

# NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF CHURCHILL, MANITOBA

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Chartier (1994) and Jehl (2004) brought most bird sighting records current to that time in regards to Churchill, Manitoba.<sup>1,2</sup>

In addition to what has been published and summarized by them, I would like to add the following observations from my own notebooks for 1983, 1989, 1990 and 1991.

**Harlequin Duck** – one male was observed on 26 June and 1 July 1983 off Cape Merry (J.M. Richards and B. Kern).

**Common Goldeneye** – a nest with eight eggs was seen by Richards *et al.* on 4 July 1983. The occupied nest (female incubating) was in a chimney at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre in the Akudlik area. This established the first nest record for Churchill (J.M. Richards and B. Kern).

**Band-tailed Pigeon** – the first record for Manitoba and for Churchill was from 29 June through 14 July 1981 by L. Augustowitch *et al* (Jehl 2004).

The second sighting for Manitoba occurred 15-27 April 1982 at Riding Mountain National Park by J. Crozier *et al* and the third for Manitoba and second for Churchill was on 2 July 1983 near Akudlik Marsh by R. Knapton and J.M. Richards.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** – a nest with four eggs was found on 1 July 1983 at Churchill at M 5.3 along Launch Rd. This represented the first nest record for Churchill and Manitoba, as noted by J.M. Richards, B. Kern and G. Trafford.<sup>3</sup>

**Ruff** – an adult was seen at Akudlik Marsh on 22 June 1991 (J.M. Richards).

**Long-tailed Jaeger** – an adult was at Cape Merry on 27 June and 1 July 1983 (J.M. Richards and B. Kern).



**FIGURE 1:** Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) nest with three young. First found on 13 June 1990 (Jehl 2004) and photographed on 21 June. Nest was about 12 feet off the ground in a Tamarack or Larch (*Larix laricina*). Photo credit: J.M. Richards.

**Little Gull** – one at Cape Merry on 15 June 1983 and another at Akudlik on 24 June 1983. Five were at Goose Creek on 2 July 1989 (J.M. Richards and B. Kern).

**Northern Goshawk** – an adult was observed at Twin Lakes, 6 July 1989 (J.M. Richards and B. Kern).

**Bald Eagle** – one adult observed at Twin Lakes on 5 July 1989 (J.M. Richards and B. Kern).

**Great Gray Owl** – an adult was observed near Twin Lakes on 10 July 1989. (J.M. Richards and B. Kern). A nest was found nearby in 1990 and adults and three young were photographed by J.M. Richards and B. Kern on 21 June (Figure 1). This was the first Great Gray Owl nest record for Churchill.

**House Wren** – a singing male was

noted on 30 June 1983 at the old Dene village (J.M. Richards and D. McRae).

**Lark Bunting** – an adult male was seen by J.M. Richards on 30 June 1983 at the junction of RX Rd. and Pipeline Rd.

**Brewer's Blackbird** – one female was noted on 18 and 19 June 1983 at Akudlik Marsh (J.M. Richards, B. Kern *et al.*).

1. Chartier, B (1994) A Birder's Guide to Churchill, Manitoba. ABA, Colorado Springs, CO. 132 pp.

2. Jehl, JR Jr. (2004) Birdlife of the Churchill Region: Status, History, Biology. Churchill Northern Studies Centre. 154 pp.

3. Richards, JM (2022) First Nest Record of Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) for Churchill and Manitoba. *Blue Jay* 80(1):21-22. 🦉