

THE BLUE GOOSE IN WESTERN SASKATCHEWAN

by **J. Bernard Gollop**,
Canadian Wildlife Service, Saskatoon

This note concerns the status of the Blue Goose in Saskatchewan, west of Saskatoon. The bird is apparently a rare but regular spring and fall migrant. Records which have come to my attention in 1959 are as follows:

April 12—10, Goose Lake, south of Tessier. J. B. Gollop; Sept. 19 and Oct. 3—1, Manitto Lake, south of Neilburg. J. L. Neilson, Wildlife Br.; Sept. 30—1, obtained from hunter, Kindersley. B. R. Sen, Wildlife Serv.; Oct. 2—1, South Sask. River, south of White Bear. J. L. Nelson; Oct. 16—1, Cactus Lake. J. L. Nelson.

DISTRACTION DISPLAY BY BOBOLINK

by **John Lane**, Brandon

The most interesting note from S. Alberta in the March, 1960, **Blue Jay** titled "Distraction by Western Meadowlark" reminds me of an observation I made last year of a Bobolink [*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Ed]. On June 28th I found the nest of a Bobolink (after having spent many fruitless hours in searching) which contained four newly-hatched young. The mother was at the nest which was located in a heavy tangle of prairie grasses and had she not flown up I might have trodden on the nest. I think this must have been the first time I ever found a nest with young because I cannot recall ever having witnessed such a display as the female put on at my intrusion. The female flew up but landed again just a couple of feet beyond the nest. The grass was so high that she disappeared from sight, and, apparently to hold my attention, she immediately leaped up again, croaking and moaning in a manner I had never heard before from a Bobolink. Indeed, it has always been my experience (when finding nests containing eggs) for the female Bobolink to flutter away and land at some distance and stay quiet. This particular bird never did leave the immediate scene of her home while I was there, but continued leaping up and down and moaning and squawking till I left.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

COMMON SNIPE: I am studying the life history of the Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago*) and should like to obtain information on the 1960 spring snipe migration. I am most interested in the actual dates of the first arrivals but other pertinent data will also be appreciated. Please give as much information as you can under these heading—Locality, first arrival, weather preceding first arrival, first winnowing, peak arrival say, three or four birds seen or heard in small locality. In Newfoundland it seems that the older males arrive first, followed a week or so later by the females and birds of both sexes breeding for the first time), weather preceding peak arrival, comparative arrival dates for other years, observer, address.—**Leslie M. Tuck, Wildlife Biologist, P.O. Box E5366, St. John's, Newfoundland.**

WHISTLING SWANS: To learn more about the distribution of Whistling Swans, particularly relationships between populations wintering on the Atlantic Coast, concentration areas in the North Central States and Canadian breeding areas, swans have been colour-marked this spring as follows: Maryland—wings and tails yellow or purple (purple may appear black); Ohio—green on body and lower neck region; Michigan—red on body and lower neck region. If you noted colour-marked swans this spring, please report particulars at once (by June 15 if possible) to **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1006 West Lake Street, Minneapolis 8, Minnesota.**

CORRECTIONS

CO-OPERATIVE MIGRATION STUDY: The list of species given in the March **Blue Jay** should be supplemented by three new species added to the 1960 spring migration list: Tennessee Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler and Bobolink. If you have information about these species, please send reports to **Dr. Stuart Houston, Box 278, Yorkton, Sask.**

YOU ARE REMINDED TO REQUEST NEST RECORD CARDS from **Prairie Nest Records Scheme, c/o Sask. Museum of Nat. Hist., Regina, Sask.**