:30 p.m. David Black and I were seven miles south of Somme looking for birds along the Big Valley Creek. The temperature had risen to 5o, the warmest since 4 November. Some ravens were calling loudly from down on the creek ice. As they called others came swooping in and dropping down to where they were. I thought that they must be feeding on a dead deer or some other carrion on the ice. When I went to investigate I found by the marks in the snow that several were snowbathing in two different locations.

The snow on the creek ice was 7 cm deep. It was soft and loose. There were marks in the snow of their bodies being dragged about twice their length, propelled forward by their wings. This was indicated by about four pairs of wing marks, where each Raven bathed. There were also some marks where they moved their tails back and forth, from side to side.

I am sure by these marks that the ravens had the snow well worked into their feathers, and had as good a bath, without water, as a Saskatchewan bird could expect in December. — *Donald F. Hooper*, Box 40, Somme, Saskatchewan. S0E 1N0