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with the exception of one. This gosling joined a gander standing guard near another nest, and he took care of it! The other geese re-nested and in time we had a total of 20 goslings. Since then, we have had no losses. One additional bird was brought in from Lac La Ronge where it had been found wounded. It has been wing-clipped so that it will remain in the sanctuary until it has mated with one of our young birds. Then it will regain its power of flight after next seasons moult. One other bird was brought in by Mr. McLeod, Manager of the Exhibition Board, and was mated within a week of its release in the Wascana Marsh. It was successful in raising a brood. The total population of Canada Geese at the Wascana Lake Bird Sanctuary in early September was 31. In addition there were seven geese (the young of last year) at large. Interestingly enough, five of these returned on September 19, making a total of 36.

The majority of the geese at the sanctuary are flying daily for short periods over the marsh area. We operate a rather heavy feeding programme during the hunting season in order to keep them from moving out into the grain fields where they might be shot.

WHISTLING SWANS AT THE SANCTUARY

On April 26, 1954 two Whistling Swans were found wounded at Lang. Apparently, they had flown into a power line, as each had a broken wing which had to be amputated. These birds were placed in the sanctuary with the geese where they completely regained their health.

On October 15, 1954 another wounded Swan was found in a stubble field eighteen miles south of Regina. This swan was banded and it regained its power of flight during the following summer. It would fly away for the day and return to the sanctuary in the evening, but on September 7, 1955 it flew away and did not return. During December of the same year, one of the Lang swans died from unknown causes.

Since then three more wounded swans have been added to the sanctuary, making a total of four Whistling Swans. One of these is banded and, though able to fly, it has so far chosen to remain with its friends.

At times during the spring and fall migration small flocks of Whistling Swans stop for a day or more on the marsh to join the wounded swans. They and the injured swans that remain all year add a note of interest and of beauty to the quiet waters of this protected area.

The Caspian Tern in Saskatchewan— with First Nesting Record

By DR. STUART HOUSTON, Yorkton

The North American range of the Caspian Tern was given by Bent as "widely scattered localities, mainly on the coasts or large lakes." These localities ranged from Louisiana and Texas on the south, Oregon and California on the west, Virginia on the east and Labrador and the North West Territories on the north. Although known to occur at Lake Winnipeg and Lake Winnipegosis in Manitoba and the Athabaska Delta in Alberta, it was not listed by Mitchell in his "Birds of Saskatchewan" in 1924. However, three years later Mitchell was able to collect a female Caspian Tern at Old Wives Lake (Lake Johnstone) on

June 28, 1927, and this formed the only known published record of this species for Saskatchewan.

On July 13, 1956, we had the good fortune to locate the first known nesting colony in Saskatchewan, while banding cormorants and pelicans on Rock Island in Dore Lake, 60 miles north of Big River. Our hosts, Zig Kondzielowski and Trigve Larson of the fisheries research unit, called our attention to the large and striking adults overhead and located the small group of 11 young Caspian Terns which we then banded. The tarsi of these young birds barely accommodated the size 5 bands, whereas the Common Tern requires only a much smaller size 3 band.



Photo by Dr. Stuart Houston

Young Caspian Terns, Dore Lake, July 13, 1956

Richardson did not record this species when he was second-in-command to the first and second expeditions of Sir John Franklin in 1820 and 1827. However, I have recently come into possession of an account of Richardson's expedition in search of the missing ships of Franklin's final and ill-fated expedition. On his way to the Arctic, Richardson again passed through Saskatchewan. With him, as second-in-command, he had Dr. John Rae. They left Cumberland House on June 14, 1848, passed through the southern end of Amisk (Beaver) Lake on June 16, and passed up the Sturgeon-Weir

River to Lake Mirond on June 17. On that day, Dr. Rae shot a Cayenne Tern, *Sterna cayana*. (In those days, even Audubon still grouped the Royal and Caspian Terns under this name.) Their record of the Caspian Tern in what was to become the province of Saskatchewan, thus antedates that of Mitchell by 79 years.

This was not far south-east of what is now Pelican Narrows. Other birds noted by Richardson that day included the Bald Eagle ("a nest may be looked for every twenty or thirty miles"), Raven, Pelican, Sandhill Crane, and Black Tern.

LITERATURE CITED

- BENT, A. C. — 1929. Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns. p. 203.
 BRADSHAW, F. — 1928. Report of the Game Commissioner. (Saskatchewan). p. 36.
 RICHARDSON, SIR JOHN — 1851. Arctic Searching Expedition.
 Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans, London. Volume I, p. 87.

15th Annual Sask. Christmas Bird Count, 1956

Send in your report for the ONE BEST DAY between December 22nd and January 1st. (Note these dates carefully; they correspond with the dates chosen by the Audubon Society for the rest of the continent.)

List the numbers of each species seen during that day. Following this, list other species seen between Dec. 22 and January 1, other than the day of the count. List numbers of individuals and the date seen for these birds. List species in the order of the Sask. Field Check-list, Petersons Field Guide, or Taverner's "Birds of Canada".

If possible, the area should not be more than 15 miles in diameter. Preferably, six or more hours should be spent afield. Counts covering less than two hours will not be printed.

Note the date, hour of starting and of finishing, wind, temperature, whether clear or cloudy, and how many inches of snow. List the total party miles by car and on foot and the total party hours by car and on foot.