

site for Bank Swallows. W. B. Barrows and B. Torrey (in Bent, 1942: 404) report swallows nesting in sawdust piles left by lumbering operations. Bent has said sawdust piles are likely to prove to be precarious nesting sites; the same can be said for gravel and sand stock-piles which, of course, are generally in regular use.

LITERATURE CITED

BENT, A. C.

1942. Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows, and their allies. *U.S. Nat'l Mus. Bull.* 179, Smith-Inst., Wash., D.C.

PETERSON, A. J.

1955. The breeding cycle in the Bank Swallow. *Wilson Bull.* 67: 235-286.

STONER, D.

1936. Studies on the bank swallow *Riparia riparia riparia* (Linnaeus) in the Oneida Lake region. *Roosevelt Wild Life Ann.*, vol. 9: 122-233.

MOCKINGBIRD AT GRENFELL

Mrs. John Hubbard of Grenfell reports seeing her first Mockingbird on November 7, 1960, in Grenfell. Although she did not expect a bird characteristic of the Deep South in Saskatchewan in November, Mrs. Hubbard was able to identify it to her satisfaction even without binoculars because she had a close view of the bird as it flew across the street in front of her and hopped from bush to bush in nearby shrubbery. The

late date compares with other November dates on record: a male was taken at Skull Creek by S. A. Mann on November 1, 1929 (SMNH specimen); J. H. Taylor saw one in Regina on November 4, 1934; Lillian Hedley had one visiting her yard in Saskatoon through November, 1958, until it was killed by a cat December 9, 1958.

RIGHT ON COURSE!

Interesting recovery of a banded Purple Finch

A beautiful male Purple Finch was found dead on April 30, 1960, by Peter Scott, at 182 Tupper Avenue, Yorkton. An observant lad, Peter noticed that the bird carried a small band. On reporting this, he learned that I had placed the band on this bird on May 17, 1959—just half a mile east of where he found it one year later. Although banding has proved that adult birds usually return to the same nesting site year after year, it is unusual to have evidence of a bird following exactly the same path **during migration** on two successive years. Purple Finches winter as far south as Texas, and are seen in Yorkton only on their way to the coniferous areas further north.—C. Stuart Houston, Saskatoon.

Third Annual Report of the Prairie Nest Records Scheme

by E. L. Fox, Regina

The Prairie Nest Records Scheme has just completed a third successful year. Since the scheme began, over 4,000 nest record cards have been turned in on 168 species of birds found breeding in the Prairie Provinces and the Northwest Territories.

In most cases, the cards have been submitted by amateur naturalists. This is an example of how the amateur can assist the professional in his research. Information on the breeding period, incubation period, and distribution of birds is urgently required. The amateur can assist by accurately recording his observations on a nest record card, and submitting it to the Saskatchewan Museum of

Natural History for filing. It should be clear that information is required on even the most common bird breeding in your area, and that as much information as possible should be recorded on each nest found. Every interested person has access to the information contained in the Scheme's files.

By January 15, 1961, 37 contributors had submitted 1361 cards on nests found during 1960. Information was recorded on 145 species of birds. Some cards were received too late to be included in this report. Contributors should turn their cards in by October 1, 1961.