

180 miles southwest, and Fort Howes Ranger Station, about 125 miles southeast of the coal mine.

These two observations help support the belief of Hoffmann, *et al.*, (1969) that *M. leibii* probably occurs throughout the state.

I would like to thank Mr. Barz and Mr. Don MacDonald for bringing the *M. leibii* specimen to me, D. P. Hendricks for helping me collect and preserve the bats collected in the mine, Dr. Robert E. Moore for reviewing the

manuscript, and Dr. J. Knox Jones for referring the specimens to subspecies.

LITERATURE CITED

- Hall, E. R., and K. R. Kelson. 1959. The mammals of North America. Ronald Press, New York. 1: 1-546.
- Hoffmann, R. S., and D. L. Pattie. 1968. A guide to Montana mammals; identification, habitat, distribution and abundance. Univ. Montana Print Serv., Missoula. 133pp.
- Hoffmann, R. S., D. L. Pattie and J. F. Bell. 1969. The distribution of some mammals in Montana. II. Bats. *J. Mammal.*, 50:737-741.
- Jones, J. K., Jr., and W. C. Stanley. 1962. *Myotis subulatus* in North Dakota. *J. Mammal.*, 43:263.

Junior Naturalists

Edited by **Joyce Deutscher**, 7200 6th Ave., Regina

DOG WITH OVER 600 PORCUPINE QUILLS

by **Rosemary Nemeth**, age 15, Yellow Creek

I never knew how deadly porcupines could be until an incident happened.

I usually go for a walk in the fall through the bush. I just can't resist the beauties the bush has to offer. Puppy, our dog, always comes along with me wherever I go. Puppy is about six inches high and about a foot and a half long.

First we went to a slough. We walked around the slough trying to see if there were any new muskrat houses. We saw one muskrat house which the muskrats had been working on. Then I decided to go to another slough about a quarter of a mile from the first slough.

To get to the second slough we had to walk across a stubble field and on the stubble field was a little bluff of trees. Puppy ran into this bluff. I didn't really pay attention to where he went because he usually wanders off when he wants to, but he always comes back to me.

Then all of a sudden I heard a terrible cry. The first thing that struck me was to run. I ran for a short distance, stopped and called for Puppy but he didn't come. So I went home

and told my mother what happened. She told me, "Don't worry, he'll come home". But I didn't believe her, so I started to go back to where I had left Puppy.

Dad and my brothers were hauling bales and they drove in front of me. I saw Dad stop and then I saw Puppy. Puppy's whole side was white with porcupine quills. Dad and my brothers went to him. By the time I got there, Dad and my brothers had started to pull some quills out, but because it was impossible to get many of them out, we took Puppy to a veterinarian.

The vet put Puppy to sleep and he and my brother started to pull quills out with a certain kind of tool. It took about half an hour to get all the quills out they could find. The vet said you could never get all the quills out. The vet estimated Puppy had about 400 quills and my Dad and my brothers pulled out about 200 quills before we took Puppy to the vet. Then the vet gave Puppy a penicillin shot to prevent infection.

For a few days Puppy was pretty stiff. But he managed to pull through and now he is just as good as ever. I hope this never happens again because I know how some poor wild animal has to suffer with porcupine quills before it dies.

A YOUNG BIRD ENTHUSIAST

by Lane Harris, age 8, Kindersley

My mother will help me with this letter as I am only in grade three and eight and one-half years old. I write to tell you of my summer adventures with birds.

On June 21st I got up at 3:30 a.m. and travelled with my mother and friend on a breeding bird survey. We saw or heard 997 birds representing 47 different species.

I also recorded 17 nests on a nesting bird survey. Of these the most interesting was a Swainson's Hawk. We visited the nest in May and found 3 eggs ten feet up in the crotch of a poplar tree. My mother took pictures each trip 'til August 16th, when only one of the three birds remained. This one left the nest soon after this date.

This is the first year I have helped with bird work, and I am already looking forward to next year.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRANDON JUNIORS' NESTING PROJECT

by John Lane and Vern Bauman,
Brandon, Manitoba

Our 1970 nestbox report features a marked jump in the Eastern Bluebirds, *Sialia sialis*; a mysterious malady that attacked and killed many partly-fledged Mountain Bluebirds, *Sialia currucoides*; important extensions of our "satellite nestlines"; and a start on a banding program with 1300 Mountain and over 300 Eastern Bluebirds banded during the nesting season.

After their usual slow start, Eastern Bluebirds appeared in surprisingly large numbers at our nestboxes, due largely to the new Trans-Canada Highway nestline, running east to a point beyond MacGregor, Manitoba. We found that the farther east we went on this line the more plentiful the Eastern Bluebirds became, and the scarcer the Mountain Bluebird. None of the latter species was found in our nestboxes east of Austin, Manitoba.

In an area roughly bounded by Griswold and Oak Lake on the north and by Souris and Hartney on the south, first-brood baby Mountain Bluebirds died by the nestful from some cause as yet undetermined. Between 40 and 75 nestboxes were affected with an estimated loss of 200 to 350 bluebirds. Only Mountain Bluebirds were affected, and we found no evidence of this malady in second-brood nestings. Insecticide poisonings are suspected.

In 1969 Ed Robinson of Wawanesa, Manitoba, offered to set out and care for 35 of our nestboxes, and in 1970 he took another 15. Also this year the Rev. H. Dykman of Kenton, Manitoba, set out 50 of our boxes, and two Souris, Manitoba, men, Stan Giles and Art Michie, built and set out 50 nestboxes in the Souris area. All of these nestboxes bear our numbers and all are included in our yearly totals. Giles and Michie are already planning further extensions to their satellite nestline.

On the other hand, we were obliged to abandon the "Brandon-Gladstone-Austin" nestline set out during the winter of 1968-69. House Sparrows, much in evidence even in 1969, the first year of operation, were found in 1970 to have occupied over half the 100 nestboxes that comprise this nestline. Last year we listed nine Mountain Bluebird and three Eastern nestings from this nestline; this year we found just one certain nesting of the Mountain Bluebird, and none of the Eastern species. We are salvaging many of the nestboxes from this line, and propose to set them out on a new line running between Carberry and Glenboro, Manitoba.

From an estimated 2400 nestboxes in operation during the 1970 season, we list the following results:

Nesting totals for 1970

Mountain Bluebird (first broods)	435
Eastern Bluebirds (first broods)	113
Tree Swallow (estimated)	1200
House Sparrow	69
House Wren	30
Starlings	14
Deer Mouse	27
Red Squirrel	1