

## SUMMER RECORD OF EVENING GROSBEAK AT DENARE BEACH, SASK.

by Dorothy R. Wade and Douglas E. Wade, Regina

On July 3, 1960, about 10 miles south of Denare Beach, Saskatchewan, on the road (Saskatchewan Highway No. 35) to the Sturgeon-Weir River, we saw a pair of Evening Grosbeaks fly across the road. The light was excellent and we had a very good view. We have seen many hundreds of Evening Grosbeaks over 15 years in the eastern United States and have searched for evidence of their nesting in northern Minnesota.

The Denare Beach location is adjacent to Amisk Lake, some 24 miles southwest of Flin Flon, Manitoba. White spruce predominates in the vicinity where we saw the birds. Although our evidence is insufficient, we feel it will not be too long before some one establishes a nesting record for the Evening Grosbeak in

the Amisk Lake area or along the Hanson Lake Road farther to the north.

Evidence of breeding for this grosbeak is offered for Nipawin (about 95 miles southwest of Denare Beach) by Maurice G. Street who states: "On July 23, 1957, at the writer's back door, a pair fed berries from a red elderberry bush to a young bird barely able to fly. An immature male, still attended by its parents, was banded by the writer on August 25, 1956" (in Houston and Street, *The Birds of the Saskatchewan River, Carlton to Cumberland*, Spec. Publ. No. 2, S.N.H.S., 1959).

The Evening Grosbeak is reported in many Christmas counts throughout the province, including records for Nipawin and Torch River.

## INTERESTING 1962 NESTING RECORDS AT OAK LAKE, MAN.

by David Hatch, Oak Lake, Manitoba

For most species, the 1962 nesting season commenced late and continued later than usual. It was June 3 before I found young Mourning Doves out of the egg, and as late as September 8 a Mourning Dove nest containing young could be observed here. Late nesting of Barn Swallows was also common and nearly every farm still had a nest of young Barn Swallows on September 15.

On May 17, 1962, I investigated a nesting report of a "little owl with horns" and to my amazement found a pair of Long-eared Owls nesting in an old Black-billed Magpie nest only 12 feet above the ground in a willow. The adult was so tame I had to shake the tree to get the old bird off the nest. The entrance hole was twice the normal size used by magpies and the nest contained four eggs. On a second visit made on May 27, none of the eggs had as yet hatched, but four fairly uniform downy young were found on June 13. The nest was visited a fourth and last time on June 20 when the young were banded.

This was the first Long-eared Owl nest I had ever seen and the first Long-eared Owls I had ever banded. The nest was only one-half mile west of the town of Oak Lake, Manitoba,

and was located on the farm of Mr. Jack McLeish in a poplar and willow bluff in a small gully. The land in the immediate vicinity was more than 50 per cent wooded.

An Eastern Kingbird nest, containing four eggs and found on July 7, proved very interesting. The nest was visited frequently to learn when the first young hatched. For one complete month after I found the nest, the female incubated the eggs. By August 7, I could advance to within two feet of the nest without the female flushing from the eggs. A visit on August 10 showed the female had finally ceased incubation and had deserted the nest, although she was still remaining within 50 yards of it. It took roughly one more week before the pair departed from the territory immediately encircling the nest. I examined the eggs and they proved to be infertile. The female incubated the eggs for a month after I discovered the nest and I have no idea how long she had been on the nest previous to July 7.

(ED. NOTE: The possibility that such infertility was due to concentration of chemical pesticides is suggested by recent studies of infertile eggs of the Bald Eagle. Wherever eggs can be examined, it would be interesting to know whether the presence of these chemicals could be established.)