

eggshells. On June 17 the nest contained one young vireo and one cowbird egg. I was, unfortunately, unable to visit the nest again until June 22, when I found it empty; a broken cowbird egg lay on the ground beneath it.

One interesting point in connection with this nest is the fact that a young vireo had disappeared from it when the cowbird egg was discovered. This causes one to ponder whether the cowbird removed the vireo before laying. Perhaps some future worker will be fortunate enough to observe such behavior.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, *Department of Forestry and Conservation, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.*

**Living Nematodes Within Hen's Eggs.**—Wood and Mizelle (*Journ. Parasitology*, 41: 115, 1955) summarized approximately a dozen known occurrences of the nematode *Ascaridia galli* Schrank within eggs of the domestic chicken (*Gallus gallus*). None of the references cited were in the ornithological literature. An additional occurrence is here described, in order to call this phenomenon to the attention of ornithologists who may be unfamiliar with it.

On November 17, 1958, Mrs. E. Ghidoni of Pittsburgh brought to me a nematode which she had found, alive, in the albumen of a hen's egg that morning. She stated that there had been no visible flaw in the shell. The specimen, exactly 100 mm. long, was identified by Mrs. M. B. Chitwood of the U.S.D.A. Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland, as a gravid female of *Ascaridia* sp., probably *A. galli*. It is now no. 56190 in the United States Helminthological Collection.

In order to be enclosed within the egg shell, it is obvious that the nematode, normally an intestinal parasite, must have been present within the oviduct at the exact time and place of shell formation. Wood and Mizelle (*op. cit.*) stated, "It is thought that entry into the oviduct was *via* the cloaca, however, the possibility of penetration of the gut and oviduct should not be overlooked."

This phenomenon has apparently not been reported in other species of birds. Collectors who are blowing eggs, particularly of species known to have an abundance of internal parasites, might watch for worms included within the shell. That the chances are slim, indeed, of finding such inclusions is indicated by the small number of reports of *Ascarida*, a common parasite of chickens, within eggs, although the annual consumption of eggs in the United States alone exceeds sixty billion.

I am indebted to Dr. Allen McIntosh for the Wood and Mizelle reference cited above.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.*

#### A.O.U. Meeting in Regina—A Reminder

The 1959 A.O.U. meeting will be held at Regina, Saskatchewan, August 25–30. Headquarters: Hotel Saskatchewan. Chairman of the Subcommittee on Accommodations and Transportation: Frank H. Brazier, 2657 Cameron Street, Regina.