

As Myrtle Warblers had been abundant that morning I paid little attention to the two birds at first, assuming that they were Myrtles. A moment's observation, however, made two things immediately obvious: lack of a yellow rump-patch, and the fact that the throat and upper chest were bright yellow, not white with the typical black breast band of the Myrtle. Closer inspection revealed other diagnostic markings: black mottling along the flanks, a white superciliary stripe as well as a white patch behind the ear coverts, two wing bars, and tail spots. The absence of the Myrtle's yellow crown and flank patches further aided in clinching the identification of the two warblers as Yellow-throated Warblers. The *white* head markings, yellow (not orange) throat and chest, and white wing bars (not a wing patch) distinguished them from the similar Blackburnian Warbler.

My companion that morning, Farrell Hall of Weyburn, also observed most of these features as I pointed them out to him, and we both agreed that the birds matched Singer's illustration in our *Birds of North America* (Robbins *et al*, 1966: 265). When I got home I checked other reference books and these further confirmed the identification.

The two Yellow-throated Warblers were tame and relatively inactive, moving along the branches in a somewhat creeper-like fashion, unlike the sprightly activity of the Myrtle and Yellow warblers. These two birds never sang while under observation, although other birds in the vicinity were in full song.

How these warblers (which were probably a pair, although it's difficult to distinguish the sexes in this species) got as far north of their range as Weyburn is a mystery. Griscom and Sprunt (1957), Pough (1949), and Robbins *et al* (1966) give the most northern limit of distribution of this species as southern Wisconsin. This would mean that a distance of over 1500 miles, on a direct line from Weyburn to Wisconsin, would have had to have been travelled by these birds. If,

as is possible, they originated from the western population of the species, of which the northerly limit is south-eastern Nebraska, they would have had to travel even further.

Recent years have shown an increase in the number of sightings of warblers of similar eastern ranges, such as the Prothonotary, Blue-winged, Golden-winged and Parula warblers. Perhaps this sighting is further support of the possibility that these eastern species are gradually extending their ranges westward. It seems more likely, however, that this was just a case of migrants overshooting the mark. It would be interesting to know whether any other sightings of this species were made in this region last year.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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### ANOTHER SASKATCHEWAN COLONY OF FORSTER'S TERN

by Wayne and Don Renaud, Rosetown

The list and accompanying map in the article by Gerrard and Whitfield (*Blue Jay*, 29:19-22) did not include an important colony of Forster's Terns on Jackfish Lake, although two other smaller colonies were recorded in nearby locations (one at a marsh south of Murray Lake in 1935, and one at a marsh 10 miles north of Meota in 1959). On July 3 and 4, 1970, we explored a colony located in a small, marshy bay about three-quarters of a mile south-southwest of Aquadeo Beach, and located at least 37 nests. Most of the nests were empty, but some contained eggs or young. We do not believe that we found all the nests, for the colony appeared to extend beyond the portion that we searched. Judging by the number of adults, we estimated that the colony had between 50 and 100 pairs of terns — which would make it one of the largest Forster's Tern colonies in Saskatchewan.