

habitat point to *A. cooperii* as the source of these eggs, rather than *B. nitidus* which has been reported in New Mexico only one other time and without substantiation.

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Songs of two Kenya turdids.—For the Brown-chested Alethe (*Alethe poliocephala*) Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1960, Birds of eastern and north eastern Africa, vol. 2, second ed., London, Longmans, Green, p. 310) mention “A repeated short whistle” as the only call known. Chapin (1953, The birds of the Belgian Congo, 3, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 75A: 500) says of the race *carruthersi*, “I cannot recall hearing any note.” I am very familiar with this species, but have only twice heard it utter anything. On 10 October 1972 I banded and released an adult caught in a mist net at the Kakamega Forest, western Kenya. As it flew off it produced a rather quiet, scratchy, finchlike song of about 20 notes. The song ceased just before the bird perched on a small twig, and I heard nothing more. An adult R. Stjernstedt and I released at the same locality on 28 January 1973 gave a similar, but shorter song in flight.

Of the Equatorial Akalat (*Sheppardia aequatorialis*) Chapin (op. cit., 504) says, “No one has yet described its song... but it may be expected to sing in a brief, ‘thin’ voice like *S. sharpei usambarae*” and states that *S. cyornithopsis lopezi* makes a “series of three or four short whistles, not very musical, which are occasionally repeated so as to seem to continue without a pause.” Mackworth-Praed and Grant (op. cit., 306) give only “A curious toad-like croak.” This is

another species with which I am very familiar. It commonly makes what I would describe as a quavering chirp, which is possibly the "croak" described above. R. Stjernstedt recorded this on tape. On 21 January 1973 I saw an Akalat singing about a foot above the ground in a thick bush. The song consisted of seven notes, the second much higher than the rest, which were all about the same pitch, and were very soft, subdued, and rather slow. The bird sang three times, after which I tried to imitate its notes, which made it fly off.—CLIVE F. MANN, *P. O. Box 337, Kapsabet, Kenya*. Accepted 26 Feb. 73.

Prolonged incubation behavior by a Marbled Godwit.—On 9 May 1972 I flushed a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) from a nest containing four eggs in a large field of mulched wheat stubble in northwestern Stutsman County, North Dakota. I revisited the nest on 31 May and on 7, 9, 12, 15, 16, 20, and 21 June, and found an incubating adult on the nest during all visits except 21 June. Another adult was seen near the nest site only on 9 May. On 12 June the eggs looked rotten, and the incubating bird seemed to have a crippled leg. On 21 June Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) destroyed the eggs.

Almost no published information is available on the incubation period of the Marbled Godwit. Lindmeir (1960, *Flicker* 32: 9) reported that a nest of this species in Minnesota hatched after 23 or 24 days of incubation. The nest I watched was incubated from 9 May to 20 June, a total of 43 days.—KENNETH F. HIGGINS, *U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, North Dakota 58401*. Accepted 20 Feb. 73.

Use of burrows by Brown Towhees and Black-throated Sparrows.—Most desert birds, unlike mammals, do not retreat to cool underground burrows and thus face extreme midday temperatures in summer. Bartholomew and Cade (1960, *Auk* 80: 504) questioned whether such birds as thrashers and towhees make use of burrows during midday. During the summer of 1970 Austin observed two instances of utilization of badger (*Taxidea taxus*) burrows by Brown Towhees (*Pipilo fuscus*) on the Santa Rita Experimental Range, Pima County, Arizona. On 22 July one was flushed from a burrow at 11:00. On 24 June at 09:00, a towhee entered a burrow and remained for 1 hour when it was flushed. The bird could not be seen from the surface and was at least 1 meter from the entrance. Burrow temperature at this depth was 31.6° C; air shade temperature 1.5 m above ground was 36.8° C.

On 16 June 1971, Smith thought he saw a Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) fly out of a burrow at 11:30; later at 11:50 he clearly saw one come out of the same burrow. Air shade temperature at 1.5 m was 41.5° C, burrow temperature was 34.0° C (both black bulb).

Such behavior allows the dissipation of stored heat and reduces water requirements and is reminiscent of the behavior of ground squirrels (*Citellus leucurus*) under hot conditions (Hudson 1962, *Univ. California Publ. Zool.* 64: 1).

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