

NESTING OF THE HUDSONIAN GODWIT AT CHURCHILL, MANITOBA

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Before going to Churchill, Manitoba, in 1950, we had been told of the possibility of finding the rare Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). We saw none that year but were more fortunate in 1951. While exploring the wide expanse of tundra a few miles out of Churchill, we saw four dark-colored shorebirds nearly as large as Hudsonian Curlews. Their bills were slightly upturned, their underbodies were brownish red, and when one of the birds took wing, the white rump patch and white wing markings were clearly visible; Hudsonian Godwits!

We made several trips out to the area hoping to find a nest. Then, on July 15 a pair of the godwits appeared and flew about, acting so disturbed that we thought they must



Fig. 1. Adult Hudsonian Godwit near nest at Churchill, Manitoba.

have a nest. After a long search, I caught sight of some pieces of broken eggshell in the marsh grass. Looking closely, I discovered a downy young on the edge of the nest and a few feet away another youngster. The nest was a little depression on a slightly raised hummock in a wet bog. We carried the two chicks to a raised patch of tundra close by, where we could kneel down and hold them, hoping to coax the parent godwits close enough for a photograph. The parents were greatly excited and when we settled down on the tundra they flew about and alighted near us. One parent came up within twenty feet, calling to the peeping youngsters (fig. 1). After photographing the adults we returned the young to their nest and pictured them (fig. 2). They were colorful chicks with



Fig. 2. Recently hatched young of Hudsonian Godwit at the nest.

buff, gray, and darker mottling on the back and wings and with golden brown predominating on the sides and underparts.

As far as known, only one other nest of this godwit has been found in recent years. That was in 1947 as reported by Hazel R. Ellis (*Audubon Mag.*, 50, 1948:154-159).

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