

were observed in elm (*Ulmus americana*) and box elder (*Acer negundo*) trees. In a heronry consisting of three nests at Talbot Lake, which was considerably north of the breeding range for Great Blue Herons as indicated by Godfrey (*The birds of Canada*, 1966), one nest was on the ground (Fig. 2) and the other two were elevated two feet in the only available red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) shrub. Double-crested Cormorants and White Pelicans nested on the same island as

the herons in Talbot Lake. Two of four nests were also situated on the ground in a heronry within a Double-crested Cormorant colony southeast of Denbeigh Point in Lake Winnipegosis. The other two nests were elevated five feet in the only available willow (*Salix*) bushes. It appeared that the birds in both heronries preferred to nest on the islands without trees rather than at any of the many suitable locations along the densely forested shore of the nearby mainland.

AQUATIC BREEDING BIRDS OF THE ISLE OF BAYS, 1969

by Kees Vermeer, Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton

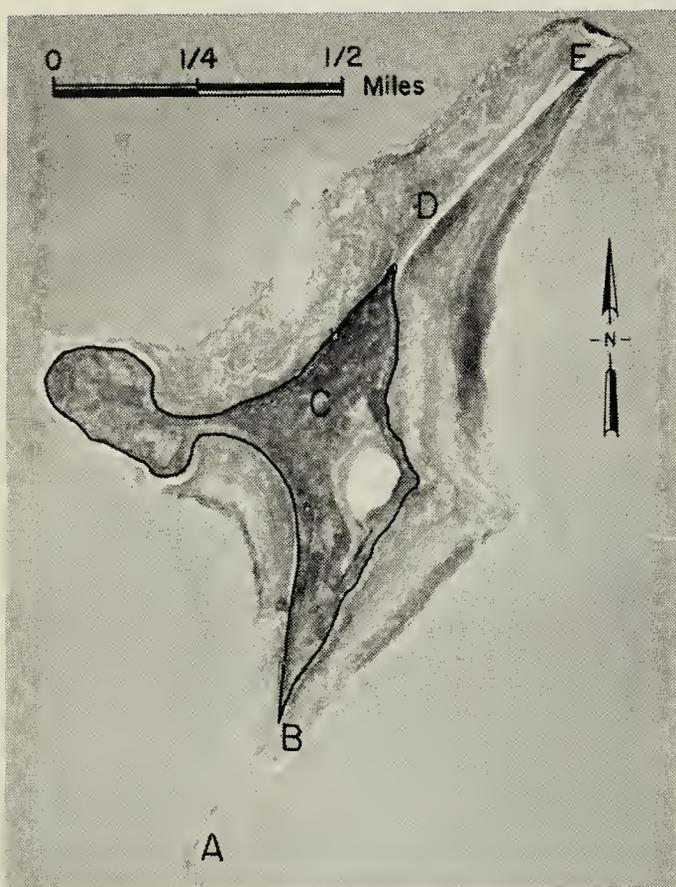


Fig. 1. Aerial photo of Isle of Bays, Old Wives Lake, 1965

- A. Common Terns, 1969
- B. Great Blue Herons, Double-Crested Cormorants and White Pelicans, 1957
- C. Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons, 1969.
- D. Double-crested Cormorants and White Pelicans, 1969.
- D. California and Ring-billed Gulls, 1957, 1969.
- E. Common Terns, 1957

Lahrman (*Blue Jay*, 15:106-109; 1957) described the bird life of an island, 50° 07' N; 105° 55' W, in Old Wives Lake, known as the Isle of Bays. I made some observations there

on five days (May 14, 22, June 13, 14 and 26, 1969) while visiting the island to collect aquatic birds eggs for organochlorine residue analysis. Figure 1 shows a 1965 aerial photo of the 280-acre island; the insular configuration in 1969 was similar.

Numerous Ring-billed Gulls and several dozen California Gulls were observed nesting in region D (Fig. 1). Eighty-eight Double-crested Cormorant nests and 566 nests plus 200 large young of White Pelicans were also counted in that region on June 13. Five pairs of Great Blue Herons nested from 10 to 12 feet up in choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) bushes, while 415 nests with eggs and young of Black-crowned Night Herons were 2 to 10 feet elevated in those bushes in region C (Fig. 1). One hundred and forty Common Tern nests were found in the bare and rocky region A on June 14.

It appears that the gulls nested in the same area in 1969 as in 1957, while the cormorants and pelicans moved to the other side of the island (Fig. 1). Great Blue Herons changed from nesting on the ground in region B in 1957 to the choke cherries in region C. Lahrman did not observe Black-crowned Night Herons nesting on the island in 1957, but states (1957:107) "... up to 50 or more could be seen at one time. They would fly back and forth to the mainland where they

were nesting." Lahrman found terns nesting in region E in 1957 and as none was observed there in 1969, it appears that the terns also changed their nesting location.

Duck nests were counted for a five-hour period on May 22 and June 26. The count was made within the outlined and elevated area of the island (Fig. 1) which was covered with dense shrubbery, composed of *Symphoricarpos*, *Rosa* and *Ribes* species. Only about half the outlined area was briefly searched; hence, the number of ducks nesting on the island probably was three to four times that shown in Table 1. Nests located on May 22 were not included during the count on June 26. It can be seen from Table 1 that in May the Pintail was the most numerous nesting duck, while in the end of June the Gadwall dominated. There appeared to be only one nest destroyed by a mammal; perhaps the predator was a porcupine, one of which was observed on the island.

Two Wilson's Phalarope nests, a Marbled Godwit nest and a Spotted Sandpiper nest were also found. These

Table 1. Number of duck nests counted on Isle of Bays on May 22 and June 26, 1969

Species	Number of nests	
	May 22	June 26
Pintail	31	13
Gadwall	3	31
Mallard	15	14
Redhead	6	1
American Widgeon ..	2	3
Lesser Scaup	0	2
	—	—
Total number of nests	57	64

species appeared to be the most abundant shore birds on the island. American Avocet, Killdeer and Piping Plover appeared from their behaviour to be breeding there. On June 26, hundreds of Western Grebes were observed along the marshy shore of the island.

A Marsh Hawk nest and a Short-eared Owl nest were also found.

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Photo courtesy of Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History
White Pelican on Isle of Bays, 1961