

a.m. My first thought, viewing the bird with a pair of 8 X 42 Pentax roof prism binoculars, was a pigeon. The bird resembled a Rock Dove in the grey plumage, but with yellow feet and yellow black-tipped bill. Edging closer, I viewed the bird for about 10 minutes from 10 m, noting the iridescence behind the head down on to the back, white line between iridescence and greyish-purple head, darker wings, grey body and tail with a noticeable darker grey band in the tail. I thought ...B and-tailed Pigeon?

Not sure of the field marks, I hustled back to the cabin where the bird books were waiting. I looked through: *Birds of North America*, National Geographic Society; *Birds of North America* 1st ed. by Robbins *et al.* and *Field Guide to Western Birds* 3rd ed. by Peterson. These all confirmed that what I had seen was a Band-tailed Pigeon, a lifer, a long way from home given the range maps.

I set out again with a camera. Julie and Jeffrey, wife and son, back from a round of golf, also viewed the bird, now sitting sleepily in the shade in a White Birch. They both saw the field marks of yellow bill with a black tip and yellow feet, white stripe on back of head and band in the tail and compared the bird to one of the field guides. My two photographs, with a 50 mm lens at 50 m were disappointing. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to find the Band-tailed Pigeon until 11 August 1995 when we left Marean Lake.

Don Hooper does not list Band-tailed Pigeon in the *Birds of East-Central Saskatchewan*. This sighting adds a new species to the area. There have been ten additional sightings in Saskatchewan as reported in the seventh edition, *Field*

Checklist of Saskatchewan, October 1990. This sighting is the most northeasterly record within Saskatchewan to date.

- Ron Jensen, 849 - 10th Avenue North East, Swift Current, SK. S9H 2T6

PARTIAL ALBINO MAGPIE

The grey and white Black-billed Magpie pictured below became a common visitor in the vicinity of the yard of Alec and Laila Johnson, two miles south of Archerwill throughout the summer and fall of 1995.

- Elaine Hughes, Box 309, Archerwill, SK. S0E 0B0



Partial Albino Magpie Elaine Hughes

FOXES IN SOUTH-CENTRAL SASKATCHEWAN

My father, Knut Jordheim homesteaded some 40 miles north of Swift Current, approximately 2 miles north of the South Saskatchewan River in 1908. I remember him mentioning "kit foxes" that would chew harnesses if left on the ground overnight. I presume these were actually Swift Foxes.