

LARGE COLONIES OF CASPIAN TERNS ON LAKES WINNIPEG AND WINNIPEGOSIS, 1970

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Evans (*Blue Jay*, 28:68-71, June, 1970) described a nesting colony of Caspian Terns in 1969 near Spruce Island in Lake Winnipegosis. I investigated the same colony on June 4 and July 17, 1969. The terns had not completed clutch initiation by June 4 while July 17 was too late for a reliable nest count as the young terns wandered from nests.

On June 24, 1970, I surveyed those Caspian Tern colonies where 100 pairs or more were estimated to nest on islands on Lakes Winnipeg and Winni-

pegosis. To minimize the effects of human intrusion, nests were checked quickly. Thus colonies of about 500 nests are probably accurate only to the nearest 25.

Of five large colonies found (Table 1), the largest was on the reef near Spruce Island (Fig. 1). Except for one nest with chicks, aged approximately 0-2 days (Fig. 2), all nests observed contained eggs. As in 1969, Herring Gulls, California Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, Common Terns, White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants also

Table 1. Number of nests and location of Caspian Tern colonies at Lakes Winnipeg and Winnipegosis, 1970.

Colony Location	Latitude	Longitude	No. of Nests
Lake Winnipegosis			
1. Reef east of Spruce Is.	53°04'N	100°30'W	615
2. Reef southeast of Denbeigh Pt.	52°49'N	99°46'W	95
Lake Winnipeg			
3. Reef southeast of Little Sandy Is.	52°58'N	97°59'W	535
4. Little George Is.	52°52'N	97°47'W	510
5. Reef at St. Martin Is.	52°17'N	98°00'W	490

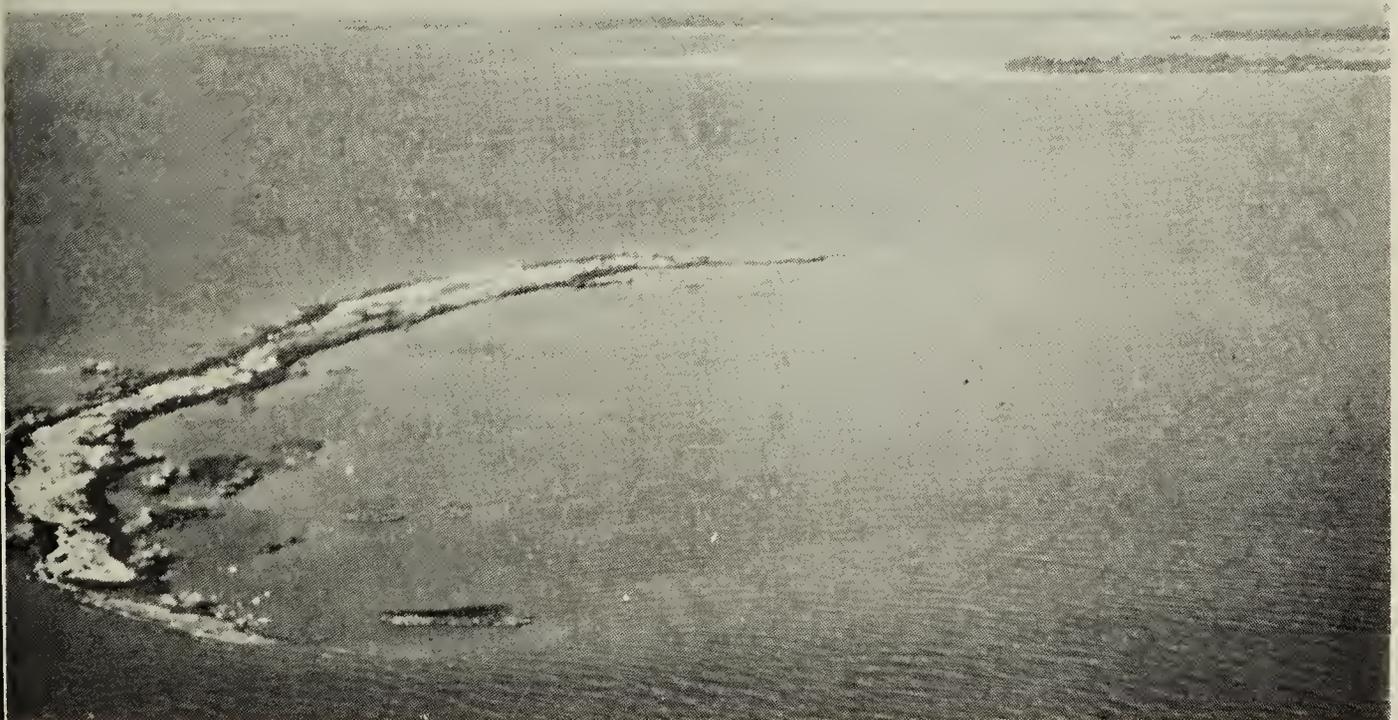


Fig. 1. Aerial photo of reef, in foreground, near Spruce Island on which 615 Caspian Tern nests were counted on June 24, 1970.



Fig. 2. Young Caspian Tern chicks in nest.

nested on that reef. Of 95 Caspian Tern clutches found on a reef near Denbeigh Point, one was incorporated into that of a Pintail clutch (Fig. 3). Herring Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, Common Terns, Double-crested Cormorants and Great Blue Herons also nested on that reef. The nesting colonies in Lake Winnipeg near Little Sandy Island and St. Martin Islands were situated on bare sand reefs, but that on Little George Island was on a wooded island. Some of these Caspian Tern colonies are probably the largest recorded in the prairie provinces. Other Caspian Tern colonies well below 100 pairs were encountered in 1969 and 1970 on a reef ($51^{\circ}55'N$; $100^{\circ}03'W$) in Sagemace Bay, Lake Winnipegosis and on a reef ($52^{\circ}22'N$; $98^{\circ}04'W$) near Reindeer Island, Lake Winnipeg. In addition, one colony was found on a reef ($54^{\circ}09'N$; $100^{\circ}04'W$) in Moose Lake and one pair of Caspian Terns was observed to defend a territory on a reef ($50^{\circ}49'N$; $98^{\circ}37'W$) in Lake Manitoba in 1969.



Fig. 3. One Caspian Tern clutch incorporated within Pintail clutch and another typical Caspian Tern clutch.