had eaten the flesh from the back of its head and neck. The chick died about six hours later. Only one of 46 nests under observation was parasitized by red ants.

Ant predation on quail chicks in the nest is not entirely unknown. Stoddard (The Bob-White Quail, pp. 193–194, 1931) reported considerable loss due to the thief ant, *Solenopsis molests* (Say), during his studies in southeastern United States. Mortality due to the red or Pharaoh's ant was unusual, for this species is resident around buildings and not normally found in the open fields (Metcalf and Flint, 'Destructive and Useful Insects,' p. 770, 1939). The nest from which these data were obtained was located in an open, bluegrass pasture, 80 rods from the nearest building and no red ant nests were found in the vicinity.—W. D. KLIMSTRA, *Iowa Cooperative Research Unit, Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa. (Journ. Paper No. J-1683, Project 494.)*

Adoption of a Human Parent by Bob-white, *Colinus virginianus*, Chicks.—In looking through old correspondence, I came across the following in a letter from the well-known game bird propagator, William B. Coleman (then at the State Game Farm, Boulevard, Va.), dated September 28, 1925, which seems a good early record of the adoption by birds of a human "parent." "We have learned some very interesting things," wrote Mr. Coleman, "about the little quail from our experiments with the brooders. The birds soon learn to regard the keeper as their mother and when they are only a week old he can lead them from the brooder house to feed in the field for hours at a time and then lead them back again. Imagine having 200 baby bob-white quail all in the grass, without any fence or enclosure of any kind and not losing any of them. The keeper moves around over the field slowly, stopping every few steps to let the little birds feed all around him. If he fails to speak to them every few minutes they feel that they are lost and start calling but as soon as he speaks to them they get back to feeding at once with their satisfied little chirps." This letter bears also on the question as to the origin of large-scale rearing of quail with incubators and brooders.—W. L. MCATEE, *Chicago, Illinois.*

Incubation Period of the Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis tabida*.—During the spring of 1949, in the Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary, Calhoun County, Michigan, I noted that a group of three cranes occupied one certain portion of the marsh. I watched these three cranes for some time at a prospective nest site on April 17. On April 21, I visited the spot and found an empty nest. During the early morning of April 27, I flushed a crane from this nest and found that the nest contained one egg. I marked this egg No. 1. Fearing desertion of the nest, I did not return until May 7, when I found the parent incubating two eggs. Jim Walkinshaw, Fred Woodard and Horace Bennett checked the nest during the late afternoon of May 26. They found No. 1 egg pipped with an opening about one-half inch in diameter. On May 27, during the late afternoon, I visited the nest but the young crane was not quite out. It completed hatching during the early morning of May 28, a period of at least 31 days after the egg was laid. No. 2 egg was infertile. Since cranes, as a rule, lay eggs on alternate days, the incubation period in this case was probably either 31 or 32 days. This agrees with the incubation period of other cranes obtained in captivity and of the European Crane, *Grus grus grus*, in the wild. Hoffmann found that in *G. g. grus* it required 30 days after a third egg was laid for the first egg to hatch, (Rund um den Kranich, 1936, Ferd. Rau, Oeringen).—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *1703 Central Tower, Battle Creek, Mich.*

Clapper Rail, *Rallus longirostris*, in Maine.—On December 13, 1949, Mrs. Leonard F. Bidwell of West Waldoboro, Maine, wrote that her cat had that day