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Nest sharing by a Lesser Scaup and a Greater Scaup.—Nest sharing has been loosely defined as two females sharing a nest, incubating their eggs together, and (perhaps) sharing in the care of the young (Terres 1982). It is a relatively uncommon phenomenon, reported infrequently in ornithological literature (see Terres 1982, for a brief review). While conducting field studies of nesting waterfowl on the islands of the North Arm of Great Slave Lake (approximately 62°30′N 115°10′W) in June 1993, we discovered a clutch of 26 scaup eggs which was being incubated by two females, one a Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) and one a Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*). Both females flushed at close range (although not simultaneously) and were identified visually via wing stripe characteristics and size. Incubation status was determined by female behavior, egg warmth, and amount of down present at the nest.

The clutch of 26 eggs consisted of 17 "large" and nine "small" eggs, and may have been the product of more than two females. Two eggs were cracked, possibly indicating some aggressive interaction between the females. We measured a sample of eggs using vernier calipers. Three large eggs averaged 63.9 × 43.5 mm, whereas four small eggs averaged 56.8 × 42.5 mm. These measurements lie within the ranges reported for Greater and Lesser scaup, respectively (Bent 1923, Bellrose 1976, Palmer 1976). The eggs were laid in an oval-shaped depression lined with grass and were marginally concealed by a clump of grass. This arrangement provided ample room for two females to sit side by side, probably in direct contact with each other, and thereby incubate virtually the entire clutch simultaneously.

Subsequent inspection of this nest in late July revealed that it had been partially successful. Seven membranes from hatched eggs were observed. In addition, six eggs were found intact in the nest, four dead ducklings were still in their partially opened egg shells, two dead ducklings were outside their egg shells but still in the nest, and one dead duckling was found outside the nest. One egg which had been destroyed by a predator and was assumed to belong to the same nest was found nearby. The fate of the remaining five eggs could not be determined.

Skutch (1961) stated that unless the young of the two nest sharing species hatch at about the same time, and are of similar size and feeding habits, it is unlikely that the young of both species will survive. Given the ecological similarities between the two species of scaup, it is unlikely that any resulting combinations of females and ducklings that survived through departure from the nesting island would experience anything beyond the normal threats to their survival. For example, mixed age (and thus mixed size) broods and broods attended

by two or more females have been reported for both species of scaup (Bellrose 1976, Palmer 1976) and are relatively commonly observed among breeding scaup in the Great Slave Lake area (Fournier and Hines, unpubl. data).

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Carnivory observed in the Cedar Waxwing.—On 9 Aug. 1992, I observed an adult Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) fly to a tree branch approximately 12 m above the ground with an unidentified nestling bird in its bill. Through 7 × 35 binoculars it appeared the nestling was naked, approximately 3 cm in length and being held by the tail. It had been eviscerated, with the stomach hanging down to one side. The Cedar Waxwing paused briefly after landing, then swallowed the nestling whole in approximately three successive swallowing motions. Cedar Waxwings are frugivorous, with the exception of a relatively small proportion of invertebrate prey (Tyler 1950). To my knowledge, carnivory has not been reported for this species.

The species of the nestling was not known. It is unlikely it was a Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), since cowbirds are not abundant in the area (pers. obs.), and Cedar Waxwings do not readily accept cowbird eggs (Friedmann 1963). It seems most probable the nestling was a Cedar Waxwing and was eaten either as a form of infanticide or was a dead nestling removed from the nest for hygienic reasons.

Infanticide has been reported for a variety of avian taxa (Stanback and Koenig 1992). Non-nutritional motivations for infanticide include the removal of unrelated offspring by a replacement mate and the lowering of the reproductive output of competitors (Stanback and Koenig 1992). A number of other individuals of this species were observed in the area, providing opportunity, and perhaps the motive, for infanticidal behavior. Although Cedar Waxwings may be less predisposed to cannibalism because of their largely frugivorous diet (Stanback and Koenig 1992), they are colonial nesters (Tyler 1950) which, combined with the tendency to swallow foods whole (Tyler 1950), could potentially increase their predisposition towards cannibalism (Mock 1984, Stanback and Koenig 1992). Whether or not this observation represented cannibalism or predation of another species, it certainly represents a bizarre deviation from customary Cedar Waxwing diet.