

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER NESTING IN SASKATCHEWAN

M. ROSS LEIN, Dept. of Biology, University of Calgary,
Calgary, Alberta, T2N 1N4.

Houston *et al* have noted the lack of adequate documentation of nesting for a variety of birds that are regular summer residents of Saskatchewan.² The present note provides documentation for one such species, the Bay-breasted Warbler.

I spent part of the summer of 1969 at the field station of the Department of Biology, University of Saskatchewan, at Emma Lake, Saskatchewan. Bay-breasted Warblers were moderately abundant in mixed woods in the region and two nests were found.

On 8 June a female Bay-breasted Warbler was seen carrying nesting material near the southeast corner of Fairy Island. An incomplete nest was located near the top of an 8-m white spruce (*Picea glauca*), on the tip of a branch about 1 m from the trunk. The female was incubating on 12 June, and on 13 June the nest contained four eggs. The nest was a relatively flimsy structure of twigs and grass. It was empty when visited on 22 June, presumably as a result of predation.

A second nest was found on 13 June in mixed woods near the U. of S. Art School. The female was carrying material to a nest located at a height of 8 m in a 13-m white spruce. On 22 June this nest contained 3 eggs and the female was still incubating when the nest was last visited on 26 June.

The relatively distinctive plumage of the female Bay-breasted Warbler leaves no doubt about the identity of

the birds at either nest. Male Bay-breasted Warblers were also seen feeding the incubating females on several occasions at both nests.

There are breeding season records of singing males^{1 3 4 5 6} or fledglings¹ of this species from a number of locations in the boreal forest region of Saskatchewan. It seems probable that the Bay-breasted Warbler breeds throughout this region.

¹GODFREY, W. D. 1950. Birds of the Cypress Hills and Flotten Lake regions, Saskatchewan. Nat. Mus. Canada Bull. 120. 96 pp.

²HOUSTON, C. S., M. I. HOUSTON and J. B. GOLLOP. 1980. Breeding birds in Saskatchewan without documented nests. Blue Jay 38:87-95.

³HOUSTON, C. S. and M. G. STREET. 1959. The birds of the Saskatchewan River, Carlton to Cumberland. Spec. Publ. Sask. Nat. Hist. Soc. No. 2. 205 pp.

⁴NERO, R. W. 1967. The birds of northeastern Saskatchewan. Spec. Publ. Sask. Nat. Hist. Soc. No. 6. 96 pp.

⁵RANDALL, T. E. 1962. Birds of the Kazan Lake region, Saskatchewan. Blue Jay 20:60-72.

⁶SOPER, J. D. 1952. The birds of Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan. Can. Wildl. Serv., Wildl. Manage. Bull., Ser. 2, No. 4. 83 pp.