

Black-throated Blue Warbler in Sask.

By DR. R. W. NERO

The remarkable influence of the Audubon Society was well demonstrated recently when the executive director of the Canadian Society, Mr. John A. Livingston, visited Regina. On October 16, while visiting Moose Jaw with Dr. George Ledingham, Mr. Livingston saw a small bird fly against a window pane. Upon inspection and later preparation as a study skin this bird was found to be an immature female Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). This is, so far as I have been able to determine, the second known specimen for the province. The first one, an adult male, was collected at Percival, Saskatchewan, on October 21, 1936 by John and Robert Nelson. It was forwarded to the museum by Mr. E. M. Callin and has been preserved as a mounted specimen. This latter

record has been mentioned by Potter (1943: 71) and Bent (1953: 234).

The Black-throated Blue Warbler is a common bird of the eastern deciduous woodlands but it is rare even in Manitoba. Bent (*op. cit.*) suggested that it might be extending its range westward, breeding rarely in Manitoba or Saskatchewan. Movat (1947: 113) reported some sight observations of this species in June and July, 1939, at Emma Lake, and Potter (*loc. cit.*) observed a male at Eastend on September 21, 1937. It was not found, however, in the Flotten Lake region (Godfrey, 1950), the Somme district (R. & T. Hooper, 1954), or at Nipawin (Street, 1943), areas which are all within the Canadian Zone in which this species nests. A breeding record in Saskatchewan of this striking little bird would be an exciting discovery.

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- HOUSTON, C. S. — 1949 — The Birds of the Yorkton district, Saskatchewan. Can. Field-Nat., 63 (6): 215-241.
- MOWAT, F. M. — 1947 — Notes on the Birds of Emma Lake. Saskatchewan. Can. Field-Nat., 61 (3): 105-115.
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The Kangaroo Rat in Saskatchewan

By DR. R. W. NERO

The Kangaroo Rat is a small, light reddish-brown mammal, white underneath and with a white stripe across each flank. The most striking features of the Kangaroo Rat are the greatly enlarged hind legs and feet which, together with the long tail, represent adaptations for a bipedal leaping or bounding gait. It derives the first part of its name from its similarity in this respect to the true Kangaroos. Just as the Prairie Dog is not a dog, the Kangaroo Rat is not a member of the rat tribe but belongs to a group of native mice distinguished by the presence of external, fur-lined cheek pouches in which it can carry large

quantities of food. The species found in this province is about the size of a small ground-squirrel. The most recent one captured was 10¾ inches long from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail; however, 5¾ inches of this length consisted of the tail alone. This mammal is so well adapted to dry areas, according to E. T. Seton, that instead of drinking, it obtains water only through eating succulent roots.

The Kangaroo Rat is usually regarded as a mammal of the desert-like regions of North America, but it has been known to occur in Saskatchewan since 1933. (Its only other occurrence in Canada is based on a