

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

For many years the Audubon Society of the United States has sponsored a Christmas Bird Census. In Saskatchewan, the climate at that season of the year makes it rather difficult to comply with all regulations, one of which requires observers to be in the field for at least six hours. However, a provincial bird count of our own would be most interesting.

The idea is to make a count of all birds seen on any one day between Christmas and New Year; most often the intervening Sunday is chosen. All birds seen should be noted, both species and individuals. We would appreciate it if censuses were sent in as soon as completed so results could be published in the January issue of "The Blue Jay."

Last year on Dec. 29, within a radius of seven miles of Yorkton, Stuart Houston, Vernon Barnes and Neil Black, accompanied by Dr. C. J. Houston made a count of eight different species and, "believe it or not", of 447 birds.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO "THE LIST OF BIRDS IDENTIFIED IN THE YORKTON DISTRICT IN RECENT YEARS"

Records supplied by L.T. McKim, Melville (within 30 mile radius of Yorkton):
Cinnamon Teal. May 25, 1941. Sight record within town limits.
Ring-necked Duck. Seen in spring migration for past ten years, but not noted this year.
Turnstone. May 15, 1940 at the Dam.
Red-backed Sandpiper or Dunlin. May 22, 1940 at the Dam.
Stilt Sandpiper. May 22, 1940 at the Dam.
Sanderling. Not uncommon in migration.
Lark Bunting. June 3, 1934 and June 12, 1935 near Old Folk's Home.
McCowan's Longspur. One record just west of Melville, May 25, 1935.

Yorkton Record:

Juvenile Virginia Rails noted at the Muskeg, July 17, 1942.

Correction:

In our list, Page 5, line 34, for Eastern Towhee read Spotted Towhee. The Yorkton Bird List mentioned above was compiled from records of recent years and mimeographed July 1942. A few copies are still available at ten cents from the secretary.

FINIS

We present this first issue of "The Blue Jay" fully conscious of its many, and probably glaring, shortcomings. We know there is a quotation that "fools rush in.....". Maybe it applies in our case, but anyway we should like to receive frank comment, criticism and suggestions so that we can make further issues of our bulletin of greater value to nature lovers of the province.

We wish to thank certain members who have given an extra donation to assist in meeting the cost of the Bulletin. Will anyone who has found it of interest please bring our Society to the notice of other nature lovers? Copies of this issue are still available for new members.