

NESTING RECORD OF THE DOUGLAS LAKE REGION

SUMMER OF 1944

by

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A report of a special investigation conducted
at the University of Michigan Biological Station.

Submitted August 15, 1944

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The nesting records for the 1944 session at the University of Michigan's Biological Station were taken during the days between June twenty-second and August fifteenth. The nests recorded were only those that showed definite occupation during this summer as indicated by the finding of eggs, young, adults feeding young on the nest, and, in one case, the Ruffed Grouse, by egg shells. The area covered by the records was mainly that territory around the station and Douglas Lake and in some cases places visited during class field trips.

The purposes of the nest recording are to keep a regular record of nesting birds around the station, to provide for future students a record by which they may locate territories most likely to be used by certain birds, and to provide the recorder and those that might read the report some information that would lead to a better understanding of the birds and their nesting sites.

The methods of finding the nests consisted mainly of hunt or luck types. Luck is where the nest happens to catch you eye and hunt is the type where a territory is selected and you watch for movement, feeding birds, or listen for the sound of the young calling for food. Arthur A. Allen gives several interesting and useful methods for locating bird nests.¹ In brief they are:

1. See number 1 in bibliography.

1. At daybreak mark on a rough map the place where bird was singing to learn approximate territory. Do this several times.
2. Squeak to attract the bird and if there is food in the bill, watch to see where the bird goes.
3. Familiarize yourself with probable nesting site.
4. Use a sapling to tap trees. (A loud rap for the crow, hawk or woodpecker, or scratching for the owl or chickadee.)
5. Shake brush or shrubbery.
 - a. Listen for movement suggesting a bird leaving the nest.
 - b. Look under canopy of leaves for nest.
6. For field birds use a heavy rope twenty-five to fifty feet long dragged between two watchers.
7. Rails and gallinules prefer edges so skirt these rather than go through the thickest patches.
8. Place a yarn or string then watch the bird when it takes it.
9. "Birds that nest in colonies like most of the herons and ibises and which often fly long distances to feed can usually be traced to their rookeries by lining them up when the conspicuous flocks are leaving in the morning or returning in the evening. It frequently requires miles and miles of wearisome travel to get to the rookeries, however, and the authors advice, after a season spent in their quest, is to get somebody else to do it."

Most of the nests showed some interesting point which ordinarily is not noticed by the casual observer. For instance, one robin laid six eggs which is a rather unusually high number of eggs for the robin. A kingbird built its nest on top of a fence post. A wren tossed out the five eggs of a bluebird, laid its foundation of wooden sticks in the nesting box and then promptly left for other parts. This

was about the only wren observed on the station grounds proper during the session. The Cedar Waxwings were up to their trick of tearing down nests of other birds to provide nesting material for their own. One tore down a Least Flycatcher's nest while the young were still in it, and another was observed tearing down an old waxwing nest on one side of the street and rebuilding on the other side. The male carried a few sticks and then the female proceeded to provide the rest. While this was going on, the male sat in the partially formed nest and once in a while would assist with the operation. A Red-eyed Vireo nest contained a surprising occupant--a tree toad.

The conclusions reached from the chart showing the nesting sites chosen were that in most cases the species of tree was not too important, but rather the security of the nesting place is most essential. Nearly all the birds, with the exception of the ground nesting types and those that accept artificial supports were found in a variety of trees. The vertical heights at which the nests were built also varied, again with the exceptions of those that nest on the ground. Probably the most constant thing was the type of territory they chose to nest in, but even here were some variations.

The total nests recorded during the study (colonies are included as one nest), was 143, representing 38 species. Many other species of birds nested in this area, but this report only includes those nests actually found occupied.

Great Blue Heron

1. Rookery - Northwest end of Reese Bog, 8 nests, Top of cottonwood trees, both living and dead - Approximately 50 feet to 70 feet high. Two young could be seen in one. Female bringing food to another nest. Young could be heard. Nests examined July fourth. One adult noticed feeding.
2. Rookery - Black Lake. 15 nests, 1 occupied .

Marsh Hawk

1. Chamaedaphne - Smith's Bog. On ground (2' long 18" wide) 4 young. *July 4*

Ruffed Grouse

1. On ground - Mud Lake woods Base of Pinus eggshells *July 12*

Spotted Sandpiper

1. Along lake shore (near box number 12) on 2' high bank edge 4 eggs.

4 eggs - July 3

7 Later (July 5) nest covered and new one built just below it (4 eggs) *July 5*

Left by July 15

2. On ground about 5' from road, Reese's place

Hollowed grass

3 eggs - July 6

Left by July 14

Whip-Poor-Will

1. On ground - In Duncan Bay Woods

1 egg - July 22

Nighthawk

1. Nest on bare ground in opening in mixed hardwoods (midst sweet ferns) 2 eggs *July 30*

Female on nest allowed us to get within 4 feet of her. Crippled wing act and squealing voice as though hurt. Located between station and Reese's bog

2 eggs July 6

2. On ground - south of ball field on top of hill

2 young - June 21

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

1. Arbor Vitae - Along side road Reese's Place
10' high - July 18 Female on nest.

Belted Kingfisher

1. Nest in eroded bank about 10' high along Douglas Lake
toward N. Fishtail
Young could be heard inside - June 25

Flicker

1. Tree in front of cabin 34, Faculty Row
1 young in nest (June 22 and 23)
2. Totem pole (near log building east end of camp)
one flicker left hole when pole was tapped.

Kingbird

1. Between cabin #12 and 14 Ladyville. Quercus borealis 14
feet from ground 4 young, female on nest (June 29)
Both birds darted after me in an attempt to chase me away.
Abandoned - June 30.
2. Kingbird nest on top of fence post - vacant. Nigger Creek
area.
3. Nest - West side of health service building (near two benches
young in nest - June 29 oak 15' to 18' high
4. Quercus maxima borealis - corner station and Cheboygan
road Approximately 50' from corner on Cheboygan road west
Nest 15' high 2 young

5. *Pyrus malus* - Ingleside - along road 20' high
Female on nest
6. Report of one built on a dam at Maple river
7. *Betula papyrifera* - near picnic grounds next
to the bug tower. 20' high
Three young just off the nest.

Crested Flycatcher

1. Nesting box- Southeast of cabin 42 - 6' high
Three pretty well feathered young - July sixth

Phoebe

1. Top of door sill - Nigger Creek area 7½' high
Two eggs *July 1*
2. Under eaves of cabin - Reeses Place, Burt Lake
About 10' high
At least three young - July eleventh
3. Top of door sill - North Fishtail Bay 7½' high
Four eggs - July fourteenth

Least Flycatcher

1. *Acer rubrum* - Near Log Laboratory - About 30' high
Nest abandoned July first. Two young dead.
2. *Betula papyrifera* - Near sawmill - About 25' high
Three young left nest by July first
3. *Betula papyrifera* - Between cabins 26 and 28
About 23' high
At least two young - July sixth
4. *Betula papyrifera* - Near sawmill - About 10' high
Young left on June twenty-eighth

5. *Betula papyrifera* - Between cabins 36 and 38- 30' high
Female feeding young - July sixth
6. *Betula papyrifera* - Near cabin 42 About 6' high
Four young pretty well grown
7. *Populus grandidentata* - Car shed across from cabin 42
About 30' high
Two young left nest on June thirtieth and one on July sixth.
8. *Betula papyrifera* - Clearing south of road about 100 yards directly behind the middle of the old boathouse.
15'to 18' high
Three young left the nest on July first.
9. *Acer rubrum* - By shingles near the sawmill-5½ high
One young, one unhatched egg (later disappeared) and one cowbird egg on June twenty-ninth.
10. *Acer rubrum* - West of sawmill - About 7' high
One cowbird egg and one broken flycatcher egg. Nest deserted about June twenty-ninth.
11. *Acer rubrum* - Near J.B. Log Laboratory - 20' high
Two young about three days old deserted on July sixth
12. *Betula papyrifera* - Across the road from the chicken pen
About 15' high
Two young about 2 Or. 3 days old - July sixth
13. *Betula papyrifera* - Road running east of Stockards cabin
30' high
Female on nest and feeding.
14. *Acer rubrum* - In front of Clubhouse - 15' high
Three eggs. Nest later pulled down by Cedar Waxwings.

15. Acer rubrum - On hill back of Cabin 18, Blissville
20' to 25' high
Three young
16. Populus grandidentata - Southeast of old log laboratory
near ecology area. 8½' to 9' high
Two young on July twenty-fourth

Wood Pewee

1. Betula papyrifera - Southeast of the sawmill - About
25' high *June 30*
Two eggs

Tree Swallow

1. Nesting box number 6
4 eggs on June 26
4 eggs on June 29. Female allowed me to lift her off the
nest.
2. Nesting box number 8
4 eggs on June 23
2 eggs and 2 young (Just hatched, fluid still on the
shell). Female allowed me to lift her off the nest.
June 29
4 young July 3
3 feathered young about ready to leave the nest July 21
3. Nesting box number nine
5 eggs June 22
5 eggs *July 3*
4 young partly feathered July 21
4. Nesting box number 11

1 egg June 22
2 eggs June 23
4 eggs June 25
5 eggs June 29
Young July 21

5. Nesting box number 13
2 eggs (cold) June 25
6. Nesting box number 15

Well constructed this years nest but abandoned

Bank Swallow

1. Freshly eroded bank - Nigger Creek Area
17 nests in the colony *July 1*
2. Below root level of bank back of Blanchard
Colony left when bank caved in. *June 24*
3. Cemetery near Monro^a Lake. Freshly eroded bank only
about 3' high *July 21*
Many burroughs but only $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 dozen showed definite
signs of occupancy ~~_____~~

Rough-winged Swallow

1. Several nests near Kingfishers nest along the bank of
Douglas Lake near Fine Point Trail *June 25*

Barn Swallow

1. Nesting area in barns in the Nigger Creek area *July 1*
2. Nesting area in the barns of Ingleside *July 8*
3. Single nest on the side of a rafter(resting on a light
wire Ingleside Hotel. $9\frac{1}{2}$ ' high
4 eggs July 19.

3. Side of a porch Cecil Bay Area - 12 ' high

3 young 1 egg July 29

4. Between window top and eaves of a church Cheboygan outskirts - 15 to 20' high. Adults feeding. 2 nests

Cliff Swallow

1. Two nests under the eaves of a barn Nigger Creek Area *July 1*

Purple Martin

1. Three martin houses between Blissville and Health Service occupied.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

1. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile down Pine Point Trail. Top of dead tree about 30' high and 3' from the top
Adults carrying food to the nest July 3

Eastern Robin

- 1L. Limnological Laboratory, West end, About 15' high
4 eggs June 23
2. Limnological laboratory, East end. About 15' high
2 eggs June 23
3. Pinus resinosa Front of cabin 24, About 4' high
1 egg June 23
Abandoned June 29
4. Under eaves of log building (abandoned)
5. Quercus borealis Cabin 46 About 25 feet high
Young in advanced stage June 23
Nest vacant June 29
6. Vitis vulpina arbor South side of entomology lab
About 8' high
Two eggs 1 dark blue, the other light blue
Disappeared from nest about three weeks later

7. *Betula papyrifera*- 20 ' from Pellston road (about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the station. 4' high
2 eggs deserted
8. *Quercus borealis* Cabin 1, Manville 25' high
New nest
9. *Fagus grandifolia*. Last washroom Manville 6' to 7' high
2 eggs July 9
10. *Picea mariana*- Old Reese Place Burt Lake 25' to 30' high
Female feeding young July 11
11. *Fraxinus nigra* Reese Place, Burt Lake - 25' to 30' high
Female on nest July 11
12. *Betula papyrifera*, Near sawmill 15' to 20' high
Freshly built nest
13. *Betula papyrifera*- East door of cabin 36 15' high
3 young
14. *Robinia pseudoacacia* - Upper road second road from kitchen
10' high
Female on the nest
15. *Betula papyrifera* - Junction of two roads near sawmill
15-20' high
4 eggs
16. *Abies balsamea* Wilderness park. 10' high
Female on nest July 16
17. *Fraxinus nigra* - Reeses Place 20' high
Female feeding young July 17
18. *Quercus borealis* Back of Log Lab by box number 9 - 9' high
Three young (stair step in size) July 21
19. *Betula papyrifera* In front of ice house 22' high
Female on nest

20. Acer rubrum Back of third cabin of the Health Service
R
Resting on top of the broken tree. 9' high
Six eggs (unusually large number) July 25
Three hatched
21. Fagus grandifolia. In front of cabin 17 Manville -10' high
3 young July 31

Bluebird

1. Nest box #11 5 eggs (June 27)
Eggs missing, wren sticks in box (June 28)
Wren sticks but apparently unoccupied (June 29)
2. Nest box # 14 4 eggs, female on nest (June 25)
4 eggs , female on nest (June 29)
4 young (July 3)
3. Nest in top of hollow fence post - Nigger Creek area
1 egg, 2 young, 1 just out of egg
4. Nest top hollow fence post - Nigger Creek area
4 eggs
5. Nest top hollow fence post - Nigger Creek area
3 young
6. Nest box #7 3 eggs July 21

Cedar Waxwing

1. Between cabins 36 to 38 Faculty Row lake side in
oak tree 12'
2 eggs (June 22)
3 eggs (June 23)
2. Cabin #44 Faculty Row lake side in oak tree 18'
4 young - July 14
3. Cabin #12, Ladyville lake side
Nest 12 feet up Beginning stage of building -June 23

4. Next to garage (far garage on lower road)
End of Pinus strobus
18-20' high
Nest in process of construction (birds seen carrying nest material)
5. Next to Health Service
Female on nest
About 18' high
6. Trail leading to athletic field (outfield)
In Pinus strobus (12' high end of branch) Female on nest
Nest outside was old pine needles
5 eggs
7. In Quercus maxima borealis - southwest side picnic grounds
20' high 3 eggs 1 young - July 9
8. In pinus strobus - Reese Place, Burt Lake
30' high - end of branch Bird left next day.
9. Quercus borealis - front of Newcombe lab.
25' high Female on nest - July 17
10. Arbor vitae (Thuja occidentalis) Reese's Place
11' high Female on nest July 17
11. Ficeda canadensis - Reeses Place (along private road)
40' high - female on nest
12. Ficeda canadensis - Reese's Place (along private road)
35-40' high - young in nest (July 17)
13. Acer rubrum by clubhouse,
12' high
female on nest July 19
14. Acer rubrum - Front cabin #8 Blissville
Building on July 24 about 20' high (Took material from nest)

across street. Female carried most of the material. Male brought some and then sat in the nest while the female brought the material.

15. Quercus borealis - Between Health Service and first martin house. About 12' by 15' high. At least 2 young (left July 27)

16. Acer rubrum - Cabin #1 Manville

12' high

2 or 3 eggs - August 3

Starling

1. Hollow of fence post - Nigger Creek area

3 young in nest - two were collected. July 1

2. Between sideboards of barn - Nigger Creek area

At least 2 young July 1

Red-eyed Vireo

1. Acer rubrum near Bryant's Bog

3 1/2' high - 3 eggs June 20

2. Acer Saccharium - Close to road by upper hill garage

6' up 1 cowbird egg, 1 vireo egg. Cowbird left July 1

3. Acer rubrum - Near saw mill

6' up - Out from trunk 39"

1 cowbird egg - 1 broken vireo egg - June 27

4. Tilia americana Grapevine point

4 1/2' up 1 cowbird - left July 3

5. Acer rubrum - North of road to N. Fishtail 7' up

New nest but present occupant one tree toad.

6. Acer rubrum - fire lane behind saw mill

Female seen carrying nesting material July 7 ? *the co?*

Later 3 vireo eggs, 1 cowbird egg July 7 1 cowbird egg on

What is the incubation period?

ground underneath the nest.

8'9½" high

Vireo's hatched July 15 and 16 - Left July 26 and 27

7. Acer rubrum - Between N. Fishtail road and old entrance road

4'9" up

1 cowbird egg

Myrtle Warbler

1. Picea canadensis (on a limb) Reese's Place
30' high. Nest of twigs of the spruce next layer grasses,
lined with feathers (look like grouse)
1 Myrtle ready to fly, 1 myrtle could fly, 1 cowbird would
fly July 18

Ovenbird

1. On ground 12' from firetrail between two aspen ½ block from
Pellston highway (½ mile - camp)
Young left the nest - probably couldn't fly
1 egg - July 13
2. On ground - midst opening in mixed hardwoods
50' from Sedge pool on Sedge point. Oven shaped.
4 eggs -- off-white speckled (mostly on rounded end)
with purplish brown. *July 7*

American Redstart

1. Betula papyrifera - Off Pine Point trail
25' high - nest had birch bark woven in it.
June 25 nest being build
2. Betula papyrifera - Hill above Manville off ball park
Crotch of birch about 20' high Female feeding young and
shading young. 2 young 1 cowbird *July 4*

Baltimore Oriole

- 1. *Setula papyriera* - Inglesides

25' high pendant nest. Sing male near *July 8*

Bronzed Grackle

- 1. *Populus deltoides* - Inglesides *July 8*

25' high on end of branch adult feeding young

Cowbird

- 1. 1 - Indigo bunting
- 2 - Least flycatcher
- 1 - American redstart
- 1 - Chipping sparrow
- 1 - Myrtle Warbler
- 1 - Song sparrow
- 6 - Red-eyed Vireo

Indigo Bunting

- 1. Road to Bryants

Singing male - young seen (left nest) *June 29*

- 2. Nest midst blackberry and sweet fern located about 6' from side of road in blackberry bush 3 young and 1 egg^s

Nest was 515 millimeters from ground

1 young proved to be a cowbird *June 29*

- 3. Located in a sweet fern about 1/2 mile on Bryant's road

3 young Female stayed near *June 29*

Goldfinch

- 1. *Acer saccharum* - Across street from garage

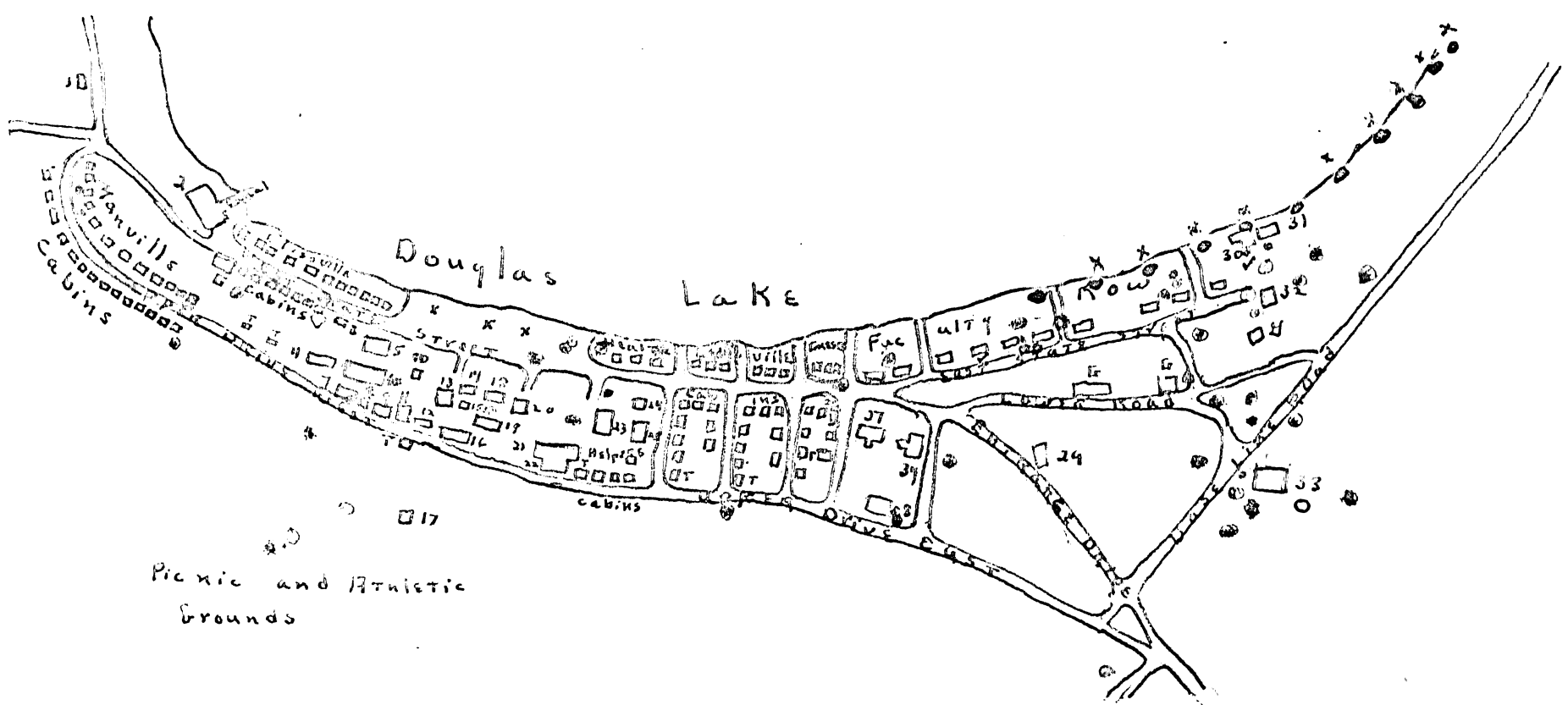
In crotch about 12' high

Female on nest July 17

Savannah Sparrow

- 1. Grassy field in Nigger Creek area

5 eggs Female sat on nest about 1' away for several minutes before flushing *July 1*



Picnic and Athletic Grounds

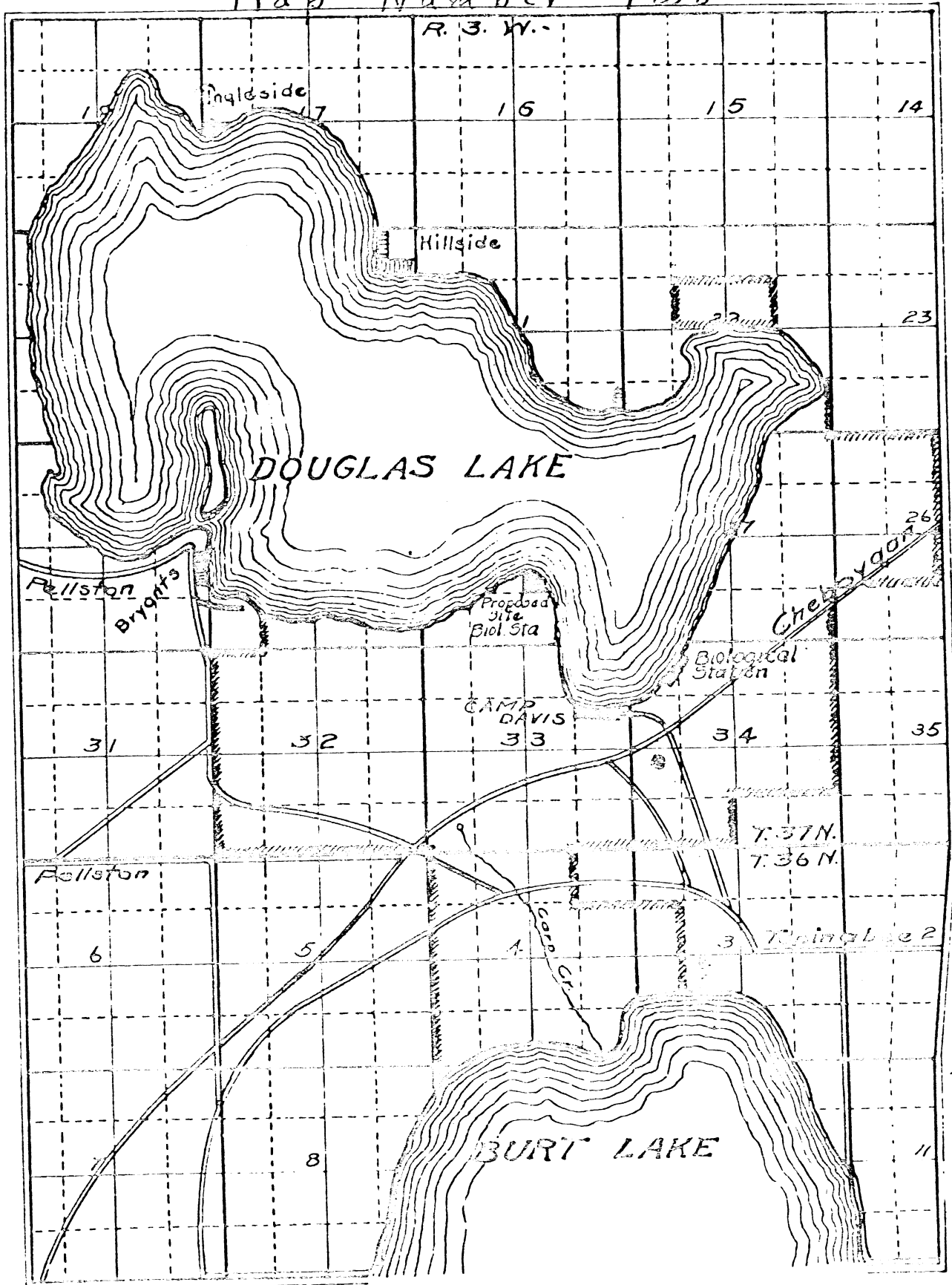
Legend

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Stable | 16 Library | 32 J. B. log laboratory |
| 2. Boat house | 17 Water Tank | 33 Saw mill |
| 3. Animal house | 18 Botany | G Garage |
| 4. Houghton | 19 Newcombe | T Toilet |
| 5. Aquarium | 20 Store house | |
| 6. Parasitology-Limnology | 21 Administration | |
| 7. Entomology | 22 Kitchen | |
| 8. Incubary | 23 Clubhouse | |
| 9. Kephart | 24 Directors cottage | |
| 10. Ice House | 25 Dean of Women office | |
| 11. Orchard | 26 Dean of Women residence | |
| 12. Vertebrate | 27 Faculty cottage | |
| 13. Keepers Residence | 28 Foresters cottage | |
| 14. Carpenter shop | 29 Forestry building | |
| 15. Plumbing shop | 30 Septic tank | |
| | 31 Aquarium shelter | |

Bird Nests

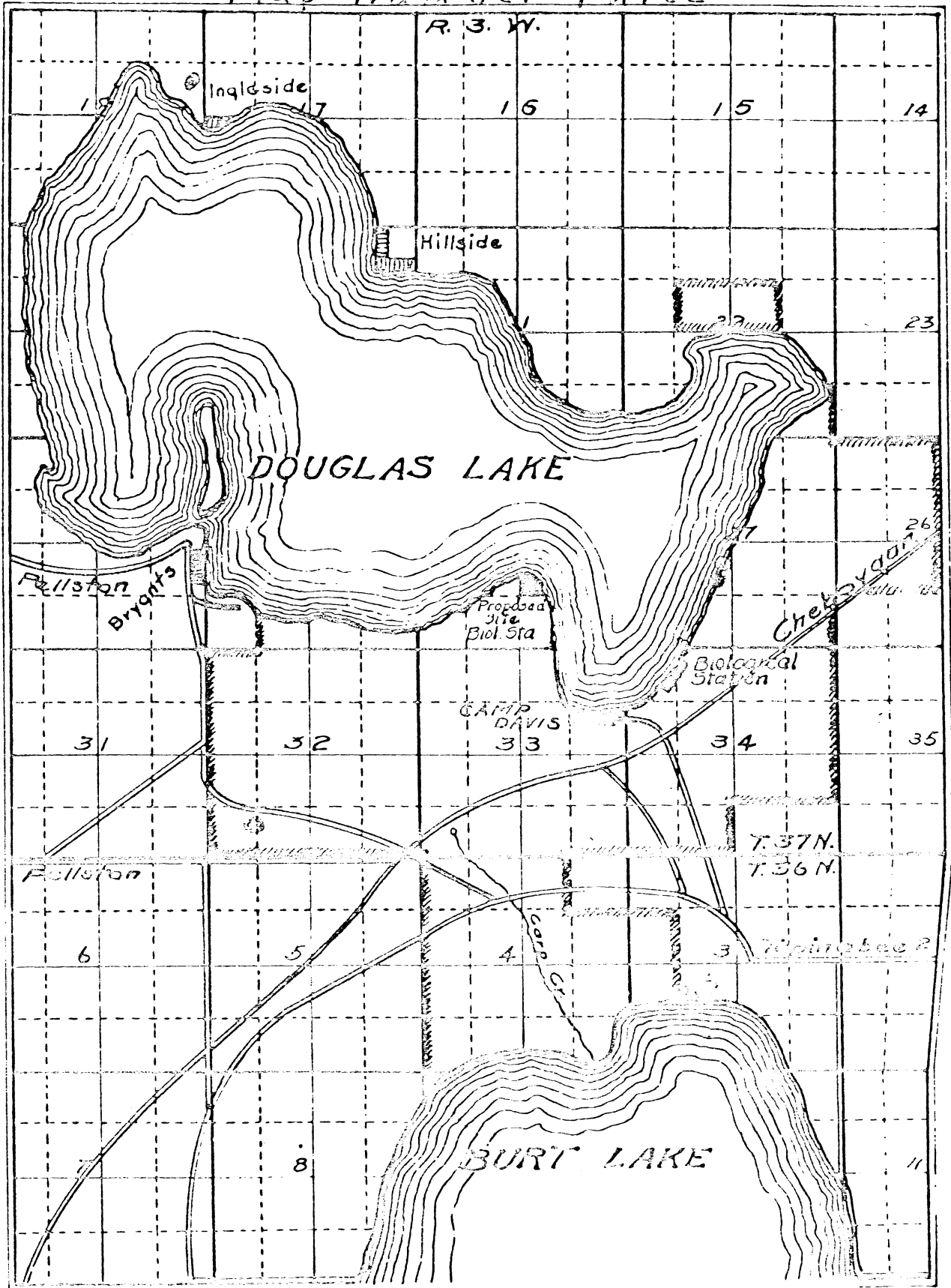
- Kingbird
- Least flycatcher
- x Purple Martin Houses
- Wood pewee
- Nesting boxes
- ✱ indicates occupied by bluebirds
- ✱ indicates occupied by tree swallows
- Robin
- Cedar waxwing
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Gold finch
- Chipping sparrow
- Crested flycatcher
- ✓ Flicker

Map Number Two



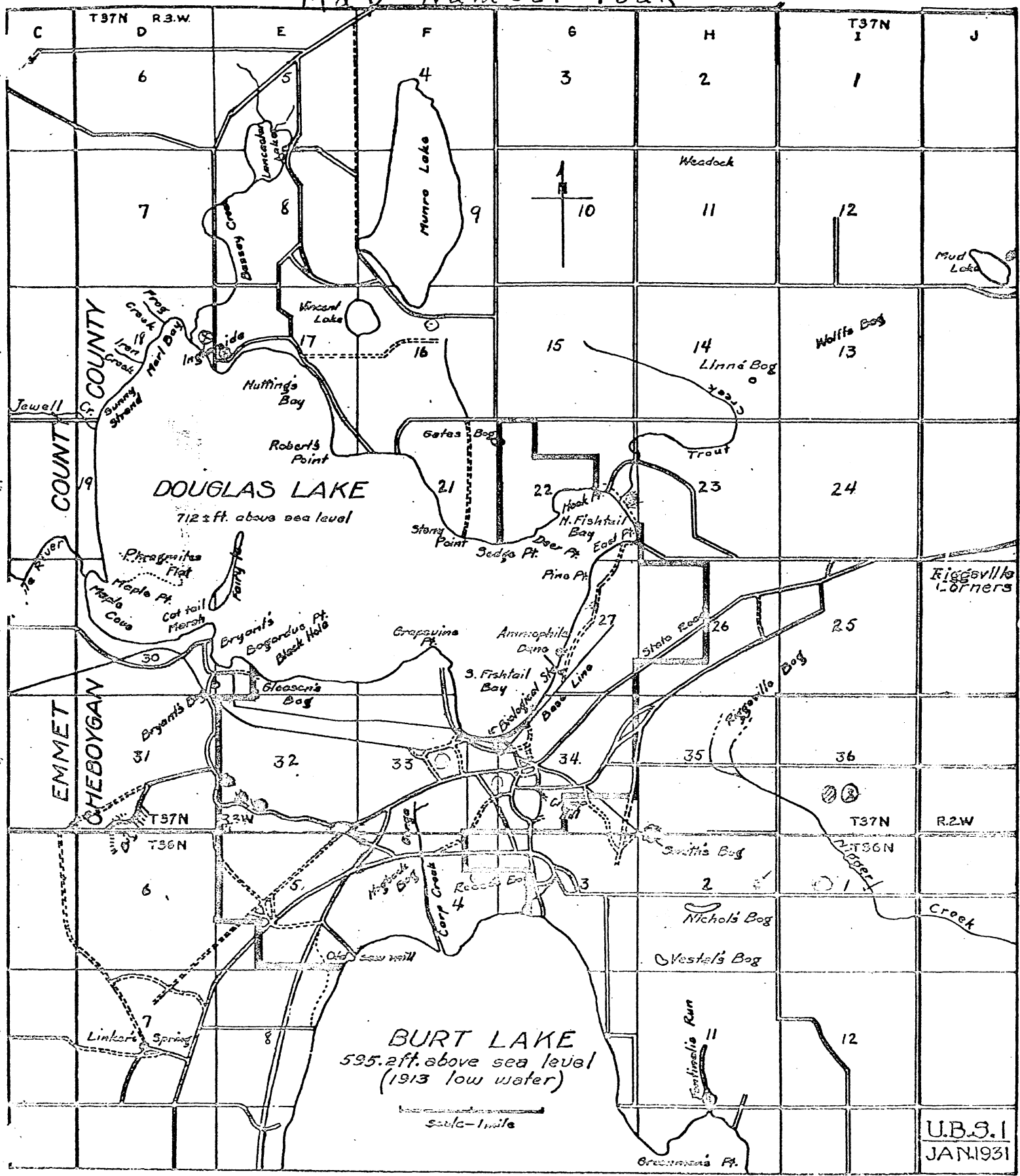
- ① - Ingle's Warbler
- ② - Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- ③ - Ovenbird
- ④ - California Oriole
- ⑤ - Striped Gnatcatcher

Map Number Three



- ☉ - Kingfisher
- ☉ - Rough-winged Swallow
- ☉ - Spotted Sandpiper
- ☉ - Song Sparrow

Map Number Four



DOUGLAS LAKE, MICH. AND VICINITY

- - Bank Swallow colonies
- - Nighthawk
- - Great Blue Heron's Rookery
- - Marsh Hawk

- COMPILED BY F. C. GATES
- - Indigo Bunting
 - - Phoebe
 - - Red-breasted Nuthatch

- - Ruffed Grouse
- - Barn Swallow
- - Cliff Swallow
- - Starling

U.S.G.I.
JAN. 1931

Map Number Five

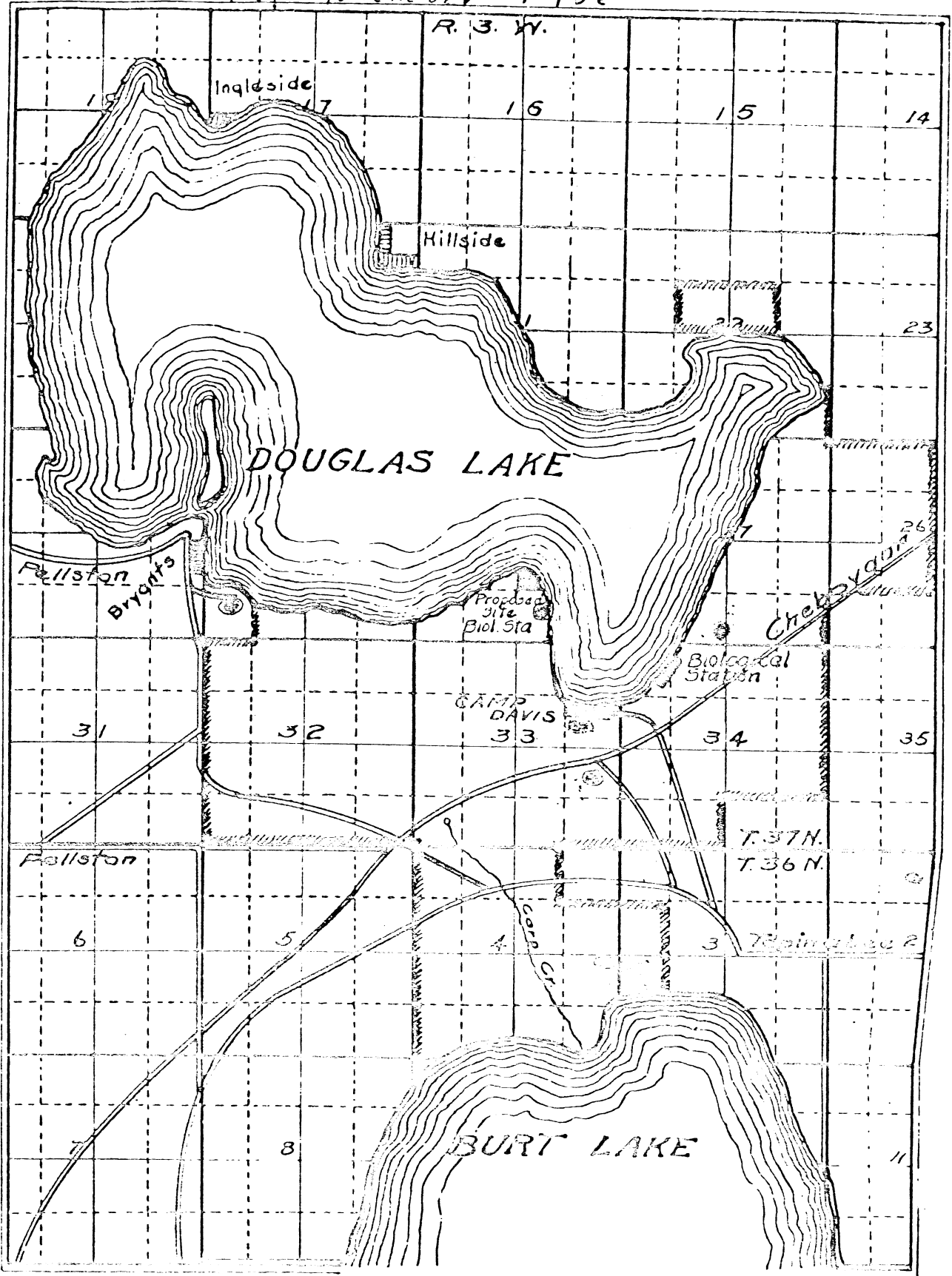


Plate 1

Nests Found

Bird	Number of Nests
1. Great Blue Heron	2 colonies
2. Marsh Hawk	1
3. Ruffed Grouse	1
4. Spotted Sandpiper	2
5. Whip-poor-will	1
6. Nighthawk	2
7. Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1
8. Belted Kingfisher	1
9. Flicker	2
10. Kingbird	7
11. Crested Flycatcher	1
12. Phoebe	3
13. Least Flycatcher	15
14. Wood Peewee	1
15. Tree Swallow	6
16. Bank Swallow	3 colonies
17. Rough-winged Swallow	1 colony
18. Barn Swallow	2 colonies and 4 nests
19. Cliff Swallow	2
20. Purple Martin	3 colonies
21. Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
22. Robin	21
23. Bluebird	6
24. Cedar Waxwing	16

Plate 1 Continued

Bird	Number of Nests
25. Starling	2
26. Red-eyed Vireo	7
27. Myrtle Warbler	1
28. Oven-bird	2
29. American Redstart	2
30. Baltimore Oriole	1
31. Bronzed Grackle	1
32. Cowbird	14 cases of parasitism
33. Indigo Bunting	2
34. Goldfinch	1
35. Savannah Sparrow	2
36. Chipping Sparrow	4
37. Song Sparrow	2
38. Common Tern	1 colony

- Great Blue Heron
- Marsh Hawk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Whip-poor-will
- Nighthawk
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Belted Kingfisher
- Flicker
- Kingbird
- Crested Flycatcher
- Phoebe
- Least Flycatcher
- Wood Pewee
- Tree Swallow
- Bank Swallow
- Rough-winged Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Purple Martin
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Robin
- Bluebird
- Cedar Waxwing
- Starling
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Myrtle Warbler
- Oven-bird
- American Redstart
- Baltimore Oriole
- Bronzed Grackle
- Cowbird
- Indigo Bunting
- Goldfinch
- Savannah Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Common Tern

	Habitated Grounds	Swamps and Wet Meadows	Dense Hardwoods	Hardwood Glades and Edges	Lake Edge	Conifer Wood Edges	Open Fields	Roadside Thickets	Uninhabited Islands	Mixed Conifer and Hardwood		
			1									
		1										
									1			
					2							
			1									
				2								
				1								
					1							
	1			1								
	2			3	1		1					
	1											
	3											
	5			11								
				1								
					6							
	1				2							
					1							
	4											
	2											
	3											
				1								
	17			3		1						
					3		3					
	10			3		3						
	1						1					
				7								
						1						
				2					1			
			2									
	1											
	1											
				Varied with the place chosen by host bird								
							3					
	1											
							2					
	5			1								
		1			1			1				
									1			

Territory Selected For Breeding Places

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