

Picture no. (1-5-4-40) indicated the 400504-71
 Dad at north edge of nest. The two eggs are in their ^{placement of the nest,}
 natural position. nest 2 and 1/2 feet x 2 1/2' and approx 6"
 high. The nest does not impress one as being a very
 elaborate structure but merely an aggregate of scirpus
 crudely placed. note the surface scirpus place as a
 mat with a east-west trend. All material of dry
 scirpus stems. The ground is damp but no stand-
 ing water. The nest proper placed at the north side of a
 circular clearing 8 feet wide. This clearing is free
 of scirpus except the burnt stubs and a few single stems.
 No evidence of clipping off of stems so would assume
 that probably the scirpus growth has been retarded
 by the cranes continually alighting in the circular
 area, although no tramped condition of the soil
 existed nor feet marks evident in mud & damp soil.
 Upper surface of nest dry, base damp with colony of ants
 Earlier in the day examined an abandoned nest of last
 year at least a similar set-up with clearing, nest on one
 side etc. It was placed in a similar vegetation and near
 the present nest sight. If the circular space is persistent
 for over a year would almost believe that such clearings
 are due to accumulative experiment effecting soil &
 consequent growth. Picture (2-5-4-40) indicate general
 country and other plant assoc-



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 iations. The
 clearing in fore-
 ground is mainly
 alkaline covered
distichlis and
 soils less damp
 than scirpus
 stand beyond.
 Dad stands at
 the nest site. The
 mountains to the
 west show the
 three levels of
 Lake Bonneville
 and will allow
 one to return