

the area again. The second nest was located south of Indian Head in July. This pair successfully raised four young.

This year I obtained a bird banding permit from the Canadian Wildlife Service. I banded 43 adult female Mountain Bluebirds which were caught on the nests in the houses. I also banded 351 young Mountain Bluebirds in the nests. Both adult female Eastern Bluebirds were banded as well as the four young in the successful nest. It will be interesting to see if these Eastern Bluebirds will come back to nest in the houses next year.

A total of 600 Tree Swallows were banded of which 125 were adults, largely females. This makes a total of 1,000 birds banded in the houses this year. As well as the records for the Canadian Wildlife Service, I have kept a list of all the band numbers with the corresponding bird houses in which each bird was banded. With these records I hope to answer several questions such as: Do the adults return to the same house to nest year after year? Do the young birds of the previous year nest when one year old and, do they return to the same area to nest? And how old do the birds live to be?

Next spring the Saskatoon Junior Natural History Society and I plan to join our Bluebird Trails around the north end of Last Mountain Lake. With the work done by Mr. Jack Lane and the Brandon Junior Bird Club we will then have a continuous trail extending from just west of Winnipeg, Manitoba, to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

### **A POSSIBLE SIGHTING OF THE PURPLE SANDPIPER IN SOUTHWEST MANITOBA**

by David Randall, 561 - 7th Street,  
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On May 25, 1969, while on a fishing trip to Pelican Lake in southern Manitoba, I noticed a small flock of Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) feeding along the shore. I later found that this was part of a larger group, perhaps 50 birds in all. While

studying these migrants through my 7 x 35 glasses I noticed one individual with a much different appearance than the rest. This bird was much darker than the Turnstones, with a mottled brownish back and wings a purplish-grey color; the breast was well spotted with darkish spots; the legs were bright yellow, as compared to the burnt-orange legs of the Turnstones.

The stranger stayed close to the other birds in the flock and whenever they flew it went right along. Only the Purple Sandpiper (*Erolia maritima*) seems to fit this bird in Peterson's *A field guide to the birds*. Godfrey (1966. *The birds of Canada*, National Museum of Canada, Bulletin No. 203), states that this species is considered accidental in southern Manitoba.

### **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER NESTS NEAR SASKATOON**

by R. E. Gehlert, 1701 - 20th Street W.,  
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The Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) was added to Saskatoon's list of breeding birds when two nests were discovered near Pike Lake in 1969. Fred Waite and I found the first nest containing two warbler eggs and two cowbird eggs on June 23. The nest was located on the ground under a tuft of dry grass near the edge of a small clearing within a poplar bluff. The female showed little alarm while the nest was inspected but would flit nervously to the willows that bordered the clearing.

I found the second nest on June 29 about one mile away in a nearly identical situation. Both adults were seen carrying food to two large cowbirds ready to leave the nest. The nest was empty the following day.

I would like to thank Dr. Stuart Houston for pointing out the significance of these records. It appears that the only other breeding record for this species for Saskatchewan is of a nest found near Nipawin in 1936 (Houston and Street. 1959. *The birds of the Saskatchewan River, Carlton to Cumberland*).