

# BONAPARTE'S GULL NESTING AT GLASLYN, SASKATCHEWAN, 1969

by **Fred W. Lahrman**, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

While working on nature trails at The Battlefords' Provincial Park in early 1969, Lorne Scott and I had an opportunity on June 17 to check the area where the Bonaparte's Gull had been found nesting in previous years on Lamotte's Swamp near Glaslyn (see *Blue Jay*, 26:70-74.)

We soon found a pair of Bonaparte's Gulls and a nest with three eggs. As we approached the nest, the pair dived at us with screaming cries and were soon joined by a third Bonaparte's Gull from a distant part of the marsh. We believe this third bird may have been one of a second nesting pair, but the gulls were fewer in numbers than in previous years.

We noticed that only two fence posts remained this year from an old fence line which ran through the nest-

ing area. The gulls used these posts for perching on and as lookout sites while they guarded their nesting territory. We erected nine fence posts in the nesting area in the hope that they would encourage more birds to establish nesting territories in the coming years.

This beautiful and unique bay provided many other attractions, such as the Yellow Rails, Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Common Snipe in courtship displays, and nesting Canvasbacks. Shooting star flowers were blooming in profusion on the little hummocky islands.

At one time this swamp was named the Lamotte's Bird Sanctuary. For some reason it was removed from the list of sanctuaries. It is obvious that the sanctuary should be reinstated.

## REPORT OF SUCCESSFUL 1969 BANDING OF BLUEBIRDS AND TREE SWALLOWS AT INDIAN HEAD

by **Lorne Scott**, Indian Head

Since 1963, I have been engaged in building and setting out bird houses to attract bluebirds in the Indian Head district.

This past spring I set out another 200 bird houses to bring the total to 750. Two new Bluebird Trails were established this spring: 100 houses were set out between Wolseley and Melville, Saskatchewan, and 50 were set out between Qu'Appelle and Lip-ton, Saskatchewan.

The two new trails proved very successful with only six out of the 150 houses unoccupied. Tree Swallows occupied most of the new houses. It seems to take two or three years before bluebirds become established in an area. There are now more bluebirds than Tree Swallows nesting in

the first houses.

Again this year there were twice as many Mountain Bluebird nests as last year, the totals being 51 nests in 1968 and 104 this year. The Tree Swallows also showed a marked increase from 178 nests in 1968 to about 275 this year.

The highlight of the year was having two pair of Eastern Bluebirds nesting in the houses. This brought back memories from 1966 when there were two pair of Eastern Bluebirds nesting. In 1967 and again in 1968 no Eastern Bluebirds nested in the boxes.

The first nest was discovered in early June near Lemberg, Saskatchewan. Unfortunately vandals destroyed their nest shortly after the eggs hatched. The adults were not seen in