

prising increase in the size of the Pelican colony. Last year 19 young Pelicans were raised there, and they were three weeks later than elsewhere, suggesting that this may have been a second attempt at nesting that year. This year over 300 Pelicans were hatched at this colony, and I banded 219 of them. It may well be that these are the same birds that once nested on Last Mountain Lake until discouraged by successive years of June flooding, and perhaps by the increasing number of fishermen's encampments at the northeast part of the lake. The Cormorant colony on Little Quill also increased in size, coincident with a sharp decrease in the numbers of this species on Last Mountain Lake.

The tiny island of nettles and rose bushes on Last Mountain which had 8 White-winged Scoter nests in 1955 (5 of the females caught and banded, see "Blue Jay", Vol. XIII, Oct. 1955, p. 28), and 5 Scoter nests in 1956 (4 females caught and banded), had 4 Scoter nests when visited this

year. Two of the three females caught proved to have been banded on the same island the previous year.

Continuous high winds marred the visit to Redberry Lake, where 123 White Pelicans were banded at the only island (of four) that could be visited.

My small sample of hawk nests, while not large enough to allow of definite conclusions, nevertheless suggested poor success and this might be linked to the low numbers of ground squirrels in recent years. A Marsh Hawk at Dilke had only three young; the youngest of three Swainson Hawks at Dilke was dead at the foot of the tree; the three Red-tailed Hawk nest located near Saltcoats by Billy Horseman raised only one young each. Similarly a Horned Owl nest at Dilke had only one young.

Two Pigeon Hawks nesting in an old Magpie nest west of Regina Beach were banded on July 7. This nest had been found by Doug Gilroy, and independently by S. R. Belcher, J. E. Belcher and Margaret Belcher.

Crippled Owl Nesting

By RICHARD W. FYFE, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History



On May 7, 1957, I found the nest site of a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) on the ground near an abandoned salt mine south of Merid, Saskatchewan. The nest was within 30 yards of vacated mine buildings and machinery in an area of prairie entirely devoid of trees, the closest being more than a mile away. One of the parents and two young owls were found at the site which was a slight depression with no nest material (see photo). The scraped ground of the nest site measured 23 by 17 inches. The partly-eaten remains of two immature jack rabbits lay to one side of the nest; about five

feet from the nest I found a small fragment of a white egg-shell evidently from an owl egg.

As can readily be seen by the accompanying photograph the parent at the nest was very reluctant to move. Eventually it did retreat from the nest and proved to be fearless. It was caught and examination of the left wing disclosed an extensive injury to the radius and ulna which was almost completely healed. Scar tissue about one inch in length overlaid the wound and deep red coloring surrounded the scar. There appeared to be no infection. Presumably the unusual selection of the nest site was the result of one parent being crippled. However a review of the literature indicates ground nesting does occur so this may have been the normal choice of these birds.

Although only one adult was seen at the nest the other parent must have been nearby as it seems unlikely that the crippled bird could have provided food for the young. Certainly the jack rabbits must have been provided by another bird.