

# OSPREY NESTING RECORDS IN SASKATCHEWAN

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Elsewhere in North America, particularly along the Atlantic coast of the United States, the Osprey has undergone a serious reduction in nesting success followed by a decline in numbers.<sup>6</sup> There is strong circumstantial evidence that this decline was caused by the coincident increase in biocide levels of the aquatic environment. As a result, the Osprey has become one of several species watched closely by naturalists as sensitive indicators of toxic substances in our environment.

Until recently there was little published information on the status of the Osprey in Saskatchewan. With the report by Scott and Surkan of a local Osprey concentration in the Loon Lake area, we thought it might be useful to review available Saskatchewan breeding records of this species.<sup>7</sup>

An observer's name, without reference to a publication, refers to a personal communication from that person. The nests are listed chronologically.

1914. Cowan Lake, north end. Female collected at nest, May 13, 60 ft. in broken off dead spruce. Buchanan<sup>1</sup>. (Location #1 on map).
1914. Lake Ile-a-la-Crosse. Nest, 1 egg, May 25. Buchanan<sup>1</sup>. (#2).
1914. Knee Lake, east end. Nest, 2 eggs, June 6. Buchanan<sup>1</sup>. (#3).
1914. Sandy Lake. Active nest, June 10. Buchanan<sup>1</sup>. (#4).
1939. Montreal Lake. Nest reported on island. Mowat<sup>4</sup>. (#5).
1956. Candle Lake. Nest on island. July. Street<sup>3</sup>. (#6).
1956. Round Lake, ne. of Kelvington. Active nest, first week of May. (#7). Anton Waycheshen.
1957. Round Lake, ne. of Kelvington. adults near above nest in spruce. (#7). Anton Waycheshen.
1958. Nipawin Provincial Park. Street<sup>3</sup>. (#8).
1960. Stewart Island, Lake Athabasca. Nest, 2 young, July 20, 20 ft. topped white spruce<sup>5</sup>. (#9).
1960. Torch River, 18 mi. n. and 6 mi. e. Nipawin. Active nest, June 10. Nest in jackpine in burnt over area. Street<sup>3</sup>. (#10).
1963. Upper Makwa Lake, west shore. Occupied yearly through 1968. F. Scott. (#11).
1963. Ministikwan Lake, island at north end. Harry Graham. Occupied yearly since. (#12).
1964. Round Lake, ne. of Kelvington. Adult on nest, April 27. Scott. Waycheshen. (#7).
1964. Cree Lake. Island 2½ mi. e. Turner Island. 40 ft. at top of jackpine. Davis<sup>2</sup>. (#13).
1964. Cree Lake. Peninsula in Lazy Eddy Bay. 35 ft. at top of black spruce. Davis<sup>2</sup>. (#14).
1964. Cree Lake. Entrance to Lazy Eddy Bay. Top of 45 ft. jackpine. 2 young flying by mid-August. Davis<sup>2</sup>. (#14).
1965. Cree Lake. Entrance to Lazy Eddy Bay. Same nest as 1964. 4 young banded by Houston<sup>2</sup>. (#15).
1965. Ministikwan Creek, north of Montreal Lake. Occupied yearly since. F. Scott. (#16).
1966. Shirley Lake. Female collected at museum, June 9-10. Nest 65 ft. in dead tree in old burn. G. Anwar. (#17).
1967. Red Deer River, east of Algonquin. adults at large nest, May 29. Anton Waycheshen. (#18).
1967. Anglin Lake. 1 young banded in leaning dead spruce, 45 ft. up. Anton Waycheshen & Gerrard<sup>9</sup>. (#19).



WESTERN TERRITORIES  
MACKENZIE



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Stony Narrows

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Winnipeg  
Winnipeg Lake

Crease River  
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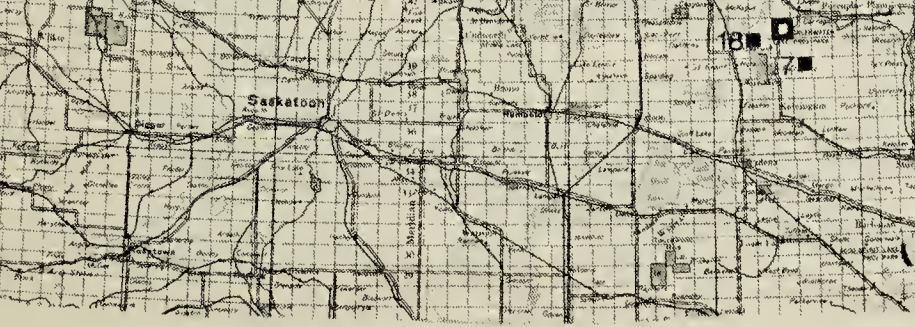
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SASKATCHEWAN

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PRINCE ALBERT  
Saskatoon  
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1967. Rightangle Lake. 2 young banded, 36 ft. in dead spruce, July 15. Whitfield & Gerrard<sup>9</sup>. (#20).
1967. Upper Foster Lake. In dead tamarack. Bill Richards<sup>8</sup>, and Cyril Mahoney.<sup>9</sup> (#21).
1967. Reindeer Lake. Nest on rock in lake. Dave McLay.<sup>9</sup> (? exact location).
1968. Maurice G. Street Wildlife Sanctuary, e. of Nipawin. Active nest in flooded dead tree. S. D. Riome. (#22).
1968. Florence Lake, west end. On power pole, power line to Sherridon. At least 1 young. Whitfield & Gerrard, (#23).
1968. Rightangle Lake. At least 1 young, July 7. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#20).
1968. Anglin Lake, same nest as 1967. Active July 11; deserted and empty July 19. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#19).
1968. Hunter Bay, Lac La Ronge. Nest on geodesic survey tower. 2 young, July 9; 2 flying young, Aug. 24. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#24).
1968. Hebden Lake. Geodesic survey tower. At least 1 young. July 9. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#25).
1968. Upper Foster Lake. At least 2 young, 30 ft. in dead tamarack, July 11. Cyril Mahoney had noted this nest occupied about 1945. The tree fell in 1969. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#21).
1969. Florence Lake. An adjacent power pole to 1968 nest. 1 adult and possibly 1 small young July 2. There were another 12 active nests and 12 empty nests along 45 miles, Within Manitoba, of this branch power line to Sherridon. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#23).
1969. Hunter Bay, Lac La Ronge. Same geodesic tower as 1968. Female incubating in May, but nest empty in July. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#24).
1969. Hebden Lake. Geodesic tower as in 1968. At least 1 young July 12. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#25).
1969. Sturgeon Bay, Amisk Lake. 2 young, top of live black spruce, July 4. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#26).
1969. Russell Bay, Lac La Ronge. 3 young in dead black spruce, July 15. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#27).
1969. Upper Foster Lake. New nest in live black spruce, 2 young, July 18. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#21).
1969. Unser Lake. At least 1 young in spruce, July 10. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#28).
1969. Pelletier Lake. One adult at nest in dead spruce July 8. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#29).
1969. Fisher Lake. Geodesic tower. Contained eggs, but then empty July 10. Whitfield & Gerrard. (#30).
1969. Maurice G. Street Wildlife Sanctuary, e. of Nipawin. Same dead tree as 1968. 2 young, July 20. S. D. Riome. (#22).
1970. Maurice G. Street Wildlife Sanctuary. At least 1 young. G. Anagnostis. (#22).
1970. Tulibee Lake. 6 mi. w. of Looe village. Occupied yearly since 1930. Scott. (#31).
1971. Kazan Lake (4 mi. E.). Nest in spruce, incubating June 14. C. D. and J. M. Gerrard. (#32).
1971. Lake Ile-a-la-Crosse. Dead spruce on island, incubating June 14 and J. M. Gerrard. (#2).
1971. Churchill Lake, w. side, 9 mi. N. Narrows. 3 eggs in dead spruce July 15. C. D. and J. M. Gerrard. (#33).
1971. Churchill Lake, w. side, 17 mi. N. Narrows. Dead spruce. Incubating June 15. C. D. and J. M. Gerrard. (#34).
1971. Peter Pond Lake, 4 mi. N. Narrows. Dead spruce. Incubating June 16. C. D. and J. M. Gerrard. (#35).
1971. Torch River, near Tobin Lake. Nest on stub in old burn, May 1971. Nixon. (#36).
1972. Near Tulabi Lake, nw. of Berland Lake. Adults present on stub in old burn, May 1972. Anweiler. (#37).
1973. Lavigne Lake. 2 young banded on large flat exposed rock in lake. Inactive previously used nest on two other adjacent large rocks 150 yards distant. D. Hjertaas & A. Stelfox. (#38).
1973. Unnamed lake, south of Irvin Lake. Previously used but now inactive nest on large rock. H. A. Stelfox. (#39).
1973. Swan Lake, se. corner. 3 young banded on single large rock. D. Hjertaas & H. A. Stelfox.
1973. Swan Lake, se. corner. Nest on large rock. 2 young banded in nest on

large rock in lake. H. A. Stelfox. (#40).

Reindeer Lake, w. shore opposite Bedford Island. Active nest with 1 egg in flooded dead snag. Thirty yards away was another previously used osprey nest in a similar dead snag; unused and fell down in 1973. H. A. Stelfox. (#41).

Mekisuk Lake. Nest in live black spruce 300 yards from shore. Adults present but no young produced. An inactive nest in another live black spruce 200 yards away. Stelfox. (#42).

Sokatisewin Lake (Island Falls Reservoir). Nest, 3 young, at top of flooded dead spruce snag. Stelfox. (#43).

Sokatisewin Lake. Another nest at top of flooded dead spruce snag produced 1 young. A third nest in a flooded snag was inactive. Stelfox. (#43).

Sokatisewin Lake. One of the above nests produced two young. Stelfox. (#43).

Sokatisewin Lake. The second active nest was unsuccessful. Stelfox. (#43).

Loon Lake area. 15 active nests (including 2 mentioned above). Scott & Surkan<sup>7</sup>.

Loon Lake area. 20 active nests. Frank Scott. (#11-12).

Highway 102 at Mile 65. Temporary geodesic tower. 1 young banded by Houston July 22. (#44).

<sup>1</sup>Buchanan, Angus. 1920. Wild Life in Canada. John Murray, London. 264 p.

<sup>2</sup>DAVIS, WAYNE D. 1966. Some observations of birds at Cree Lake, Saskatchewan. Blue Jay 24:80-85.

<sup>3</sup>HOUSTON, C. STUART and MAURICE C. STREET, 1959. Birds of the Saskatchewan River. Sask. Nat. Hist. Soc., Regina, 205 p.

<sup>4</sup>MOWAT, FARLEY M. 1947. Notes on the birds of Emma Lake, Saskatchewan. Can. Field-Nat. 61:105-114.

<sup>5</sup>NERO, R. W. 1963. Birds of the Lake Athabasca Region, Saskatchewan. Sask. Nat. Hist. Soc., Regina. 143 p.

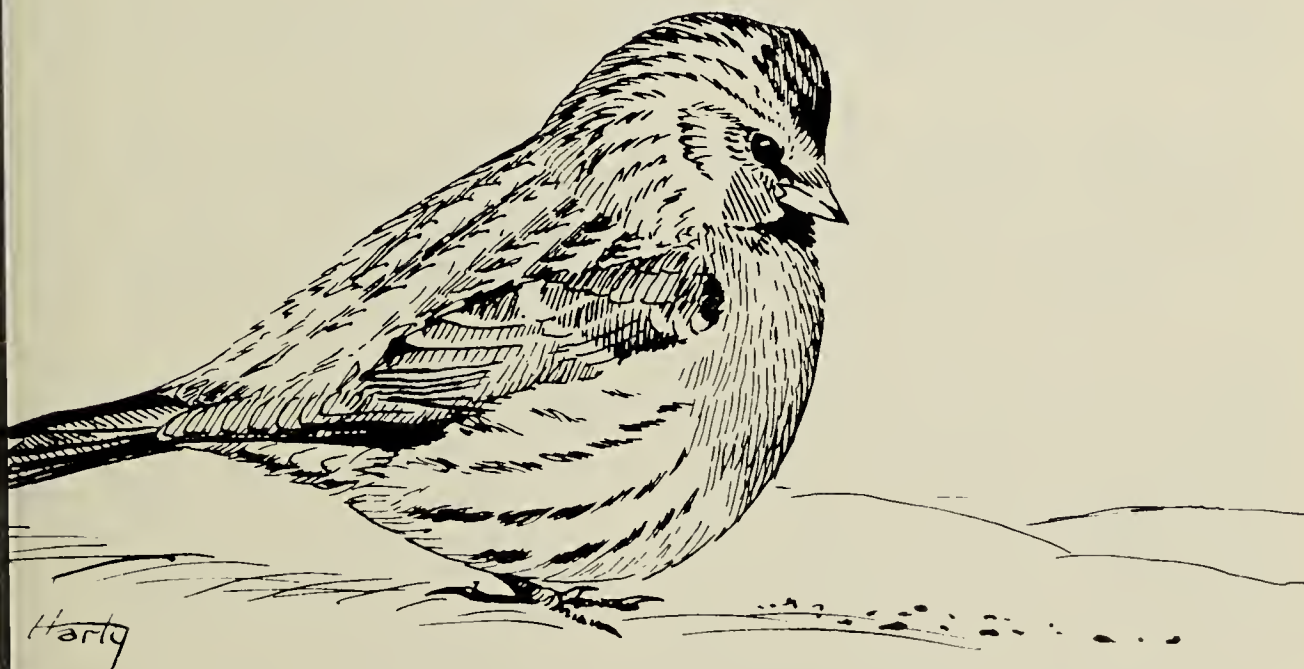
<sup>6</sup>PETERSON, ROGER TORY. 1969. Population trends of Ospreys in the north-eastern United States. IN: Peregrine Falcon Populations, Their Biology and Decline. ed. by J. J. HICKEY. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

<sup>7</sup>SCOTT, FRANK and DAVID L. SURKAN, 1976. An unsuspected Osprey concentration in west-central Saskatchewan. Blue Jay 34:98-99, 1976.

<sup>8</sup>STREET, MAURICE G. 1960. An Osprey nest at Torch River. Blue Jay 18:121.

<sup>9</sup>WHITFIELD, D. W. A. and J. M. GERRARD, 1967. Bald Eagle banding in northern Saskatchewan (1967). Blue Jay 25: 177-183, 1967.

<sup>10</sup>WHITFIELD, D. W. A., J. M. GERRARD, W. J. MAHER, et al. 1974. Bald Eagle nesting habitat, density and reproduction in central Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Can. Field-Nat. 88:399-407.



Common Redpoll