

his comments on an earlier draft of this note.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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### A SIGHT RECORD OF THE SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER FOR SOUTHERN SASKATCHEWAN

by Mrs. Jean E. Bradley, Milestone

The power line which crosses the Moose Jaw Creek beside our house at Milestone, about 30 miles south of Regina, is a favourite perch in summer for a Belted Kingfisher. Every day he sits there and watches for un-wary fish swimming below.

On September 24, 1970 his place was taken by a stranger. In the morning sun this gray and salmon-pink bird could be seen clearly: its most distinctive feature was a long, forked, black-tipped tail—a tail much longer than the bird, and which opened and closed scissor fashion as it perched there on the line. The bird remained in this spot for some time, long enough and close enough to be closely seen by the naked eye and also through binoculars. Eventually it flew off, its very long tail still working scissor fashion as it flew.

With these distinctive features it could not have been anything else but the rarely seen Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

**Editor's Note:** The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) has not previously been reported for Saskatchewan, but it has been recorded twice in Alberta and more than a dozen times in Manitoba. The locality nearest to the present record is Virden, Manitoba, about 160 miles east of Milestone. The present sighting thus is surprising only in that it appears to be the first one for Saskatchewan. This distinctive species, which nests as far north as central Kansas, is listed by Godfrey (*The birds of Canada*, 1966, p. 250) as "casual or accidental" in Canada, with

records as far as Quebec and New Brunswick. The Alberta records, both sightings, are for 1943 and 1952 (Salt and Wilk. *The birds of Alberta*, revised ed., 1966, p. 267). Manitoba records are for: 1880 (specimen), 1884 (sp.), 1899, 1924 (sp.), 1927, 1930, 1934, 1940 (two, including a sp.), 1949 (two), and 1952 (two, including a sp.) (Jehl and Smith, *Birds of the Churchill region, Manitoba*, 1970, p. 58; and other sources). A number of these records are for far northern localities, e.g., Fort Chipewyan, Lake Athabasca, Alberta, and Churchill and York Factory, Manitoba.

### COVERED COMMON CROW'S NEST

by Wayne C. Harris, Box 93, Raymore

On May 2, 1970 I found what appeared to be a nest of a Black-billed Magpie, four miles south and one-half mile west of Raymore. The nest, which was still being constructed, was situated in a willow clump and was about six feet from the ground. It had all the appearances of a Magpie nest, including a well constructed dome-like roof. The only difference was that instead of having the mud cup typical of Magpies, it had a cup which was being constructed of strips of dry bark and some rootlets.

When the nest was checked again on May 14, a Common Crow was flushed from the nest which now contained three crow eggs. On May 24, five eggs were being incubated.

By June 15 all five eggs had hatched and by July 3 all the young had left the nest. I then checked the nest construction more carefully for traces of mud or anything else which would have indicated that the nest was originally built by a Magpie. The results were negative and as the nest was in excellent condition it would seem that it was built this year.

In a subsequent survey of literature I was unable to find any other record of a covered Common Crow nest.

**Editor's Note:** Might one suggest that the crow had probably taken over an abandoned covered portion of a Magpie nest?