

ALBERTA
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER
SIGHTINGS, 1972

GRAEME M. GREENLEE*

As recorded in the June 1972 *Blue Jay*, Great Crested Flycatchers were first seen by my wife and me near Two Hills, Alberta, in the summer of 1971.¹ Since this species, which is hypothetical for Alberta, has only been sighted on two previous occasions, we wish to report its occurrence again in the summer of 1972.

Single birds were seen on two successive mornings of May 24, 25 and 26. These three sightings were all in different locations. Although the birds were seen in the same general vicinity of Two Hills as in 1971, all three locations were different from those of 1971. Later sightings were in the same general location as those in 1971: single birds on June 28 and July 18, and three on one time on July 19.

Although we are now convinced that these birds are resident here in summer, we have been unable to find any indications of nesting.

GREENLEE, G. M. 1972. *Great Crested Flycatcher again observed in Alberta*. *Blue Jay* 30: 86-87.

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UNTEMPTED NEST BUILDING
BY AEROPLANES BY TREE SWALLOWS

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I would like to relate an occurrence which was reported to me by the manageress of Gateway Aviation on the Martin, Uranium City, in late June, 1971. She reported, as if it were a well-known phenomenon, that a little earlier that season swallows often entered the nacelles of moored float planes through a circular aperture, carrying in small sticks as nest material which they deposited somewhere within, generally some part of the engine. If undetected such nests, partial or completed,

would probably ignite when the engine started and heated up. I concluded that the pilots had always noticed what was going on and removed the material brought in by the birds, since the observer did not mention that fires due to this cause had actually occurred.

I noticed a circular hole on the nacelle of a "Beaver" aircraft which, it seemed to me, might well look to a tree swallow like the hole in a nest box. Though my informant did not identify the species of swallows involved, there can be little doubt that they were Tree Swallows. The only other swallows I saw about Uranium City were Barn Swallows, though Bank Swallows have been recorded in the area. The nesting habits of these latter two species do not fit the description that I was given of the nest material.

I can find no reference to this sort of behaviour in the recent Canadian Wildlife Service Report (No. 4) *Studies of Bird Hazards to Aircraft*, 1971.

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PIED-BILLED GREBE
NESTING OBSERVATIONS

by MAMIE McCOWAN*

Some 5 miles from Brandon, Manitoba, where a seldom-used road allowance runs between two ponds, I made the following casual observations of two easily seen Pied-billed Grebe nests.

On the morning of June 25 1972, near some cattails in the pond to the north of the road two Pied-billed Grebes were carrying muddy vegetation and setting it in place to form a nest. One of the grebes got on the structure and appeared to be trying it out for size. Rather foolishly I got out of the car to get nearer to take a picture and the grebes disappeared; I did not again see grebes at this location.

On the afternoon of the same day in the pond to the south of the road a Pied-