

# Tennessee Warbler Banding at Nipawin

By **Maurice G. Street**, Nipawin

Tennessee Warblers are abundant in the Nipawin area each fall and are attracted in great numbers to the red elderberry bushes at my banding station. In 1952, after moving to my present location, I converted a simple drop trap into a special trap which has proved most successful. With it, I was able to band 2189 Tennessee Warblers between 1952 and 1958. My best years were 1952 with 462, 1955 with 389 and 1956 with 392. Only 86 Tennessee Warblers were caught between 1945 and 1951.

The trap is 36 inches wide, 48 inches long and 6 inches deep, and is made of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch mesh hardware cloth. Two holes two inches square are cut in the centre of the top. The two holes are only two inches apart, but they are separated by a vertical wire screen four inches high and 12 inches long, which also serves to guide the birds to the openings. Over the top of this screen, another piece of hardware cloth is fastened horizontally so the trapped birds are un-

able to see the holes through which they have entered. In other words, to the trapped birds looking upwards, the top now appears to have no openings from which to escape. Up to 30 birds can be taken at one time, with little chance of injury. Nearly 100% of the birds entering are retained; only the odd one accidentally escapes. A shallow pan 14 inches in diameter is placed with one edge directly under the two openings. Into this pan, water drips continually from an overhead container. The entire trap is painted a dull black.

This August (1959) was a record month for Tennessee Warblers, largely owing to a heavy crop of berries on the red elderberry bushes. Between August 1 and August 25 (when banding was interrupted by illness, with the migration barely past its peak) I was able to band 551 Tennessee Warblers, in addition to 41 warblers of other species. These birds were all caught in the one special trap. On six days no warbler was caught, owing to cold, rainy weather. The six best days were August 1, 2, 15, 20, 22 and 23, when 41, 42, 44, 59, 55 and 42 Tennessee Warblers, respectively were banded.

## MYRTLE WARBLER WAVE AT KINLOCH

By **Mrs. H. Rodenberg**, Kinloch

Four Myrtle Warblers, the first of the season, were seen at Kinloch on May 8, 1959. During the next two days (May 9 and 10) there were hundreds of them passing through—at times when I looked out the yard would be covered with them. The neighbors also reported seeing large numbers. "We've never seen anything like it before." It was really a wonderful sight.

## MOURNING DOVES NESTING IN OPEN FIELDS

By **S. A. Mann**, Skull Creek

This year I found four Mourning Dove nests in our alfalfa field (one with two young), and one in the pasture in the root of a gray sage. Also

when I was cutting alfalfa on a neighbour's field about five miles from ours I found another nest. All nests were on the ground. None of the birds returned to the nest after the nest had been cut over, not even the one with the young. I think that a Swanson's Hawk got the young from this nest as I found it during the morning and went to see it when I went cutting in the afternoon and there were then no young. They were too small to have walked away.

Has anyone else experienced finding Mourning Doves nesting away from bush? Taverner and others describe them as nesting "occasionally on the ground," but I have never heard of doves nesting in the middle of open fields. It wasn't for want of bush, as there is bush—poplar, aspen, willow, Manitoba maple, hawthorn, etc., within a quarter of a mile of any of their nesting sites.