

goose they surmise to be a bit beyond the capacity of the gourmand. Perhaps some ornithologist can provide a record to justify the use of the term 'goosefish.'

Hardly attributable to pressure during its incarceration within this soft-bodied fish is an accentuated recurvature of the merganser's beak.—STANLEY C. BALL, *Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.*

Some instances of bird tragedies.—Two unusual instances of tragedies to birds have come to my attention during the present year (1943). Early in April, one of our students reported the discovery of a dead Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) along the shores formed by the Sardis Dam Reservoir in North Mississippi. The bill of the heron was protruding through a good-sized fish. Apparently it had run its bill through the fish and, covering the external nares, had failed to extricate itself before it suffocated.

The second instance was related by a Mr. Dulaney of Tunica, Mississippi, who was fishing on Beaver Dam Lake near Tunica. About a hundred yards out in the lake he saw a duck, later identified as the Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis*), being pulled under the water from time to time. Paddling over to the spot, he snared the duck in a net and found one of its legs eaten almost off, presumably by a turtle. Due to the muddy water of the oxbow lake he was unable to be sure what had held the duck's leg. He made a special effort to try to pen the duck and heal its leg but it died a few days later. F. M. HULL, *University of Mississippi.*

Lawrence's Warbler in Maryland.—The fall migration of warblers through Maryland in 1942 was more advanced than usual. From the 19th of August until November, wave after wave of warblers was noted chiefly along hedgerows, through bottomland, and in upland forest areas in Prince George's County. Members of the *Vermivora* group were observed chiefly during the first week in September. On the fourth day of that month a Lawrence's warbler (*Vermivora lawrencei*) accompanied by several Blue-winged and Magnolia Warblers, Redstarts, Chickadees, and Titmice, was observed in thickets along an old farm field road near Bowie, Maryland.—BROOKE MEANLEY, 208 Oakdale Road, Baltimore, Maryland.

'Courtship feeding' by the House Finch.—The House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) was not included in David Lack's list of birds practicing 'courtship feeding' (*Auk*, 57: 169-178, 1940). So far as we know, W. H. Bergtold's study of the House Finch (*Auk*, 30, 40-73, 1913) at Denver, Colorado, contains the first reference to such feeding in this species. He reported that when the female is incubating "She is then often fed by the male, the feeding being precisely similar to the feeding of a young bird, even to the fluttering of the wings, etc."

Our own observations here in Tucson, Arizona, corroborate this. During the spring of 1942, several nests were built in our back lot. We saw the males frequently bring food to the incubating females. In fact, at one nest, the male began to feed his mate about the time the first egg was laid. Sometimes the female would leave the nest and fly toward the male, as he approached, alighting in a bush a few feet away. There was always a rapid fluttering of the wings and an excited twittering or chirping by the female—a typical juvenile begging attitude—as the male fed her by regurgitation. In every case it seemed evident that the female wanted the food. She returned to the nest immediately after being fed. At one nest, which was fully exposed to the hot April sun, the female continued brooding the young longer than usual. The male consequently brought most of the food to the young. On these trips he sometimes also fed the female.