

NOTEWORTHY BIRD SIGHTINGS IN WEST CENTRAL MANITOBA IN 2020



Sabine's Gull at Clearwater Lake Provincial Park, 11 June 2020. Photo credit: David Raitt.

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The period from 20 May to 11 June 2020 brought a flurry of three rare bird sightings at and near The Pas, Manitoba. In the fall, two more noteworthy sightings occurred to the northeast and southeast (each about 110 km from The Pas).

On 20 May, a Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) was photographed by Marilyn Meyer in The Pas. The most northerly record for this species during the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas (data collection 2010-2014) was in the Russell area, more than 300 km south of The Pas.¹

On 7 June, at Sunset Beach in Clearwater Lake Provincial Park, the author observed a bird in close pursuit of a gull or tern. Subsequent sightings and poor-quality photographs confirmed that the bird was a Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). A 1993 review mentioned five June records of this species in central and southern

Manitoba.²

On 11 June, also at Sunset Beach, the author observed and photographed a Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). In a 2003 publication, the Manitoba Avian Research Committee noted four spring records for this species in Manitoba away from the Hudson Bay Coast.³

On 5 September, the author observed two jaegers at the south shore of Cedar Lake. Though they could not be assigned to a particular species, any jaeger sighting in this region is noteworthy.

On 18 October, in the south basin of Tramping Lake, the author and two co-workers observed a Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*). The author had seen a Surf Scoter in this same bay on 25 September 2007, and two adult male Surf Scoters were photographed on this lake on 18 September 2018 (Darryl Langlois, pers. comm.). A 3 October 1997 sighting of a Surf Scoter by Peter Taylor on Wekusko Lake (the next lake east in the Grass River chain), and the author's sighting of eight Surf Scoters on Rocky Lake on 1 October

2011 may be the only other records of this species in central Manitoba.³ However, this paucity of records may reflect a lack of observers and/or communication more than a lack of scoters.

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1. Koes RF, Parsons RJ (2019) Eurasian Collared-Dove in Artuso C, Couturier AR, De Smet KD, Koes RF, Lepage D, McCracken J, Mooi RD, Taylor P (eds.). The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Manitoba, 2010-2014. Bird Studies Canada. Winnipeg, Manitoba <http://www.birdatlas.mb.ca/accounts/speciesaccount.jsp?sp=ECDO&lang=en> [25 Jan 2021]

2. Taylor P (1993) Mid-continental jaegers: a Manitoba perspective. *Blue Jay* 51:157-164.

3. Manitoba Avian Research Committee (2003) The Birds of Manitoba. Manitoba Naturalists Society, Winnipeg, Manitoba. 🐦