

INFORMATION PLEASE.

We should like to receive records of Whooping Cranes seen in Saskatchewan any time during the past ten or fifteen years. As we have mentioned before, naturalists in both the United States and Canada are greatly perturbed over the threatened extinction of this spectacular bird - the largest bird on the north American continent. During recent years, sportsmen in Nebraska have compiled a list of spring records of the Whooping Crane for that state. A copy of this list was forwarded to us by J.J. Hickey, University of Chicago. Each year a sadly decreasing number of records have been reported in Nebraska. Therefore it was a matter of satisfaction to Mr. Hickey to read of the Saskatchewan records for last spring which we published in the July "Blue Jay."

If during the Fall migration any member has the good fortune to note any of these birds they are asked to give them every protection and to wire Ducks Unlimited, Winnipeg, who will try to arrange for further guardianship. Whooping Cranes frequently associate with the Sandhill Cranes but are easily identified by their huge size, pure white plumage and black wing tips. A few years ago only 100 were estimated to be still remaining in existence.

We had a number of replies to our query re any decrease in the number of Mourning Doves. Only two correspondents suggested that possibly they had seen fewer doves this summer than in 1943. The general consensus of opinion seems that the Mourning Dove is a bird which has greatly increased in numbers in the eastern half of the province during the last twenty years. M.G. Street, Nipawin, who sent in a detailed report of his records this year states: "Mourning Doves have probably increased more in the Nipawin district than any other species with the exception of the Barn Swallow. They were quite rare less than ten years ago but now can be heard calling everywhere in spring and early summer." It would be of interest to band some of our local Mourning Doves in order to check on their migration. Possibly birds from this section of the continent winter in some part of the United States where they are less shot at than in the south-eastern states.

Bill Wilson tells us he saw a Red-headed Woodpecker at Indian Head in the spring. We had hoped to receive more information regarding the occurrence of this handsome woodpecker in Saskatchewan.

Several replies were received about Salamanders (locally called "lizards") and Mudpuppies. Evidently both are far from uncommon in the province. We will have more notes on this subject in the next issue.

Christmas Bird Census. We shall be making our annual Christmas Bird Census again this December and hope all who have taken part other years, will be out whatever the weather! For the benefit of new members who may be interested to co-operate, we would explain that the count should be made on any ONE day between Christmas and New Year. Every kind of bird seen should be noted and also the total number of individuals of each kind of bird counted, for example - Chickadees, 20. Notes should also be made of weather conditions, temperature and so on, as well as the time the observer is in the field and the distance traversed in miles. Lists should be forwarded to the secretary as soon as possible after they are made so that results may appear in the January issue of the "Blue Jay." Perhaps as one member protests, there is not much scientific value in such a census but it is certainly a lot of fun and the comparisons of the lists from year to year extremely interesting.

We should be interested to get "last seen dates", for birds this fall.