

## FORSTER'S TERN AND WESTERN GREBE NEST AT REGINA

by Elmer Fox, Regina

On June 18, 1960, accompanied by my son Reg and photographer Bob Hamilton, I located a nest of the Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). The nest was situated on "Tern Island" in Wascana Marsh in Regina. It contained a newly-hatched chick and two eggs, one of which was pipped.

"Tern Island" is near the stream-bed in the west-central section of Wascana Marsh. It consists of an irregular series of flat coarse gravel and sand ridges with some grass and weed cover. In most cases, the tops of the ridges are only a few inches above water level. Consequently, the island is subject to flooding from spring run-off and heavy rains. The Regina Natural History Society attempted to stabilize the nesting of the Common Tern in this area several years ago by dumping gravel on the site during the winter. It was on these gravel ridges that the nest of the Forster's Tern was located.

Occasional Forster's Terns are noted at the Marsh almost every year during spring migration, but when I recorded the bird during the breeding season I felt that the prospects of nesting were fairly good. Only one nest was located. I did not conduct a thorough search as I did not wish to disturb the birds any more than necessary. This is the first known breeding record of the Forster's Tern in the Regina area. Apparently, however, the young were not successfully raised. Mr. F. G. Bard, Director of the Museum of Natural History, reported that he visited the island on June 22 following a heavy rain and that the island was completely inundated and all the terns' nests destroyed.

On the same date, June 18, I rowed out from the island southeast along the stream bed and accidentally discovered a nest of the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). This nest was anchored in about four feet of water and was a good five feet in diameter. It contained four eggs. This is the first known breeding record for this bird in the Regina area. Two pairs of Western Grebes were noted throughout the summer

on Wascana Marsh. Occasionally young were seen either riding on the back of an adult or feeding alongside. The Western Grebe, therefore, was more successful in its first attempt to nest here than the Forster's Tern.

## KINGFISHER AND CHAT BREEDING RECORDS

by Frank Brazier, Regina

A Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) was reported nesting this year in a burrow in the east bank of Wascana Creek just north of the Marsh by Ricky Sanderson, but the nest was vandalized and the five young perished (see Sanderson's story in the Boys' and Girls' Section of this issue). This is apparently Regina's first breeding record for this species.

On July 21, 1960, I found a pair of Yellow-breasted Chats (*Icteria virens*) with a bob-tailed youngster in the Boggy Creek Valley near Bredin Siding northwest of Regina. The bird seldom visits the Regina area. Jack Taylor saw one at Regina, May 19, 1935, and I saw one in 1954. In addition, there is a record of a pair presumed nesting in the Flying Creek Valley near Tregarva in 1939. (Soper, J. D., 1942. The long-tailed Chat in Saskatchewan. Can. Field-Nat. 56:83-85).

## BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER AT REGINA

by R. W. Nero, S.M.N.H.

An adult male Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) found dead in Regina on October 26, 1960, provides the first record of this species for Regina and the third specimen for the province (see *Blue Jay*, 14:3). It is of interest to note that these three specimens are late October records. The first was collected on October 21 (1936) at Percival, the second struck a window at Moose Jaw on October 16 (1956). The Regina specimen was found by Christopher Davis (age six) on the front patio of his home at 6 Langley Street, Regina. It presumably died as a result of flying into a window. Christopher's father, Dr. Royden Davis, is an active member of the Regina Bird Group.