

billed Grebe was sitting on a solid hummock of earth sticking above the water and at least 25 feet from the nearest protective cover. On visits made July 1, 3 and 4, the grebe was sitting on the hummock; on the latter day it slipped off into the water followed by three tiny young ones. On July 6 I observed an adult grebe with a young one on its back, which it left at the nest site with the other adult and young; it then swam off and came back with food. It swam quite fast to and from the feeding area; then hesitated before offering the food. On one trip it swam around the hummock before giving up the food. This was the last time that I saw the two adult grebes together. On July 20 one adult and five young grebes were seen together making cheeping sounds.

\* 1415 - 8th St., Brandon, Manitoba.

## **PELICANS RETURN TO LAST MOUNTAIN LAKE**

by JOHN P. HATFIELD\*

Throughout the summer of 1972 several hundred White Pelicans remained at the north end of Last Mountain Lake. With this many pelicans around I was sure they were nesting on one of the many islands found at the north end of the lake. Finally on June 30 while checking the islands for other nesting birds, I found 18 young pelicans on one of the smaller islands. Gary Anweiler reported that pelicans bred in this part of the lake until 1954.<sup>1</sup> These birds constitute the first young I have seen since I moved to the area in 1968.

Nesting pelicans are vulnerable to human disturbance, so I recommend that anyone visiting pelican colonies treat them with respect — better still, stay away from them. Young pelicans hatch naked and remain so for about 2 weeks before a light down appears; as a result, any prolonged exposure to sun, to cool, rainy weather or to gulls can result in their deaths. They are dependent on adult pelicans for protection

and feeding in their early life. This period generally occurs around the middle of May to the end of June in central Saskatchewan, depending on their hatching dates. Hopefully, this nesting colony of pelicans will increase at the north end of Last Mountain Lake in the future.

<sup>1</sup>ANWEILER, G. G. 1970. *The Birds of the Last Mountain Lake Wildlife Area, Saskatchewan*. Blue Jay 28: 74-83.

\*Canadian Wildlife Service, Box 280, Simpson, Saskatchewan.

## **GREAT GRAY OWLS RAISE TWO YOUNG SOUTHEAST OF EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

by NORBERT G. KONDLA\*

Few nests of the Great Gray Owl have been found in the Prairie Province. Only three nestings have been reported for Manitoba, two of which were in the same nest.<sup>7</sup> The only published report for Saskatchewan is a 1949 nest.<sup>6</sup> The following is a hitherto unreported nesting at Carlton. On June 19, 1900 George McCraig shot the female owl, the nest and collected the two eggs that proved to be advanced in incubation. The nest was 30 feet up in a "fir" tree and composed of twigs, sticks and clumps of moss. It was lined with dead leaves and contained feathers of small birds and part of a squirrel. The eggs from this nest are in the collections of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Los Angeles, California, from whence this data was obtained.

By far the greatest number of nestings are reported from Alberta where the Great Gray Owl is a scarce inhabitant in northern and western Alberta. It is known to breed at Rocky Mountain House, Edson, Jasper, Belvedere, Whitemud Lake and Fort Chipewyan. W. R. Salt (pers. comm.) also reports active nests at Athabasca and Flatbus. The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology has a clutch taken by A. Twomey on May 7, 1930, near Fawcett, 50 feet up in a poplar (a nest referred to by A. C. Bent, though without an ex-