

LAZULI BUNTING AT HARRIS, SASKATCHEWAN

RON JENSEN, 1828 - 8th Avenue North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and
DON WEIDL, 337 Avenue D South, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

An unidentifiable song led the authors to find a Lazuli Bunting after a cautious approach on June 25 at 0830 in Harris Sand Dunes, about 50 miles southwest of Saskatoon. The authors observed a male Lazuli Bunting singing from a dead tree and on a dead branch of a trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The bunting was extremely shy, retreating with our arrival but not before it was identified under sunny conditions.

Ron Jensen returned on July 1 to find the bunting chasing a male Mountain Bluebird approximately ¼ mile west of the original sighting. Before his presence was noted, he

was able to tape the Lazuli's song and photograph it from approximately 100 yards with a 400 mm telephoto lens.

Following an inventory under the International Biological Program in 1971⁴, Harris Sand Dunes were suggested as a natural area worthy of preservation.

The breeding range of the Lazuli Bunting in Saskatchewan, according to Godfrey, is southern Saskatchewan (Shaunavon, Moose Jaw and, rarely, Regina).⁷ A search through the "Blue Jay" reveals numerous records of collected specimens and sightings. These are presented in the accompanying table.

LAZULI BUNTING RECORDS FOR SASKATCHEWAN

Date	Locality	Birds	Observer	Reference
May 24, 1890	Indian Head	2 specimens	George Lang	5
May 26, 1892	Indian Head	1 specimen	George Lang	5
July 1 & 2, 1908	Eastend	1♂ seen	L. B. Potter	5
May 30, 1926	Percival	1 sighting	Elmer Callin	4
May 26, 1931	Round Lake	1 specimen♂	Fred Bard	5, 9, 4
May 30 & , 1934	Dollard	2 specimens	C. F. Holmes	5
May 31, 1934	Dollard	1 sighting	C. F. Holmes	5
July 11, 1934	Regina	1 sighting	F. G. Bard	5
November, 1935	Regina	1 sighting	Hugh Knowles	5
July 13, 1938	Arcola	1 sighting		5
40	Eastend	1 sighting	L. B. Potter	5
40	Shaunavon	1st nest & 2 pairs	L. B. Potter	10
42	Burham	1st nest	Arthur Ward	1
May 30, 1947	Regina	1 sighting	L. Ehmans	5
June 26, 1951	Gull Lake	1♂ seen	H. & H. Partridge	8
57	Moose Jaw	2nd nest	Mrs. N. Dunn	5
June 15-16, 1957	Cypress Hills	1 sighting	SNHS	11
May 30, 1960	Regina	1♂, 1♀P seen	M. Belcher, G. Ledingham	3
July 1 & 2, 1960	Fort San	1♂ seen	E. M. Callin	3
July 20, 1962	Near Avonlea	2♂ seen	M. Belcher, M. Rever	6
June 1, 1963	Roche Percee	1♂ seen	D. Faheselt, S. Haggerty	6
July 6, 1963	Claybank	1♂, 1♀? seen	G. Ledingham	6
July 9, 1964	Moose Jaw	1♂ seen	Mrs. R. Taylor	13, 14
June 7-Aug. 5, 1965	Moose Jaw	3rd nest	Mrs. R. Taylor	14
June 11, 1972	Estevan	1♂ seen	Mrs. G. Sernich	12
July 4, 1973	Dundurn	1♂ seen	J. A. Wedgwood	15
June 25, July 1, 1977	Harris	1♂ photo.	R. Jensen & D. Weidl	This Paper

The authors would be interested to hear of any additional sightings, errors or omissions.

- ¹BELCHER, M., 1955. Bird notes from the files. *Blue Jay* 13(2): 28-29.
- ²BELCHER, M., and M. REVER, 1962. Getting to know our less common birds. *Blue Jay* 20: 146-150.
- ³CALLIN, E. M., 1960. Lazuli Bunting at Fort San. *Blue Jay* 18: 120.
- ⁴CRANNA, D. M., and J. S. ROWE, 1974. Natural areas in Saskatchewan.
- ⁵DUNN, N., 1957. Lazuli Bunting nesting at Moose Jaw. *Blue Jay* 15: 147.
- ⁶FAHSELT, F., 1963. 1963 records of the Lazuli and Yellow Chat. *Blue Jay* 21: 93.
- ⁷GODFREY, W. E., 1966. The birds of Canada. National Museums of Canada Bulletin 203 Biological Series No. 73.

- ⁸PARTRIDGE, H. and H. 1951. Bunting. *Blue Jay* 9(3):4.
- ⁹POTTER, L. B., 1942. Saskatchewan records made since the publication of Mitchell's Catalogue of Saskatchewan Birds in 1924. *Blue Jay* 1: 25.
- ¹⁰POTTER, L. B. 1943. Bird notes from southwestern Saskatchewan. *Canadian Field-Nat.* 57: 69-72.
- ¹¹ROY, FRANK. 1957. Operation Trumper. *Blue Jay.* 15: 138-140.
- ¹²SERNICH, MRS. GILLIAN. 1972. Lazuli Bunting. *Blue Jay.* 30: 258.
- ¹³TAYLOR, R., 1964. Lazuli Bunting Moose Jaw. *Blue Jay* 22: 109.
- ¹⁴1965. Second Lazuli Bunting nest record at Moose Jaw. *Blue Jay* 23: 166.
- ¹⁵SHADICK, S., 1975. Highlights of Saskatoon bird observations 1970-74. *Blue Jay* 33: 165-168.



Rose hips

Gary W. S