

⁵ KLASSEN, P., A.R. WESTWOOD, W.B. PRESTON and W.B. McKILLOP. 1989. The butterflies of Manitoba. Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, Winnipeg. 290 pp.

⁶ MASTERS, J.H. 1968. Notes on the occurrence of the Bog Copper, *Lycaena epixanthe*, in Manitoba. *Blue Jay* 26:146-148.

⁷ _____ The butterflies of Manitoba's provincial parks I: Whiteshell Provincial Park. *Blue Jay* 30:113-118.

⁸ _____ A list of butterflies taken at Northwest Angle Provincial Forest, Manitoba. *Blue Jay* 30:118-119.

⁹ _____ The butterflies of Manitoba's provincial parks II: Grand Beach Provincial Park and Belair Forest Preserve. *Blue Jay* 30:161-166.

¹⁰ _____ A list of butterflies taken at Sandilands Provincial Forest, Manitoba. *Blue Jay* 30:166-167.

¹¹ _____ and J.T. SORENSEN. 1968. Bionomic notes on the Satyrid butterfly *Oeneis macounii* at Riding Mountain, Manitoba. *Blue Jay* 26:38-40.

¹² PRESTON, W.B. and A.R. WESTWOOD. 1981. The European Skipper, *Thymelicus lineola* (Lepidoptera:Hesperiidae), in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. *Can. Ent.* 113:1123-1124.

¹³ TAYLOR, P. 1983. Wings along the Winnipeg: the birds of the Pinawa - Lac du Bonnet region, Manitoba. *Eco Series* No. 2, Man. Nat. Soc., Winnipeg. 216 pp.

NOTE:

TO COLLECT OR NOT TO COLLECT, THAT IS THE QUESTION

Most lepidopterists will raise their eyebrows at a butterfly list based largely on sight records. Their concern is appropriate, for as Taylor admits, an unknown number of errors result from sight identification. As butterfly field guides improve, will lists of sight records gradually become more acceptable?

One thinks back to the time when bird lists not based solidly on specimen records were looked at askance. The report of the ornithological branch of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club for 1889 was published in the *Ottawa Naturalist* 4:69-70, in July 1890. A Mr. Lees had propounded a revolutionary method of "observation with an opera glass" and Professor John Macoun had "questioned the accuracy of the results obtained ... and asked for a detailed explanation of the system." At that time, ornithologists often went overboard in their enthusiasm for collecting.

Now there is a growing revulsion against killing any bird, to the point where sound scientific research plans by museums may be cancelled simply because of perceived adverse public opinion. Has the pendulum perhaps gone too far the other way in ornithology? And who knows how far it will go with regard to butterflies? — C. Stuart Houston

NORTHERN REDBELLY SNAKE AT GERALD, SASKATCHEWAN

ANTHONY J. HRUSKA, Box 38, Gerald, Saskatchewan. SOA 1B0

In September my attention was drawn to a "large dead earthworm" by my neighbour's children, who were playing in our driveway.

From the limited references I have on herpetology I was able to identify it as a

Redbelly Snake *Storeria occipitomaculata* (Storer). An uncommon species, it is the smallest ground snake in the province, attaining a length of about 10 in. It is a secretive animal, hiding under rubbish and leaves, feeding on earthworms and small insects.

The coloration may be brown or very dark brown with a lighter mid-dorsal stripe down the back and two darker lines along its border on each side. There are three prominent light yellowish triangular spots on the neck. (I am unable to see them in my specimen). The belly is some shade of red; the chin is white.

The range of the Northern Redbelly Snake is reported to be from eastern U.S.A. to southern Canada west to the 100th meridian. In Saskatchewan it is

found in the Qu'Appelle River valley. Gerald is within the known range.

This is the second time I have seen the species in this area. Many years ago I came across a live one. Today's specimen ended in my collection.

BRIMLEY, C.S. The amphibians and reptiles of North Carolina. Raleigh, N.C. Carolina Tips (32 installments, 1939-1943).

COOK, Francis R. 1977. A guide to the amphibians and reptiles of Saskatchewan. Sask. Mus. of Nat. Hist. Pop. Ser. No.13. 40 pp.

SIGHTING OF LEWIS' WOODPECKER NEAR LEBRET, SASKATCHEWAN

FRANK H. BRAZIER, 2657 Cameron Street, Regina, Saskatchewan. S4T 2W5

On 17 June 1972, in bright sunshine at about 5 p.m., Manley Callin and I were approaching the (then) Skinner Farm in the Qu'Appelle River valley, east of Lebret. We had stopped at a road cutting about 0.5 mi. west of the farm to examine a colony of Bank Swallows, hoping to find Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Suddenly I saw a dark, flicker-sized woodpecker flying fairly low with unhurried flaps from east to west along the edge of the trees about 100 feet away; it then swung southwesterly across a field before disappearing into the poplar woods.

As soon as I saw it, I knew at once it was a Lewis' Woodpecker as I had seen many of them in British Columbia a few years previously. Once seen, its characteristic flight and appearance in flight is never forgotten. Although when viewed at close range the dark red face and belly, gray collar and breast and dark green back can be readily seen, in flight it appears to be all black. It could be confused with a small crow except for its slightly undulating flight, which is

much less so than that of other woodpeckers. It could not have been a Northern Flicker as no white appeared at all and no golden wing linings were seen. Actually, about a minute later a flicker did come by on the same course. There was no doubt about its identity, nor have I any doubt about the identity of the Lewis' Woodpecker. There are three previous records for the Regina area.¹

When the bird appeared I was a few feet ahead of Manley. I shouted "Look, a Lewis' Woodpecker!" and kept my eyes on it until it was gone. When I turned around, I found that Manley had looked in the wrong direction so did not see it. I crossed the field to search but could not find the bird.

Epilogue

It was the late Manley Callin's unflinching task after arriving home to write up accounts and list the birds seen during our trips, so I expected he would have noted my sighting of the Lewis' Woodpecker. When I returned to Regina I wrote an account for my own records. Years later,