

LAZULI BUNTING NESTING AT MOOSE JAW

By NANCY DUNN, Moose Jaw

This summer a pair of Lazuli Buntings did us the honour of building their home in our garden above Moose Jaw Creek. Our yard is large and contains many fruit trees. The nest was built in a six foot pear tree, and here a very friendly little family of three was raised.

The father was streamlined and about six inches long. He was clothed in the most magnificent delphinium-blue coat (rich turquoise), the breast was a dull coral, the wings had prominent white stripes across them.

We had great difficulty in distinguishing the mother as she looked like one of our own sparrows. However, when she was on the nest the white wing-stripes (just like father's) could be readily seen. She became very friendly and allowed me to poke my nose two feet from her daily on my morning visit and that, remaining on the nest all the time.

Her small deep nest was placed at eye level about five feet from the ground. It contained three chalk-white eggs and one egg which was bluish with spots. This egg did not hatch. The babies were small editions of our sparrows. They were veryaucy and they scolded me with a harsh little chirp of a most disgusted one.

I first noticed these birds when I accidentally discovered their nest. The delphiniums were then about four feet high so this must have been about the end of June. I watched the family with interest then until they left my yard about the end of August. Others to see the birds were Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Davies and their children, Miss N. N. Steele, Miss Hazel Wildard, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Seed and my husband, R. J. Dunn.

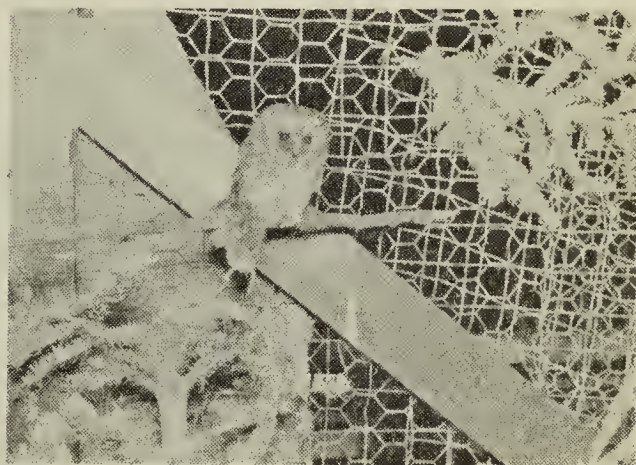
The little nest is still in the pear tree and reminds me of my friends, the Lazuli Buntings. Because their chirp is distinctive I know that they have nested here before and I am looking forward to having them nest here again.

Note: The note sent in by Mrs. Dunn is an acceptable record of a relatively uncommon Saskatchewan bird. Museum records of Lazuli Buntings in Saskatchewan include ones from Indian Head (two specimen re-

ords, May 24, 1890 and one specimen record, May 26, 1892—George W. Lang), Eastend (sight record, July 1 and July 2, 1908 by L. B. Potter; sight record, 1940, L. B. Potter), Broadview (specimen record, May 26, 1931 by F. G. Bard), Dollard (specimen record, 1934; specimen record, May 30, 1934; and sight record, May 31, 1934—all by C. F. Holmes), Regina (sight record, July 11, 1934, by F. G. Bard; sight record Nov., 1935 by Hugh Knowles; sight record May 30, 1947 by Lyle Ehmans), Arcola (sight record July 13, 1938).

For a revision of Mitchell's *Checklist of Saskatchewan Birds, 1924*, which must soon be undertaken, only the following kinds of records will be accepted: (1) specimen records, (2) photographic records, and (3) well authenticated sight observations by several individuals. Although records must fall into one of these categories before they can be accepted for the preparation of a checklist, other records make quite legitimate reports for submission to the BLUE JAY or to the Museum. A series of such reports helps to establish the distribution of a species. We request your assistance in bringing your observations to our attention. If you report to the BLUE JAY or to the Museum, the results of your field studies will be preserved for future workers.

Fred G. Bard,
Sask. Museum of Natural History



REQUEST FOR NESTING RECORDS OF SAW-WHET OWL—Richard Lumsden of 12026 - 104th Street, Edmonton, who took this photograph of the little Saw-whet Owl, would like to know of localities where Saw-whet Owls have nested recently (1955-57) within a 100-mile radius of Edmonton. He is eager to locate and photograph these beautiful little "night-pipers" of the spruce groves.