

(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).

I was astounded when a large bird being harassed by a pair of Long-tailed Jaegers (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) proved to be a Rough-legged Hawk. Soon another appeared, and as I approached to within a quarter of a mile of an isolated, perpendicular-sided rock in a small canyon at the base of the mountain, the hawks began to attack me. This rock was about 1.6 miles inland from the frozen Mould Bay at approximately 76°21'20" N. latitude and 119°28'50" W. longitude.



FIG. 1. Nest site of a Rough-legged Hawk on Prince Patrick Island, Canada, viewed from a distance of about one mile. July 17, 1949.

Both hawks uttered repeated screams, somewhat like one of the screams of the jaeger, and one of the birds dived at me again and again as long as I remained in the vicinity. The other soared, hovered, and screamed, but never came very close to me. The plumage of both individuals was typical of the light extreme of *Buteo lagopus*. I had been previously acquainted with this species on its nesting grounds along the coast of Labrador and in southern Michigan where it is a common winter visitor.

I returned to the area on July 9 and found the suspected nest, about 30 feet from the ground, near the top of the perpendicular-sided rock (Fig. 2). Observed with binoculars from a distance of 10 or 15 yards, the nest appeared to be constructed of sticks and twigs, probably those of the prostrate willow (*Salix anglorum*), the only woody plant known to occur on Prince Patrick Island. Inasmuch as I found no trace of bones or animal remains beneath the nest, it is possible that it had been recently constructed.

On this occasion the brooding hawk left the nest when I was 300 or 400 yards from it and immediately launched an attack against me. It alternately hovered overhead, screaming, and swooped down-wind to within 30 or 40 yards of me. Its mate was content to hover screaming high in the air. It had only to flap its wings slightly to remain more or less stationary in the strong wind. The white bases of its primaries flashed brightly in the sunlight. The hawks possibly were molting on this date, for several flight feathers were missing from the wings of both individuals.

When I visited the place on July 17, the non-brooding hawk came screaming toward me while I was yet a mile from the nest. It dived at me half-heartedly a few times.

The other individual remained on the nest until I had been standing directly beneath it for several minutes. After it flushed, it soared screaming but did not dive. It showed more evidence of molt than the other bird. From a vantage point on the mountain slopes above the nest, I could see that it contained two eggs. In the nest rim was a fresh willow sprig with green leaves.

On this date I located a nest of the Long-tailed Jaeger about half a mile from the hawk nest (see figure in *Wilson Bull.*, 62:130, 1950). Both jaegers furiously attacked

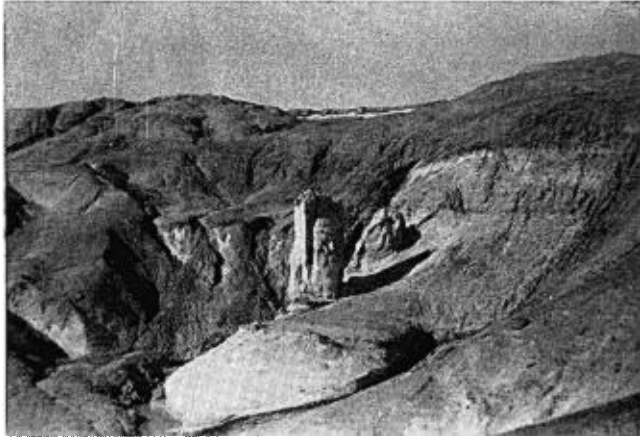


FIG. 2. View of the rock column upon which the nest of a Rough-legged Hawk was located. July 17, 1949, Prince Patrick Island, Canada.

me when I was near their nest, but would leave me, even with my hand on the egg, to attack the Rough-legged Hawk whenever it came near. A resounding scraping of feathers several times indicated that they actually struck the hawk. In defense, the hawk hesitated in flight and turned open beak toward the jaegers when they came very close to it. The harassing tactics of the jaegers reminded me of those of the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*).

When I visited the hawk nest again on August 16 I found it deserted and partially destroyed. The hawks were not to be found. Only birds or human-beings could have reached the nest. Ravens (*Corvus corax*), Glaucous Gulls (*Larus hyperboreus*), and jaegers had been seen in the neighborhood from time to time, and there were unaccountable tracks of human-beings in the vicinity.

Where the hawks hunted was an unsolved mystery. Although the nest was only about 3.5 miles from the Mould Bay Weather Station, the hawks were never seen there, nor for that matter, at any other point away from the immediate vicinity of the nest. No remains of prey were found. Varying lemmings (*Dicrostonyx groenlandicus*) were present in the area but were not abundant. Hares (*Lepus arcticus*) were seen within 200 yards of the nest and seemed not to be disturbed by the screams of the hawks.

I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Arctic Section of the U.S. Weather Bureau, whose cooperation made possible the studies here reported.—CHARLES O. HANDLEY, JR., *U.S. National Museum, Washington 25, D.C., December 15, 1955.*