

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT (1965) OF THE PRAIRIE NEST RECORDS SCHEME

by **Robert R. Taylor**, Regina

In 1965 there was a marked increase in the activity of the Prairie Nest Records Scheme. A record 49 supporters contributed 744 cards for 155 species. In 1964, 622 cards of 140 species were contributed by 38 persons. As well as a quantitative increase in 1965, there was also an increase in the quality of the records submitted. The new card design, by providing more room for information, has evidently encouraged many contributors to record more complete and more precise data.

There were 291 cards from Saskatchewan, 260 from Alberta, 129 from the Northwest Territories, 58 from Manitoba, and six from British Columbia. The most noteworthy contributions for 1965 were made by: Bohdan Pylypec (91 cards); Allan Shoults

(76), Ernie Kuyt (74), Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Smith (57), and Spencer Sealy (52). Special commendation should go to Bohdan Pylypec, one of our younger contributors, who not only submitted the greatest number of cards but also the most complete set. His 91 cards contained a large amount of precise data and each card represented several trips to a nest. His fine series on Cedar Waxwings included no less than 25 nests. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Smith, studying Lark Buntings near Regina, reported 38 Chestnut-collared Longspur nests in addition to 10 Lark Bunting nests. Once again Ernie Kuyt contributed records on an interesting array of species including such notables as Whistling Swan, Gyrfalcon, Peregrine Falcon, Common Raven, Stilt Sandpiper, Mew Gull,



Photo by Robert R. Taylor

Long-tailed Jaeger on nest, Lookout Point, Thelon River region, June, 1961



Photo by Robert R. Taylor

Eastern Bluebird at nest

Arctic Loon, and Long-tailed Jaeger. Ernie's 74 cards represented 92 nests of 31 species.

It might be pointed out here that many of the record cards contain information on more than one nest. This is especially true for such colony nesting birds as gulls, terns, cormorants, or herons, where usually only one visit is made to the colony during the season, and data for all nests is identical with the exception of the number of eggs or young. In such a case, one line of the "visits" section of the card is used for each nest.

Spencer Sealy's records of 17 nests of the Rough-legged Hawk from the Perry River district in the Northwest Territories is a valuable addition to the scheme. Contributions representing unusual species were made by several observers. These included: Arctic Loon, Red-throated Loon, King Eider, Spruce Grouse, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Long-tailed Jaeger, Barrow's Goldeneye, Black-bellied Plover, Red Phalarope, Dipper, Hoary Redpoll, Baird's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Snow Bunting.

During the year a number of requests were received from biologists for information from our files on certain species. Data on Bufflehead, American Avocet, Pileated Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Starling, White-crowned Sparrow, and Chestnut-collared Longspur were provided

for use in various studies. In order to facilitate greater use of the nest record data, a complete tally of the number of cards for each species will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Blue Jay*. At present there are more than 11,000 cards on file.

Our thanks are extended to the following people for their contributions to the Prairie Nest Records Scheme in 1965: Sam Alberts, T. H. Bassett, Miss M. A. Biggs, F. H. Brazier, Albert Brooks, H. W. Burns, R. C. Burron, Vincent Capri, Murray Christman, Mrs. E. A. Dodd, Sharon and Donald Ebbert, G. Freeman, Brian Halseth, Mrs. H. W. Harris, Bob Idema, Brian Irving, J. R. Jowsey, C. Kelly, N. G. Kondla, E. Kuyt, J. Lane, R. Lein, K. MacRae, Martin McNicholl, R. W. Nero, Walter Newman, Mr. and Mrs. K. D. Paton, Jack Paton, Tom Paton, Bohdan Pylypec, Mrs. D. B. Richardson, Gordon Robertson, Mary Robinson, T. S. Sadler, R. M. Sanderson, Spencer Sealy, Alfred Serfas, J. Shier, Allan Shoults, Mrs. K. H. Skinner, G. J. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith, Wayne Smith, W. Thiessen, Kevin Van Tighem and E. J. White.

This year we would like to change over completely to the new card design. If you require a supply of the new cards, please state the number required and write to: Robert R. Taylor, Chairman, Prairie Nest Records Scheme, Box 1121, Regina, Saskatchewan.

COOPERATIVE MIGRATION STUDY

Contributors to the cooperative migration survey, carried on under the auspices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are reminded to send their records by July 15, 1966 to

Mrs. Mary Houston
863 University Drive
Saskatoon, Sask.