

BIRD RECORDS OF INTEREST IN BRIEF

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. Four groups of nests, with a total of 21 nests, on Lower Rousay Lake. Nests, located in 15 to 20 inches of water, extended 10 to 12 inches above the water level, and consisted of masses of rushes, with no other lining. Two years ago these birds nested in willow and poplar trees on an island in Upper Rousay Lake, and at that time there were 26 nests in the colony. Last year a thorough search of all likely bushes in the district failed to reveal the new location of the colony, so undoubtedly they had already forsaken the trees for a marsh site. Night Herons elsewhere have been known to move from the marsh to nearby bushes in the event of floods, but this is the first we have heard of this species making the opposite move. We have no idea what caused them to make such a drastic change in nesting sites.

MALLARD. On May 23, just across the highway from Fred Harris' farm, three miles South of Yorkton, a Mallard was found nesting in a nest which was known to have been occupied by a Magpie the previous year. The nest was about 12 feet above the ground in willows, and as Cliff Shaw and Stuart Houston arrived, the nine downy young were just jumping from their nest, the mother quacking anxiously on the ground nearby. The light, downy young fell rather slowly, bouncing off several small branches during their descent. Immediately on hitting the ground, they jumped up and ran away into the underbrush, apparently none the worse for their experience.

UPLAND PLOVER. Two nests found at Rousay Lake by Stuart Houston. This bird is now fairly common on uplands bordering the lakes of this district.

STILT SANDPiper. One noted at Leech Lake July 17, by Farley Nowat and Stuart Houston, and several were seen the following day.

SNOWY OWL. Two reported from Nipawin, Sept. 5, 1946.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. One bird, seen for one day only, by Wm. Niven, Sheho, July 6, 1946. A very good view was obtained of this handsome black and white bird with crimson head and neck, as it flew from post to post.

CANADA JAY. Two reported wandering around Sheho, August 10, by Wm. Niven. This pair were still present at the end of August.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN. Several noted by Farley Nowat and Stuart Houston, Rokeby Marsh, July 19, 1946. Apparently a small nesting colony. Habitat in damp grass bordering marsh, never associated with the Long-billed Marsh Wren, which is partial to bulrushes.

MOCKINGBIRD. A male bird arrived at the home of Charles F. Holmes, Dollard, July 6, and delighted them with song from their aerial or chimney from four a.m. till noon and from four p.m. till eight p.m. each day. At times he imitated a killdeer so well one was almost sure there was one around. He sang so much that Mr. Holmes wondered when he took time off to eat. The bird disappeared again on July 16. The mockingbird is a rare straggler in Saskatchewan.

CAPE MAY WARBLER. Male bird noted in Yorkton by Cliff Shaw, May 17, 1946. Unusually enough, this is our first definite record for this district.

LARK SPARROW. Increasing and now quite common at Dollard. Mr. Holmes states, "We have at least five nests in the yard, three on the ground at the foot of a young spruce and two in a carragana hedge. One nest contained two cowbird eggs, along with three of the Lark Sparrows."