

(Brown and Amadon 1968), or as remaining close to the nest and not hunting until the young are well-feathered (Harrison 1978). Not only did the female contribute substantially to the feeding of the nestlings but she left the nest and hunted for prey while the young were still covered in down. Furthermore, she contributed equal amounts of food, the same types of food, and at the same rate as the male. Observations on nest protection also do not support reports of nest-guarding behaviour primarily by the female; the male frequently hunted close to the nest, approached and called when humans were present, and chased away potential nest predators such as the Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*).

The female Rough-legged Hawk appeared to spend less time in nest protection and more on provisioning the young than would be predicted from explanations of reversed size dimorphism in raptor species in temperate areas. A possible explanation is that time is important in the raising of young in the high Arctic. A shortened breeding season may require quick maturation of the young so that the best strategy for the female is to hunt for prey for the nestlings in order to ensure a steady supply of food.

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## Gestation Periods in Two Yearling Captive Moose, *Alces alces*, in Saskatchewan

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Stewart, R. R., L. Comishen Stewart, and J. C. Haigh. 1987. Gestation periods in two yearling captive Moose, *Alces alces*, in Saskatchewan. Canadian Field-Naturalist 101(1): 103-104.

The gestation period of two captive yearling bred female Moose (*Alces alces*) was estimated at 216 days for a cow with twin calves and 218 days for a cow with a singleton.

Key Words: *Alces alces*, captive Moose, gestation, Saskatchewan.

The length of the gestation period for captive Moose (*Alces alces*) in Sweden (Skuncke 1949, cited by Markgren 1969) and the Soviet Union (Knorre 1959, cited by Markgren 1969) was estimated to range from 226-244 days with respective means of 236 and

234 days for each area. Peterson (1974) reported the gestation period to be 240-246 days for North American Moose. In mid-October 1983, a yearling bull was introduced into an enclosure in Saskatchewan which held two yearling cows. Precopulatory

mounting was observed with one cow on November 5 and the other on November 17; vaginal discharge believed to be seminal fluid was observed from the cows on each day, respectively, and thus we assumed mating to have occurred at that time. Mating behaviour ceased within 24 hours of the estimated dates of conception. The cow mated first produced twin calves 7 June 1984 and the other had a singleton 21 June. Blood samples were harvested from the moose at weekly intervals throughout pregnancy. Radioimmunoassays for serum progesterone confirmed the estimated dates of copulation (Stewart and Comishen Stewart 1985). The estimated gestation period was 216 days for the cow producing twin calves and 218 days for the cow with a singleton. These represent the shortest gestation periods reported for captive moose.

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## First British Columbia Record of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*

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Davidson, Gary, and Linda Van Damme. 1987. First British Columbia record of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 101(1): 104-105.

A Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) photographed at Creston, British Columbia, on 22 September 1984 is the first recorded occurrence of this species in British Columbia.

Key Words: Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*, British Columbia, first record.

The Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) summers from southeastern Manitoba east through southern Ontario, southern Québec and the Maritime Provinces and south to the northeastern United States. It winters primarily in the West Indies (A. O. U. 1983; Godfrey 1966). Although this colourful warbler migrates chiefly through eastern North America, it is casual in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Oregon. There are at least eleven documented occurrences in Alberta, the most recent being in fall 1979 (Salt 1973; Salt & Salt 1976; B. McGillvray, personal communication).

On 22 September 1984 by the boardwalk directly

behind the Creston Valley Wildlife Centre, 425 km east of Vancouver, British Columbia, we saw a small bird fly up from the low shrubbery into a group of small deciduous trees. The bird was an adult male Black-throated Blue Warbler. We observed it for about twenty minutes, and several 35 mm colour slides were taken, some from as close as three metres. These were added to the provincial photo-record collection (see Campbell and Stirling 1971), which is now housed at the British Columbia Provincial Museum, in Victoria [British Columbia Provincial Museum Photo No. 937]. The warbler appeared tired and wanted to sleep, despite repeated attempts by a



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