

Bird Notes

YOUNG SANDHILL CRANES Banded near Dafoe, July 17, 1957.— Two young Sandhill Cranes were captured on July 8, 1957 by Gordon Staines on the Kutawagan flats southeast of Dafoe. They were captured again on July 17 for banding. On this date, the larger of the two cranes could almost fly. Two adults were with the young. These were the only two young found, but the area is large and there could easily have been more without anyone being aware of it. The accompanying photograph shows Jack Sterling and Larry Kimberly with the two cranes.—Tom Sterling, Ducks Unlimited, Wynard.



had down with juvenile markings on the head and back, the flanks, breast, and wings were mostly feathered. The first partridge chick to reach shore seemed to be unsteady and only made feeble attempts to escape before it was picked up for examination. It appeared to be tired after this experience and when released it crouched and "froze" in the shadow of a stone at our feet. The second partridge, possibly because it did not swim as far, did not show the same unsteadiness as it scrambled over the stones along the shore, disappearing into the shrubby cover apparently unharmed.

The action of these partridge chicks swimming the last few yards to shore, the examination of the first arrival, and the behavior of both chicks upon return to dry land is recorded in 16 mm. cine film sequences by Frank O'Reilly and the author.



Brown Thrasher wintering in Regina. The Thrasher, reported to the Museum by Mrs. W. G. MacDougall of 2926 Rae St., was photographed on January 3, 1958, by F. W. Lahrman.

SWIMMING HUNGARIANS!!

By W. J. DOUGLAS STEPHEN

Seasonal Technical Officer, Canadian Wildlife Service.

About sundown, on July 15, 1957, the Brittany Spaniel used by our mallard-banding crew flushed a covey of Gray Partridge (Hungarian Partridge) from the bank of a large lough near Dewar Lake, Saskatchewan. Three of this covey flew over the water and eventually settled into it about 20 yards from shore. Almost immediately one of them began swimming toward us. One of the others after a short period also swam toward the shore. The fate of the third partridge chick is unknown, its having been forgotten in the excitement of observing and filming the other two swimming birds and the resumption of banding activities.

These chicks were estimated to be about half-grown. While they still

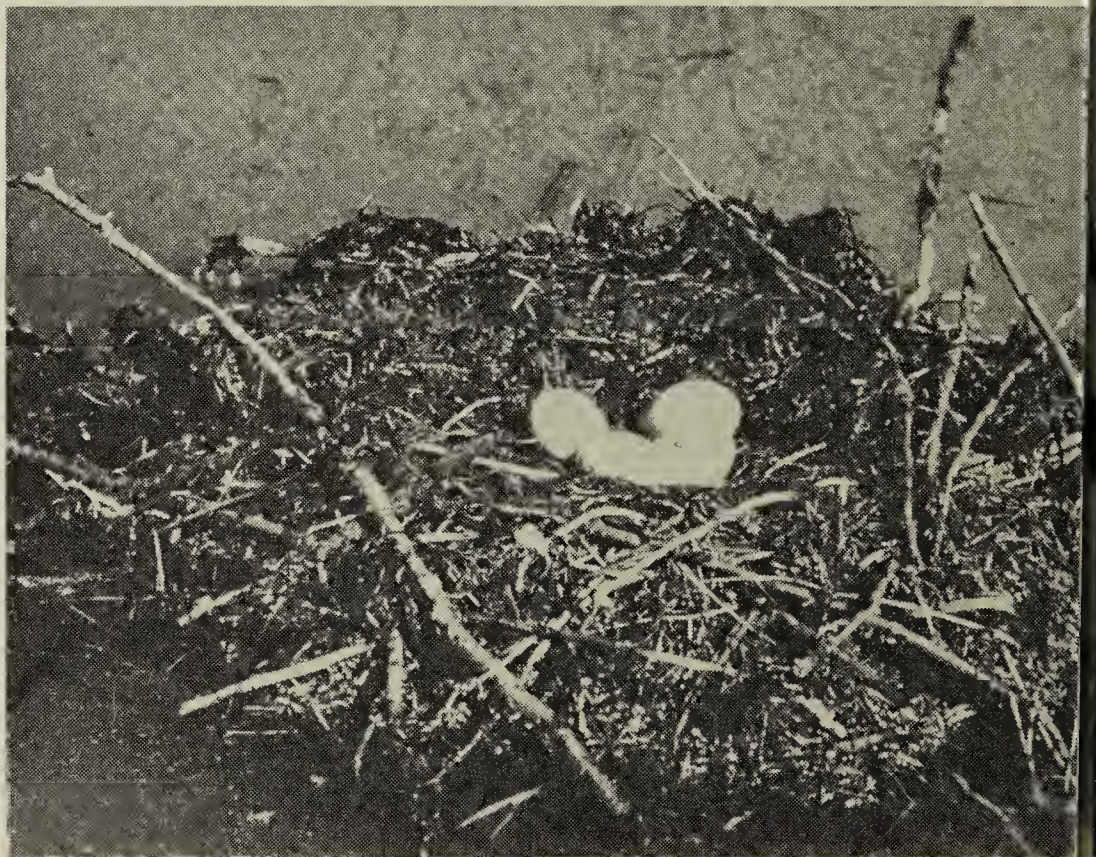
PURPLE FINCHES Nesting at Spirit Lake — Purple Finches arrived at Spirit Lake on April 24, 1958, and had left by May 17. However, two remained to nest and on June 19 were seen feeding one young bird that had just left the nest. This is the first record we have of finches nesting here. — Joyce Gunn, Spirit Lake, Sask.



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Nesting Grebe colony
Western Valeport



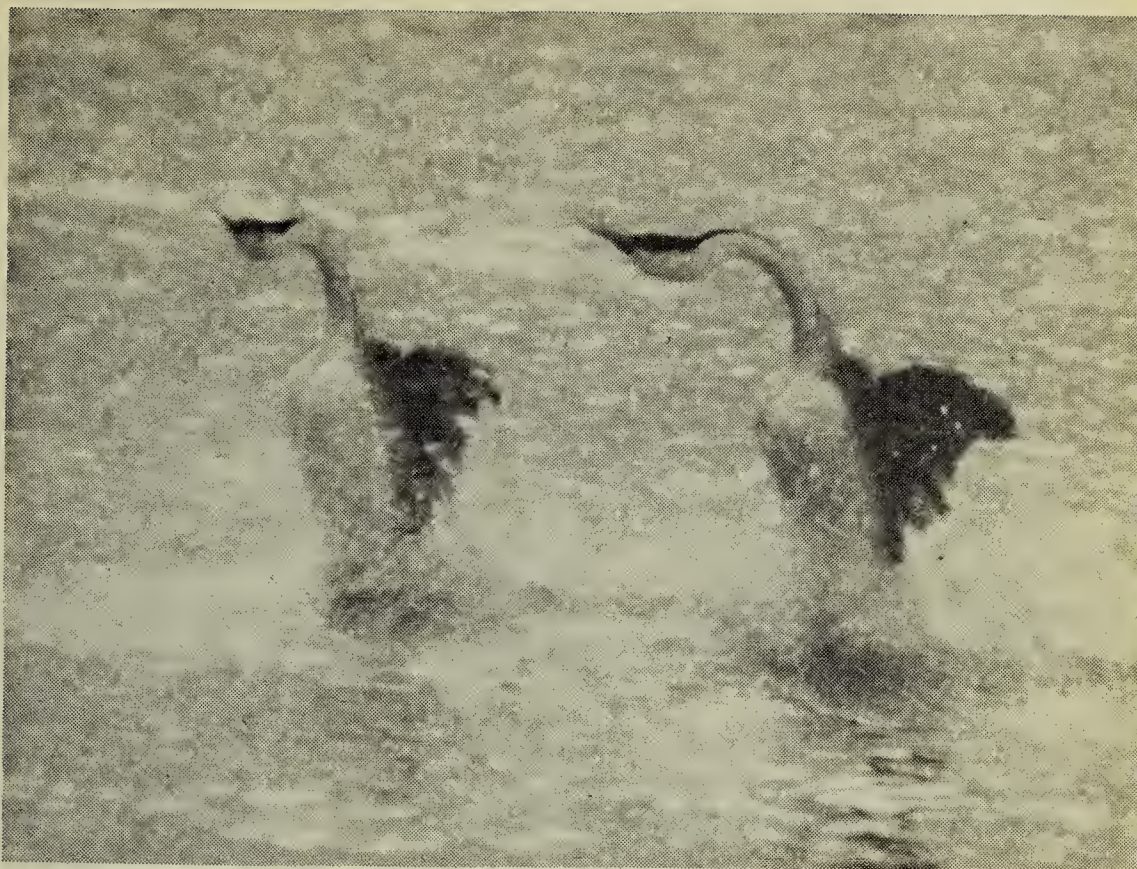
Typical floating nest of Western Grebe



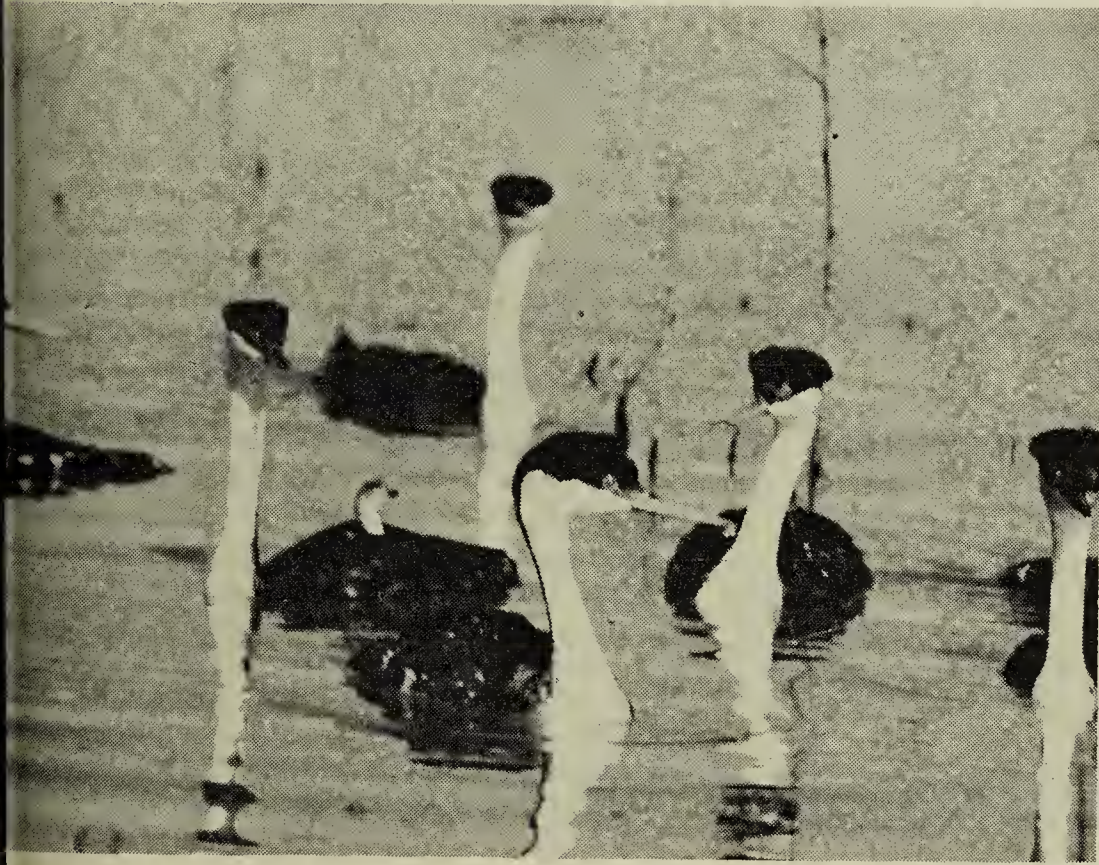
Courtship behaviour of a pair of Western Grebes

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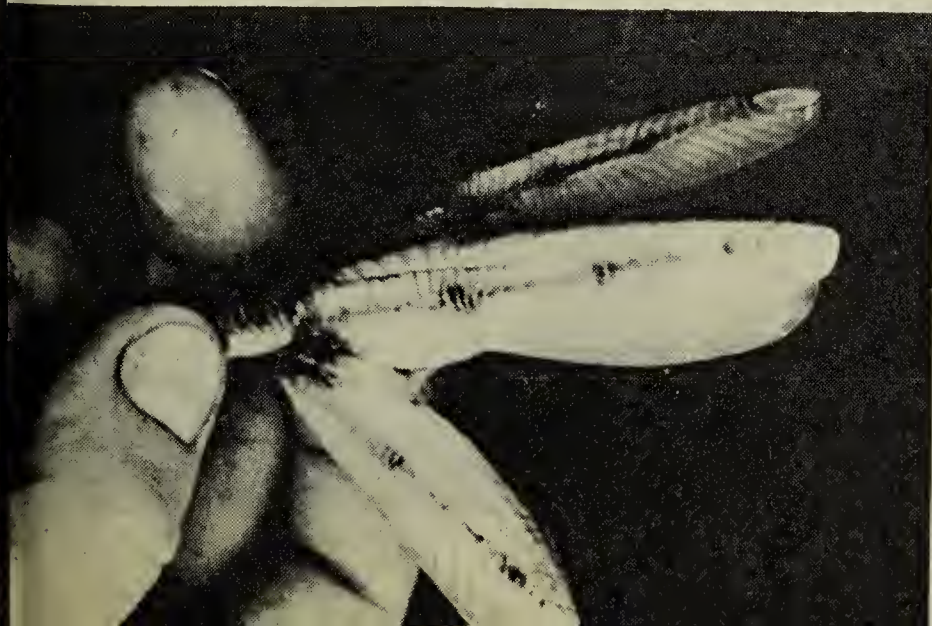
Lahrman



"Water dance" of the Western Grebe



Group of Western Grebes. Note young bird on its parent's back



Foot of Western Grebe showing flattened lobes and nails

INFORMATION WANTED:

Anyone with information concerning the location of breeding sites of the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) is invited to correspond with R. W. Nero, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina