

Bird Migrations and Nesting

By W. Yanchinski, Naicam.

(Editor's note: Mr. Yanchinski is of the opinion that each issue of the BLUE JAY should contain definite records, such as the one that follows, from one area in the province. In respect to this he writes as follows: "I feel that our Society should strive to work out a program whereby some such records would be sent in from different habitat areas of the province. Put together they would represent a comprehensive picture of bird activities from season to season over the whole province. Each issue of the BLUE JAY would then contain some tangible information of permanent scientific value as well as satisfy the casual interest of the individual nature lover, who is always curious to know how his own district compares with those in other parts of the province.

I hope that the coming annual meeting will give due consideration to this matter of assembling and coordinating records of bird migrations, populations, fluctuations, nesting etc."

We invite a full and frank discussion on this subject.)

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| Black-capped Chickadees; present all year around; one nest located. | Harris Sparrows; observed May 7 and 15. |
| American Magpie; common; nesting. | Vesper Sparrow; May 5; very common. |
| Hairy Woodpecker; common; probably nesting in the district. | Clay-coloured Sparrows; May 6; fairly common. |
| Downy Woodpecker; one individual seen, March 30. | Savannah Sparrow; a few noted. |
| Yellow-shafted Woodpecker; appeared May 2; six nesting sites known. | Red-tailed Hawk; April 15; nesting. |
| Pine Grosbeak; common all winter. | Swainson Hawk; April 27; nesting. |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak; observed May 20 and 22. | Marsh Hawk; a few observed during the summer. |
| Blackbirds; Brewer's and Rusty first appeared April 26. | An Accipiter (unidentified); occasionally noted. |
| Redwing Blackbirds; nesting in large numbers. | Least Flycatcher; May 6; nesting. |
| Yellow-headed Blackbirds; one pair noted. | Phoebe; April 26; several nesting. |
| Cowbirds; May 8; common. | Eastern Kingbird; May 18; very common. |
| American Crow; March 29; very common. | Robin; April 20; very common. |
| Mountain Bluebird; April 18; very common. | Baltimore Oriole; May 17; few nesting. |
| Ruffed Grouse; fairly common; three nesting pairs known. | Grey-chested Thrush; May 14. |
| Sharp-tailed grouse; very common. | Verry Thrush; June 17, July 23. |
| Hungarian Partridge; very common. | Olive-backed Thrush; August 22. |
| Sparrows—Redpoll Linnet; common in winter; last seen April 25. | Common Shrike; May 5, nesting. |
| Slate-coloured Juncos; observed May 8 and 10. | Tree Swallow; May 7. |
| Snow Buntings; common in winter; last seen May 6. | Barn Swallow; May 25; common. |
| Tree Sparrows; observed April 21, May 2. | House Wren; May 20; most common of all birds. |
| Song Sparrows; April 25; very common. | Yellow Warbler; May 15; common. |
| White-throated Sparrows; May 5; no nesting site known. | American Bittern; May 18; several nesting. |
| White-crowned Sparrows; May 4; no nesting site known. | Western Meadowlark; May 17; several nesting. |
| | Horned Lark; March 25; common. |
| | Pipit (probably Sprague's); May 4. |
| | Lapland Longspur, May 17. |
| | Ruby-throated Hummingbird; May 27; nesting. |
| | Nighthawk; May 26; nesting. |
| | Cedar Waxwing; observed all year round. |

Bohemian Waxwing; appeared occasionally.

American Goldfinch; June 3; nesting; common.

Pine Siskin; from June 5 to August 25.

Black Tern; June 4; very common.

Common White Tern; a few observed.

Horned Grebe; June 2; one known nesting pair.

Coot; very common.

Ducks, Mallard, Teal, Canvasback, Ruddy, Pintail; April 6.

Horned Owl; all year round; nesting.

Long-eared Owl; nesting July 14.

Catbird; June 10; quite common.

American Redstart; a flock appeared, August 25.

Silent Wings

By Doug Gilroy

THE MOST of us know that owls, due to the way their feathers are formed, are very silent fliers. But you never know just *how* silent, till you have one land on the top of your head.

I was climbing up an ash tree which harboured the nest of a Great Horned Owl. The old owl was nowhere to be seen, so about half way up I paused, standing in a crotch to rest and also to admire the scenery. While I was drinking in this owl's-eye view of the country I was suddenly brought back to reality by such a terrific blow on top of the head that it very nearly knocked me off my perch. What in the world struck me! It felt as if someone had dealt me a blow with a coil of rope—yet it flashed through my mind that there was no one else in that tree.

When I looked up, there was Mrs. Owl, just about to land in a tree some distance away, and she was going in a straight line away from me.

I could scarcely believe that it was she who had struck me! Not one sound had I heard to warn me—not even the touching of a twig—and she had to fly through several branches to get at me. Now I can fully realize what little chance a small mammal or fowl has. A rabbit is feeding on tender bark. He relaxes a second—wham!—no rabbit!

Baby Birds of 1951

Elizabeth Barker, Regina

THE 1951 bird nesting season is almost at an end and the birds are moving south again. Many young birds are still accepting hand-outs from their indulgent parents, while a much larger number are now drifting around alone, or living in larger family groups on a self-supporting basis.

Taken as a whole it appears to have been the most successful year of my three years residence here in regards to rearing to maturity of young birds, although only a remnant have seemed to survive from each nest in comparison to the given number of eggs laid by each species. It shows, or should show a slight increase in the total bird population if their efforts have been so successful in other places.

Around the yard of my home and in the close vicinity I have noticed the following; Three broods of Meadowlarks produced a total of four young. A pair of Vesper Sparrows took up residence in the yard. Four or more clay-coloured Sparrows nested close by. The young of Tree Swallows, Common Kingbirds, Arkansas Kingbirds all appeared in my yard and garden. Young Goldfinches and baby Cedar Waxwings have also put in an appearance.

