

An interesting 1961 Manitoba breeding record of the Indigo Bunting was sent to the Prairie Nest Records Scheme by **Gordon Smith** of Winnipeg who noted a nest, July 7, 1961, near Grand Beach.

In addition to the Saskatchewan records we have a record of a WANDERING TATLER (*Heteroscelus incanum*) seen at Jasper, Alberta, by **E. Otto Höhn** of the University of Alberta. Professor Höhn recorded his observation in this way: "The bird was seen on the rocky shore of Patricia Lake near the town of Jasper in Jasper National Park on July 2, 1961, at a distance of about 10 yards. It was observed through 10x50 binoculars. I noted the following points about it at the time: size about that of a Greater Yellowlegs, but more compact in build with relatively thicker and shorter legs; bill black or dark grey, legs yellow. The bird often teetered in the manner of a Spotted Sandpiper. In flight the entire upper surface was an even grey, i.e., there were no wing bars and no rump markings. The underparts were irregularly marked with dark grey and white, but did not show the regular barring. I've seen adults of this species on the B.C. coast. The call note was 'tee tee tee tee tee'." Professor Höhn refers to this as the third record of the species for Alberta. The only record given for Alberta in the **Birds of Alberta** by W. Ray Salt and A. L. Wilk (1958) is a specimen collected May 30, 1938, on the east shore of Swan Lake near the Alberta-B.C. boundary west of Grande Prairie. The bird is not on the Saskatchewan checklist.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE AT FORT QU'APPELLE

by **E. Manley Callin**, Fort San

This item is written partly to report an extremely rare visitor to this area and partly to describe another personal experience in regard to the value of that "second look". Criticism is frequently levelled, and rightly so, at hasty identifications or "snap judgments" because they may result in a common bird being misidentified and reported as a rare species. However, it is well for us to remember that the danger of the "snap judgment" also works in reverse as it

may result in a rare species being passed by in haste.

At 1.30 p.m., on Nov. 10, 1961, I stepped outside our house to return to the office and a casual glance revealed a dark robin-sized bird with fairly long tail reaching for berries in a near-by Mountain Ash. Further details were not clear as I was facing a bright sun and in my hurry I was tempted to accept it as a Pine Grosbeak as that species had been seen many times daily in the area. Fortunately the bird turned at this moment and a light-colored patch was seen on the wing instead of the wing bars of the Grosbeak. I immediately approached the bird from another direction and thus identified my first Townsend's Solitaire in almost 36 years of observation. Though it twice flew a short distance, I eventually watched it with binoculars from a distance of about 25 feet as it fed leisurely upon hawthorn berries or merely perched in its noted attitude of quiet solemnity.

As most of the readers know, the normal home of the Solitaire is in the mountains and foothills but it is noted as an erratic wanderer in spring and fall. Though an occasional bird has been seen at Regina almost every year since 1954, it is considered rare at Regina and is much rarer to the north and east. As a matter of fact I have records of about 20 observers for the eastern half of the Qu'Appelle Valley area, some of the records dating back slightly over 100 years, and not one of the observers has listed the Solitaire.

Editor's Note: The Townsend's Solitaire reported at Regina on the Christmas Count, December 24, 1961, was still in the same location in a small park in the north of the city at the time of **The Blue Jay** going to press (noted January 20). Active and healthy in appearance, the bird seemed prepared to spend the winter in Regina, as one did in 1960-61. (cf. Margaret Belcher's **Birds of Regina**, 1961. Spec. Publ. No. 3, S.N.H.S.).

BANDED PURPLE FINCH RECOVERED AT YORKTON

by **Larry A. Morgotch**, Yorkton

When Carol Beaumont and Charyl Wiley of Yorkton reported finding a banded Purple Finch along a city
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