

the following discoveries: 5 active Prairie Falcon nest sites, 7 nests each of Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk and Ferruginous Hawk, 6 Swainson's Hawk nests and 2 each of Red-tailed Hawk and Marsh Hawk. From these we have obtained the following young: 3 Prairie Falcons, 4 Pigeon Hawks, 7 Sparrow Hawks, 2 Ferruginous Hawks. Through the co-operation of Dr. S. Houston 2 Cooper's Hawks were also obtained. Here we might mention that under no circumstances will all young be taken from any one nest by our group. We do not wish to disturb nesting because, provided the parent birds can successfully raise young at any nest site, they will return annually to that location. This is of the utmost importance to us as we want to insure the presence and protection of our native hawks.

As a group we wish to co-operate in every possible way with the Natural History Societies and we welcome new members from these groups as well as any information we may receive on hawks, falcons

or eagles in Saskatchewan. Anyone interested in falconry should write to: The Saskatchewan Falconry Association, c/o Richard W. Fyfe, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina.



Photo by R. W. Fyfe

A falconry club activity—spring nest finding (Walter Knudsen at Cooper Hawk's nest)

Magpie Nest in Building

By Robert W. Nero, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

A partly-constructed nest — apparently built by Black-billed Magpies (*Pica pica*) — was found by Richard W. Fyfe, Fred W. Lahrman and myself on June 24, 1958, within a frame building at an abandoned farm six miles south-west of Kinderley. This building was formerly a barn; it had a flat roof and half of the floor was of dirt. The nest was built within the seven inch space between a rafter and the ceiling and was about six feet above the ground. It was adjacent to one wall and right next to an open door. The nest consisted of an inner shell of well-hardened mud, nearly six inches deep on one side, one-half to one and one-half inches thick and about seven inches in diameter. It was fairly smooth on the inside and was surrounded by a loose mass of dead twigs, many of which were cemented to the mud. The whole thing was about one and one-half feet in diameter and, of course, stuck out on both sides of the four inch rafter. We were rather astonished to see a

bulky nest of this sort squeezed into such a narrow space as well as within a building. A slight depression on one side of the nest would just have permitted entry to a Magpie-sized bird. Many twigs, some three feet long, which lay on the floor, suggested repeated attempts to bring nest material which could not be worked into the nest. A clean white feather found on the floor nearby appeared to be from a Magpie, and we were in agreement that the nest was built by this species. There was no nest-lining and there were no indications that the nest had been used at all.

L. B. Potter reported an active Magpie nest located beneath one rail and between two ties of a railway bridge (1927. *Freak nesting site of a Magpie*, Condor. 29: 249). "It is supported by two intersecting braces and protected from above by the aforementioned girders. The usual 'dome' is, therefore, absent, being both unnecessary and impossible in the restricted space available. . . ."