## BIRD BANDING AND NEST-BOX PROJECTS AT EDMONTON

### by Ken Trann, 10725 85th Avenue, Edmonton

In 1970 we formed a banding group in Edmonton whose main interest was banding birds of prey. At a recent meeting, held January 13, 1972 at the home of Richard Fyfe, it was possible to summarize two years of banding activities (Table 1) and to review the programme and its problems.

Much of our banding has involved nestlings, but we have also used the Bal-shatri, mist nets, pole traps, and suede traps, which allow us to band adults. The 270 Sparrow Hawks which we banded were all caught with a Balshatri. The Snowy Owls were mainly caught with a mist net, and the Great Gray Owls and Hawk Owls were trapped with a Bal-shatri and banded at the nest. Most of the other birds were banded as nestlings.

The following have participated in the banding programme: Richard Fyfe, Ron Gallant, Bob Gehlert, Bob Gibbon, Keith Hodson, Edgar Jones, Bryan Nicolai, Ken Trann.

Some of us are also involved in a nest-box project, encouraged by the success of similar projects in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Edgar T. Jones allowed us access to his 228 acres of land on Hastings Lake as a starting point, and in the first year (1969) we set out 45 bluebird houses. The number was increased to 163 in 1970, and to 306 in 1971. Our trail is not yet extensive, but we are working out in all directions from Ed Jones' property.

In addition to the houses built to attract Mountain Bluebirds, we have put up two Purple Martin colony houses (which have had five pairs both in 1970 and 1971), and we have also set out larger houses for Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and the smaller owls. These have not been very successful, but we have had a pair of Goldeneye for three years in a row, and one pair of Boreal Owls. Most of the larger houses have been occupied by Flying Squirrels and Red Squirrels, and by Starlings. We have attempted to destroy the Starlings by keeping the young birds from reaching maturity. House Sparrows were not a problem until this year when we began putting houses out along the roads between Sherwood Park and Hastings Lake. We have destroyed their nests and because House Sparrows seem to prefer houses close to farms, we are removing those nest boxes that are in the vicinity of farmsteads.

We have had very little vandalism, and we feel that the project has been a rewarding one. The results of the project are summarized in Table 2. We would like to think that some day our bluebird trail might join Saskatchewan's, just as Saskatchewan's trail is now linked with Manitoba's. The fol-

# Table 1.Birds banded by Edmonton<br/>bird banders in 1970 and<br/>1971.

Species	1970	1971	2-year total
Goshawk		2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk.	_	5	5
Cooper's Hawk	_	5	5
Red-tailed Hawk	25	5	30
Broad-winged Hawk	2	5	7
Swainson's Hawk	_	12	12
Ferruginous Hawk	65	139	204
Golden Eagle	_	6	6
Marsh Hawk	19	_	19
Prairie Falcon		140	256
Peregrine Falcon	2	14	16
Pigeon Hawk	_	138	229
Sparrow Hawk		214	270
Great Horned Owl	23	50	73
Snowy Owl	1	15	16
Hawk Owl	$16^{-1}$	27	43
Great Gray Owl	6	15	21
Long-eared Owl	10	4	14
Short-eared Owl	36	7	$43^{$
Boreal Owl	_	1	1
Saw-whet Owl	_	1	1
Total individuals4	468	805 1	1273

Table 2. Results of nest-box project at Edmonton, 1969-7	t-box projec	t at ]	Edmonto	n, 1969-71.								
		1969			1970			1971		Three-year total	year t	otal
Species	No. Nests Fail Young No. Nests	Fail	Young	No. Nests	Fail	Young	Fail Young No. Nests Fail	Fail	Young	Young No. Nests Fail	Fail	Young
Goldeneve		1	6	1	1	œ	1	1	1	က	Ц	17
Romael Owl	<b>-</b>	I	വ	ł	I	1	ł	I	ł	-	1	ഹ
Convertion		T	1	1	1	I	L	1	1	1	1	1
The Construction	- <del>-</del>	4	61	41	8	114	93	22	443	152	34	618
	14	• <u>بر</u>	27	10	Ч	57	6		53	33	7	137
Mounten Rhichind	H 673	o <del></del> (	11	7	က	22	10	ю	26	20	6	59
Common Creekle	) [	1	1		1	2	1	1	I	H	1	61
Totals	38	11	113	60	12	203	113	29	522	211	52	838
Number of houses	45			163			306			514		

lowing people have contributed to the project: Rod Burns, Jon De Groot, Ron Gallant, Jim Gara, Edgar Jones, Wayne Mlynarchuk, Bryan Nicolai, Terry Olander, Randy Rachinsky, Andy Stork, Gloria Trann. In addition, Steve Tough has kindly allowed us to use his garage, and Fred Stapely has given us the use of his truck.

#### A BARRED OWL RECORD

#### by Wayne C. Harris, Raymore

Because of the scarcity of Saskatchewan records of the Barred Owl, I thought the following worth noting. While at Clearsand Lake (6 miles west of Candle Lake or 18 miles east of Prince Albert National Park) on August 28-29, 1971 I had the great fortune cf seeing this rare owl and hearing another. On August 28, about an hour before sunset, while walking about ¼ of a mile from our camp on the east shore of Clearsand Lake, a Barred Owl was heard calling about 100 yards farther ahead. At the same time another bird began hooting about 1/2 mile east of the first bird. I located the first bird and was able to approach to within 30 yards of it and observed it for about 5 minutes with binoculars. While I was watching this bird the other continued to call from deeper in the bush. The second owl was not observed but its call positively identified it as a Barred Owl.

I immediately returned to camp and A. L. Nijssen and myself returned within 10 minutes but were unable to locate the owl again as it had moved from its original position and both birds had ceased hooting.

#### **NEST RECORDS**

A summary for the 1971 season is being prepared and will be available to anyone interested in participating in the Prairie Nest Records Scheme. Cards for the 1972 nesting season can be obtained from H. W. R. Copland, Coordinator Prairie Nest Records Scheme, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, 190 Rupert Ave,, Winnipeg. R3B 0N2