

through the halls of the Biology Department. His only break from following my voice was a night he spent "happily" sitting in the living room alone, apparently enthralled by the voices on the television set to which he was exposed for the first time in his life.

Dominic had three distinct calls. The first was a recognition call which sounded like — Chee! It followed a period when he had been alone and was then called by name. The second call, his regular cheeps, developed into a louder distress call when he was left alone. Finally his contented "brrrt" when he was eating or sitting beside me on the beach.

For the 4th week of life, Dominic was back at Emma Lake. He wanted to be within sight of the water from dawn until dark but he still followed his adopted parents' legs faithfully, however reluctantly, even when they left the water.

I don't know yet if Dominic will fly in the fall. I hope he will and that he will return to Emma Lake next spring. His lack of fear of people and cars may be his greatest problem. He has brought a great deal of joy to me and to his many friends and he is teaching me much about goldeneye development. This is not an experiment that I would recommend any reader try. The time required is very great and there is no guarantee that the duck will survive either the struggles against diseases, such as pneumonia, or parasites, such as leeches and tapeworms, or lurking jackfish which take a high toll of the young. So far Dominic has been lucky and we hope his luck will continue.

¹REVER, MAUREEN, and R. S. MILLER. 1972. *Common Goldeneyes and the Emma Lake nest boxes*. Blue Jay 31:27-30.

Obituary:

One hour after this article was finished, I learned that Dominic had

been killed by a Goshawk as he was going from the cabin to the lake at Fairy Island. He was 30 days old.



HYBRID BLUEBIRD NESTING NEAR RUSSELL, MANITOBA

by JIM SPEAR*

Richard and Coleen Wileman of the Endcliffe district, 6 miles northwest of Russell, Manitoba, have been looking after a bluebird line for the past 2 years. They send their reports to the Brandon Birders' Club. They have been very fortunate to have the bluebirds come right to their yard! Nest boxes were set so they could be watched from a window. The first nesting was started about the end of May, 1975; the two Mountain Bluebirds had six eggs by June 14.

That afternoon the eggs disappeared and all that was found was a wing of the female. The nest was not disturbed in anyway. On June 19 the male returned with another mate and so the nest box was moved about 60 feet as it was quite close to a tree, which could have been involved in the disappearance of the first nesting. On June 21 the female started building a nest with feathers which she brought in for about 3 hours. During the next week she laid six eggs, all of which hatched.

The interesting part is that, by all appearances, the male and female were Mountain Bluebirds, but on closer observation the female had rusty brown feathers mixed in all over the grey breast, so she must have been a cross. We will be keeping a close watch next year, as this is the first record of such mating in this area.

*Russell, Manitoba.