

GENERAL NOTES

Long-tailed Jaeger in Kansas.—On June 22, 1955, we saw a jaeger at Cheyenne Bottoms, a natural swamp converted into an artificial reservoir, 6 miles east and 3 miles south of Hoisington, Barton County, Kansas. Our efforts to collect the bird finally drove it from the area. We returned to the same place on June 23, found the bird again, and collected it.

The specimen (KU 32610) proved to be an adult female Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). It was very fat, had light blue tarsi and black feet, and was in "normal" (that is, light) plumage phase. Measurements were: wing, 287 mm.; tail, 260 mm.; tarsus, 44 mm.; middle toe (without claw), 31 mm.; exposed culmen, 28.5 mm.; cere, 13.6 mm.; dertrum, 15.8 mm.; depth of bill at base, 10.3 mm.; width of bill at base, 9.1 mm., and middle rectrices projecting 124 mm. beyond adjacent pair.

The specimen represents the only record of the species in Kansas. There is, however, one record for the Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) from the state. This record of the Long-tailed Jaeger is of interest in relation to the overland, continental migration suggested for the species by some authors (Murphy, 1936. "Oceanic Birds of South America," vol. 2:1039). It should be noted, however, that inland records of the species in North America are too few to suggest any substantial inland migration. The late date of the record here reported suggests that the bird might not have been migrating northward to breed. Unfortunately, no record was kept of the condition of the ovary.—LARRY D. MOSBY AND WILLIAM M. LYNN, *State Biological Survey, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, November 3, 1955.*

Nocturnal predation on Song Sparrow eggs by milksnake.—On June 25, 1955, at Camp Arbutus, near Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, Michigan, a nest of a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) was discovered. The nest was 15 inches above the ground in a low evergreen (*Juniperus* sp.). It was in such an open situation that I had been able to make hourly observations on it and was able to watch the entire construction and subsequent deposition of eggs.

On July 1 incubation of the three-egg clutch began. On the afternoon of July 3 an adult bird was still incubating the eggs. At 10:00 p.m. my wife and I visited the nest and found a 30-inch Milksnake (*Lampropeltis dolia*) coiled around the nest rim. Only one egg, still warm, remained in the nest. The adult sparrows were not seen nor heard. Our flashlight did not seem to disturb the snake, but it dropped to the ground when I reached out to capture it. We left the nest and returned five minutes later. The snake had returned and was in the process of grasping the egg with its mouth. After two attempts at engulfing the egg, the snake succeeded in getting it entirely in its mouth. The snake was then captured and the unbroken egg was removed and placed back in the nest. The adult sparrows never returned to the nest.

More nocturnal observations on the nest life of birds need to be made in order to determine the extent of predation on eggs, young, and even adult birds.—HAROLD D. MAHAN, 421 W. Jefferson, Ann Arbor, Michigan, November 7, 1955.

Cape May Warbler summering in lower Michigan.—The Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) passed through southern Michigan earlier than usual in the spring of 1955 (although no early records were broken). Males appeared in the Ann Arbor region on May 5, 6, and 7 (L. C. Binford, D. A. Zimmerman), and a female on May 12

(Zimmerman). Binford last saw the species at Point Pelee, Ontario, May 14. Numerous observers in the field during the last two weeks of the month did not report the species. Therefore, I was surprised to find four singing male Cape May Warblers in a spruce bog in Oscoda County, Michigan, on June 4. The exact location was T. 28 N., R. 1 E., Section 12, three miles northeast of Red Oak. The birds did not behave like migrants. Each acted as if on territory, singing persistently from one or a few perches for long periods of time. Later in the day Marian Zimmerman and I collected a singing male (UMMZ 136,505) with enlarged testes in another spruce bog near Luzerne, 12 miles farther south.

The following morning Mr. and Mrs. Richard Zusi returned with us to the Red Oak region where we located seven singing males. One bird, watched for 30 minutes, spent most of his time foraging among the spruces (*Picea mariana*). He sang frequently (the usual *seet seet seet seet*, and a shorter, softer song: *sa-wit sa-wit sa-wit sa-wit*), but less often than the other males. We saw this individual carry food into a spruce top on one occasion. Another time it vigorously chased a second Cape May Warbler from a nearby tree and pursued it for an unknown distance into the swamp. Upon returning from the chase the bird sang once, then resumed feeding.

In a stand of spruce partially isolated from the rest of the bog we studied another male for nearly two hours. He was not very active, and sang or preened for many minutes at a time from one of three or four spruce-top perches within 150 feet of each other. We saw no female and searched unsuccessfully for nests in and near what we believed to be his territory. At least one other male sang frequently from not far away.

The songs of these birds seemed louder than those I have heard from migrating Cape May Warblers. They were the dominant sounds in this swamp, together with the songs of Golden-crowned Kinglets. They had surprisingly great carrying power.

One week later (June 12), Andrew J. Berger, Dr. and Mrs. Powell Cottrille, J. Van Tyne, and L. H. Walkinshaw watched these birds, but again no breeding evidence was obtained. However, Berger saw a female Cape May Warbler in the area on June 16.

N. A. Wood (1951. "The Birds of Michigan," p. 385) listed one summer record of this species from the Upper Peninsula (Luce County, 1941), and none at that season for Lower Michigan. According to O. E. Devitt (1950. *Canadian Field-Nat.*, 64:147), Dr. J. Murray Speirs observed a male Cape May Warbler on Beckwith Island, Simcoe County, Ontario, in July, 1948, marking "the most southerly summer occurrence for Ontario." Simcoe County is in approximately the same latitude as Oscoda County, Michigan.—DALE A. ZIMMERMAN, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, December 10, 1955.*

The northernmost nesting of the Rough-legged Hawk in North America.—Among the ornithological surprises of my 1949 visit to Prince Patrick Island in Canada's Arctic Archipelago was the discovery of a pair of Rough-legged Hawks (*Buteo lagopus*) and their nest, hundreds of miles north of previously known nesting localities of the species. The northernmost summer specimens examined by Cade (1955. *Condor*, 57:316) in his review of the species came from Point Barrow, Alaska; Herschel Island, Yukon Territory; and Franklin Bay, southeastern Victoria Island, and southeastern Somerset Island, Northwest Territories, Canada.

The hawks were first noted on Prince Patrick on June 22 when I tramped inland to study nesting brant. The tundra was more than 80 per cent snow-covered, and snowshoes were still necessary for travel. Because valleys and ravines were flooded with meltwater, I was forced to go out of my way some distance up a stream to find a crossing, and thus came into an area that I had not previously examined (Fig. 1).