
RECENT OBSERVATIONS

The following are reports of unusual sightings received by the editor. If you see anything you think should be noted in this column please let me know.

A Great Egret was reported from Reed Lake 11 August and was joined by a second bird 20 August. Two adult Snowy Egrets were also at Reed Lake on the 11 August. Eight Cattle Egrets were at the north end of Last Mountain Lake on 29 August, likely part of the group that summered in this area. A pair of White-faced Ibis were in the same area from mid-July to mid-September. A Little Gull was at the south end of Blackstrap Reservoir from 15 to at least 21 September. On 21 September it was joined by a Sabine's Gull. A Eurasian Widgeon was found near the Gardiner Dam and was probably there from the 26 to 28 September. A flock of 22 Wood Ducks were seen at Katepwa Dam on 28 September and a lone male was in the river by the University of Saskatchewan from at least 4 to 23 October. (Wood Ducks have successfully nested in boxes at White Bear Lake, north of Carlyle, for the last two years.) August 29 saw the first report of a male

Barrow's Goldeneye, located at the north end of Last Mountain Lake. Six Surf Scoters were at the south end of this lake from early to mid-October. Condie also had a Surf Scoter on 19 October and a Mississippi Kite on 7 October. A Townsend's Solitaire was found in Regina on 5 October and another was seen in Saskatoon from 16 to 23 October. First winter Mew Gulls were seen on 9 October (3) and 25 October (1). Another tough-to-identify, maybe species, Thayer's Gull, was seen in Regina on the 22 and 25 October; again in first-winter plumage. A Black-throated Blue Warbler made a brief appearance in Saskatoon on 23 October. Another male Barrow's Goldeneye was at Regina Beach 26 October, along with 2 female Black Scoters. A single female Black Scoter was seen at Avonlea on the 29th.

The Swift Fox note by Sig Jordheim (see p. 163) is an important mammal observation from several viewpoints. It shows that these little foxes are surviving and this individual is to the north and east of the release area. The animal had to cross the river, a significant boundary.



Because extinction is forever, rare species are the focus of conservation biology. Specialists in this young scientific discipline conduct their studies with the same sense of immediacy as doctors in an emergency ward. They look for quick diagnoses and procedures that can prolong the life of a species until more leisurely remedial work is possible. *E.O. Wilson, 1992. The diversity of life. W.W. Norton and Company, New York. 424 pp.*