

became automatically the type of the other (see International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, Art. 30, II, f). Gray (Cat. Gen. Subgen. Birds: 37, 1840) selected "*Garrulus glandarius* (L.)" as the type of *Garrulus*, antedating Ridgway by many years. Both *infaustus* and *glandarius* were discussed by Billberg but even their omission would not have altered the situation since the manner of proposal of the generic name *Cractes* placed it at once in the synonymy of *Garrulus* Brisson.—JOHN T. ZIMMER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

**Nesting notes on the Arctic Tern.**—On July 27, 1943, I visited a colony of Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*) that were nesting on an unnamed island a few miles off the Frederikshaab Glacier on the southwest coast of Greenland in latitude 62° 09' N., longitude 50° 21' W. In area, it is 300 yards by 100 yards—one of the largest of a group—and has an elevation of about 100 feet. At high tide, approximately 75 per cent of the island is covered by a grass which is up to ten inches in height. In the center of the island there is a small freshwater lake measuring 60 by 15 feet and with a depth of several feet. The island appeared to be the only one in that immediate vicinity where the terns were nesting.

To determine the approximate number of nests, our party of three Greenlanders (Eskimos) and two Americans took a census. Nest positions, cover, and predation were noted. Walking abreast and at 20-foot intervals, we counted the nests over the length of the island. The nests consisted simply of grass which had been packed down. Practically all of them were entirely exposed, and all were placed on the grass. In many cases, however, they were on narrow grass ridges in rock crevices. We counted 279 nests, and it was felt that this represented over 90 per cent of the total. There were 181 nests with two eggs each; 95 had one egg each; and three contained three each. No hatched eggs were seen.

Predatory birds were not observed near the island, although several Snowy Owl pellets were found near the nests. These contained bones and small white feathers. Two pairs of tern wings also were found. Bird predators probably are a negligible factor here in nest losses. Human beings appear to be a much greater predatory factor.

Previous to our decision to make the nest count, three of the Greenlanders in our party had gone to the island and collected 146 eggs. This represented the rifling of about 92 nests. Eggs are something of a delicacy in Greenland, and the collection was made for food. Inasmuch as this island is on a moderately traveled route for small native boats, food-hunting natives probably account for a considerable loss of eggs. Examination of most of the collected eggs showed some of them to be fresh and others in all stages of incubation. However, the freshness or the developmental stage of the embryo apparently did not influence the Greenlanders. All the eggs were boiled and eaten with relish.

Some of the eggs which occurred singly in the nests were fresh and some were incubated. This was the case also with clutches of more than one egg. The Greenlanders claim that the terns nest twice every season. Two or three eggs were reported as being the usual number for the first nesting and one egg for the second nesting. However, the destruction or disturbance of the first nest may have occasioned the building of a second.—CARL R. EKLUND, *Capt. Air Forces, Arctic Section, ADTIC, 25 Broad Street, New York City.*

**Breeding records of the Prairie Horned Lark in Kentucky.**—The Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) probably did not breed in Kentucky until very recently. As late as 1931, Pickwell in his monograph (Trans. Acad. Sci., St. Louis,

27, 1931) listed Kentucky as a doubtful state, where the breeding status of the Horned Lark was based merely upon the presence of the birds in two localities in summer. Even now there appear to be only two published records of the species breeding in the state. Hibbard (*Auk*, 52: 465, 1935) observed them feeding young near Ollie in central Kentucky, and Virgil King reported a nest in Grant County in the western part of the state on June 11, 1940 [*Ky. Warbler*, 16 (4): 45, 1940]. A third locality may now be added with the discovery of three nests in Jefferson County. Burt Monroe found a nest in Anchorage on May 10, 1940, containing three young. The writer discovered a second nest within the corporate limits of Louisville, April 4, 1943, and Thomas Smith located the third one, April 24, 1943, in Jefferson County about five miles east of Louisville. The last nest is now in the collection of Monroe at Anchorage.

The Louisville nest was kept under close observation for 22 days and the activities of the Horned Larks compared with those described by Pickwell (op. cit.). The nest had been built on the Seneca Park golf links, 110 feet from a paved highway and 195 feet to the left of a green. It was situated in a bare, level spot where the stubble was barely an inch high. There was a 'paving' of lumps of mud on the north side over which the female always entered. The nest presumably was built during the last week in March and the eggs laid March 31 and April 1 and 2. Incubation was performed entirely by the female. This is in agreement with Pickwell's conclusion but in contradiction to several authors. On only one occasion did the male visit the nest before the eggs hatched. Then he ran up to the nest and, while standing on the edge, thrust his head down among the eggs seven times. This may be his method of determining whether or not they have hatched.

The method of incubation is very peculiar and deserves more study than has previously been accorded it. In order to feed, the female leaves the eggs for short intervals and then every five to ten minutes hurries back to warm them. This alternate cooling and warming does not seem to injure the embryos. On April 6, a cold day (54° F.), the female was off the nest 28 minutes and on it 32 minutes. She left the nest six times, during which the average time off was five minutes, 24 seconds. On April 8, a warm, sunny day (80° F.), she was off the nest 35 minutes and on it 26 minutes. She left the nest four times, during which the average time off was increased to eight minutes, 45 seconds.

The eggs hatched on the late afternoon and night of April 13. Feeding of the young was performed by both parents but only the female was observed to brood. On the sixth day, the heaviest nestling was banded (weight 10.7 grams). Two days later it was found dead but unmarked, ten feet east of the nest. Many observers have emphasized that Prairie Horned Larks keep their nests scrupulously clean. It is suggested that a parent saw the bright band and attempted to remove it from the nest. The nestling was thus dragged to its death by a too zealous parent. If this is true, Horned Larks should not be banded until they are ready to leave the nest.

On the eleventh day after hatching, at 5 p. m., the two remaining nestlings weighed 16.2 and 17.2 grams. The next afternoon (April 25) at 6 o'clock, the larger nestling had already left the nest. The remaining one weighed 17.1 grams. A few minutes later in the gathering dusk, it hopped from the nest and followed a parent out across the open fields. The nestlings had remained in the nest nearly twelve days, two days longer than the average of ten days as given by Pickwell.

They had grown more slowly, too, for the average weights of his birds at ten days was 18.02 grams. It is hoped to check this by further studies in order to determine whether this slower rate is typical of the race in this locality.

Since there were no other pairs of Prairie Horned Larks in the vicinity, the male had no opportunity to defend his territory. Nevertheless, both parents fed within a fairly well-defined area chiefly to the east and north of the nest. When I chased the male, he retreated about 100 yards from the nest and then flew around me into the center of the territory. On only one occasion was the male observed to resent the presence of other species, when he chased one of a flock of Vesper Sparrows (*Poocetes gramineus*) away from the nest but not off the territory. On another occasion, the female was much disturbed by the presence of a flock of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) near the nest. She chased one a few feet away. Then, as a second flew in, she rose to meet it, but the larger bird failed to be intimidated and alighted near-by. She continued to walk nervously near the nest until the Starlings had departed.—HARVEY B. LOVELL, *University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.*

**European Widgeon in Alabama.**—Hasbrouck's account of the status of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) in North America (Auk, 61: 93-104, 1944) makes desirable the mention of a hitherto unpublished sight record of the species in Alabama. This individual was discovered on a small swimming pool within the city limits of Tuscaloosa, on March 30, 1939. At a considerable distance the writer was first led to believe it to be a Redhead (*Nyroca americana*). Fortunately, however, the bird permitted so close an approach that the vermiculations on the sides and the buffy crown were plainly visible even with 4-power glasses.

The number of records listed by Hasbrouck for the interior during the winter period (Oct. 1-March 31) is only 34, but it is extremely likely that this individual was a north-bound migrant. (Between April 1 and September 30, 131 records are cited for the interior.)

Previous records for the Southern States, excepting those on the Atlantic Coast, are from Louisiana (three) and Texas (seven). Thus the record at Tuscaloosa appears to be the only one for the Southern Interior, east of the Mississippi River.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, *Department of Biology, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi.*

**European Widgeon in California.**—A full-plumaged male European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) was observed at Lake Merritt, Oakland, California, on January 23, 1944. It was first seen at the feeding grounds about noon. Apparently ill at ease among strange surroundings, it paced nervously through the flocks composed of Pintails, Baldpates, Mallards, and gulls, near the feeding pool and kept a watchful eye on the visitors peering over the fences. It soon flew out toward the lake and was not observed until a couple of hours later when it returned to the feeding grounds. It stayed but a few minutes and then flew back to the water's edge, away from the congestion of ducks and visitors, where it rested more quietly. It fed for a while, pecking all competitors which came near it and even fighting with Pintails on several occasions.

The male widgeon was in full breeding plumage, having a rich chestnut head, with deep cream or buff forehead. It was observed at approximately twenty-five feet, with a telescope used for the study of details in feather construction, so the observer was positive of identification.