

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER FOUND IN SOUTHEASTERN SASKATCHEWAN

by **Robert W. Nero**, Regina

A twelfth species of woodpecker was added to the Saskatchewan checklist when a Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*) was found and collected on May 30, 1965 at Kenosee Lake in the Moose Mountain Provincial Park in extreme southeastern Saskatchewan. Both a male and a female of this species were sighted on May 29 by Spencer Sealy, but they were extremely wary and were soon lost to sight. On the next day Mrs. Richard Sanderson and, independently, Miss Marty Cook, found the female in mid-afternoon, feeding quietly and slowly in a mature grove of introduced yellow pines on the north shore of the lake. In late afternoon, in the same place, they were able to find it again and point it out to Robert R. Taylor, who recognized it as a Williamson's Sapsucker. An adjacent cabin served as headquarters for a field party conducting a survey of the birds of the area, and shortly after Ross Lein was summoned to collect the bird. The specimen is now in the collections of the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus. The male was briefly seen again by Sealy on June 2 in the same general area.

The male Williamson's Sapsucker, which is in the same genus as our

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, is a strikingly-marked woodpecker with a black crown and black back and long white shoulder patch. The female is quite different, having a brown head and back with narrow white stripes on the back and sides, making it appear, as Roger Tory Peterson says, "zebra-backed." This woodpecker is an inhabitant of coniferous forests in the high mountains of western America, from "southern British Columbia south in mountains through central and eastern Washington, Oregon . . . western Montana . . . to southern California . . . and northern New Mexico" according to the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American birds* (1957).

Salt and Wilk in *The Birds of Alberta* (1958) list the species as hypothetical for Alberta, but so far as we can determine there are no other records for Canada outside of British Columbia, nor has it been listed for the states beyond the mountain ranges (with the exception of a record for Nebraska). Thus, although the species has been recorded for this province, it must be recognized as an accidental visitor. No doubt this record will cause us all to inspect sapsuckers with a little more care than formerly.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER — A SASKATCHEWAN FIRST

by **Frank H. Brazier**, Regina

Recently I found myself in southwestern Oregon staring at a "lifer"—a fine Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) which was flycatching, sailing out from the spire of a tall dead pine and returning. I was thus engrossed when I heard a strange buzzy song nearby and, turning, noticed a movement in a densely foliated tree. A head popped up, then neck and throat were revealed as the bird craned to get a better look at me, giving me a better look at him. He then flew off, but not before I was satisfied I was seeing a Black-throated

Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*). This was only the second time that I had seen this warbler, but this second sighting, in the bird's normal breeding range, was not nearly so exciting as my first view of it.

On May 3, 1965 as I entered the lane leading to Rotary Park in Regina shortly after noon I noticed a small bird moving vigorously on a foodhunt in a tree about 100 feet away. My first thought was that it was a Myrtle Warbler but as I got closer I could see no rump patch when it flew. Then the pronounced white in the facial