

The nighthawk is not only a bird of dusk to dawn; sometimes, even at midday, it will fly off its roost, swooping suddenly down like a dropped stone, while the rush of air through the stiff flight feathers produces a sound like a snapped bow string. They catch themselves with a jerk and spiral away on high again to repeat their performance, over and over and over. It is a sound that gives me the greatest joy. It is believed to be a mating display, but I have heard it continued long into the summer — probably as a territory-claiming performance. I like to think it is from the sheer ecstasy of life. For it is written: "The beasts of the field shall honour me... the dragon

and the owls."

Another habit of nighthawks that has given me countless hours of pleasure is when I remain out late into our short summer nights to hear their rather nasal call — a *peent* or *pee-ik* or *pee-it* — a penetrating cry, softened by distance and regularly repeated. This call may be heard all night, even until full day, when the hot sun sends them to rest.

I love these slender, slim-winged birds with their ugly, rounded heads and great eyes and whiskery, cavernous mouths. They are a delight to me.



## HOODED WARBLER IN REGINA

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Sunday 26 May 1985 was a fine spring day in Regina with the sun shining brightly. About noon I received a telephone call from Bob Luterbach advising me that he, Chris Adams and Robert Kreba had a female Hooded Warbler under observation in Regina Cemetery. I drove there immediately, joined the others and soon found the bird hunting food in a tree. We had excellent views, noting the field marks so there was no doubt as to the identity. It was a "lifer" for me.

I do not know who discovered the

bird. The only account I have seen was a report which appeared in *American Birds*, Vol. 30, p. 316, issue of Fall 1985. Relatively few members of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society ever see *American Birds*, so, as one of the observers, I am reporting the occurrence of this rare visitor, Saskatchewan's first, for their benefit. Other observers came after I left as the warbler remained in the vicinity for some time. By virtue of a number of recognizable photographs this Hooded Warbler is now on the confirmed list of Saskatchewan birds.