

the seeds were numerous from the droppings. This plant is reproducing naturally beneath the older bushes in Atlanta, Georgia, and at Clemson, South Carolina. It might be desirable in the field as well as an ornamental because of its evergreen foliage and spring fruiting but I am not yet familiar with its dependability for fruit or its adaptability to field conditions. I obtained the following stomach record:

ROBIN, April 11, 1940, Auburn, Alabama.

Since the three forms of juicy, pink-fruited *Elaeagnus* referred to above are preferred foods of many resident and migratory birds, they are being tested both in the nursery and in the field to determine their adaptability to sites for which shrubs are suitable in land-use patterns of southern farming, and the possibility of establishing them in hedges, on woodland borders, and in gullies by direct seeding alone or in combination with other shrubs.—VERNE E. DAVISON, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Nesting habits of the Spotted Sandpiper.—The Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) is quite a common bird in Regina, Saskatchewan but the first occasion, in many years of study, which enabled me to keep definite and continuous data on the nesting habits, occurred in 1934.

On June 3, I discovered the nest in a field in which an attempt was being made to eradicate brome grass. There were numerous very light patches of the grass still growing, the rest of the ground being bare and loose. The nest was located to the north of a clump of this grass and 14 feet away from a thicket of lilac and ash trees which afforded a splendid windbreak as well as a screen for the purpose of making observations. The nearest open water was 450 yards away.

Although many details were noted, a summary of important events may be best.

June 3, discovery of nest; 3 eggs; both birds present.

June 4, 8:30 a. m.; 3 eggs; both birds present.

June 4, 5:15 p. m.; 3 eggs; both birds present.

June 5, 8:30 a. m.; 4 eggs; both birds present.

June 7, 8:30 a. m.; incubating; for the first time only one bird present.

June 20, 5:30 p. m.; for the first time 'injury feigning' was fully exhibited. On other occasions prior to this there were indications of it, but this was the first complete performance.

June 25, 8:30 a. m.; incubating; 'injury feigning'; no sign of hatching.

June 25, 12:15 p. m.; 2 eggs hatched, 3rd chipped.

June 25, 7:25 p. m.; all eggs hatched; one of the young damp and sitting on a portion of the shell.

June 26, 8:30 a. m.; nest vacant and family twenty yards from the nest.

The period of incubation, if commenced immediately the fourth egg was laid, could be considered as between June 5 at 8:30 a. m. and June 25 at 7:25 p. m., or 20 days.

The family remained within fifty yards of the nest until July 14, on which day two young and an adult were seen, but no trace of them thereafter.

I may say that, when the nest was found, I noted bearings and set inconspicuous markers. The following year (1935) a Spotted Sandpiper built on exactly the same spot that was occupied the previous year, although the field had been cultivated in the spring. The patch of grass sheltering the nest had survived and was quite similar to the previous year. My markers on the edge of the field for cross bearings were intact.

On June 8, the nest was complete with 4 eggs at 8:30 a. m.

On June 26th, at 8:15 a. m., one egg was hatched and at 7:30 p. m., on the same date, the nest was vacated. Incubation required approximately 19½ days.

On June 30, after one hour and twenty minutes' search, I located the family with one adult. On July 21, the family was still in the home territory with one adult but was not seen thereafter. By imitating the call of the parent I was able to deceive the young and obtain some excellent photographs. The alarm signal was a strong *pett wheet* which caused immediate hiding and 'freezing,' while a softer *wheet*, often repeated and gradually diminishing, no doubt as the reunion progressed, brought them together.

With regard to 'injury feigning,' I do not wish to comment upon this at the present time. Attempting to analyze bird behavior according to human standards and modes of expression is a most difficult and hazardous pastime for a layman.

The habit of the adult perching on stumps and low bushes was much in evidence when they were caring for the young. While perching, the bird never stayed in one place more than a few seconds.

In 1935, after the young had left the nest, the birds were seen several times at 6:00 a. m., and shortly afterwards, making use of a shallow bird bath set flush with the ground fifty yards or so from the nesting site on the opposite side of the thicket.

It will be evident that I have made no mention of the sex of the adults. My opinion is that after the eggs were laid the male was the active agent in caring for the eggs and young. On one occasion only, after the young were hatched, another adult appeared in the home range and appeared passively but not actively interested in the young. This appearance quite probably was purely accidental.

In 1936 a pair of Spotted Sandpipers appeared on the site but did not nest.

From this record it would appear that the period of incubation is approximately 20 days. The weather during both periods was dry and warm. Other weather conditions might vary the time. The nest was vacated a few hours after hatching. 'Injury feigning' attained its height about five days before hatching and gradually diminished with repetition and the growth of the young. The young were protected in the home range for a period of approximately three weeks before leaving. There was not the tendency to wander far afield that I have seen in the Killdeer.—E. H. M. KNOWLES, *Regina, Saskatchewan.*

Swimming ability of young Catbird.—While walking along a bank of Fishing Creek near New Martinsville, Wetzel Co., West Virginia, on July 18, 1941, I startled a young Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) from its perch so that it fell into the slowly-moving stream about four feet from shore. The bird, evidently just out of the nest, inasmuch as its short tail was barely evident, landed dorsal side up and with six or eight strokes of its wings was ashore again. Except for an initial cry as it lost its footing, it seemed little excited and, floating high in the water, it headed immediately for the nearest dry land. Its head and neck were never wet. Movements of the feet could not be seen.—GEORGE A. PETRIDES, *National Park Service, Washington, D. C.*

Great Black-backed Gull killing American Goldeneye.—On October 19, 1941, in the Ile au Héron Bird Sanctuary, Montreal, Quebec, my wife and I were examining a flock of ducks with a 7-power binocular and a 42-power telescope, when our attention was suddenly drawn to an adult Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) on the far side of the flock. The gull was chasing a female American Goldeneye