

normally feed upon aphid honeydew and liquids from carrion and flowers, came in groups. The Red Admirals which usually feed from fruits and flowers were also plentiful. The Gray Comma, who is fond of sap, rotting fruit, carrion and scat as well as a diet of flower nectars, was not observed as commonly as the admirals. There were some Mourning Cloaks and possibly a Large Wood Nymph which is a sap sipper. I was unable to positively identify the nymph.

Hopefully our silver willows have sur-

vived the winter regardless of their damaged condition. Although our less hardy shrubs were not invaded there may be more insect pests in the area next season due to the willows. This incident provided us with an interesting encounter with nature, but I would not recommend the procedure as a method of baiting wildlife for nature photographers.

PYLE, R. M. 1981. The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies. A. A. Knopf, New York. 916 pp.



White Admiral at sapsucker drains.

Carol Clarke

BAND-TAILED PIGEON NEAR HERBERT, SASKATCHEWAN

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On 21 June 1981 three friends and I were visiting relatives north of Herbert. We decided to take a walk to a nearby abandoned schoolyard known as the

Coxley School. As we approached the hedgerow surrounding the school one of my friends spotted a bird that flushed from the Caraganas. It flew across the schoolyard and landed in a tree. My first impression as the bird flew was that it was a Rock Dove, however something didn't appear quite right. I viewed the bird through 7x35 binoculars at about 100 meters. It was facing me, revealing a large brownish breast and a yellow bill. It was at this time that I suspected I was looking at a Band-tailed Pigeon. Not being familiar with this species I

attempted to get closer for a better look. The pigeon was very timid and flew to another Caragana hedgerow. After several glimpses of the bird it finally landed on a barbed wire fence about 20 m in front of me. The view this time was from the rear and to one side. The white neck band and yellow bill with a black tip were easily seen.² When the pigeon flew the broad gray tail band was evident.

I left the schoolyard and returned 10 minutes later to attempt a photograph. The bird was still very shy and only glimpses of it were seen as it flushed from hedgerow to hedgerow. It finally flew across a stubble field to a farm yard approximately 2 km to the west and was not seen again.

When I returned to Regina later that day I reported the sighting to several people in Regina. As a result Fred Lahrman drove to Herbert on 22 June but was unable to locate the bird.

According to Salt and Salt the Band-tailed Pigeon is easily mistaken for its domesticated relative but the Band-tailed is a woodland species and is more likely to be found perching in trees than the Domestic Pigeon.³

There are three previous records of sightings of the Band-tailed Pigeon in Saskatchewan: 6 August 1970 at Valley Centre near Rosetown by Wayne and Don Renauld, in Saskatoon on 30 September 1970 by Shelagh Aldous, and 28-29 June 1980 near Mortlach by B. Forbes.¹

¹ HOUSTON, C. S., M. I. HOUSTON and J. B. GOLLOP. 1981. Saskatchewan Bird Species — Hypothetical and Rejected. *Blue Jay* 39(4): 196-201.

² ROBBINS, C. S., B. BRUUN, H.S. ZIM and A. SINGER. 1966. *Birds of North America*. Golden Press, New York. 340 pp.

³ SALT, W. R., and J. R. SALT. 1976. *The birds of Alberta*. Hurtig, Edmonton. 498 pp.

EFFECTS OF A LATE MAY BLIZZARD

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The morning of 29 May 1982 dawned rather hesitantly to reveal a record breaking ten cm of wet snow around our Pike Lake cabin. After locating a recently retired parka and boots, I set out on a tour of inspection, and found that the unseasonable weather was playing havoc with some of our resident birds.

Clumps of ten foot high berry bushes on the back slope had been flattened by the weight of the snow, and three pairs of Yellow Warblers who had nested in them were darting back and forth in complete confusion. Two pairs of robins seemed equally upset. I knew that the nest of one pair was in the fork of a poplar that was still upright, but now it was filled to the top with slush. This disrupted occupancy of nests seemed to increase the number of visiting magpies, and we have since found an unusual number of punctured eggs on the ground.

It was interesting to watch the behaviour of half a dozen Red-winged Blackbirds who had established territorial claims along the reed covered lakefront. These noisy neighbors had been following their usual springtime pattern, with the males arriving about a week before their drab brown mates. In the interval they had flown hundreds of flashy forays to protect their claims, but for several days before the storm there had been relative peace on the waterfront. The late snowfall had evidently upset this pattern, for they went back to squabbling over their territories as though their biological clock had been set back a couple of weeks. It was at least two days before the status quo was re-established.