

ROCKY MALLARD

In September, 1976, our neighbour, Jack Bloye, was harvesting. Several times he noticed a lone duck which flew up as he approached. One day he decided to investigate why a duck would stay day after day in the same spot. Lo and behold! He found her nest. There were no eggs — but instead there were two, highly polished stones, no doubt polished from weeks of sitting.

Have you ever heard of such a thing? *Laura Wright, Box 34, Bracken, Saskatchewan S0N 0G0*

MORE HUMMINGBERRIES?

With regard to Mrs. Webb's letter on page 255 of the December, 1976, *Blue Jay* concerning a hummingbird removing juice from a raspberry, I would like to add a short note.

We too grow raspberries and frequently have hummingbirds in our garden. The raspberries are in a part of the garden which is not readily observed and we usually see the hummingbirds much closer to the house. I have at times seen hummingbirds disappear in the general direction of the raspberries. I have also noted that small numbers of our

raspberries have dried up completely for no apparent reason.

I must stress here that since I have not actually observed hummingbirds "at work" on our raspberries, Mrs. Webb's observation provides one possible explanation for our dried up berries. Some definite observations would be required. After all, the recording of this activity requires the presence of three things: A raspberry patch, a hummingbird and an observer! *Richard L. Coulter, Bentley, Alberta T0C 0J0.*

PRAIRIE RATTLESNAKE

I am currently conducting research on the ecology of the Prairie Rattlesnake in Saskatchewan and Alberta. I would like to determine factors which limit the distribution of this reptile.

I have completed one summer's work and have located a number of dens along the Frenchman, Bow, and South Saskatchewan rivers. I would appreciate hearing from *Blue Jay* readers that have knowledge of rattlesnake or bullsnake dens in these two provinces. Your help would be gratefully appreciated. *Victor Cannon, Department of Biology, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2.*



Prairie Rattlesnake

Gary W