
CORRIGENDUM

RESULTS OF THE 2005 INTERNATIONAL BUTTERFLY COUNTS IN SASKATCHEWAN by Mike Gollop and Anna Leighton.

Page 194, last paragraph, third line: the 6 Christina Sulphurs referred to were found at Preeceville, not Nisbet Forest as written.



MYSTERY PHOTO

MARCH 2006 MYSTERY PHOTO

This papery sack, 6 cm long, with a hole in the bottom and hanging from a wolf willow stem, served what purpose and for whom? It was found in mid-May 2005 near Ormiston, SK and photographed by Ross Dickson.



ANSWER TO THE DECEMBER 2005 MYSTERY PHOTO

The green and red Mallard ducklings on the back cover of the December issue were dyed to study movements of ducklings after hatching. (The duckling in the centre is undyed.) The technique, developed by Chuck Evans at the University of Minnesota, involves injecting dye into duck eggs just a few days before the ducklings hatch. When they hatch, the ducklings are coloured and researchers can track where and how far they go from individual nests.² Previous to developing this technique, people tried to follow duckling movements by 'gluing colored feathers to their heads' and by squirting dye on the hen just before the eggs hatched to identify the clutch by association with the hen.¹ The dyes, relatively innocuous when injected at the later stages of maturation of the egg, were Fast Green and Ponceau SX (red), and would stay on the ducklings for several weeks.¹ Web-tagging of the foot while the duckling is still in the egg is a technique used today. It allows researchers to track individuals for a

longer period, even a year later when they return as adults to nest, depending on the amount of wear on the tag.

The photo was taken by Alex Dzubin on the Pinkham Study area, a 10.5 mile square area located 23 km WSW of Kindersley, SK. Alex was collaborating with Bernie Gollop who had banded 501 young Mallards and other species on two 20-acre sloughs in the area in 1954.

1. EVANS, CHARLES. 1951. A Method of Color Marking Young Waterfowl. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 15(1):101-103.

2. EVANS, C. D., A. S. HAWKINS and W. H. MARSHALL. 1952. Movement of waterfowl broods in Manitoba. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Scientific Report, Wildlife No.16. Washington, D.C.

The mystery photo answer was prepared with the assistance of Alex Dzubin who also took the photograph of the ducklings.

This mystery photo elicited various comments from readers, from Ernie Kuyt's "The injection of dyes into mallard eggs, resulting in brightly coloured ducklings, of course has nothing to do with the study of brood dispersal and mortality. Rather it is another "Poll" to determine who will win the January election. Alex knows which of the three "painted" ducklings lived longest: if it was the red one, the Liberals win; if the blue one made it, the Conservatives are victorious, and the normal-coloured Democrats are in the middle !!" to Ruth Griffith's "a centennial project ... they appear to be in the same colours as our provincial flag."

Thanks to all who wrote in and to Alex Dzubin for his assistance



Sawfly larvae curled up on dogwood leaf

R. E. Gehlert