Breeding Birds of Ontario: Nidiology and Distribution

Volume 2: Passerines (First Revision - Part A: Flycatchers to Gnatcatchers)

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Another decade has elapsed since the publication of Volume 2 of *Breeding Birds of Ontario* (Peck and James 1987), and it has been four years since the revision of Volume 1 (Peck and James 1983) which appeared in three parts in *Ontario Birds* in 1993-4. During the decade, continuing changes in the breeding status and distribution of Ontario's passerine breeding species have made this present revision timely. Some species (eg. Acadian Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Wood Thrush, and Prothonotary Warbler) have continued to decrease, and Henslow's Sparrow has all but disappeared as a provincial breeding species. Conversely, the House Finch has rapidly expanded throughout southern Ontario and occurred in summer as far north as Nipissing and Rainy River Districts. Other changes include the confirmed 1987 nesting of Western Kingbird, local increases in breeding populations of Hooded Warbler and Orchard Oriole, and another sporadic nesting of Dickcissels in 1988. The latter species became the 87th host of the Brown-headed Cowbird in Ontario.

Our primary source of nidiological and distributional data, the Ontario Nest Records Scheme (ONRS), has expanded until it now contains more than 110,000 nest cards. In addition to the cards of current ONRS contributors, naturalists' field logs continue to be turned in to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), and we are continuing to extract provincial nesting and breeding records from these journals. These field logs include historical records of L. H. Beamer, G. Boyer, R. C. Brooman, G. Clouts, O. E. Devitt, P .Harrington, J. A. Morden, H. Morris, E. Nasmith, R. Pickering, W. E. Saunders, W. W. Smith, J. D. Soper, and F. Starr. All other published sources of Ontario breeding bird data such as the *National Audubon Society Field Notes* are included in this revision.

All known new provincial nesting and breeding records appear in this revision. A "nesting" record is an exact term involving the finding of an active nest, whereas a "breeding" record, a less exact designation, usually implies the observation of an adult with flightless (precocial species) or flying stub-tailed (altricial species) young, away from the nest. For colonial species, the record (nest card) numbers may indicate the number of cards of

colonies rather than nests. In non-colonial species, where more than one nest is listed on cards, the actual nest total is given in parentheses after the record (nest card) number. Brackets [ ] around a species' name indicate a hypothetical breeding species; brackets around a corresponding record [nest card] number indicate a nesting(s) lacking documentation. The egg numbers in bold print (e.g., **4E**) indicate known, complete clutch sizes. Despite the various regional groupings that have occurred, such as the combining of counties Leeds/Grenville/Dundas, we have continued to list the 52 provincial regions as mapped and described in both volumes of *Breeding Birds*..

Changes in nesting and breeding distribution, nest data, clutch sizes, cowbird parasitism, incubation periods, and new early and late egg dates, are given if they have been acquired. The four symbols used to qualify records on the breeding distribution maps of both volumes still apply, and it is understood that these revisional changes may add symbols, or alter existing symbols if documentation has been received with the record.

Recent supplements to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list (AOU 1989, 1995) have resulted in some English and scientific name changes affecting the Ontario breeding passerines list. The new English names are American Pipit replacing Water Pipit, Eastern Towhee replacing Rufous-sided Towhee, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow replacing Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Baltimore Oriole replacing Northern Oriole. Currently, the forty-first and last supplement (AOU 1997) prior to the seventh edition of the AOU Check-list has made even more profound changes affecting one English name (Blue-headed Vireo replaces Solitary Vireo), other scientific names, and the listing order of passerine species, which will be reflected in these revisions. Most of these latter changes are based on DNA-DNA hybridization studies.

Breeding Bird Species

Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Contopus cooperi*
20 nests representing 13 provincial regions. A documented nest from Sudbury District (1987) was the only new regional nesting.

Eastern Wood-Pewee, *Contopus virens*
298 nests representing 38 provincial regions. Recently acquired nest records from former counties of Lincoln (1939), Welland (1944), and a 1983 nest from Niagara, have established Niagara RM as a nesting region. A 1984 nesting was recently submitted for Prince Edward County.
Cowbird parasitism 165 nests with 9 parasitized (5.5%).
EGG DATES An extremely early egg date of 15 May from Wellington (1894) by Allan Brooks would seem to be in error, possibly due to a misidentification.

Figure 1: Adult Olive-sided Flycatcher at nest high in a Black Spruce, 23 June 1987, Vrooman Twp., Sudbury District. Photo by *G. K. Peck*.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, *Empidonax flaviventris*
18 nests representing 10 provincial regions. A 1982 nest from Grey and a 1987 nest from Sudbury were the most recent additions. The Grey nest is the most southerly modern-day nesting record.
INCUBATION PERIOD 2 nests; 1 nest, at least 13 days; 1 nest of 15 days.
EGG DATES 13 nests, 8 June to 20 July (16 dates); 7 nests, 20 June to 27 June.

Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*
39 (42 nests) representing 7 provincial regions.
EGGS 23 nests with 1 to 4 eggs; **1E**(2N), **2E**(4N), **3E**(15N), **4E**(2N).
Average clutch range 3 eggs (15 nests).
Cowbird parasitism 25 nests with 3 parasitized (12%).
EGG DATES 20 nests, 10 June to 30 July (26 dates); 10 nests, 17 June to 6 July.

Alder Flycatcher, *Empidonax alnorum*
59 nests representing 17 provincial regions. A 1978 nest record has been added from Grey.
Cowbird parasitism 55 nests with 8 parasitized (14.6%).
EGG DATES 51 nests, 15 June to 28 July (64 dates); 26 nests, 23 June to 6 July.
Renestings were reported after failure of first nests, with second nests built in same territory.

Willow Flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii*
102 nests representing 22 provincial regions. New nest records have been received from Grey (1983), Niagara (1995), Simcoe (1978), and Wellington (1982).
A small nest from Hamilton-Wentworth had an outside diameter of 7.5 cm (3 inches), inside diameter 4.4 cm (1.7 inches), outside depth 6.4 cm (2.5 inches), and inside depth 5 cm (2 inches).
Cowbird parasitism 91 nests with 22 parasitized (24.2%).
INCUBATION PERIOD In a Durham nest there was a 6-day interval between the laying of the first and last egg in a 4-egg clutch. The incubation period in this nest was 14 days.
EGG DATES 68 nests, 13 June to 20 July (92 dates); 34 nests, 25 June to 6 July.

Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*
293 nests representing 36 provincial regions. Bruce (1985), Haldimand-Norfolk (1993), and Perth (1985), were the recent regional nestings.

In at least 7 provincial regions, nests in close proximity to each other have been reported, and as many as 7 or 8 nests have been noted in such proximity. These situations would seem to approximate a form of coloniality, as previously described (Davis 1959).
Cowbird parasitism 143 nests with 5 parasitized (3.5%).

Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*
1993 (2034 nests) representing 50 provincial regions.
A double-bowled nest with eggs in each bowl, was found in Bruce in 1993. One of the clutches was being incubated.
Cowbird parasitism 1498 nests with 179 parasitized (11.9%).
INCUBATION PERIOD 45 nests, 13 to 18 days, with 23 averaging 14 to 15 days.

Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*
413 nests representing 45 provincial regions. A 1988 nest from Thunder Bay was reported, and is one of the few northern breeding records.
EGGS 164 nests, 1 to 7 eggs; **1E** (3N), **2E** (7N), **3E** (13N), **4E** (43N), **5E** (60N), **6E** (60N), **7E** (1N).
Average clutch range 5 to 6 eggs (120 nests).
Cowbird parasitism 227 nests with 6 parasitized (2.6%).
INCUBATION PERIOD 10 nests, 12 to 14 days, with 8 nests from 13 to 14 days.

Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*
3 nests representing 1 provincial region. The 3 nests were reported in 1987, 1988, and 1991, all from western Rainy River District.

One nest was in a farm yard near buildings, and another was in a small town residential area. The nest trees were a willow sp., Manitoba Maple, and a Bur Oak, and nests were at respective heights of 3 m (9.8 ft), 6 m (19.7 ft), and 10 m (32.8 ft). Two of the nests were in large forks and the other on a lateral branch.

One nest was described as a grassy cup, and another as an untidy, elongated structure. Exteriors were formed of coarse grasses, weed stalks, fine twigs, string, and paper-like material.

On 7 June an adult was observed on one of the nests probably incubating eggs, and in another of the nests, 2 young near fledging were noted on 12 July.

A fourth nest in Kent County (1943) remains hypothetical due to unidentifiable documentation.

Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*
1801 (1806 nests) representing all 52 provincial regions.
Cowbird pararsitism 1066 nests with 12 parasitized (1.1%). Since the Eastern Kingbird is a known rejector species, the percentage parasitism is probably higher than indicated.

A late egg date of 6 August was reported from Peterborough. The nest contained young on 20 August.

Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*
Another breeding record (1993) from Kenora District, near the mouth of the Severn River, has been received. As yet, no occupied Ontario nest of this species has been discovered.

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*
274 nests representing 35 provincial regions. Early nest records from Elgin (1952) and Norfolk (1938) have been acquired recently. A possible 1984 nesting or breeding record from Stormont was reported (Weir 1984). The increase in nest card numbers is the result of recent, assiduous monitoring of this declining provincial breeding species.

In 1996, 16 nests from Lennox and Addington were in juniper (Eastern Redcedar).
EGGS 142 nests with 1 to 7 eggs.
Average clutch range 5 to 6 eggs (87 nests).

Several instances of renesting were noted, and a probable double brood was reported from Victoria in 1992 (Pittaway 1993).

White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo griseus*
11 nests representing 3 provincial regions. A possible 1991 breeding record for Elgin involved an adult feeding a flying young bird.

A Haldimand-Norfolk nest had an outside diameter of 6 cm (2.4 inches), inside diameter of 5 cm (2 inches), outside depth of 6 cm (2.4 inches), and inside depth of 4 cm (1.6 inches).
EGGS **3E** (1N), **4E** (1N).
Cowbird parasitism 7 nests with 4 parasitized (57%).
INCUBATION PERIOD 1 nest, 11 to 12 days.
EGG DATES 4 nests, 15 May to 14 June (6 dates).

Figure 2: Nest and eggs of Loggerhead Shrike in hawthorn hedgerow, 9 May 1967, Halton County. Photo by *G.K. Peck*.

Figure 3: Blue-headed Vireo with food for young in pendant nest, Garvey Twp., Sudbury District. Photo by *G. K. Peck*.

Blue-headed Vireo (Solitary Vireo), *Vireo solitarius*
71 nests representing 20 provincial regions. Elgin (1991) and Middlesex (1988) are new nesting regions.
EGGS 41 nests, 2 to 5 eggs.
Average clutch range 4 eggs (33 nests).
Cowbird parasitism 50 nests with 4 parasitized (8%).

Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*
94 (95 nests) representing 23 provincial regions. Added nesting regions are Haldimand-Norfolk (1987), Oxford (1988), Niagara (1993), and Sudbury (1996). The Sudbury nest is the most northerly to date. Two occupied nests were noted within 15 m (50 ft) of each other in Oxford in 1988.
Cowbird parasitism 48 nests with 23 parasitized (47.9%).
An unusually short incubation period of 10 days for one of three eggs in a clutch was reported from Elgin. In this same nest, there was a delay of at least 5 days between the first and third egg.

Warbling Vireo, *Vireo gilvus*
179 (180) nests representing 37 provincial regions. Recent nesting regions are Muskoka (1983), Perth (1985), Prince Edward (1995), and Sudbury (1989).
EGGS 54 nests with 1 to 4 eggs; **1E**(2N), **2E** (9N), **3E** (18N), **4E** (25N).
Average clutch range 3 to 4 eggs (43 nests).
The unusual incubation of a single, infertile egg was reported, in a nest which contained feathers in its exterior as well as its lining (James 1996).
Cowbird parasitism 62 nests with 7 parasitized (11.3%). The eastern form of this vireo is now known to be a rejector of cowbird eggs (Sealy 1996); thus, the percentage parasitism may be higher than shown.

Philadelphia Vireo, *Vireo philadelphicus*
41 nests representing 8 provincial regions.
Cowbird parasitism 14 nests with 2 parasitized (14.3%). A parasitized nest in the collection of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, CA, purported to be of this species, was collected on 15 June 1915 on the Humber River (York County?) (Friedmann et al. 1977). This record has been disregarded due to a lack of data, its southern location, and the possibility of a misidentification.

Figure 4: Seven eggs of Black-billed Magpie in typical, bulky nest with mud in its interior. In Ontario, a dozen nests have been found, all in western Rainy River District. Photo by *G.K. Peck*.

Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*
568 nests representing 44 provincial regions
Cowbird parasitism 387 nests with 154 parasitized (40%). A study in Waterloo in 1996 reported 13 Red-eyed Vireo nests with 10 parasitized (76.9%), an extremely high rate.

Gray Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis*
82 nests representing 9 provincial regions. Muskoka (1994) and Timiskaming (1996) are recently added nesting regions. A probable southern breeding record has been reported from Peterborough (Ridout 1996).

Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*
472 nests representing 43 provincial regions. An historical nest record (1912) from Hastings has been acquired.

The number of coniferous nest trees as stated in Volume 2, should have been 7 spp. and not 76. Blue Spruce and Lilac are newly reported nest trees.

Renestings and double broods have both been noted.

Black-billed Magpie, *Pica pica*
12 nests representing 1 provincial region. More nests continue to be reported from Curran and Worthington townships in western Rainy River District, thus far the species' only provincial nesting area.

A nest on the roof beams of an open hay shed, at a height of 5 m (16.4 ft), was occupied in 1986, 1987, and 1989. Four other recent nests were in willows at heights ranging from 2 to 3.5 m (6.6 to 10.7 ft).

One nest had an outside diameter of 50 cm (19.7 inches), inside diameter of 25 cm (9.8 inches), outside depth of 50 cm (19.7 inches), and inside depth of 15 cm (5.9 inches). Two other nests had outside depths of 30 and 80 cm (11.8 and 31.5 inches).

One nest contained at least 4 young on 9 June, and adults were seen at the 6 other new nests between 29 March and 9 June.

American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*
882 nests representing 45 provincial regions. A 1986 nest record from Haliburton has been added.

Common Raven, *Corvus corax*
252 (253 nests) representing 19 provincial regions. The three most recent nesting regions are Bruce (1993), Grey (1995), and Toronto (1987). These records emphasize the southern expansion of the breeding range of this species, and the Toronto record is the most southerly to date (Jefferson 1989). The most northerly provincial nest record was submitted in 1990 from Kenora, near the mouth of the Shagamu River at Hudson Bay. Although breeding was previously indicated for Leeds County (Peck and James 1987), a specific record has yet to be documented in the ONRS.

Outside diameters of 15 nests ranged from 40 to 152 cm (16 to 60 inches)., with 8 averaging 60 to 91 cm (24 to 36 inches); inside diameter of 2 nests were 15 and 25 cm (6 to 10 inches); outside depths of 11 nests ranged from 20 to 75 cm (8 to 30 inches), with 6 averaging 30 to 45 cm (12 to 18 inches); inside depth of 3 nests were 10, 15, and 20 cm (4, 6, and 8 inches).
EGGS 35 nests with 2 to 7 eggs; 2E (1N), **3E** (7N), **4E** (14N), **5E** (10N), **6E** (1N), **7E** (2N).
Average clutch range 4 to 5 eggs (24 nests).
EGG DATES 20 nests, 10 March to 16 May (27 dates); 10 nests, 27 March to 16 April.
Renesting was reported at a Timiskaming site after the first nest was abandoned. The second nest was 183 m (600 ft) distant from the first nest.

Figure 5: Ground nest of Horned Lark containing four eggs, 10 June 1997, St. Vincent Twp., Grey County. Photo by *G. K. Peck*.

Horned Lark, *Eremophila alpestris*
187 (189 nests) representing 39 provincial regions. Nest records from Grey (1992) and Prince Edward (1986) are the new additions.

A 1941 nest record from York was recently received and was the second nest described in the middle of railway tracks, in use at least twice daily.

Eight nests had outside diameters ranging from 7.5 to 11 cm (3 to 4.3 inches), inside diameters from 5 to 7.5 cm (2 to 3 inches), outside depths from 4 to 6 cm (1.6 to 2.4 inches), and inside depths from 2.5 to 4.5 cm (1 to 1.8 inches).
EGGS 175 nests with 1 to 6 eggs; 1E (2N), **2E** (19N), **3E** (70N), **4E** (73N), **5E** (10N), **6E** (1N).
Average clutch range 3 to 4 eggs (143 nests).
Cowbird parasitism 185 nests with 4 parasitized (2.2%).
EGG DATES 156 nests, 23 March to 20 July (186 dates); 78 nests, 17 April to 29 May.

Purple Martin, *Progne subis*
870 (640 colonies, 50 single nestings, ca 5470 nests) representing 50 provincial regions.
EGGS 279 nests with 1 to 7 eggs; 1E (7N), **2E** (13N), **3E** (24N), **4E** (79N), **5E** (101N), **6E** (53N), 7E (2N).
Average clutch range 4 to 5 eggs (180 nests).

Tree Swallow, *Tachycineta bicolor*
6153 (ca 6485 nests) representing all 52 provincial regions.
Cowbird parasitism 4585 nests with 1 parasitized (0.02%).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*
456 (313 isolated nestings, 68 colonies, ca. 572 nests) representing 42 provincial regions.

Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*
1497 (200 colonies, 48 isolated nestings, ca. 9648 nests) representing all 52 provincial regions.

Later egg dates than 17 July are likely since adults were reported feeding young in burrows on 13 August, in Grey.

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*
4118 (ca. 4830 nests) representing all 52 provincial regions.
Cowbird parasitism 3351 nests with 4 parasitized (0.03%).

Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*
985 (488 colonies, 109 single nestings, ca. 7639 nests) representing all 52 provincial regions. Niagara (1991) was the final nesting region to be reported.

After completion, most nests had downward-sloping spouts.

Earlier and later egg dates than those given in Volume 2 (22 May to 2 August) were strongly suggested by birds on nests on 4 May (Simcoe), and the feeding of young in nests on 24 August (Haldimand-Norfolk).

Black-capped Chickadee, *Poecile atricapillus*
651 (658 nests) representing 46 provincial regions. Bruce (1993) and Prescott (1993) were the latest nesting regions to be added.
EGGS 176 nests with 1 to 11 eggs; 1E (2N), 2E (3N), **3E** (6N), **4E** (16N), **5E** (20N), **6E** (58N), **7E** (42N), **8E** (22N), **9E** (5N), **10E** (1N), **11E** (1N).
Average clutch range 6 to 7 eggs (100 nests).
Two more double broods were reported.
Cowbird parasitism 247 nests with 6 parasitized (2.4%).
INCUBATION PERIOD 12 nests, 11 to 17 days; 10 nests, 12 to 13 days.

A late egg date of 20 July was submitted from Waterloo (1996).

Boreal Chickadee, *Poecile hudsonicus*
69 nests representing 7 provincial regions. Kenora (1985) was the most recently added nesting region.

The large increase in numbers of nest records is largely due to a study project in Sudbury with nest boxes (39 nests), which this species uses readily.
EGGS 41 nests with 1 to 8 eggs; 1E (1N), 2E (2N), **4E** (4N), **5E** (5N), **6E** (17N), **7E** (11N), **8E** (1N).
Average clutch range 6 to 7 eggs (28 nests).
INCUBATION PERIOD 9 nests, 11 to 14 days.
EGG DATES 44 nests, 22 May to 5 July (66 dates); 22 nests, 29 May to 4 June.

Tufted Titmouse, *Baeolophus bicolor*
11 nests representing 6 provincial regions. A nest from Haldimand-Norfolk (1996) was reported, and an unsuccessful nest in a bird box was found in 1997 in Manitoulin. The Manitoulin nesting in Howland Township (45° 57'N, 81° 56'W) was considerably north of all other provincial nests of this Carolinian Zone species.

Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*
99 (100 nests) representing 27 provincial regions. The 6 added regions since Volume 2 are Elgin (1989), Grey (1994), Hamilton-Wentworth (1991), Manitoulin (1990), Victoria (1990), and Waterloo (1989).
EGGS 16 nests with 1 to 7 eggs.
Average clutch range 5 to 6 eggs (9 nests).

A second brood in the same nest was reported from Nipissing.
EGG DATES 16 nests, 5 May to 13 June (18 dates); 8 nests, 21 May to 4 June.

White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*
117 nests representing 35 provincial regions. A 1952 nest from Waterloo was recently added.

A fourth nest in a bird box was reported from Durham.
Cowbird parasitism 26 nests with 1 parasitized (3.8%).

Brown Creeper, ***Certhia americana***
103 nests representing 32 provincial regions. Bruce (1987), Elgin (1992), Haldimand-Norfolk (1981), and Waterloo (1986) were added nesting regions. A possible 1985 nesting in Prince Edward was reported (Weir 1985).

A large Elgin nest had an outside diameter of 15 cm (5.9 inches), inside diameter of 7 cm (2.8 inches), outside depth of 25 cm (9.8 inches), and inside depth of 5 cm (2 inches).
EGGS 41 nests with 1 to 8 eggs; 1E (2N), 3E (3N), **4E** (11N), **5E** (11N), **6E** (11N), **7E** (2N), **8E** (1N).
Average clutch range 4 to 6 eggs (33 nests).
EGG DATES 32 nests, 23 April to 13 July (39 dates); 16 nests, 26 May to 11 June. Young birds still in a nest on 9 August (Nipissing) suggest a later egg date than that shown.

Carolina Wren, ***Thryothorus ludovicianus***
38 (39 nests) representing 11 provincial regions. A nest record from Elgin (1992), a probable breeding record from Bruce (1993), and an undocumented 1989 breeding in Oxford (Weir 1989) were reported.

Two recently submitted nest records were in hanging flower baskets, another was in a bird box, another under eaves of a building, and a fifth was situated in duck-trap gear in a marsh.

Heights of 21 nests ranged from 0.5 to 4.5 m (1.7 to 14.8 ft), with 11 averaging 1.2 to 2.2 m (4 to 7 ft).

Eight nests had outside diameters ranging from 9 to 20 cm (3.5 to 7.9 inches), inside diameters from 6 to 9.5 cm (2.4 to 3.7 inches), outside depths from 8 to 14 cm (3.1 to 5.5 inches), and inside depths from 3 to 10 cm (1.2 to 3.9 inches). One nest was described as globe-shaped.
EGGS 22 nests with 3 to 9 eggs; **3E** (3N), **4E** (4N), **5E** (14N), **9E** (1N).
Average clutch range 5 eggs (14 nests).
INCUBATION PERIOD 4 nests: 2 of 14 days, 1 of at least 14 days, 1 of 15 days.
EGG DATES 15 nests, 5 April to 8 August (22 dates); 8 nests, 10 May to 29 May. Three young in an Essex nest on 29 August suggest a later egg date than the one shown.

Bewick's Wren, ***Thryomanes bewickii***
5 nests representing 1 provincial region. No new breeding data has been received since 1957.

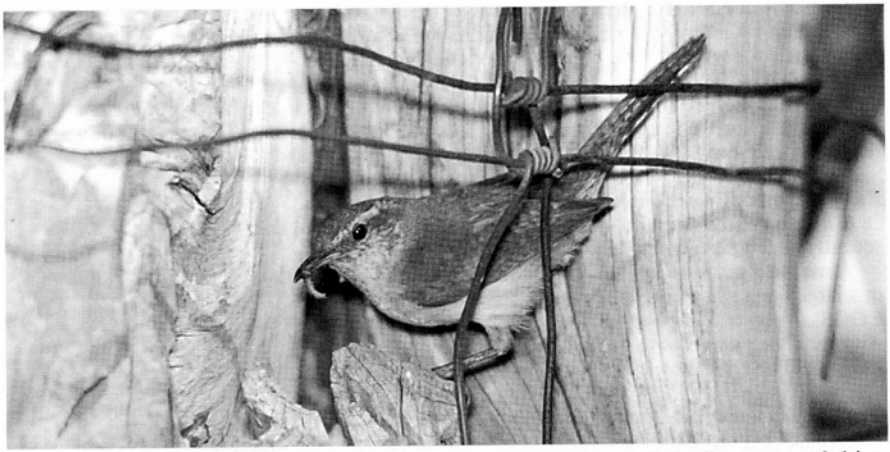

Figure 6: Bewick's Wren near its cavity nest in fence post. Only five nests of this southern and mostly western wren have been found in Ontario, all in Essex County. Photo by *G.K. Peck*.

House Wren, ***Troglodytes aedon***
1863 (ca 1938 nests) representing 50 provincial regions. Nest records were received from Glengarry (1994) and Timiskaming (1988).
Cowbird parasitism 1213 nests with 4 parasitized (0.3%).
An early egg date of 7 April was reported from Niagara in 1987.

Winter Wren, ***Troglodytes troglodytes***
35 nests representing 19 provincial regions. Nest records were received from Haldimand-Norfolk (1988), Haliburton (1990), and Waterloo (1995). A possible breeding in 1986 in Elgin was noted (Weir 1986).
New nest locations were: a nest built upon an old Eastern Phoebe nest, a nest on a woodshed beam, and a nest on a beam under a cottage eave. Five nests had outside diameters ranging from 8.5 to 15 cm (3.3 to 5.9 inches), inside diameters from 4 to 6 cm (1.6 to 2.4 inches), outside depths from 5.5 to 8 cm (2.2 to 3.1 inches), and inside depths from 3 to 5.5 cm (1.2 to 2.2 inches).
EGGS 11 nests with 1 to 6 eggs; 1E (1N), **4E** (3N), **5E** (4N), **6E** (3N).
Average clutch range 5 to 6 eggs (7 nests).
EGG DATES 8 nests, 31 May to 12 July; 4 nests, 2 June to 17 June.

Sedge Wren, ***Cistothorus platensis***
58 (67 nests) representing 21 provincial regions. An early nest record from Norfolk (1907) has been added.
EGGS 45 nests with 3 to 8 eggs; 3E (3N), **4E** (6N), **5E** (10N), **6E** (9N), **7E** (14N), **8E** (3N).
Average clutch range 5 to 7 eggs (33 nests).
INCUBATION PERIOD 1 nest, 12 days.
EGG DATES 40 nests, 5 June to 22 July (43 dates); 20 nests, 12 June to 1 July.

Marsh Wren, ***Cistothorus palustris***
499 (536 nests) representing 33 provincial regions. New nesting regions were Thunder Bay (1996), and Waterloo (1974).
A large, occupied nest in Niagara had an outside diameter of 14 cm (5.5 inches), outside depth of 25 cm (9.8 inches), and inner diameter of 11 cm (4.3 inches).

Golden-crowned Kinglet, ***Regulus satrapa***
12 nests representing 9 provincial regions. Prince Edward (1996) and Sudbury (1988) were the recently reported nesting regions. A possible breeding record was reported for Elgin in 1986 (Weir 1986).
Nine of 11 nests were positioned in spruce spp., and 1 was in a hemlock. A nest in a 20 m (66 ft) White Spruce was in a lower branch fork at a height of 6 m (20 ft). Heights of 9 nests ranged from 2.4 to 13 m (8 to 43 ft), with 5 averaging 2.4 to 10.7 m (8 to 35 ft).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, ***Regulus calendula***
26 (32 nests) representing 14 provincial regions. Algoma (1908) and Victoria (1986) were recently added nesting regions.
A nest in a pine sapling in Victoria was only 0.4 m (1.3 ft) above ground, and another nest in a large spruce in Cochrane was at a height of 15 m (50 ft).
EGGS 24 nests, 3 to 10 eggs; **5E** (2N), **6E** (3N), **7E** (3N), **8E** (7N), **9E** (7N), **10E** (2N).
Average clutch range 8 to 9 eggs (14 nests).
EGG DATES 21 nests, 2 June to 23 June (26 dates); 10 nests, 10 June to 14 June.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, ***Polioptila caerulea***
156 (160 nests) representing 27 provincial regions. Grey (1985), Manitoulin (1994), and Ottawa-Carleton (1986) were recently reported nesting regions.
Initial nest observations in 68 records (43%) were of nests under construction, apparently the time when nesting activities are most easily observed.

Three instances were reported of second nests being built using materials taken from first nests, abandoned nearby.

A Middlesex nest had an outside diameter of 5.5 cm (2.2 inches), an inside diameter of 3.3 cm (1.3 inches), an outside depth of 6 cm (2.4 inches), and an inside depth of 3.5 cm (1.4 inches).

EGGS 30 nests with 3 to 5 eggs; **3E** (8N), **4E** (11N), **5E** (11N).

Average clutch range 4 to 5 eggs (22 nests).

Cowbird parasitism 33 nests with 4 parasitized (12.1%).

INCUBATION PERIOD 2 nests: 1 of 12 days, 1 of 15 days.

EGG DATES 45 nests, 6 May to 1 July (53 dates); 23 nests, 25 May to 9 June.

Renestings were noted after failure of first nest.

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