

ADDITIONAL NEST RECORD FOR RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH IN NORTH DAKOTA. — Kroodsmas and Cassel (Auk 85: 510, 1968) reported a singing red-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) in the ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) of Slope County. Lambeth et al. (Prairie Nat. 13:26, 1981) reported the first nest records for the red-breasted nuthatch in North Dakota from the same pine forest. During June 1981, while conducting breeding bird censuses, I made two additional sightings of this species nesting in the pine forest of Slope County. Both nests were on a 22 ha plot in the NW ¼ NW ¼ Sec. 21, T130N R102W, 11 miles NW of Amidon. On June 5 and 6 I observed red-breasted nuthatches carrying insects to two separate nest holes. One nest hole was 2.3 m above the ground in the trunk of a decaying green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). The overall height of this tree was 7.5 m and the diameter at breast height was 18.5 cm. The dimensions of the nest hole entrance were 3.5 x 4.0 cm. Resin was smeared around the entrance (Bent, Life histories of North American nuthatches, wrens, thrashers, and their allies, U.S. Mus. Nat. Hist. Bull. No. 195, 1948). In the same tree was another nest hole with the dimensions of 4.5 x 3.8 cm. This hole was 1.9 m above the ground. Red-breasted nuthatches were not seen using this hole, however. Bent (op cit.) reported that red-breasted nuthatches will return to the same tree to nest, but a new hole is usually excavated. This tree was in a ravine with mixed-grass prairie to the south and pine on all other sides. The other active nest hole was 1.2 m above the ground in a ponderosa pine snag. The overall height of this snag was 2.2 m and the diameter at breast height was 20.5 cm. The dimensions of the nest hole entrance were 3.7 x 3.9 cm. Resin was smeared around this nest hole also. There were two other nest holes in this snag and evidence that two holes were begun but not finished. This snag was broken off 1 m above the active nest hole, apparently having been struck by lightning. This nest was approximately 425 m from the previously discussed nest. This snag was surrounded on all sides by ponderosa pine forest. No eggs or young were seen at either nest. Considering these early dates (June 5 and 6), the birds seen were likely males carrying food to incubating females (Johnsgard, Birds of the Great Plains: breeding species and their distribution, pp. 306-307, 1979; Verner and Willson, Mating systems, sexual dimorphism, and the role of male North American Passerine birds in the nesting cycle, Ornith. Monogr. No. 9, p. 13, 1969). Red-breasted nuthatches have nested on this plot for two consecutive years. The nesting densities have been seven and eight pairs per 40 ha for those years. Thanks to J. Frank Cassel for comments on this note. Support has been provided by the U.S. Forest Service, Rapid City, South Dakota. — Rick Hopkins, Zoology Dept., N. Dak. St. Univ., Fargo, ND 58105.