

tion is similar to that reported by Rogers² when a deer was seen playing with Sharp-tailed Grouse in Colorado, striking at them with head and feet. These grouse merely moved a short distance and resumed dancing.

Sharp-tailed Grouse, when absorbed in the dance, are easy prey to coyotes according to Bent³. Rogers² says that few things distract dancing Sharp-tailed Grouse. He reports six ravens, four ducks and two hawks spending an entire morning watching dancing grouse in Colorado. The hawks occasionally disrupted activity by swooping at the birds. When a coyote watched dancing sharp-tails, the grouse paid little attention to the intruder.

Predation on dancing Sharp-tailed Grouse is noted most years by DNR personnel. Wayne Pepper¹ has found remains of five banded and other unbanded grouse, apparently killed by predators, all within 300 yards of dancing grounds near Asquith. This is supporting evidence that predation at dancing grounds is not uncommon.

I wish to thank Wayne Pepper and Dr. C. Stuart Houston for their help with this article.

¹BENT, E. C. 1963. *Life histories of North American gallinaceous birds*. Dover Publications Inc., N.Y.

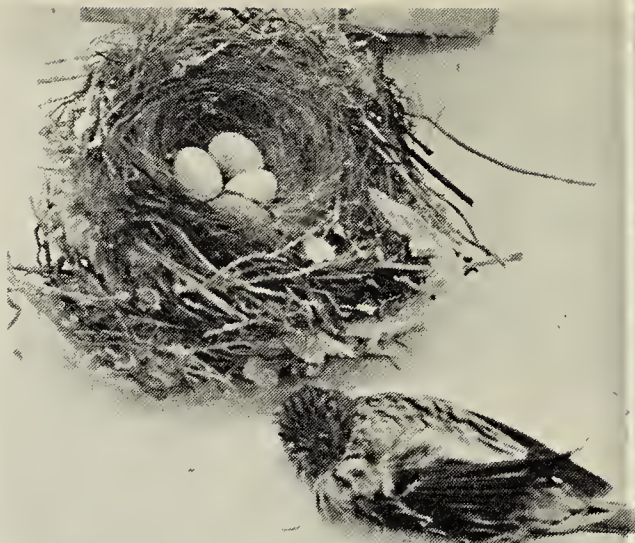
²PEPPER, G. W. 1972. *The ecology of Sharp-tailed Grouse during spring and summer in the aspen parklands of Saskatchewan*. Saskatchewan Dept. Nat. Res. Wildl. Rep. No. 1, 55 pp.

³ROGERS, G. E. 1967. *The Sharp-tailed Grouse in Colorado*. Colorado Dept. Nat. Res. Tech. Pub. 23, 94 pp.

PINE SISKINS NESTING AT MOOSE JAW

by EDITH KERN*

Bird-watchers of the Moose Jaw Natural History Society were quite excited to have found *two* known Pine Siskin nests in the city in the spring of 1973. One nest, well hidden, was



Pine Siskin and nest. Regina Leader-Pos

found about 5 or 6 feet up in a spruce tree at the Ken Bidwell home near the centre of the city. The Bidwell family had seen the birds around for 2 or 3 weeks in March and, after realizing they were probably nesting, kept close watch for about 10 days. On April 5 they decided that the nest had been deserted, and on April 6 removed the nest which had three eggs in it. On April 7 they found the dead female Pine Siskin. They then informed Leith Knight, president of MJNH, who suggested that the nest and skin be turned over to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. Fred Lahrman has since informed us that the eggs were "very heavily incubated."

The second nest was in a taller tree several blocks northwest of the first nest-site, and was active until about May 2, when all activity ceased and the birds disappeared. Cats are thought to be the cause. The nest was too high up to be retrieved.

As of May 12 there were numerous flocks of 8 to 15 Pine Siskins coming daily to feeders (sunflower seed) in other areas of the city but no other nests were discovered. Also, Evening Grosbeaks (adult male and female) and immature Red Crossbills (male and female) were still coming in daily to feeders (sunflower seed) in several areas of the city.

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