

MACALESTER COLLEGE

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

■ DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Ordway Bulletin No. 2

Subject: BIRD-NESTING at ORDWAY.

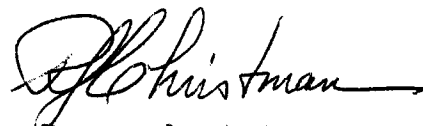
At Ordway the birds find a comparatively large and undisturbed area for their mating activities and the nesting species are one of the interesting things to observe and study.

Those species which have been actually observed on the property in one or another phase of nesting activity are:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Eastern Bluebird | Baltimore Oriole |
| Catbird | Robin |
| Black-capped Chickadee | Chipping Sparrow |
| American Goldfinch | House Sparrow |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | Song Sparrow |
| Blue Jay | Brown Thrasher |
| Eastern Meadowlark | House Wren |
| Short-billed Marsh Wren. | |

Not all of the birds observed were successful in bringing off their young but this is not uncommon, considering the relentless forces of nature which are brought to bear upon these fragile creatures.

We are attempting, as unobtrusively as possible, to improve somewhat the conditions for nesting of those species which reproduce in this latitude. The mere fact of exercising some control over the predacious activities of Homo sapiens, as well as Canis familiaris and Felis domestica, improves the situation for the nesting birds. In addition we have a program for providing nesting-boxes. Of course, this affects only certain species but we have already observed quite pleasing results from the program, which, incidentally, contributes considerably to the probability of survival of the young to flight age. Last season (1971) there were six (6) successful nestings in a total of eight (8) nesting-boxes: Eastern Bluebird (3); House Wren (2) and Black-capped Chickadee; two of the successful nestings were in the same box and by the same pair of Bluebirds. A seventh attempted nesting - that of a House Sparrow - was frustrated by a House Wren, which destroyed the sparrow's egg and built a twig nest atop the sparrow nest - a most interesting but furious conflict which was waged for almost a week!



R. J. Christman,
Naturalist,
Katharine Ordway Natural
History Study Area

Feb. 14, 1972

