

of less than nine square feet. Less than a square foot for a nest and a bird. One chick hatched by June 23. This amazing struggle for existence is quite typical of the entire waterfowl park and its related wildlife.

BLACK TERN. *Chidonias niger*. Very common. Total of 45 nests found, two of these on Tern Island. Nests were found mainly in small colonies, one of which contained 14 nests. Some nests were ready, but not laid in, by June 18. Many birds were nesting on floating debris such as boards, etc.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Very common. Total of 120 nests. Nesting in colonies everywhere. By June 23, the young from six to seven nests had already flown, and many nests had two or three young. Two nests were found built one above the other on the same bulrush stalk, each containing two eggs. On the 18th many nests were still under construction, mainly in the "wet stage".

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. Common, but not as common as in 1961. Total of 32 nests found. Two colonies, one with 10 nests and the other with 12. Both colonies were built low to the water in dead weeds. By June 20, seven nests had young.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD. *Molothrus ater*. Two Red-winged Blackbirds' nests contained one cowbird egg each. Both were removed.

[Editor's Note: In spite of the accessibility and central location of the Regina Waterfowl Park its plant and animal life have had very little intensive study by naturalists. Many opportunities are being missed—Dr. Al Hochbaum of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station, has pointed out that the large wintering population of Mallards provides a quite unique opportunity for the study of Mallard behaviour. The only bird behaviour studies we know of that have been carried on at the Waterfowl Park have been studies made by Dr. Robert W. Nero of the Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds. Over the years, there have been only occasional waterfowl counts, banding projects, and casual recording of breedings birds. Margaret Belcher's **Birds of Regina** (1961), which reviews over 50 years of Regina records, gives only the most general

indications of the breeding status of species at the Wascana Marsh. Hence the worth of this unpretentious study undertaken by Sanderson and Fleming. Though they spent a quite inadequate period of time at the Marsh—a total of only 45 hours—they were able to establish important facts such as the abundance of the coot (117 nests found), a common species on which Belcher could only collect the following information: "Several nests were found each year from 1950 to 1953, with six nests in 1950, and broods of coots seemed especially numerous on the marsh in 1960. From 1957 to 1959 coots with young were reported only once, on July 7, 1957 (Belcher)." More and serious studies should be undertaken in this natural marsh which is being incorporated into Regina's "Wascana Centre". The appeal of the area to all city residents and visitors interested in wildlife is described in a little 19-page bulletin recently published by the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, "Wascana Bird Sanctuary" (Popular Series No. 6) available from the Museum for 10 cents.

EARED GREBE COLONY AT REGINA, 1963

by **Fred W. Lahrman**, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina

For two years we have reported large colonies of the Eared Grebe at the Regina Waterfowl Park (**Blue Jay**, 19:170-171; 20:157). During the summer of 1961 48 nests were under observation at the marsh where no grebes had nested since the early 1950's. In 1962 this number grew to 165 nests, an impressive increase. It is of interest that a slightly larger number of nests appeared in 1963. On May 12 the grebes were already nesting (1963 first arrival date for the Regina area—April 28), one colony starting up at the city power house, and one at the Broad Street Bridge. On June 8, 100 nests were counted on the east side of the park below "Faraway House", on June 16, 29 were counted at the Broad Street Bridge, and Walter Sweet reported 50 at the power house, a total of 179.

These colonies were in approximately the same location as last year, except that there were no nests south of "Goose Island" where there had been a small colony of 14 in 1962.