

with little energy cost. Orians mentioned that dragonflies were obtained by this method in calm weather, and the fact that the dragonflies were emerging suggests that they were easier to catch than when in regular flight.<sup>9</sup> Similarly, my observations took place in calm weather, and the moths caught were slow-moving targets. The Red-winged Blackbird is known to be a "generalist," and has exhibited this in its opportunistic feeding on such foods as horseshoe crab eggs and gull eggs when these are readily available.<sup>3 8 11 12</sup> Thus, it would be expected to catch insects on the wing when these are available and easily caught. Observers should be alert to this and other possible behavioural responses by Red-winged Blackbirds as they invade new habitats.

<sup>1</sup>BARTLETT, L. M. 1956. Observations on birds "hawking" insects. *Auk* 73:127-128.

<sup>2</sup>BENT, A. C. 1958. Life histories of North American blackbirds, orioles, tanagers and allies. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 211 (Dover reprint, 1965).

<sup>3</sup>COOPER, D. M., H. HAYS, and C. PESSINO. 1970. Breeding of the Common and Roseate terns on Great Gull Island. *Proc. Linn. Soc. New York* 71:83-104.

<sup>4</sup>DORST, J. 1971. *The life of birds*. Vol. 1. Columbia Univ. Press, New York.

<sup>5</sup>MAILLIARD, J. 1919. Fly-catching birds. *Condor* 21: 212.

<sup>6</sup>McNICHOLL, M. K. 1967. Red-breasted Nuthatch "hawking" insects. *Blue Jay* 25:186.

<sup>7</sup>McNICHOLL, M. K. 1977. Observations of House Sparrows "hawking" insects. *Calgary Field Nat.* 8:170&188.

<sup>8</sup>MILLER, R. S. 1968. Conditions of competition between Redwings and Yellow-headed Blackbird. *J. Anim. Ecol.* 37:43-61.

<sup>9</sup>ORIAN, G. H. 1961. The ecology of blackbird (*Agelaius*) social systems. *Ecol. Monog.* 31:285-312.

<sup>10</sup>ORIAN, G. H. 1980. Some adaptations of marsh-nesting blackbirds. *Monog. in Population Biol.* 14.

<sup>11</sup>PESSINO, C. M. 1968. Red-winged Blackbird destroys eggs of Common and Roseate terns. *Auk* 85:513.

<sup>12</sup>REESE, J. G. 1973. Red-winged Blackbird feeding on horseshoe crab eggs. *Wilson Bull.* 85:483.

<sup>13</sup>STORER, T. I. 1919. The fly-catching habit among birds. *Condor* 21:125.

## WOOD THRUSH NEAR CADILLAC, SASKATCHEWAN

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An individual Wood Thrush was observed at Driscoll Lake, south of Cadillac, NE7-7-13-W3 20 May 1981 at 1420 hours. The bird was seen foraging with an American Robin on the lawn north of a farm house amongst rather dense shrubbery. The immediate impression was of a short tailed Brown Thrasher, but smaller than a Robin. The white breast with round black spots, a chestnut coloured back, nape and crown, with a slightly paler tail were noted. The bird had a dark eye, with a fairly distinct ring around it.

Silent, the bird gave a strong impression of a European Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*). Unlike this species however, the bird observed appeared more "chestnut", "cleaner" and generally more sharply coloured. No wing bars were noted and the birds legs were fleshy coloured.

I observed this thrush with Bushnell 10x50 binoculars for approximately 2-3 minutes at ranges from between 5 and 10 m. The bird appeared to be rather tame and eventually flew off into the nearby shelter belt, there remaining on the ground, or in the low strata of the undergrowth.

NOTE: There are eight other records for the province but this is the most southwesterly (Houston *et al*, 1981, *Blue Jay*, this issue).