

The annotated list details definite information on local distribution, numerical status, and evidences of breeding. Much needed breeding data are given for the Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers; a specimen of *Junco hyemalis cismontanus*, a stray, is recorded; and the northernmost Ontario record for the Lark Sparrow is presented. In addition, there is valuable information on molting dates, nests and nesting sites, and on the respective parts of the male and female in nesting and rearing of young. The paper indicates unusually alert field work. — W. EARL GODFREY.

Flashing wings — By Richard M. Saunders. McClelland and Stewart Limited, Toronto, 1947: x + 388 pp., illustrated by T. M. Shortt, end papers by Barbara Worth. \$4.50.

The keeping of a journal adds immeasurably to the pleasure and scientific value of the very popular hobby of bird watching. Richard M. Saunders is a Toronto bird watcher and "Flashing Wings" is a compilation of entries in his journals.

No fair-weather dilettante, the author takes us into the field month by month through the changing seasons of the entire year. Whether watching birds through the veil of a winter snow storm or the shimmering heat haze of summer, whether describing his first exciting suspicion of a new bird for the region or the home life of a mere crow, his enthusiasm is genuine. He writes with delightful simplicity and sincerity, sometimes with humor.

T. M. Shortt's illustrations are the work of an artist who combines enough imagination to make his subjects interesting with an accuracy in detail and posture that comes only of intimate knowledge of the living bird. His drawings are charming and his painting (of the Whistling Swan on the jacket and frontispiece) illustrates superbly the spirit that pervades the pages inside.

Appendix A contains a very useful migration chart which shows the average, earliest, and the latest arrival and departure dates for both spring and autumn. A list of the 327 bird species (a surprising variety), which have been recorded from the Toronto

region is given. Appendix B details the results of the Brodie Club's Christmas Bird Censuses for the 21 years, 1925-1945 inclusive.

In Appendix A, the use of the name "Red-backed Junco" for, presumably, the Oregon Junco is confusing since the former has long been the accepted name of a race of juncos of another species (*Junco caniceps dorsalis*) which has not been recorded in Canada. In the same list, the Hoary Redpoll is given as "Arctic (Hoary) Redpoll" while its close relative, the Common Redpoll, is listed as "Redpoll Linnet (Common Redpoll)." It would obviate confusion and perhaps error to follow the vernacular nomenclature of the A.O.U. Check-list. On page 355, exception may be taken to the sure identification of scoters which do not possess a "wing pattern" as American Scoters, since of course lack of wing pattern on the birds observed did not exclude the Surf Scoter which also was recorded on the same date.

These small criticisms do not in the least obscure the fact that the book contains a great deal of interesting information which is entertainingly presented. Readers who cannot get into the field will enjoy all the field trips vicariously; the desultory bird watcher will profit by the author's enthusiasm and purpose; and the dyed-in-the-wool enthusiast will at once recognize in the author a kindred spirit. — W. EARL GODFREY.

Pearse, Theed, 1946. **Notes on changes in bird populations in the vicinity of Comox, Vancouver Island, 1917-1945.** Murrelet, 27, No. 1, pp. 4-9. The continuous coniferous forest has been removed, to be replaced by deciduous shrubs; settlement still remains a fringe along the coast; numerous changes in bird life have occurred and the author briefly sketches the changes for various species. In conclusion he says there is no doubt the population of that portion which has been logged over, has increased, as against what it carried when forested. In other parts the probability is that some species have declined but the total population may well remain the same. — A. L. RAND.



Rand, Austin Loomer. 1948. "Notes on changes in bird populations in the vicinity of Comox, Vancouver Island, by Theed Pearse [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 62(3), 102–102. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.341049>.

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