

# Twentieth Annual Nestbox Report from Brandon, Manitoba—1980

The following table was compiled for the 1980 nesting season for that portion of the Canadian trail system monitored by the "Friends of the Bluebirds."



Occupant	No. of Nestings
Mountain Bluebird .....	694
Eastern Bluebird .....	41
Bluebirds (not identified as to species) .....	6
Tree Swallow .....	506
House Sparrow .....	111
House Wren .....	40
European Starling .....	2
Black-capped Chickadee .....	2
Mouse .....	9
Squirrel .....	2

Among the interesting items noted in the report were the following: Barbara Robinson, Camp Hughes and South Shilo lines, reported 2 successful hatchings of white eggs in the same box of Mountain Bluebirds. The first clutch contained 5 eggs and the second 4. Mr. and Mrs. Perry Hopkins of the Hartney area reported 6 Mountain Bluebirds hatched from white eggs in box #610. Betty Shankland, monitoring the South Griswold line, had 5 Mountain Bluebirds hatch from white eggs in box #4181. Hugh Munro reported 2 successful hatchings of Mountain Bluebirds from white eggs: 5 in box #800 and 5 in box #4344A on old highway #1 to Carberry.

Peter Sawatzky of the Carberry-Glenboro line reported two unusual incidents. On May 29 in box #612 he found 3 dead young Mountain Bluebirds and 3 eggs. There had been no nest built. The eggs had been laid on the bare wood of the box floor. On

the same date box #929 contained 6 Mountain Bluebird young. He noted that one young bird had a deformed bill like that of a crossbill. "The bird seemed quite healthy, but smaller than the other young in the nest."

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Spear reported 152 nestings of Mountain Bluebirds in their Russell, Shellmouth, Churchbridge area. A small flock was so tame that they flew to Mrs. Spear and perched on her hand.

This report was possible because volunteers from almost two dozen communities monitored the nestlines and submitted data. The results were compiled by Norah Lane, Mamie McCowan, Barbara Robinson, Hazel Patmore, and Betty Shankland. ■

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