



Photo by Rolf Sherick

The Stuck Duck

The above photo of a female American Widgeon, taken by Leader-Post photographer Rolf Sherick, appeared in The Leader-Post on May 6, 1966. Mr. Sherick, touring Wascana Bird Sanctuary for photos, found the duck firmly stuck among some willows. He took the duck to the Museum of Natural History to see if it was injured and then released it in the marsh.

CONCERN RE THE RED-TAILED HAWK

by **C. Stuart Houston**, Saskatoon

Seven nests of the Red-tailed Hawk were located this year in the Saskatoon area, and Lorne Scott located four at Indian Head. From these 11 nests, only 5 single young were raised from 5 nests and 6 nests were unsuccessful.

While the sample is too small to be statistically valid, one does worry about the fact that no nest raised more than one young (one of these nests had 3 eggs in May when climbed by Lorne Scott).

In the past, Red-tailed Hawks have done well in years when prey was plentiful—and these were years when the Great Horned Owl was also successful. In 1959 in the Yorkton area, the owls had a good year and of 10 Red-tailed Hawk nests, 8 raised 2

young and 2 raised 1 young to bandable size.

In 1960, the owls had an excellent year and the Red-tailed Hawks at Dubuc, Saltcoats, Stornoway and Yorkton did equally well: Four nests raised 3 young, 16 nests raised 4 young, and in 3 nests only 1 young was banded.

This year, the Great Horned Owl and Long-eared Owl have done very well and one would have expected the Red-tailed Hawk to do likewise. Are pesticides the answer? Are our Red-tailed Hawks gradually becoming infertile as has happened to the Golden Eagle in Scotland, the Osprey in New England and the Peregrine Falcons along the Hudson River? Further observations are obviously necessary.