

Nature's Osteopathy

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Burrowing Owl.



Sketch by Lawrence Ostoforoff

On September 28, 1958 a Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) casualty was picked up on highway No. 1 near Pilot Butte by W. Nielsen, staff member of the Saskatchewan Museum. Upon examining the specimen we found that its right leg had been broken but had healed into a nearly natural position (see sketch). Note that although the bone is not properly aligned, it healed in such a way that the toes still face forward.

Similar cases of natural healing have been observed by F. W. Lahrman of the Saskatchewan Museum. A Western Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) was observed to have one wing broken and dangling. Approximately one month later the bird was seen to fly perfectly.

In his field notes, Mr. Lahrman writes about a Canada Goose (*Bran-ta canadensis*) at the Wascana Sanctuary. August 14, 1954, "Left tibia broken — was able to swim and move about on land by hopping on one foot." August 29, "Bearing some weight on left foot but limps while walking." September 13 (32 days after fracture), "Completely healed and in natural position."

While doing taxidermy at the Museum I have noticed in several cases that birds' bones had been broken and amazingly healed in natural position while the bird undoubtedly was trying to use the limb. From this information one can conclude that if a bone is broken (tendons and veins still being intact) the pieces will often knit together quickly and in a natural position.

SASKATCHEWAN NESTING RECORDS OF THE COOPER'S HAWK

Compiled by Dr. Stuart Houston, Yorkton.

The Cooper's Hawk was listed as "hypothetical" in Mitchell's "Birds of Saskatchewan" in 1924. The fifth edition of the A.O.U. Check-list in 1957 failed to include Saskatchewan

in the breeding range of this species. Both of these publications overlooked the records of Thomas Blakiston who found a nest with two eggs and collected the adult female near