

Christmas Bird Census We shall be organizing our fourth Annual Christmas Bird Census and hope that all who have taken part before will be out in force, as well as many of our new members. This winter count results not only in some interesting data regarding our winter bird population, but it can also be recommended most highly as an excellent pastime for the day after Christmas!

The three previous counts have produced a list of no less than forty-two different species of birds found in Saskatchewan in the very depth of winter. Of course, not all of these have been recorded for any one year--it is characteristic of the winter birds which come down from the north that they may occur in very large numbers one season and be entirely absent the following year. In 1943, for example, Redpolls were the most commonly noted bird, but in 1944 they were only listed in two localities. Also, "wintering summer birds" seem to survive some seasons far better than others - last year quite a few reports of robins, meadowlarks and even a flicker came in.

The count should be made any day between Christmas and New Year inclusive. Every species of bird seen should be recorded as well as the number of each species seen, for example, "Blue Jay, 2; Chickadee, 22." Notes should also be made as to weather, wind, temperature, number of miles travelled, and time the observer was out of doors. If a return trip is made over the same route, only the count made either going or returning should be reported. We shall be grateful if observers will send in their lists as soon as compiled so that they may appear in the January issue of the "Blue Jay."

Feeding Birds Mrs. W. Rouch, Okla., has found a most satisfactory "bird cake" can be made by mixing weed seeds gathered at the threshing machine, with melted suet. When hard, it can be broken in pieces and tied with string to the trees or the clothes line. And do the chickadees appreciate it! She has found pop-corn and sunflower seeds put through the meat chopper a good mixture for the feeding tray. We also came across a new suggestion recently, that "peanut butter, in shallow jar-tops, attracts many winter birds." This might be worth trying - if the younger members of the family will co-operate!

#### BOOKS

"Three Mile Bend" by Kerry Wood. An ideal Christmas gift for anyone who enjoys the out of doors. A collection of short articles on different nature topics all linked with Three Mile Bend on the Red Deer River, Alberta. Some are based on radio talks already given over the C.B.C. by Mr. Wood. We hope he will go on writing about Western Canadian birds and animals. (Ryerson Press, Toronto. \$2.50)

Back Issues of the "Blue Jay" H. C. Oberholser, Curator of Ornithology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, U.S.A., wants a copy of the first issue of the "Blue Jay" to complete his file. If anyone can supply a copy of Vol. 1, No. 1, we shall be most grateful.

A few copies of the following issues of the "Blue Jay" are available at twenty-five cents each -- Vol. 1, Nos. 3 & 4; Vol. 2, Nos. 2, 3, & 4; Vol. 3, Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4. Apply Miss Ruth Beck, Secretary-Treasurer, 33 Fourth Avenue, Yorkton.

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Will members please make special note that all material for the "Blue Jay" should be sent to Mrs. I. M. Priestly, 40 Agricultural Avenue, Yorkton, and all subscriptions and business letters to Miss Ruth Beck, Sec.-Treasurer.