

Notes

A MATED PAIR OF EASTERN AND MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS IN NORTH DAKOTA—On 20 May 1979, R. Quanrud and J. and O. Swanick observed a male Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) near a bluebird nest box on the southern city limits of Bismarck, Burleigh County, North Dakota. Although the Mountain Bluebird is a common early spring migrant in the Bismarck area, the nearest known breeding location is 160 km northwest in Dunn County (Stewart, *Breeding Birds of North Dakota*. Tri-College Center for Environmental Studies, Fargo, 1975, 295 pp.). We visited the site on several occasions and observed a female Eastern Bluebird (*S. sialis*) using the nest box on which the Mountain Bluebird perched. The nest box was on a fence between a domestic grass hayfield and a heavily grazed native grass pasture that was bordered by two stands of Box elder (*Acer negundo*) and Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*).

Only the female was observed in the nest box. The male often perched on the nest box, on the adjacent fence, or in a nearby tree where it was frequently joined by the female. The female bluebird spent less time in the nest box as the season progressed, but when approached both adults remained near the nest. The pair was not observed on 17 August and the eggs were opened and found to be infertile.

There are three published records of bluebird hybridism in the wild from Canada. A male hybrid Eastern/Mountain Bluebird collected by Lane (Auk 85:684, 1968) in southwestern Manitoba was mated to a Mountain Bluebird and the pair successfully hatched a brood of young. When the brood was removed, the hybrid paired with a female Eastern Bluebird but the eggs were infertile. This female later paired with an Eastern Bluebird male and raised a brood of young. This suggests the hybrid was able to fertilize eggs of the Mountain Bluebird but not those of the Eastern Bluebird. Shadick (*Blue Jay*, Sept. 33: 168, 1975) recorded a female Eastern Bluebird mated with a male Mountain Bluebird that raised five young near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Spear (*Blue Jay*, Dec. 33: 231, 1975) described a hybrid Eastern/Mountain Bluebird female mated to a male Mountain Bluebird that hatched six eggs near Russell, Manitoba in 1975.

Ridgeway (Auk 3:282, 1886) observed two specimens resembling Lanes' hybrid; one collected in Michigan and one in Massachusetts.

A. P. Gray (*Bird Hybrids, a Checklist with Bibliography*, Farnham, England Commonwealth Agr. Bur. 1958) reports the only other known case of Turbid hybridism; an apparently captive male Western Bluebird (*S. mexicana*) and a female Eastern Bluebird.

We thank Craig Faanes and Richard McCabe for reviewing this manuscript.—Thomas A. Gatz, *Biology Branch, U.S. Water and Power Resources Service, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501, Rebecca Quanrud, 1204 N. 3rd Street, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501 and Robert Randall, 928 W. 16th Street, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501.*