

## MOCKINGBIRD NEAR SYLVAN LAKE, ALBERTA

On 19 March 1990 I heard a bird singing many beautiful but different songs. I tried to walk closer, but the crusty snow made a big noise and I could not get near the bird without scaring it away.

Three days later a neighbor lady asked me if I could identify a bird she had seen lately. She described it as being grey, with a long tail and black markings on its wings when it flew. She said it sang beautifully and seemed to be singing other bird songs also. I thought to myself this bird must be a mockingbird, so I looked it up in my *Field guide to birds of North America*. Still I wasn't sure if it was a mockingbird because it is a bird of the southern half of the U.S.A.

On 28 March the bird was back on a tall aspen poplar. I had a good look at it

through my field glasses. It wagged its tail from side to side while perched on a branch. The tail seemed almost to be the length of its body. When it flew, its wing beats were so slow that they could be counted and it showed white wing patches. It somewhat resembled a shrike but was lacking the hooked bill; also a shrike's bill is short and thick. The next evening I heard the bird singing musical notes and saw it in flight.

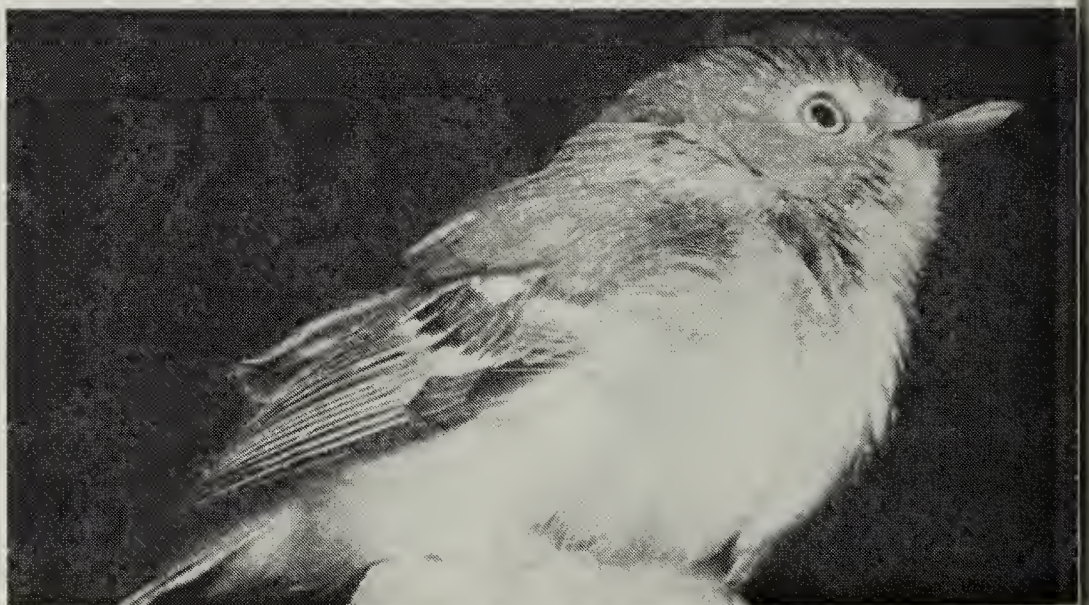
This is the first sighting of the Northern Mockingbird in this area for me, though I have lived here 68 years. The description in my field guide gave the same version as I observed when I studied the bird through my field glasses. — *Helge Abrahamson*, Box 268, Sylvan Lake, Alberta. TOM 1Z0

## FURTHER TO WHITE-EYED VIREO OBSERVATIONS

While reading the December 1989 issue of *Blue Jay*, the article "White-eyed Vireo in Regina — first for Saskatchewan" by Frank H. Brazier [*Blue Jay* 47(4):216] caught my eye. He mentioned a white-eye banded in South Dakota on 20 May 1982. I knew that my parents, Charles and Gladycy Rogge (Permit #9089), had banded this species, so I checked with them and found that they had indeed banded a White-eyed Vireo in Newton Hills State

Park, South Dakota on that date. They had photographed the bird, a rare record for South Dakota, at the time of banding.

— *Janet Rogge Dugle*, Box 299, Pinau, Manitoba. ROE 1L0



*White-eyed Vireo, Newton Hills State Park, South Dakota, 20 May 1982*  
*Charles and Gladycy Rogge*