



A winter bird common to the Prairies is the Bohemian Waxwing. Watch for him.

FEATHERED FRIENDS IN SEPTEMBER

Doug Gilroy, Regina

During the month of September we had quite a heavy migration of Killdeer Plovers over the farm. Some days down on the pasture flat I counted fifty or more birds together. There also seems to be more Flickers about this fall than there were last year. They certainly were not hatched in this area, as Starlings occupied most of the Flicker holes.

September 21 was a beautiful warm autumn day. On the way to a neighbors that morning we passed the bridge and on up the road that leads out of the valley. I counted 6 large Swainson Hawks sitting out in the stubble field and on fence posts along the trail. About two miles further on we came upon more hawks out in the stubble. This time I counted 35 and there were still several more over a slight rise in the land. I'm sure it would be quite safe to say there were at least 40 in the flock. About 20 got up at once and flew off a short distance together. It was indeed a great sight to see so many of these fine birds together at once.

Going on down the road a mile or so we came upon four Chickadees looking very much out of place on the treeless prairie. One little fellow would fly from telephone pole to telephone pole and alight on the side of each one, like a woodpecker. At twelve o'clock, we arrived back home to find our pasture absolutely black with Crows. There were thousands of them - the largest flock of crows I have seen this year.

CROWS AND DUCKS WERE PLENTIFUL

Harold Kvinge, Hawarden

There was a huge flock of crows flying in a south-easterly direction from out farm on September 10. I estimated that there were between 10,000 and 20,000 in the flock. I have never seen such a large flock before. They were migrating ahead of a storm wave. The sky seemed all black with them for quite a distance.

Wild ducks are still (November 8) around here in large numbers. I believe the flock to be between a thousand to two thousand birds. They remained here after the cold weather and freeze-up of October 20. They are now feeding on grain in the fields each night by the light of the moon. The sloughs are open again and there is no snow here.

Fall birds seem more numerous this fall, especially the Red Poles which congregate in large flocks in many places. Chickadees and Snowbirds are quite prevalent now, and a few Pine Grosbeaks have put in an appearance. During the first week in September I noticed the following birds in migration: on the

fourth, a Spotted Towhee, a Brown Thrasher and a House Wren; on the fifth a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Black and White Warbler, a Red Start and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

A SUCCESSFUL BANDING SEASON ENDS

Arthur Ward, Burnham

Now that November has come with the bright sunny days of an Indian Summer, the birds have left us for the South. It is strangely silent in the Grove - no flashing of wings in the sunlight, - no twitter from the tree top. The last bird to leave was the Junco, on October 30.

Small drifts of snow, scattered here and there since the nineteenth of October had provided the birds with water. Weed seeds, now available on the roadside prevented further concentration around the traps. Observation in migration commencing the last week in August showed a preponderance of immatures. Outstanding among these were the White Crown and the Clay-coloured Sparrows. No adult birds seemed to accompany the small flocks which very noticeably arrived during the night. Repeated trappings showed that some species, such as the Harris, White Crown and Tree Sparrows and Juncos stayed here about two weeks, while others took off after a few days.

Another feature was the congregating of the smaller birds of different species. They flitted around the grove together and seemed more easily caught in this manner. 71 species were observed here during the trapping period from March 1st to October 31st. The total number of birds caught was 1212, consisting of 412 House Sparrows, 31 other birds released without bands, 47 Hungarian Partridge released without bands and 722 birds of 47 species banded.

The species banded were as follows:

Tree Sparrows	51	Orange Crown Warbler	2
White Crown Sparrows	104	Wilson's Warbler	1
Song "	7	Palm Warbler	1
Lincoln "	14	Magnolia Warbler	1
Clay-coloured "	128	Red Start	2
Vesper "	7	Red-breasted Nuthatch	4
White Throated "	25	House Wren	11
Harris "	15	American Gold Finch	5
Chipping "	50	Least Flycatcher	1
Savannah "	2	Western Flycatcher	1
Slate-coloured Junco	44	Pine Siskin	13
Olive-backed Thrush	25	Barn Swallow	4
Hermit Thrush	10	Willet	4
Varied Thrush	1	Purple Finch	1
Northern Water Thrush	1	Cedar Waxwing	1
Robin	40	Tyrannus Kingbird	3
Redwing Blackbird	36	Arkansas Kingbird	2
Cat Bird	28	Brown Thrasher	4
Baltimore Oriole	2	Downy Woodpecker	1
Yellow Warblers	44	Pine Grosbeak	1
Myrtle Warbler	17	Townsend's Solitaire	1
Maryland Yellow-throat	1	Yellow-shafted Flicker	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	Crow	1
Audubon Warbler	1		