

However, Kreba wrote me that "The Moose Mountains could support a small population of breeding woodcock...There could also be a small breeding population in your general area as well."

While I would not hypothesize on the possibility that the species may breed in the upper Assiniboine area, there is no doubt whatsoever in my mind as to the identity of the species which we saw that day!

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Bob Kreba, who provided me with data and particulars regarding the previous sightings of American Woodcock in the province.

- ¹ GODFREY, W.D. 1986. The birds of Canada. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa. 595 pp.
- ² HARRISON, SYLVIA. 1960. Woodcock sighted in Qu'Appelle valley. *Blue Jay* 18(4):160.
- ³ HOUSTON, C.S., M.I. HOUSTON and J.B. Gollop. 1981. Saskatchewan bird species — hypothetical and rejected. *Blue Jay* 39(3):196-201.
- ⁴ KREBA, BOB. 1983. Field checklist of Saskatchewan birds, 6th edition. Museum of Natural History, Regina.
- ⁵ MITCHELL, H.H. 1924. Birds of Saskatchewan. *Can. Field-Nat.* 38:101-118.
- ⁶ NERO, R.W. 1963. Birds of the Lake Athabasca region, Saskatchewan. *Sask. Nat. Hist. Soc. Spec. Publ. No. 5*, Regina.
- ⁷ NERO, R.W. and C.S. Houston. 1963. Additions to the checklist of Saskatchewan birds. *Blue Jay* 21(4):132.
- ⁸ NERO, R.W. and M.R. Lein. 1971. Birds of Moose Mountain, Saskatchewan. *Sask. Nat. Hist. Soc. Spec. Publ. No. 7*. Regina.
- ⁹ ROBBINS, C.S., B. BRUUN, and H.S. Zim. 1983. *Birds of North America*. New York, NY.

ED. NOTE: This woodcock sighting is about 180 mi. (285 km) northwest of the 1983 nest reported by Nero (*Blue Jay* 44(2):120-122), although less distant from other sightings within Riding Mountain National Park. Although farther northwest than known breeding sites it is still 550 mi. (880 km) SSE of Tyrrell's siting and about 530 mi. (848 km) SW of the one reported from York Factory.

FIRST BAND-TAILED PIGEON IN YORKTON AREA

JOYCE ANAKA, Box 211, Yorkton, Saskatchewan. S3N 2V7

On 28 August 1985 I had the birding highlight of the summer. As I walked out to look at Good Spirit Lake from the south shore a large, unfamiliar, pigeon-like bird landed on top of a dead tree 50 ft. away. For approximately 5 minutes I watched it through 8 x 10 binoculars while it watched me with interest — head weaving and bobbing.

While observing it I jotted down its characteristics on a piece of paper I had in my pocket. The most obvious were the black-tipped, yellow beak, red eyes and yellow feet. There was a white strip behind the eye and a very dark, almost black area behind the white strip. The body was overall a very pale, light brown with a hint of darker color in the wings but no wing marks, bars or other marks other than those noted on the nape of the neck and head.

I drew a rough sketch of it before it flew off. It went about 100 yards west along the lake bank and again landed on a dead tree. I went to pick up the camera but before I could get into range the bird flew off to the south. I checked the area but could not locate it again.

With the aid of my sketch and notes on field marks Bill identified the bird as a Band-tailed Pigeon. This is the first sight record of this species for this part of Saskatchewan.