

that these two occurrences "represent a remarkably clear-cut example of natural long-distance dispersal". The probable mechanism of spreading was birds eating juniper berries and subsequently spreading the seeds, which are not digested, to new sites.¹

In May 1975, an individual tree (figure 1) of Rocky Mountain Juniper was discovered at the head of a small steep coulee in the Mixed Grassland region of southeastern Alberta near the United States-Canada border (SE 5-1-4-W4) at an elevation of 2,900 feet. The coulee is fairly short with a north-south orientation and drains south into the Milk River valley. The plant was an erect tree of approximately 16 feet growing at the bottom of the coulee. It was growing at the base of an eroded slope with such species as creeping juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*), buckbrush (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*), wolf willow (*Elaeagnus commutata*), rose (*Rosa* spp.), and sand grass (*Calamovilfa longifolia*). A specimen has been deposited at the University of Calgary Herbarium.

Due to the isolated nature of the area, we believe that the occurrence of this tree is the result of natural dispersion. It appears to us that the origin of

this tree, and possibly the Lethbridge tree reported by Kuijt and Trofymow lies to the south. There are numerous areas where Rocky Mountain Juniper occurs south of this site in Montana, the closest lying 30 miles west-southwest in the Sweetgrass Hills (Wayne Strong, personal communication).

One of the more interesting aspects of this record is that this juniper is surviving in one of the hottest, driest portions of Alberta about two thousand feet below its lowest limit of occurrence in the Sweetgrass Hills. Although it is assumed that these isolated junipers grew from seed dispersed by birds, such occurrences must be extremely rare. Otherwise, one would expect Rocky Mountain Juniper to occur in what appears to be suitable habitat in the Cypress Hills.

¹HITCHCOCK, C. L., A CRONQUIST and M. OWNBEY. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, Seattle.

²KUIJT, J. and J. A. TROFYMOW. 1975. *Range Extensions of Two Rare Alberta Shrubs*. *Blue Jay* 33(2):96-98.

³LITTLE, E. L. 1971. *Atlas of United States Trees*. Vol. I. *Conifers and Important Hardwoods*.



BLOWFLY INFESTATION UPON HOUSE WRENS

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On 12 July 1975 I was checking nest boxes in the Whitemud Creek (Edmonton) area, 300 meters north of 45th Avenue on the west side of the creek. The nest in question was located just within a mature poplar stand at the bottom of a southeast facing slope. The nestlings hatched on 6 July. Upon checking the box on 12 July I was greeted by the gaping mouth of a nestling whose forehead, one wrist, and both feet were grotesquely inflamed. The other nestlings were similarly in-

festated in varying degrees. Two of the nestlings were taken for laboratory tests. Subcutaneous larva were collected and subsequently identified as *Protocalliphora hirudo* a green bottle, blowfly. The remaining five nestlings seemed to develop normally compared to other wren nestlings of similar age. By 15 July all swellings had subsided and the nestlings were banded. On 20 July, 15 days after hatching the nest was empty. On 24 and 26 July banded young were seen in the area around the nest box.

