

Last Year Good One For Birds, Naturalists Claim

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

The year 1956 was a good one for the birds, say Canadian naturalists who scanned the skies during the Audubon Society's annual Christmas season bird census.

From coast to coast hundreds of bird-watchers joined in the 56th North American count. Where viewing conditions were favorable increases were generally recorded in the numbers seen. Experts attributed the population rise to the unusually mild fall and early winter, and particularly in the Prairie provinces observers reported that southern birds were overwintering their visits, and northern visitors were slow in arriving.

Saskatchewan observers in the Regina district noted 1,200 individual birds, compared to 530 last year, and a western grebe and a pair of purple finches spotted inside the city limits were the first ever to be seen in mid-winter.

Conditions were the reverse of

last year, when because of extreme cold more Arctic birds were spotted than ever before. Saskatchewan naturalists noted a drop in the numbers counted, and explained that northern birds that usually fly south at the onset of severe weather have not yet arrived.

More watchers were on the look out at Edmonton this year, and three rare Christmas visitors, the northern shrike, the golden eagle and the robin, were spotted. Birewatchers in British Columbia topped the poll for individual birds and species observed, teams in Vancouver and Victoria spotting more than 50,000 birds and 97 species between them. Vancouver observers noted that starlings are on the increase, and predicted they will soon be a pest. Extensive forest and land clearing was believed responsible for the increase in birds spotted.

Northern Ontario watchers counted 4,355 birds, 120 more than last year, including a rare hawk owl in Port William. Ottawans numbered 6,993 birds of 34 species, none of them new. More

than 110 Toronto watchers spotted 63 species through the gloom of a foggy census day, about 10 species fewer than usual.

HOLD TWO COUNTS
Two counts were held in Quebec province, at Montreal and Quebec City. Observers at Montreal spotted 30 species, including a bonaparte gull, seldom seen as far north in winter. Small birds were generally scarce, and a surprise was the dearth of chickadees and nuthatches. Two new species spotted in Quebec City out of 2,000 were the gyrfalcon and the rough-legged hawk.

Five teams were operating in Nova Scotia's third count, where the most notable observation was a pair of ruddy ducks, rarely seen at far east. At Fredericton, a scant 351 birds were spotted, of 21 species. The Christmas census was begun in 1900 by Dr. Frank M. Chapman, late of the American Museum of Natural History, when 27 persons sent him lists from 25 localities. Now nearly 10,000 observers from 600 points in the United States and Canada take part in the count.

Prayer Services Open at Montague

The opening service of the Week of Prayer was held on Monday night in the Church of Christ, Montague and was attended by a large congregation. Rev. Kenneth Norris conducted the service. Rev. D.A. Campbell read the Scripture from Luke 15 and led in Prayer.

The hearty hymn singing was led by the choir with Miss Peggy Beck as organist. Mrs. Kenneth Norris sang a beautiful solo "The Galilee Road".

Rev. J.M. Fraser spoke on the text "I will arise and go to my father," his theme was the twofold parable of the prodigal son and the elder brother, illustrating the sins of the flesh and the sins of the spirit and the forgiveness and love of God. This parable of our Lord is often regarded as the greatest story ever told.

Tonight's service will be in the Baptist Church and the Rev. D.A. Campbell will be the preacher.

EASTERN GUARDIAN

VERA'S BEAUTY Parlor, Cardigan closed until April 1st.

PRIMROSE Sisters hockey practice, Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. Montague Rink

SKATES AND BOOTS all sizes reduced ten per cent. Special on childrens sizes 7 to 10 \$4.45 at Stewart and Becks.

Montague week of Prayer service tonight 8:00 p.m. in Baptist Church, Speaker Rev. D.A. Campbell. Hearty gospel singing. Welcome.

PERSONALS

Mrs. Fred Gates of West Royalty was the welcome guest of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Diamond for the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Beer have returned home from Summerside where they were the guests of their son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Ken Beer and Mrs. Beer.

Mr. Cecil Mosher, Windsor, N.S. spent the weekend with his parents, Capt. and Mrs. A.A. Mosher, Montague.

Miss Dawn Lee Philpott of Windsor N.S. spent the weekend in Montague, the guest of Capt and Mrs. A.A. Mosher.

LORNE VALLEY

Messrs. Heath MacGrath, Peter MacLeod and Lloyd MacDonald were visitors to North River on December 28.

Mr. Louis Callaghan spent a few days visiting friends and relatives in Rustico during the past week.

Mrs. Gertrude Crane, Charlottetown, spent Christmas with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Shaw, and Mr. Kenneth MacLeod has returned to Toronto, Ontario, after visiting relatives and friends in this vicinity.

Miss Shirley MacDonald was a visitor to Montague on Dec. 31. Mrs. Lucy Doiron, Charlottetown, was a recent over-night visitor at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Callaghan.

Mr. Max Deagle has returned to Lorne Valley, after spending the holidays with relatives in Bear River.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis MacIntyre and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd MacDonald were recent visitors to Orwell Cove where they were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Morrison.

Messrs. Francis MacIntyre, Lloyd MacDonald and Wilbur MacDonald were recent visitors to Montague, where they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Ferguson.

Mr. and Mrs. Munro MacGrath had as their guests on Christmas Day, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Parker, Georgetown, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Crane and son Lea, Bangor.

Miss Christine Shaw, Charlottetown, was a recent overnight guest at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Shaw.

Mrs. George MacInnis spent a few days in Charlottetown, during the week, while there she was the guest of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Spencer, A.M.

LAUNCHING SCHOOL

The December report for Launching School is as follows:

Grade X. 1. Jacqueline Christeau and Phyllis Gardiner. (Equal).
Grade VIII. 1. Norbert Morrison
Grade VI. 1. Gerry Christian, 2. Velma Powers.

Grade V. 1. Norma Jean Gardiner, 2. Eunice Morrison, 3. Margaret Morrison.

Grade IV. 1. Vernon Yoston.
Grade III. Sr. 1. Bobby Gardiner.

New Hints Of Return To Some Features Of Stalinist Era

MOSCOW (Reuters)—A strong new hint that the Kremlin envisages a swing back to some features of the Stalinist era, particularly in art, literature and the theatre, was given Wednesday in an ideological magazine directed by former foreign minister Vyacheslav Molotov.

The magazine, Questions of Philosophy, is published by the Soviet academy of sciences and often is used to convey ideas and trends from the Soviet leadership.

It publishes an editorial rebuking Soviet citizens who have gone too far in criticizing Stalin by attacking the basis of communism itself. The editorial:

1. Condemns Communists who have "slandered" all the theoretical work done up to Stalin's death.

2. Admits its own error in publishing an article which said Soviet drama had "stagnated since the 1930s."

3. Rebuffs the idea that art and literature should be less concerned with ideology.

4. Indicates that the youth of Russia has been affected by ideas coming in from the West in the wake of the de-Stalinization campaign.

GONE TOO FAR?
Observers here say the editorial indicates that Soviet leaders, after reviewing recent events in Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia, have concluded that the de-Stalinization campaign launched after the 20th

congress of the Soviet Communist Party last February has gone too far.

In what amounts to a reappraisal of Stalin's vast influence on Soviet life and art, the magazine calls for more works about socialist democracy (Communism), its advantages and its radical difference from bourgeois democracy.

This is seen as a clear rebuff to some Soviet writers who have recently called for a return to pre-revolutionary styles in literature and playwrighting, with less emphasis on ideology.

The magazine is guided in its broad editorial policy by Molotov, who now is a first deputy premier and minister of state control. Molotov was a close colleague of Stalin's for many years as premier in the 1930s and later as foreign minister.

Apart from his other tasks, Molotov is generally responsible for questions of ideology in art and culture.

NIKITA IN STEP
The magazine article follows a reported remark by Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Communist Party chief, at a New Year's reception in the Kremlin that Stalin was "a great Marxist" and "a great fighter against imperialists."

He added, according to diplomatic sources here, that the present Soviet leaders must share responsibility.

Grade III. Jr. 1. Marjorie Yoston, 2. Pat Morrison
Grade II. A. Audrey MacDonald.
Grade II. B. 1. Donna Gardiner.
Grade I. A. 1. Carol Gardiner.
Grade I. B. 1. George Powers-Teicher, Mrs. K. F. Christian.

The Guardian, Page Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1957

Khrushchev was the man who launched a sweeping attack on the crimes of Stalin



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On Jan. 9th, 10th, and 11th

He Has The World's Longest And Loneliest Mail Route

DAWSON CREEK B.C. (CP)—John Pryor wheeled a 12-ton tractor-trailer unit from its bay at Northern Freightways Limited's terminal here and headed for the post-office in mid-town Dawson Creek.

A cluster of mail bags stood waiting on the loading platform. He swung open the heavy metal doors at the rear of the 30-foot vehicle and shoved the sacks of first-class mail in with 400 mail bags already pressed tight in the van.

At 8 a.m., Pryor's rig moved past mile zero on the Alaska Highway and headed out on the world's longest and loneliest mail route. The run terminated three days and 918 miles later, at Whitehorse in the Yukon.

LONG EXPERIENCE
Pryor and two other unofficial travelling postmasters, who twice weekly sound mail call at 37 stops on the Alaska Highway, have just rounded out 200,000 miles of service on the 13-month-old main run.

At the same time, in Northern Freightway's headquarters, company President Roger Forsyth shuffled reports covering the operation since October, 1955, and noted: "Ninety-five per cent on schedule since the start."

During the Christmas mail rush last month, Mr. Forsyth noted that "it's going to be tougher to stay on schedule — and there's Yukon Joe."

Yukon Joe is a problem because they never know where to drop his mail. On one trip, it was learned that the bearded hermit had struck out by dog team for the Liard River, 70 miles. His usual stamping ground was far to the south.

"Nobody knows where he came from but the guy's got talent," Pryor said of Yukon Joe. "Paints scenes on moosehorns and on dry fungus from around trees. He sells them to tourists."

For the travelling postmasters on the Alaska Highway, ice and dust outrank 50-below-zero cold of winter, spring's flash floods and the solitude of the land, as occupational hazards of this northwest run.

DUST AND COLD
Dust caused the only accident recorded to date on the long mail haul. A car attempting to pass another in the swirling dust forced one of the mail vans into the ditch. The mail went through, however, on the first company freight truck that passed.

There's only one answer to the

bitter winter cold. Pryor says. That is to let the engine run 24 hours a day. Various types of heaters were tried in one bid to get an engine started in a hurry after an overnight stop but these were given up after one heater refused to function in temperatures lower than 47 below.

With overnight stops at Fort Nelson, B.C., and Watson Lake, Yukon, Pryor pulled into Whitehorse post office three days after leaving Dawson Creek.

"Sure it's a lonely road," he says, "but when you've travelled it 14 years you get to know every pebble. I figure it's about like driving anywhere else."

DON'T MISS IT'S NERVE-SHATTERING EXCITEMENT - - - AT TUESDAY'S MIDNIGHT SHOW - - - 11.15 P.M.

THE CREATURE WALKS AMONG US! - - - See the monster from the dawn of time - - - loose in the city on a rampage of raging terror! - - - Now even more fearsome with a human mind, more powerful with human emotions - - - **THE CREATURE WALKS AMONG US! - - -** See trembling beauty bait his passions! - - - See primeval fury in human form!

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