

regeneration of the gonads, and only those birds without gonadal regeneration were used in the study. The breast feathers of all the birds were plucked every month, and the regeneration studied for over a year. The birds were grouped as follows:

Group	Sex	Status	Number of birds	Regeneration
I	Male	Adult normal	23	Normal adult type
II	Male	Adult castrate	22	Normal adult type
III	Female	Adult normal	20	Normal adult type
IV	Female	Adult ovariectomized	18	Normal adult type
V	Male	Juvenile normal	5	Normal adult type
VI	Male	Juvenile castrate	5	Normal adult type
VII	Female	Juvenile normal	3	Normal adult type
VIII	Female	Juvenile ovariectomized	4	Normal adult type

All birds always regenerated colored adult plumage, showing complete independence of the cycling gonads and the pituitary, suggesting that the factors controlling plumage pigmentation in this species of Indian finches may be genic in nature.—P. D. TEWARY and J. P. THAPLIYAL, *Banaras Hindu University, India*.

Observations of Drakes Accompanying Hens with Brood.—During the 1960 and 1961 rearing seasons on the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Utah, I observed nine drakes of seven waterfowl species each accompanying a hen with brood: Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis rubida*), 31 May 1960; Redheads (*Aythya americana*), 2-3 June 1960, respectively; Shovellers (*Spatula clypeata*), 5-7 June 1960, respectively; Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), 7 June 1960; Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors discors*), 5 June 1960; Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera septentrionalium*), 12 June 1960; and Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*), 1 May 1961. Dates refer to the time of first observations only. Except for the Ruddy Duck and Mallard drakes, which are occasionally reported with a hen and brood, and possibly the Blue-winged Teal and Shoveller drakes, which may stay until hatching of the brood (Hochbaum, *A Canvas-back on a Prairie Marsh*, Baltimore: Monumental Printing Co., 1944) the above sightings are apparently of rare occurrences. None of the drakes seemed to remain with the hen longer than a week after the brood was hatched.—NICHOLAS J. CHURA, *Wild-life Research Unit, Utah State University, Logan, Utah*.

Behavior of a California Gull Feeding on a Large Mallard Duckling.—Odin (*Auk*, 74: 185-202, 1957) and others report the predaceous nature of the California Gull (*Larus californicus*) without detailed accounts of feeding behavior, which are difficult to obtain. In 1961, I (*Auk*, 78: 271-272) reported the manner in which a small juvenile coot (*Fulica americana americana*) was prepared for swallowing by being crushed and jabbed by the bill of the feeding gull. Subsequently, I witnessed a Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*), 23 days old and weighing about 260 g, being consumed without prior "softening" by the gull.

On 26 May 1961 I placed several captive Mallard ducklings for observation in a small stream-fed enclosure located on the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Utah. I was standing but 2.5 meters away when a gull swooped down and unsuccessfully attempted to grab one of the ducklings, which escaped by diving to the bottom of the stream. The gull flew away without an immediate second attempt, and the ducklings emerged from the water and preened themselves on the bank. I retreated to a point 12 meters away when the same or another gull landed beside one of the busy ducklings, quickly grasped it just behind the head and took flight. The victim kicked and jerked