



Figure 1. Route of Calgary Bluebird Trail

certain areas were more productive than others for bluebird numbers. Turner Valley to Calgary and Bottrel to Elkton were the areas of highest bluebird density. The areas from near Calgary to Bottrel and from Elkton to east of Didsbury had only one pair of bluebirds between them and this pair did not nest successfully. It is interesting that these unproductive areas

are cultivated lands with very few trees, whereas the productive areas were characterized by scattered aspen groves.

INTERESTING PRINCE ALBERT BIRD RECORDS

Compiled from the notebooks of the late E. Derek Beacham
by MARY I. HOUSTON*

†**Harlequin Duck**: A male remained at the mouth of the Sturgeon (Shell River, 4 miles west of Prince Albert) where it was observed by Frank and Elsie Morton from May 23-25, 1966.

Turkey Vulture: One sighted at Round Lake, northwest of Prince Albert, June 22, 1968 (EDB).

Osprey: One observed by Frank Morton, October 24, 1969.

†**Peregrine Falcon**: One observed close range, flying 10 feet above the river bank near the Prince Albert airport on the morning of September 2, 1969 (EDB).

American Golden Plover: Seen in greater numbers than previously recorded for Prince Albert: seen daily from May 26 to June 1, 1969, with over 300 on the latter date; also found on September 20, 1969 (EDB).

Black-bellied Plover: Two records of eight and nine birds on May 27 and 28, 1969 (EDB).

Ruddy Turnstone: One seen May 28, 1969 (EDB).

†**Whimbrel**: Five individuals were observed at length at the edge of slough, 8 miles north of Prince Albert. They landed at 9:40 a.m. on May 28, 1969, were seen again that afternoon and the following evening and finally at 4:30 p.m. on May 29 (EDB).

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†**Sanderling**: Two in winter plumage were sighted on rocks in the river near the airport on September 21, 1969, with a single bird present in the same place Sept. 23 (EDB).

Glaucous Gull: Two first-year birds were seen at the Saskatchewan penitentiary, October 23, 1969. One was collected the next day for the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History and the other remained through October 27 (Beacham, *Blue Jay* 28: 25, 1970). This was the second specimen and only the fourth record for Saskatchewan.

Sabine's Gull: An immature was carefully studied for over one hour on a sandbar in the river near the airport, September 21, 1969. It was first seen at 4:40 p.m. resting on the sandbar with five Ring-billed Gulls. Its black bill, black legs and solid black wing tips were clearly seen. Twice it raised its wings to display its white tail and black terminal "V". When it flew its triangular white wing patches were readily visible. (EDB; Hatch, *Audubon Field Notes* 24: 63, 1970).

Whip-poor-will: Heard at Round Lake, northwest of Prince Albert, on June 15, 22, 29, 30 and July 1, 5, 6, 16, 19 and 25, 1968; it was seen with a flashlight at 11 p.m. on June 21 (EDB).

Great Crested Flycatcher: One seen at Round Lake on June 15, 16, 17, 22 and 29 and two on July 1, 1968. Two were recorded at Clouston hamlet June 29, 1969 (EDB).

Rough-winged Swallow: One was seen northeast of Prince Albert, May 9, 1969 (EDB). This appears to be the furthest north record for Saskatchewan.

White-breasted Nuthatch: One visited the feeder of Frank and Elsie Morton in Hazel Dell subdivision, Prince Albert, October 12 through December 12, 1969, another was seen at Little Red River Park on November 2, 1969 (EDB).

Mockingbird: One was seen by Mrs. Don Austin on November 17 and by Don Austin on November 23, 1969, in

their yard at the corner of Fourth Ave. and 20th St. West, Prince Albert. Beacham had a glimpse of what may have been the same bird, flying north towards the river from the corner of Eighth Ave. and Seventh St. East on December 4, 1969. (F. H. Brazier, *Blue Jay* 22: 68, 1964, listed two records by Auguste Viala for this area: October 5 to December 29, 1962, at Prince Albert, with the bird found dead January 2, 1963; and another August 10, 1963 at St. Louis. These were considered to be the northernmost records for the continent.)

Philadelphia Vireo: A pair were observed building a nest, 30 feet up in an aspen at Round Lake, northwest of Prince Albert, on June 2 and 9, 1968, but the nest was damaged by high winds and was deserted on June 15. This is the first nesting attempt recorded in the Prince Albert area. On June 15, two were seen and another heard, all within one mile (EDB).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Recorded at Round Lake, May 27 through June 22, 1968, with a singing male evidently on territory. In 1969, single males were sighted at Round Lake on May 25 and in the Little Red River Park on June 4 (EDB).

Bobolink: Up to five, all males, were noted at Clouston on May 26 and June 2, 1969, while two males were seen on June 24, 1969 (EDB).

Red Crossbill: Seven records between March 4 and June 7, 1968, including a flock of 200 feeding on spruce cones on May 10, and three records between November 22 and December 21, 1969 (EDB).

Lark Sparrow: One seen May 26, 1969 (EDB).

†**Oregon Junco** (now considered a subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco): Two males and two females were seen April 19, 1968, one on September 23 and one October 6, 1969 and two on April 10, 1970 (EDB).

In addition to detailed records of 197 species observed in the Prince Albert area, Beacham observed another 11 species elsewhere in

Saskatchewan, including three Whooping Cranes 2 miles west of Marcelin, April 20 and 21, 1968.

†Indicate the ten species new to the Prince Albert area since publication of Houston and Street's *Birds of the Saskatchewan River* in 1969. This brings the area total to 240 species.

SASKATOON BLUEBIRD TRAIL — 1969 - 1973

Compiled by DAVID HOUSTON*

The following table summarizes data on species and numbers of occupants, broods and banded birds for the Saskatoon Bluebird House Trail for the last five years.

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Total houses	207	(368)	(412)	(410)	(430) ¹
No. in study area	(115)	182	208	216	224
Tree Swallows	128	130	172	161	147
Mountain Bluebirds	3	8	12	25	35
House Wrens	2	0	0	2	2
House Sparrows	1	11	17	48	52 ¹
Total occupied	134	145	191	213	214
Intact, empty	11	15	12	2	6
Damaged, empty	62	22	5	1	4
Used by two species	0	4	10	21	24 ²
Occupancy rate	65%	80%	91%	99%	95%
Tree Swallow					
Young banded	176	266	558	596	334
Brood size	4.5	5.83	5.64	6.08	5.39
Mountain Bluebird					
Young banded	9	18	45	135	126
Brood size	4.50	6.00	5.00	5.87	4.50
Houses - 0 brood fledged	— ³	— ³	7	2	13
Houses - 1 brood fledged	—	—	3	16	19
Houses - 2 broods fledged	—	—	3	7	3

¹After the removal of 30 houses used by House Sparrows previously.

²Including one Tree Swallow — White-footed mouse nest.

³Late visits for second nests not made.

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The Canada Jay's "nickname", whisky-jack, and sometimes whisky-joh comes from the Cree word for him, *weskuchanis*, meaning little blacksmith (from the bird's sooty color).