

black-capped bird of about the same size as the accompanying White-crowns.

As the number of field observers increases we can expect an increased number of reports of rare or unusual species. Mr. Fox's success in adding a new species to the list can be partly attributed to a deliberate effort to check individuals of even the common species. This is the kind of activity that pays off in excitement, but nevertheless it is not the most significant. Far more important is

the need for additional data on the status of our common species. Few can expect to find a new species, but everyone can help to bridge the gaps in our knowledge of distribution, nesting periods, migration, etc. The non-professional birder is in a better position than ever before to contribute to our knowledge of birds. As ornithological information accumulates the values of each observation becomes more apparent. A rich field of exploration lies before us.

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Bonaparte's Gull

by FRED G. BARD, Regina.



— Sketch by F. W. Lahrman

In Saskatchewan nesting reports of Bonaparte's Gull are still something of a rarity. In 1955 and 1956 I had the opportunity of field checking the birds in Lamotte's Swamp about 10 miles south-west of Glaslyn. The swamp is situated west of No. 4 and south of No. 55 Highway. Mr. R. D. Symons, Field officer for the Department of Natural Resources, had first shown me this interesting swamp in 1935. At that time I photographed two nests with three eggs in each. A single pair of Sandhill Cranes was seen and was no doubt nesting in the area.

In July, 1955, I saw one young Bonaparte's Gull flying with adults in a small slough about one mile south of the swamp. In 1956 I found only one nest containing three eggs. In the accompanying sketch Fred Lahrman shows the elevated nest of the gull. The nest is built on bulrushes of the previous year that have been somewhat flattened by the winter snow. Five adults were seen in 1956. While the area is small its unusual habitat is sufficient to encourage these interesting birds as well as Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Yellow Rails, Wilson's Snipe, Swamp Sparrows, and Juncos.