

## BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK AT PIERSON, MANITOBA

by RICHARD W. KNAPTON\*

On the evening of July 31, 1974, a Black-headed Grosbeak was mist-netted on the Pierson Wildlife Management Area, some 7 miles southwest of Pierson, Manitoba. The bird was examined in the hand by Dave Duncan of Winnipeg and by myself, and was then shown to Ralph J. Wang of Pierson, after which it was released.

The bird was distinguished from the Rose-breasted Grosbeak by its decidedly yellowish-brown underparts with very few streakings, and by its bright lemon-yellow wing-linings. It was most likely a female but could have been a first-year male, particularly as the underparts were so brightly coloured.

McNichol recently summarized known records of the Black-headed Grosbeak in Manitoba and listed only 5 records, covering some 12 birds to 1965.<sup>4 5</sup> No records from 1965 to 1974 have been uncovered. In Saskatchewan, the species has been recorded as far east as Estevan but is a decidedly scarce bird over much of the province, breeding sparingly in the Cypress Hills with a breeding record from Last Mountain Lake.<sup>6 2 7</sup> Indeed, the closest area to the Pierson Wildlife Management Area in which the Black-headed Grosbeak regularly occurs is along the Missouri River in North Dakota, some 150 miles southwest.<sup>1</sup> However, interestingly enough, hybrids between Black-headed and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have been found only 60 miles south along the Missouri River, 16 miles southeast of Minot<sup>3</sup>, thereby providing a greater potential for pure Black-headed Grosbeaks or hybrids to occur in the extreme southwest, as opposed to other areas, of Manitoba.

I should like to thank R. W. Nero for information supplied to me for this article.

- <sup>1</sup>AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION. 1957. *Checklist of North American Birds*. Fifth ed. Baltimore.
- <sup>2</sup>GODFREY, W. E. 1950. *Birds of the Cypress Hills and Flotten Lake regions, Saskatchewan*. Nat'l. Mus. Can. Bull. 120. Ottawa. 96 p.
- <sup>3</sup>KROODSMA, R. L. 1974. *Species-recognition behavior of territorial male Black-headed and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (Pheucticus)*. Auk. 91:54-64.
- <sup>4</sup>McNICHOLL, M. 1965. *A possible sight record of the Black-headed Grosbeak in Manitoba*. Blue Jay 23:77-78.
- <sup>5</sup>McNICHOLL, M. 1966. *Further note on the Black-headed Grosbeak in Manitoba*. Blue Jay 24:70.
- <sup>6</sup>MITCHELL, H. N. 1924. *Birds of Saskatchewan*. Can. Field-Nat. 38:101-118.
- <sup>7</sup>SYMONS, R. D., and R. W. NERO. 1965. *Black-headed Grosbeak breeding record for southcentral Saskatchewan*. Blue Jay 23:72-76.

## PROBABLE CINNAMON TEAL - BLUE-WINGED TEAL CROSS

by S. L. and J. A. WEDGWOOD\*

As waterfowl were returning in numbers, we drove west of Saskatoon on Sunday, April 27, 1975, paying special attention to the water bodies. On a slough (W1/2-18-36-8-W3) about a mile northwest of Rice Lake there was one duck unlike any we had seen before. Following half an hour of observation, debate and the consulting of field guides, we concluded this male bird was most likely a cross between a Cinnamon Teal and a Blue-winged Teal.

Our first impression was that we had come upon a Cinnamon Teal, a bird with which we were familiar, having seen it a number of times on the West Coast — but there were two differences. The body, breast and head were Cinnamon Teal: plain dark rusty red,

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