

vehicles pass by daily (Bob Kinash, City of Weyburn engineer, pers. comm.).

A second pair of nesting Cooper's Hawks was found with three young on July 21, on the grounds surrounding the Souris Valley Hospital, 2.35 km from the previously mentioned nest. These two nests are the second and third Cooper's Hawk nests found in Weyburn, the first being found in 2000, also on the Souris Valley property (Martin Bailey, pers. comm.). These three nests are the only urban nesting Cooper's Hawks that I am aware of in Saskatchewan. There was some speculation about Cooper's Hawks nesting within Wascana Park in Regina in 2001 where fledged young were observed and attacking behaviour noted. And in 2002, two pairs stayed in Regina into late spring, leading to speculation that nesting would occur but apparently they later left (Bob Luterbach, pers. comm.).

Cooper's Hawks may be adapting to urban environments as they have been nesting for several years at Oak Park in central Minot, North Dakota, and also within Victoria, BC. Last year Medicine Hat, AB had its first nest ever at Police Point on the edge of a busy a golf course (Bob Luterbach, pers. comm.).

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank those individuals whose interest and patience contributed to this survey: Martin Bailey, Mark Brigham, Faye Ferner, Bob Luterbach, Lynn Oliphant, SERM Weyburn staff, and each of the homeowners who allowed me access to their property. C. Stuart Houston provided advice and information and bands for the young birds, and encouraged me to write this report.

1. SODHI, N.S. ET AL. 1992 Breeding ecology of urban Merlins *Canadian Journal of Zoology* Vol. 70 1477 - 1482



PRAIRIE WARBLER IN SASKATOON – THE SECOND RECORD FOR SASKATCHEWAN

ROBERT WAPPLE, 740 4th Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7H 1K2

Around 1600h on Friday, October 18, 2002, I saw a smallish bird flitting among the lower branches of the aspens just outside my office window at Innovation Place in Saskatoon. At first, I assumed it was a Yellow-rumped Warbler but noticed that it was quite bright yellow and had some black streaking on its sides, a large amount of white on the outer edges of the tail, and no yellow on the rump. On closer inspection, I noted that the bird had an olive green back and wings, whitish undertail coverts, bright yellow throat, chest, and

facial markings. Most striking were the distinct rows of bold black streaks down each flank. It was active as it hovered to pluck insects off of the undersides of the leaves still on the trees.

Realizing that I was looking at something unfamiliar and unusual, I started to eliminate other possible yellowish, streaked warblers. The bright yellow front and bold streaking on the sides suggested a Magnolia Warbler but the tail markings ruled it out. The indistinct olive-green wingbars ruled out

Townsend's, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine and Blackpoll. It couldn't be a Palm Warbler because of the white under the tail, and the lack of a white wing patch eliminated Cape May. Prairie Warbler came to mind from my vague recollection of them from field guides, but I was not sure. The bird allowed me to view it through the window for about five minutes from two to four meters as it foraged, and I got a clear view of the bold bright yellow football-shaped eye-ring, which extended above and below the eye in wide arcs, and a subtle dark moustache streak. I also noted black legs and olive green, unstreaked nape. While searching for food, the bird flicked its tail vigorously like a Palm Warbler. After about 10 minutes the bird disappeared but when I returned 15 minutes later with binoculars, the warbler was foraging in aspens and I had a good look at it for about 15 seconds from a distance of five meters through 8x30 binoculars. All of the above-mentioned field marks were again noted.

At home I consulted *Warblers of the Americas*, as well as the National Geographic Society *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, and Peterson's *A Field Guide to Birds East of the Rockies*.^{1,2,3,5} Although none of these showed the whitish undertail coverts, all the other field marks mentioned in the texts and shown in the illustrations were consistent with this species.

When my wife, Megan, and I returned at 1730h, we found the bird in the aspens again, and got excellent views from as close as four meters. Once, I flushed it from about a meter away. It flew to a nearby aspen and gave several liquid-sounding, quite loud call notes, and then flew into a parking lot area edged with shrubs and trees. Thinking we had pestered the bird enough, we left the area.

Alan Smith, my brother Guy and I arrived just after sunrise at 0800h on Saturday, 19 October, and after a 10-minute search, found the bird feeding in some trees and shrubs

behind my office building. All three of us had excellent views from as close as four meters as it fed in a Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), seemingly oblivious to us. Several photographs were taken (see back cover). We alerted the local rare bird alert hotline and within the hour many people had arrived to see the bird and confirm its identity, including Frank Roy, Phil Taylor, Stuart and Mary Houston, Stan Shadick, and Harvey Lane. Many others saw it throughout the morning and the following day. I looked for it a few times early in the following week but did not see it again until Thursday, 24 October, when I saw what I assumed to be the same bird for about two minutes from my office window at around 1600h. It flew off and was not seen again after that.

On Tuesday, 22 October, while Alan Smith and I unsuccessfully looked for the bird, we inspected the undersides of the leaves of the Russian Olive from which the warbler was apparently finding food and many of them had green aphids that appeared to be dormant. The aphids did not appear to be on any of the other species of tree in the area.

Judging from the descriptions of the bird and the numerous illustrations in the guides mentioned above and Pyle's *Birds of North America*, I believe the bird was a first year male.⁴ The Prairie Warbler normally occurs in open pine woods, scrub, abandoned fields and mangrove swamps in southeastern North America⁵. There is one previous Saskatchewan record, a single bird seen and heard by Lawrence Beckie at his farmyard near Bladworth on 8 June 1995.⁶

1. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY. 1999 3rd ed. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. National Geographic Society, Washington

2. SIBLEY, D. A. 2000. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York

3. PETERSON, R. T. 1980. A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies. Houghton Mifflin, Boston

4. PYLE, P. 1999. Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part 1. Slate Creek Press.

5. CURSON, J., D. QUINN, and D. BEADLE. 1994. Warblers of the Americas, an Identification Guide. Houghton Mifflin, Boston

6. ROY, J. F. 1996. The Birds of the Elbow. Saskatchewan Natural History Society Special Publication Number 21. Nature Saskatchewan, Regina



LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE BANDING ON THE PRAIRIES

C. STUART HOUSTON, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8,
KEN D. DE SMET, Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch, 200 Saulteaux Crescent,
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3, and DOUGLAS M. COLLISTER, Ursus Ecosystem
Management Ltd., 3426 Lane Crescent SW, Calgary, AB T3E 5X2

The Loggerhead Shrike was labelled by COSEWIC as threatened throughout Canada in 1986 and this designation remains in place for western Canada. In eastern Canada the status was raised to endangered in 2000 (COSEWIC 2001).² Since this was one of the species of special interest to the late Wayne C. Harris, and since knowledge of migration routes and winter quarters can be important for any threatened species, we reviewed the banding records through 2001 for the three prairie provinces.

Wayne banded his first 134 shrikes as a subpermittee, and the next 1666 under his full permit. In 1990 alone, he located 241 Loggerhead Shrike nests, which contained a total of 879 young, about half of which were old enough to band.³ Although he quit banding shrikes after the 1991 season, he was by far the most important bander of Loggerhead Shrikes in Saskatchewan and remains in second place for shrikes banded on the prairies (Table 1).

We have figures for almost all the Loggerhead Shrikes (285) banded by early Saskatchewan banders through to the end of 1954, but we do not have exact numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes banded in Alberta and Manitoba before the banding records were computerized in 1955. Another 8115 Loggerhead Shrikes were banded on the prairies between 1955 and 2000, most by Wayne Harris and the second and third authors of this paper.

From the early banding of 285 Loggerhead Shrikes in Saskatchewan and an unknown number in the two adjoining provinces, there were five recoveries of Saskatchewan birds and two of Alberta birds (Table 1). Since 1955 there have been 11 recoveries of dead birds and one trapping and release of a live bird (in Texas on 5 March!) from the 8115 individuals banded. This is an encounter rate of only 0.15%, less than one-tenth of the Saskatchewan reporting rate prior to 1954. This is part of a general trend observed for