season as nestlings; the female had a band on her right tarsus showing she had been banded as a breeding adult. That day, one male was more persistent in bill snapping and swooping at my head. On the 29th, the males were equally persistent in defense of the young while the female retired to a perch in the large elm near by. Again, on May 4, when the young had left the box and a new nest had been built over the old one, both males flew at me. This behavior continued throughout the season.

Numerous efforts were made to trap the trio for identification. On June 3, I caught one of the males with a net. He had been banded April 17, 1944, one of a brood of five about ten days old, in Box 17, the same box he was now defending. Previously (May 20) I had caught the incubating female and found she had been banded the previous year (1945) also in Box 17. In 1945, she was mated also with a left-banded male that had displayed the same type of pugnacity in nest defense as this one. It seems highly probable that he was the same bird. In that case his history could be summarized thus: He was raised in Box 17 in April, 1944, and he occupied that same area and box in his first and second breeding seasons of 1945 and 1946. His mother was not captured for banding in 1944. The circumstantial evidence in my field records indicate she was not the one trapped in Box 17 in 1945 and 1946. Unfortunately, I was never able to trap the second male to determine his relationship, if any, to the others of the triangle.

In the first nest of 1946, five eggs were laid, from which three young fledged; the two unhatched eggs contained large embryos. The second nest had six eggs, the last of which was laid on May 11. From this set, four young matured and two eggs were found addled. The third nest held the complete clutch of four eggs on June 25. These eggs were still being incubated on July 19, then ten or more days overdue. On my next visit, July 22, they were deserted. All proved to be addled. Although both males were still defending the nest on July 19, no birds were in evidence about the box on subsequent visits.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, *Graybar Lane, Nashville 4, Tennessee.*

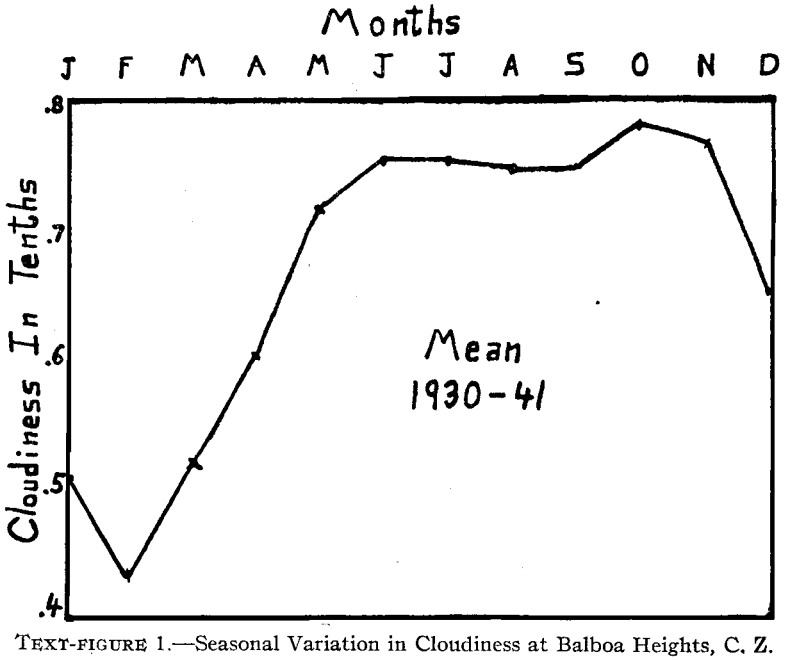
Snapping turtles apparently preying upon passerine birds.—During the late summer of 1943, every few days, bunches of water-soaked feathers were found floating in our small lily pool. There were wings, tails, body feathers which, in many cases, were still attached to pieces of skin, and other remains of birds. Among the identified victims were two each of Yellow-billed Cuckoos (*Coccyzus americanus*), Bronzed Grackles (*Quiscalus versicolor*), Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*), and several Robins (*Turdus migratorius.*) All were adults or fully matured young birds. Close watching failed to reveal the predator; flour, spread on the flat rocks that bordered the pool, showed only the footprints of birds as they walked about the edge to drink or bathe. They used the shallow water where the gently sloping concrete walls of the pool gave them footing. Some also bathed on the large lily leaves above the deep part of the pool. Late that season, a freshly killed Robin was found floating. It was still intact except that half of the breast had been eaten. This furnished the clew that the predator was some aquatic creature living in the pool.

In late May of 1944, when moisture was becoming scarce at the beginning of our disastrous drought of that year, I found a snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) heading for the pool. I placed it in a large empty tub, intending to deport it, but within the hour it had escaped. From that time all of the lily leaves in the pool were cut off at the base as soon as they grew. Early in June, we drained the pool and found *two* snapping turtles. After their removal, there were no further casualties at the pool, no feathers floating in it and no depredations on the aquatic plants until 1946.

In early August of that year, the pool became muddy-looking and lost the limpid attractiveness of the early part of the season. Lily leaves, buds, and blossoms were found floating, some being cut away each day from the plants. The remaining leaves became ragged-looking because great pieces were pulled or bitten from the margins. On August 16, chunks of skin with feathers attached, wing and tail plumage, and the body of a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*) were found floating in the pool. The entire breast and part of the head had been gouged out and consumed. The dove wore an aluminum band which, in the terrific struggle that must have occurred, was pulled over the toes and partially opened as the turtle presumably clamped its jaws over the foot and pulled the bird under water.

The pool was drained without further delay. A six-inch snapping turtle was found on the bottom. It was destroyed and no further depredation upon birds or lilies has occurred since.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, *Graybar Lane, Nashville 4, Tennessee.*

The possible effect of cloud cover on bird migration in Central America.—Experimental evidence in recent years has established the importance of light in northward migration of some temperate-latitude birds. The migration northward from tropical equatorial regions remains open to speculation. Experiments have not yet settled the question whether light itself, acting through the pituitary, is the instigating factor in these temperate-latitude birds (Benoit, 1937; Bissonnette, 1937; Riley, 1941), or whether length of day which increases time of wakefulness is the instigator of northward migration (Rowan, 1929; Wolfson, 1942). Neither of these hypotheses fits migration from tropics since, at the equator, length of day is constant. This has led to theories of an inherent cyclic recovery mechanism of the endocrine system (Bissonnette, 1937; Woodbury, 1941; Blanchard, 1941).



TEXT-FIGURE 1.—Seasonal Variation in Cloudiness at Balboa Heights, C. Z.