

# **THANK YOU**

*My special thanks to everyone for the get-well cards, visits and the phone calls I received while I was in the hospital and since I arrived home.*

*They sure shortened the days for me.*

*Things are coming along really well.*

*Thanks to Roy, Elaine and Glen for taking care of Cliff while I was in the hospital*

*Sheila Sepke*

## **Nature Notes from Raymond O'Connor Mountain Bluebird**



The overall brilliant blue coloring of the male sets it apart from other birds in its genus. Most often making its home in tree-covered mountains (generally above two kilometers) and open landscapes of western North America, it is considered to be at risk by conservationists due to its declining nesting habitat. In winter it descends to open lowlands and deserts. Juveniles are similar to females but with pale whitish streaking and spotting on the breast and sides.

Solitary or in pairs or in small groups, it hovers more than other bluebirds, dropping on prey from above or pouncing on it from low perches. The Mountain Bluebird catches insects in flight in summer and forages on ground, also eating caterpillars, and some fruits and berries. The nest is built by both sexes using grass, weed stems and twigs, occasionally hair or feathers, in a natural tree cavity, abandoned swallow's nest, or a nest box.. Incubation takes 13 to 14 days and is done by the female. Young are brooded by female first 6 days and stay in the nest for 22 to 23 days - fed by both sexes. 2 broods are produced per year.

This bird was fairly common but declined over much of its range in the 1900's due to loss of nesting cavities to other species. Habitat loss is a concern.

The Mountain Bluebird will occasionally nest in our area.

### **Thordarson Sisters to Perform at Icelandic National League of North America Convention**

The musical sister duo of Heather Jordan (nee Thordarson) and her sister Theresa Thordarson will be performing at the INL of NA Convention in Brandon. On May 4<sup>th</sup> Heather will sing three national anthems at the opening reception accompanied on the piano by her sister Theresa. The evening of May 5<sup>th</sup> they will be entertaining at the Gala Dinner reception.

Heather Jordan received her bachelor of Music (Honours) at Brandon University and is presently living and working in Banff, Alberta with her