

site for Bank Swallows. W. B. Barrows and B. Torrey (in Bent, 1942: 404) report swallows nesting in sawdust piles left by lumbering operations. Bent has said sawdust piles are likely to prove to be precarious nesting sites; the same can be said for gravel and sand stock-piles which, of course, are generally in regular use.

LITERATURE CITED

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PETERSON, A. J.

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1936. Studies on the bank swallow *Riparia riparia riparia* (Linnaeus) in the Oneida Lake region. *Roosevelt Wild Life Ann.*, vol. 9: 122-233.

MOCKINGBIRD AT GRENFELL

Mrs. John Hubbard of Grenfell reports seeing her first Mockingbird on November 7, 1960, in Grenfell. Although she did not expect a bird characteristic of the Deep South in Saskatchewan in November, Mrs. Hubbard was able to identify it to her satisfaction even without binoculars because she had a close view of the bird as it flew across the street in front of her and hopped from bush to bush in nearby shrubbery. The

late date compares with other November dates on record: a male was taken at Skull Creek by S. A. Mann on November 1, 1929 (SMNH specimen); J. H. Taylor saw one in Regina on November 4, 1934; Lillian Hedley had one visiting her yard in Saskatoon through November, 1958, until it was killed by a cat December 9, 1958.

RIGHT ON COURSE!

Interesting recovery of a banded Purple Finch

A beautiful male Purple Finch was found dead on April 30, 1960, by Peter Scott, at 182 Tupper Avenue, Yorkton. An observant lad, Peter noticed that the bird carried a small band. On reporting this, he learned that I had placed the band on this bird on May 17, 1959—just half a mile east of where he found it one year later. Although banding has proved that adult birds usually return to the same nesting site year after year, it is unusual to have evidence of a bird following exactly the same path **during migration** on two successive years. Purple Finches winter as far south as Texas, and are seen in Yorkton only on their way to the coniferous areas further north.—C. Stuart Houston, Saskatoon.

Third Annual Report of the Prairie Nest Records Scheme

by E. L. Fox, Regina

The Prairie Nest Records Scheme has just completed a third successful year. Since the scheme began, over 4,000 nest record cards have been turned in on 168 species of birds found breeding in the Prairie Provinces and the Northwest Territories.

In most cases, the cards have been submitted by amateur naturalists. This is an example of how the amateur can assist the professional in his research. Information on the breeding period, incubation period, and distribution of birds is urgently required. The amateur can assist by accurately recording his observations on a nest record card, and submitting it to the Saskatchewan Museum of

Natural History for filing. It should be clear that information is required on even the most common bird breeding in your area, and that as much information as possible should be recorded on each nest found. Every interested person has access to the information contained in the Scheme's files.

By January 15, 1961, 37 contributors had submitted 1361 cards on nests found during 1960. Information was recorded on 145 species of birds. Some cards were received too late to be included in this report. Contributors should turn their cards in by October 1, 1961.

CONTRIBUTORS: G. Chopping, J. Gunn, W. Grout, S. Seely, V. Schmidt, J. Lane, R. Nero, P. Earnshaw, S. Alberts, K. Paton, D. Mossop, W. Anaka, D. Karasuik, R. McPherson, D. Chandler, F. Lahrman, E. Hanson, G. Fletcher, R. Gehlert, R. Sanderson, H. Burns, J. Iverson, F. Brazier, L. Lohr, E. White, S. Zazelenchuck, E. Dodd, D. Meyers, H. Burns, L. Beckie, Brandon Birdwatchers, R. Adams, R. Klimack, R. Cowell, G. Fox, E. Kuyt, R. Lein, J. Dew, J. Briggs.

Little information is available for certain areas or for certain species. We need information from Weyburn, Estevan, Prince Albert and Saskatoon areas, and from Manitoba and Alberta generally. Opportunities for gathering information on certain birds should not be ignored. For example, a great influx of Lark Bunting was noted during 1960, yet only one nest was reported. These birds may be present in even greater numbers next year or they may be entirely absent. Take advantage of an opportunity such as this.

All observations are important but we should strive for quality rather than quantity. A card recording observations from egg laying to flight of young is more valuable than a single observation. So record as much as possible. But, in every case **DISTURB THE BIRDS AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.** Four or five well-timed visits are sufficient for most of the perching birds. Colony nesting birds such as gulls or terns should not be disturbed for more than five or ten minutes. Recording the colony and its location is all that is required.

A new supply of cards will be sent to all 1960 contributors. Others who wish to record nesting information should write for cards to **The Prairie Nest Records Scheme, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina, Sask.**

INFORMATION WANTED

INFORMATION ON—

WHOOPING CRANE SPRING MIGRATION

Dr. Lansing Parker, Assistant Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, writes that three adult Whooping Cranes have failed to return to Aransas. There were six young during 1960 so the wild population is now up to 36 from 33 one year ago. There are also six birds in captivity. During 1959 nine young reached Aransas but three adults failed to return that year, too.

Send reports of Whooping Cranes observed in spring migration, 1961, to **Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina, Sask.**

INFORMATION ON—

SPRING GOOSE AND CRANE CONCENTRATION AREAS

The Canadian Wildlife Service is interested in locating the concentration areas of geese and cranes in the Prairie Provinces during spring migration. The general purpose is to improve the management of these species by learning more about the relationship between spring migration routes, breeding grounds and fall

concentration areas. The immediate aim is to determine the feasibility of trapping and marking the north-bound birds as a means to the overall objective.

We are asking readers of the **Blue Jay** to take a major part in this project. Will you please advise us by April 1, 1961, of the concentration areas that you know were used during April or May of **1959 and 1960** by Canada, Snow, Blue, Ross' and/or

INFORMATION ON

THE BALD EAGLE

Alarmed by reports of a downward trend in the population of Bald Eagles, the National Audubon Society has launched a study of the Bald Eagle designed to cover at least five years and to gather data from all North America. The study will include an inventory based on active nests located and an investigation of eagle biology. Information is needed on the location of active nests and also on wintering concentrations of eagles. If you have information on these or other facets of eagle biology, write **Alexander Sprunt, IV, Box 231, Tavernier, Florida.**