

The two common shorebirds breeding at Lake Hazen, the Knot (*Calidris canutus canutus*) and the Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres interpres*), are European races. Thus the large hiatus between this breeding record of Pintails and previous records from the arctic archipelago suggests also the alternative possibility that the birds may have been from the European Pintail population.

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Kingbird feeding Baltimore Oriole nestlings.—My small farm near Vicksburg, Mississippi has an abundant bird population, and among the common summer residents are the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) and the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). On the morning of 4 July 1967, a noisy battle suddenly erupted around a Baltimore Oriole nest in a large papershell pecan tree, where the oriole parents had been feeding their young for some six or seven days. Upon investigation I found an Eastern Kingbird, presumably a female, making a determined effort to feed the oriole nestlings. The rightful parents objected strenuously, and fended off their unwanted helper as best they could. During the intermittent conflict, the kingbird lost a patch of feathers from the side of her throat, but again and again she either fought her way past the adult orioles or sneaked in unobserved and fed the young in their nest. The kingbird's mate observed from a safe distance and took no part in the feeding, but flew away with her occasionally when she went in search of insects.

By noon of the following day the orioles seemed to become reconciled to the unusual situation. There was still a snapping of beaks from time to time, but few actual clashes. The kingbird spent part of the day resting on a perch within 18 inches of the nest, watching and protesting a little when the oriole parents came with food. Frequently she left the tree in search of insects and came back with food for her adopted brood. If one of the oriole parents happened to be at the nest, the kingbird waited her turn with obvious impatience and irritation. By the third day the three birds were sharing the feeding and nest-cleaning chores in relative peace and quiet. On 9 July the kingbird was up before the sun, happily feeding the nestlings. Later that day the young orioles came out of the nest. Their parents were very quiet and very busy all day feeding them as they scattered into nearby trees along a small lake bank. The kingbird was busy too, and wildly excited. Chattering and calling all day, she swooped back and forth across the lake with her offerings. It seemed to make no difference to the young ones whether their own parents or the kingbird fed them. Six days later I saw them again, gathered in a small tree on the opposite side of the lake. The adult orioles were still feeding them and the kingbird was hovering near, but I observed her actually feeding only once during the half hour that I watched.

I am at a loss to account for this strange behavior.—MARION B. BRAGG, *Wren Bayou Farm, Route 3, Box 50-W, Vicksburg, Mississippi.*