

River in fall. It therefore appears that the Winnipeg River is the more important route by which Bald Eagles leave southeastern Manitoba, but the gradual nature of this withdrawal makes this aspect hard to assess.

¹GERRARD, J.M. and D.R.M. HATCH. 1983. Bald Eagle migration through southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba and North Dakota. *Blue Jay* 41:146-154.

HUMMINGBIRDS AT ITUNA, SASKATCHEWAN

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My brother, Tom Yates and his neighbour put up feeders for the hummingbirds in Ituna. In July 1983 Tom discovered a hummingbird's nest in his front yard. It was situated on a horizontal branch of a black poplar tree just at eye level, and from the front was completely concealed by a large overhanging leaf.

On the outside the nest was covered with tiny flakes of grey lichen and it was lined with soft white cotton from some flower seed heads. The whole would have fit into an egg cup. The photograph of the nest was taken 11 July 1983. At that time there were 2 tiny white eggs in it about the size of small white beans, which soon hatched into



Hummingbird nest.

Mary Brennan



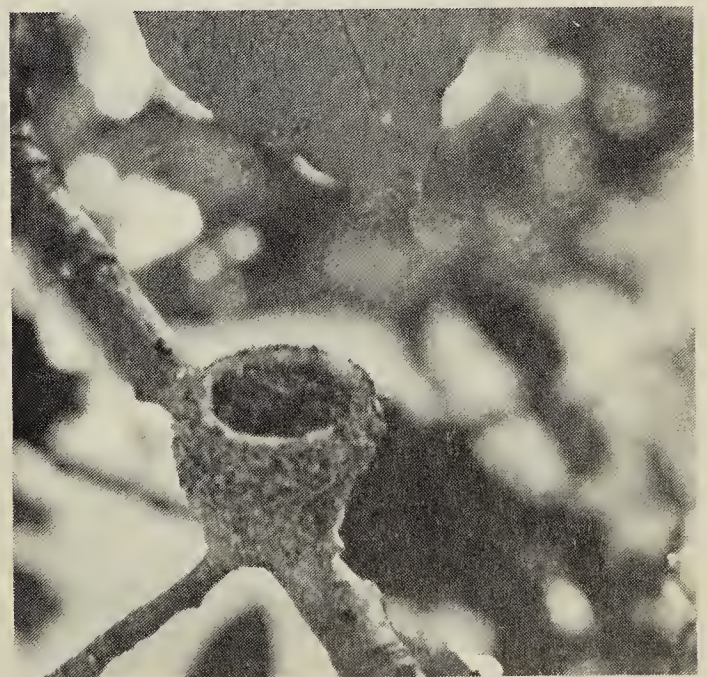
Incubating hummingbird.

Mary Brennan

little black morsels which looked like nothing so much as small black spiders. They grew rapidly, until 2 fully-fledged young hummingbirds were sitting in a very overcrowded nest. During this time I was able to take the series of pictures which accompany these notes. In the last of these, one of the young birds has already flown from the nest, but the second posed for a close-up picture, to all appearances, completely unafraid. It left the nest later that same afternoon.

In the early summer I witnessed another curious incident involving hummingbirds in my own garden. A female hummingbird was busily feeding among the honeysuckle blossoms, while the male, suspended about 10' above her as if on a long string, was swinging back and forth in a constant arc, the length of which never varied. This continued for several minutes, while the female continued feeding, paying not the slightest attention to his antics. I would be interested to know if anyone else has observed a similar incident.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In his *Life histories of North American cuckoos, goatsuckers, hummingbirds and their allies* (Dover, New York, N.Y. 1964), A.C. Bent writes: "In his courtship display the male rubythroat makes use of his marvelous proficiency in flight ... swinging back and forth along the arc of a wide circle, we get the impression of a bird upheld by a swaying wire; his swings are so accurate and precise that they suggest a geometric figure drawn in the air rather than the flight of a bird."



Young ready to fledge.

Mary Brennan