

of this specimen have been accepted by and are on file with Prof. W. Ray Salt, Edmonton). The first specimen, an adult, was collected at Lacombe in 1915. A second specimen was caught in a coyote trap at Youngstown in 1940. Both of these specimens are held by the Alberta Provincial Museum.³ During the winters of 1960 and 1961, a Glaucous Gull was reported from Lake Saskatoon, where it apparently sat on the ice and fed on dead ducks (W. R. Salt, *in litt.*). From the files of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society there is a record of a Glaucous Gull observed at Beaverhill Lake (40 miles ESE of Edmonton) by seven observers in May, 1966.

It is hoped that this account will encourage closer observation of all gull congregations so that the frequency and circumstances of future visits by rare species might be better documented.

¹DWIGHT, J. 1925. *The Gulls (Laridae) of the World: their plumages, moults, variations, relationships and distribution.* Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. 52: 63-408.

²GODFREY, W. E. 1966. *The Birds of Canada* National Museum of Canada, Bulletin No. 203. Queen's Printer, Ottawa 428 pp.

³SALT, W. R. and A. L. WILK. 1966. *The Birds of Alberta.* 2nd (Revised) Edition. Dept. of Industry and Development, Edmonton, Alberta. 511 pp.

SUGAR WATER FOR HUMMINGBIRDS AT LANIGAN, SASKATCHEWAN

by MRS. WALTER GUNTHER*

My husband and I have derived much pleasure from a mutual hobby. For years we have observed the habits of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

In 1965 we first saw two at one time. We suspected that they had a nest in our trees as we saw them frequently that summer. In 1968, I began keeping records of each sighting. Their visits to our flower garden are as frequent as 5 to 15 minutes. They are extremely busy from 6 to 7 a.m., around noon to 1 p.m., and again from 6 to 7 or 8 p.m.

The earliest we have seen them is June 2 and the latest is September 27. We are sure that my husband discovered their nest, high up in a poplar tree. One year, on the first occasion that I saw the young ones, they and their mother were flying right near the tree where we think the nest is. They put on a spectacular aerial display. At times I could hear their faint chipping sounds. They

became quite unafraid of us. The date on which we see the immature ones is usually August 12 or 13.

In 1970, I was thrilled when I succeeded in obtaining several coloured snapshots of them. I set up my old box type camera on the kitchen window sill which faces east. If a "hummer" came to a certain lily or the feeder, I would snap the shutter and, hopefully, have a picture. One day the female sat on the fence for 20 minutes or more, scratching her head, spreading out her white-tipped fan-shaped tail. Truly a wondrous sight!

If you wish to attract hummingbirds plant deep-throated flowers. Nicotina is splendid, also columbines, delphiniums morning glories, lilies with curled back petals and many others attract them. In 1970, '71, and '72, we had feeders containing red sugar water. They quarrelled over it. Please be advised that a feeder must be washed at regular intervals. Once they become used to it, they depend on it.

Observing hummingbirds is a fascinating and rewarding hobby. We have had countless hours of enjoyment and relaxation from it.

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