

The book is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in size, and therefore easily carried afield in a good-sized pocket.

Members are cautioned not to confuse this book with "A Field Guide to Western Birds," a similar volume by the same author, which covers the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast regions (but not the prairies, as the title would lead some people to believe.) The dividing line between the ranges covered by the two books falls somewhere east of the foothills, and hence readers in Alberta, and possibly even extreme western Saskatchewan, may find that they need both books in order to cover their territory completely.

Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds" may be obtained through any book store for \$3.50. For beginner and expert alike, it cannot be recommended too highly.

### CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

For the sixth consecutive year we shall again be taking our annual Christmas Bird Census, and we hope that all who have taken part in the past, will again be out in force, as well as our many new members. These winter counts have resulted in some very interesting data concerning our winter birds, as well as being an excellent pastime for all those who take part.

The count should be made on any one day between Christmas and New Year inclusive. Every species of bird seen should be recorded as well as the total number of each species. Notes should also be made as to weather, wind, temperature, depth of snow, number of miles travelled and the time the observer (s) spent afield. It would also be very interesting to make notes concerning the food conditions, i.e. the abundance (or scarcity) of hanging dried fruit, maple seeds and weed seeds, etc.

The previous five counts have resulted in 54 species, (or sub-species recognizable in the field) being recorded. For the convenience of members, the following is a list of all birds reported in our Christmas Census.

Mallard Duck	Artic Three-toed Woodpecker	Brewer's Blackbird
Goshawk	Amer. Three-toed Woodpecker	Evening Grosbeak
Common Rough-legged Hawk	Horned Lark	Pine Grosbeak
Marsh Hawk	Canada Jay	Gray-crowned Rosy Finch
Golden Eagle	Blue Jay	Hepburn's Rosy Finch
Prairie Falcon	American Magpie	Hoary Redpoll
Spruce Grouse	Raven	Common Redpoll
Ruffed Grouse	Black-capped Chickadee	Red Crossbill
Sharp-tailed grouse	Hudsonian Chickadee	White-winged Crossbill
Willow Ptarmigan	White-breasted Nuthatch	Slate-colored Junco
Hungarian Partridge	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Tree Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Brown Creeper	Song Sparrow
Great Horned Owl	Eastern Robin	Lapland Longspur
Snowy Owl	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Snow Bunting
Long-eared Owl	Bohemian Waxwing	
Short-eared Owl	Northern Shrike	
Saw-whet Owl	European Starling	
Pileated Woodpecker	English Sparrow	
Hairy Woodpecker	Western Meadowlark	
Downy Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird	

Of course, no one observer, or group of observers in any one locality ever expects to see more than a small number of the species mentioned in the above list. In fact, in some Saskatchewan localities, a long intensive search may yield only two or three species.

If every member takes part, we should obtain a very good idea of the status of each species in the province this winter, and possibly we may even be able to add one or two species to the already lengthy list as printed above. Don't forget those Y.N.H.S. Field-checking Lists will be very handy in recording the birds you see.

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How many of our members are familiar with the beautiful long-necked Western Grebe, the largest of our prairie Grebes? We would like any information concerning their distribution and status throughout the province.

The Sparrow Hawk seems to have shown a definite decrease in the Yorkton district in recent years. Is this true of other districts in the province?

HUNTING WOOD BUFFALO.

By W. A. Fuller, Fort Smith, N.W.T.

I have recently had an experience which comes to few men in this day and age - the thrill of taking part in a Buffalo hunt. Each fall, a number of buffalo from the herd inhabiting Wood Buffalo Park is slaughtered to provide meat for the missions, schools, hospitals and needy Indians. Except for the limited use of trucks on a badly delapidated military "highway," the hunt is carried on under primitive conditions. The animals must usually be stalked, like moose, over miles of open prairie or through jack-pine forest. At the end of a successful stalk, the shooting commences, with the ever-present danger of a charge by a ton or more of wounded, enraged buffalo. Following the kill, the skinners take over. Five men skin and butcher a large bull buffalo in a little more than half an hour, using only skinning knives and an axe.

One of my jobs is to gather statistics such as size, age, measurements, parasites and diseases. To date, 8 old bulls have been shot. Some of their measurements average approximately as follows - total length, 10 ft; height at hump, 6 ft; circumference of chest, 8 ft; circumference of abdomen, 10 ft. One was suffering from a disease producing large white spots on the liver. The same animal had three broken ribs, undoubtedly a souvenir of the recent mating season. Another had an unhealed sore high on one shoulder, but aside from this, all appeared to be in good condition.

The highlights of the hunting so far observed have been the stubbornness and toughness of the old bulls. The latest estimate of the size of the herd, based on an aerial count, places it at over 8,000 individuals. Range conditions are excellent and the animals generally healthy and increasing.

The Provincial museum wishes to obtain records and specimens of Painted Turtles found in Saskatchewan. Further records are needed to determine their distribution, though, it is thought the main areas in which they occur are the tributaries of the Qu'Appelle, Souris and perhaps Assiniboine rivers.