

coast of America in the fall, and that they may be blown inland from the British Columbia coast by weather systems from the Pacific during the month of May.

The implications are exciting. But nothing is yet certain, particularly since *most* spring records have been from the *eastern* half of the continent, which suggests that they are *not* Alaskan birds. But it will be interesting to analyze future western Canadian records in the light of *their* possible origin in Alaska. It seems likely that there will be additional May records. We should therefore keep a special watch for this species in future. If there is a North American breeding population outside Alaska of this remarkable bird it may be somewhere in the Canadian north, possibly even in one of the Prairie Provinces. If and when it is found, the location should be kept secret. And, of course, it is also important

that as *few* specimens as possible should be collected, if the postulated breeding population is to flourish. The specimen collected in Alberta was, unfortunately, taken before its identity was realized. But perhaps, since this is a "lek" species, the two females got along happily enough with the remaining male in this instance!

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRANDON JUNIORS' NESTBOX PROJECT

by **Les Rourke**, Brandon, Manitoba

The year 1967 proved to be another successful one for our nest lines. We now have over 1700 nest boxes set out, although only 1200 of these are listed in our field books.

There were two highlights in last year's activities. The first highlight was the great increase of Mountain Bluebirds, with the species more than doubling its former high mark of 79 nests.

The other item of importance was the finding of a hybrid male bluebird (Mountain X Eastern) which had both a Mountain Bluebird and an Eastern

Bluebird mate. From the first of these two nests, six young were successfully hatched. This is reported to be the first example of a wild hybrid in the thrush family, let alone a successful back cross in the bluebird family in North America. A full report is in preparation.

Last summer we moved a number of nest boxes to new locations, and over 100 new boxes were built and set out. For 1968 we plan to build and set out over 100 more, some of these being replacements. Here are the totals of nests checked in 1967.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Total nests</i>
Common Goldeneye.....	1 (perhaps more)
Tree Swallow.....	1000+
Eastern Bluebird.....	55 first broods
Mountain Bluebird	160 first broods
Eastern Bluebird X Hybrid male.....	1 (nest unsuccessful)
Mountain Bluebird X Hybrid male (same male as above)	1 (nest successful)
House Sparrow	a few

March, 1968