

BIRD NOTES

by

F.G. Bard, Provincial Museum

While some may feel casual records have not a great deal of scientific value, it is generally agreed many are interested in "what is new" in the way of "Birding". To assist in a general way in having the "Blue Jay" continued to be acceptable to all, we would like to add a few notes that may be of interest.

W.M. Rutherford and Capt. Timm of Moose Jaw, Sask., on Oct. 16th 1946 saw three ravens. Two of these were shot and are now in the Provincial Museum. It is interesting to note these birds had been eating nothing but grasshoppers.

On October 22nd., just outside the Normal School, a single Canada Jay was recorded. Another day while photographing a Red-breasted Nuthatch, the last picture was taken at two feet; putting the camera down, I was interested to know how close I could get to this beautiful bird. With a finger I touched it, causing the Nuthatch to scold and move on, intent on its search in the bark crevices. Again I tried cupping my hands on either side to close in and capture the Nuthatch, but suddenly it burst into a scolding pincushion of feathers; on its release it returned to the former search, and there I left it.

We have had the usual visit of Hairy Woodpeckers, Bohemian Waxwings, Redpolls accompanied at weed patches by House Sparrows, Snowy Owls, a few came earlier than usual.

This year, early winter and heavy snowfall will no doubt have a bad effect on ground feeding game birds. It was a surprise to see 2 male Red-winged Blackbirds here on Dec. 8th.

From Mr. J.H. Taylor, and Mr. and Mrs. P. McIntock, nee Ruth Houston of Regina, comes notes for December 7th, about the grounds of the Legislative Buildings. They noted two species quite out of place, first the Hudsonian Chickadee and two Canada Jays; ordinarily these two species would be looked for 200 miles north, or generally in Spruce forests. Other birds seen on the same day were Pine and Evening Grosbeaks White-winged Crossbills, Long-tailed Chickadees (black-capped) and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

WHOOPING CRANE SURVEY 1946

by

F.G. Bard, Curator, Provincial Museum

The National Audubon Society of New York and the Fish and Wildlife Service of Washington D.C. for the past two years have been working together in an effort to save the Whooping Crane from extinction.

The Audubon Society have in each year placed a man in the field to check on likely reports, in an effort to locate nesting sites of these birds.

It has been part of the work of the Flyway Biologists who field check waterfowl nesting grounds, to also check likely areas for Whooping Crane nesting sites. These Biologists are on the staff of the Fish and Wildlife Service with the United States Government.

During the past two years, the Saskatchewan Provincial Government has co-operated in the Whooping Crane survey through their Museum at Regina. As a result, all material for distribution, publicity, and the gathering together of sight records for field checking, has been handled through this office.

During this past season, printed material was distributed to 600 schools, Municipal Offices, Mounted Police, Ducks Unlimited, Postmasters, Church Organizations, Fish and Game League districts, and field men in the service of the four Western Provincial Governments. Fourteen radio stations carried spot broadcasts; of these five carried these broadcasts several times a day for a period of two weeks. These broadcasts gave the status of the Whooping Crane, their description, and asking any one seeing these birds to report the occurrence immediately.

Newspaper reporters, writers for weeklies and other publications, ran feature articles covering the whole survey. The Saskatchewan Fish and Game League had a picture and story in their year-book. The Provincial Government Correspondence School used the survey material for a nature science lesson to Grades V and VI. This Whooping Crane survey material was also included in Vol. 4 No.3 of "The Blue Jay".