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FIRST RECORD OF THE EURASIAN KESTREL FOR CANADA

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The British Columbia Provincial Museum (BCPM) recently acquired a small series of birds and mammals collected and prepared by the late Leo Jobin during the 1940s and 1950s from the Cariboo region of British Columbia. The collection was recently discovered in the basement of a public school in Williams Lake, British Columbia, and donated to the museum by the local naturalists' club. The collection was in excellent condition, without insect or light damage, and contained original specimen labels.

While sorting through the collection, I discovered a specimen (now BCPM No. 15934) of a Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) that had been incorrectly identified by Jobin and labelled as a Prairie Falcon (*F. mexicanus*). The bird was labelled an unaged male, collected by L. Jobin (No. 183) on 10 December 1946 at Alkali Lake, 41 km south of Williams Lake. It appeared to be a normal, wild bird with the following measurements: wing 261 mm, tail 171 mm, and tarsus 41 mm. I compared the specimen with a series of birds in the National Museum of Natural History and Field Museum of Natural History and determined, by plumage and measurements, that it was actually an immature female.

I surmise that the specimen was either overlooked or ignored by Jobin because it could not be positively identified. Williams Lake is at the northern limit of the breeding range for Prairie Falcons in British Columbia (Munro and Cowan 1947) and, according to Beebe (1974), the species may winter this far north. Jobin probably expected the bird, then, to be a Prairie Falcon. If he had been sat-

isfied with the identification, he probably would have published this winter occurrence (see Jobin 1952, 1953, 1954).

The only other North American records of the Eurasian Kestrel are from Nantucket, Massachusetts, 29 September 1887 (Cory 1888), Cape May Point, New Jersey, 28 September 1972 (Clark 1974), and the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, September 1978 (Roberson 1980; AOU 1983). The British Columbia specimen is the first Canadian record and chronologically represents (see Clark 1974) the second record for North America.

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EFFECT OF PRESCRIBED BURNING ON PLACEMENT OF SAGE SPARROW NESTS

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The Sage Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*) commonly breeds in the sagebrush- (*Artemisia* spp.) dominated rangelands of the western United States. Braun et al. (1976) suggested that these sparrows are almost entirely dependent on sagebrush habitat; and Rich (1980), Reynolds (1981), and Petersen and Best (1985) reported all located Sage Sparrow nests to be within canopies of sagebrush plants. Although nests usually are positioned within sagebrush plants (Miller 1968), some are placed on the ground in depressions beneath the plants (Ridgway 1877, Linsdale 1938). Miller (1968) and Green (1981) stated that Sage Sparrows also will nest in or under other shrub species when such are available.

We report here on the placement of Sage Sparrow nests in a sagebrush-grassland before and after prescribed burning. This information is important in evaluating the effects of such habitat alteration on the breeding ecology of this species.

Our study area was near the western boundary of the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) in southeastern Idaho, 10 km south of Howe, Butte County. The habitat is classified as sagebrush steppe (Kuchler 1964). Dominant shrub species included big sagebrush (*A. tridentata*) and green rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*), with major grasses being bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*), Indian rice grass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), and bottlebrush squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*). The average temperatures for May, June, and July were 9.4, 15.0, and 19.4°C in 1982, and 10.0, 14.4, and 18.3°C in 1983 (U.S. Environmental Data Service 1982, 1983). Total rainfall was 2.6, 1.8, and 1.3 cm in 1982, and 1.6, 4.5, and 3.3 cm in 1983, for the three respective months. A prescription burn was conducted on the study area by Bureau of Land Management personnel in September 1982 as part of a fire ecology study.

Vegetation composition was measured on the 12-ha study plot (gridded throughout at 25-m intervals) in July of 1982 (preburn) and 1983 (postburn) by using the Daubenmire (1959) canopy coverage technique. In both years, a 20 × 50-cm quadrat sample was taken 6 m from each grid marker in each of the four cardinal directions. Canopy coverage