of a carp lodged within the mandibles, was picked up by W. L. Holmes and T. E. Kruse. This fish, approximately 12 inches in length, was apparently too large for the heron to swallow, and presumably when the bird attempted to regurgitate it, the anterior spine of the dorsal fin pierced the heron's gullet, making regurgitation impossible. The photograph (fig. 12) shows the serrated spine of the fish's anal fin in a position which permits swallowing of the fish head first; the spine of the dorsal fin is in the erected position after perforating the gullet wall. The photograph also shows that the heron attempted to swallow the carp with its ventral surface uppermost. It seems likely that

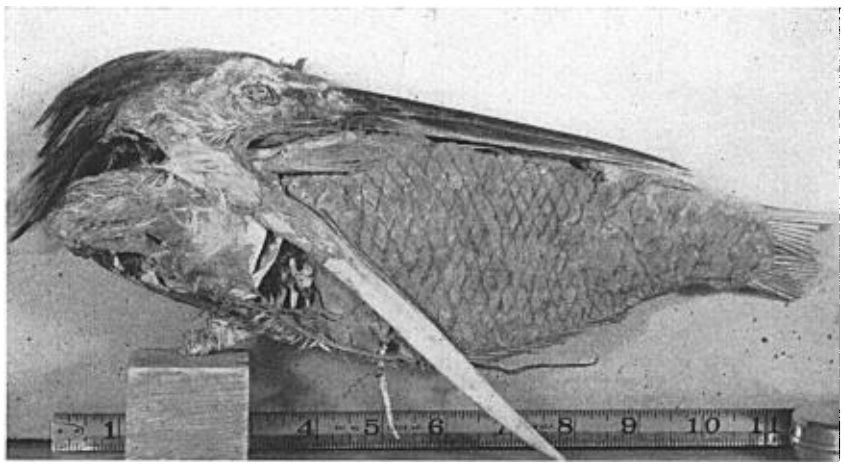

Fig. 12. Head of Great Blue Heron with carp lodged in gullet.

the heron, being unable to feed, slowly starved to death, or possibly died more quickly of suffocation. The object resting against the wooden block is the bird's trachea. I am indebted to Dr. D. F. Costello for the photograph.—RONALD A. RYDER, *Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Fort Collins, Colorado, July 26, 1949.*

Temperatures of Poor-wills in the Summer Season.—Knowledge of the significant observations on torpidity in the Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) made by Jaeger (Condor, 51, 1949: 105-109) led me to take such temperature records of this species as possible in the course of a summer's field work in northern Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1948. Jaeger recorded the startlingly low temperatures of a Poor-will while in winter dormancy. These varied from 18.0° to 19.8° (64.4-67.6° F.) when daytime temperatures ranged from 17.5° to 24.1° C. Presumably through day and night for approximately three months this bird existed at temperatures no higher than these. As basis for comparison, the normal temperatures of active Poor-wills should be known and evidence of daily temperature reduction during the sleeping periods of the summer season should be sought. To my knowledge only one other record of the temperature of a Poor-will has been reported. A reading of 107.2° F. was taken by Wetmore (Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 72, 1921:1-52) in the interclavicular area via the oesophagus in a male bird; the date and circumstances were not mentioned.

At Ramos, 4800 feet, an oasis 18 miles north and 8 miles west of Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, four male Poor-wills (*P. n. nuttallii*) were taken at dusk on September 2, 3, 5 and 8. Temperatures were obtained by thrusting a fast-registering thermometer, of the same type used by Jaeger, deeply into the oesophagus as far as the proventriculus. The temperatures were recorded quickly and maximum readings were registered within a minute of shooting, except in the last two birds which were carried wounded to camp a hundred yards distant where the record was soon taken. The readings were 41.0°, 41.8°, 41.0°, and 41.0° C. (105.8-107.2° F.), respectively. The air temperatures on the first two nights at the points of collecting were 20° C. The Poor-wills had been extremely active in foraging and calling in the period following sundown and before complete darkness set in. These temperatures of active birds accord well with Wetmore's single record and with a few figures for other caprimulgids which he gives.

Previously, on August 11, 7 miles southwest of Pacheco, 6700 feet, Chihuahua, I flushed a male Poor-will from a rocky slope at 10:30 a.m. The bird had been settled in its daytime roost in the rocks and was shot as it left. The temperature taken immediately as the bird was retrieved and while it was still alive was 34.0° C. (93.2° F.). The air temperature was 20° C. and there was a light rain. Even in the brief period of a minute in which the bird was flushed and the thermometer applied there may have been some rise in the bird's temperature. Yet the reading was 12° F. below that of the normal active condition and suggests that a rather pronounced lowering of temperature even in the summer season may occur during the daytime sleeping period. The daily lowering of temperature during sleep or rest in no species reported by Wetmore (*op. cit.*) involved readings lower than 99° F.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, August 4, 1949.*

Data on Nesting Red-winged Blackbirds in Western Oregon.—The data on a breeding population of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) presented herein were gathered mainly in southern Benton County, Oregon, in the years 1941, 1942, 1946, 1947, and 1948. The Redwings began to establish their territories in the latter part of March, and nest construction started anytime from the first of April to late April, depending upon the weather. The earliest completed nest was found on April 8.

Clumps of sedges (*Carex obnupta* and *C. oregonensis*) and thin stands of spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*) furnished the only "greenery" early in the nesting season. Most of the early nests, up to about mid-May, were placed in these plants, but as the nesting season progressed, Oregon ash (*Fraxinus oregana*), spirea (*Spirea douglasii*), and cattails (*Typha latifolia*) leafed out, and more and more nests were placed in them. The selection of vegetation-type for nest sites is as follows:

Month	Sedge	Spirea	Ash	Spike-rush	Cattail	Grass	Total
April	9	2	....	2	....	1	14
May	25	9	4	6	6	....	50
June	12	11	11	....	5	....	39
Total	46	22	15	8	11	1	103

Exceptions to the above-described progression are one early nest placed in reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and two early nests in leafless spirea. The latter were placed low in the spirea and were afforded much cover by the sedges growing around the base of the shrub.

April 15 was the earliest egg date. Full sets of four eggs were not found earlier than April 22. The peak of the first nesting period was the first week of May, and it ended the last part of May. A second period of nesting occurred when favorable water conditions existed in the swamp and marsh areas. There was usually a blending of the two periods of nesting. The peak of the second period of nesting was the second and third week of June. Circumstances did not permit the author to follow the second nesting through to completion, but full sets of eggs have been seen as late as June 25. Most nests were empty by July 8. These nestings were predominantly in ash and spirea. Since a majority of the nests observed in the first period of nesting were successful in putting forth young birds, I feel that this second period is a second nesting rather than a renesting of earlier unsuccessful pairs. There were about 80 nests in the first period and 60 nests in the second period.

Records were also kept of heights above the water surface of 103 nests. The measurements were made only at the time the nests had either eggs or young in them and represent distance to the rim. The ranges in heights of the nests for each vegetation type are as follows:

Height in inches	Sedge	Spirea	Ash	Spike-rush	Cattail	Grass	Total
up to 12	8	....	....	5	....	....	13
13 - 24	28	2	2	3	....	....	35
25 - 36	10	6	7	....	1	1	25
37 - 48	....	9	4	....	10	....	23
49 - 72	....	5	2	....	....	....	7
Total	46	22	15	8	11	1	103

Of the 103 recorded nests, it is thought that only 40 had full sets of eggs at the time of observation; 25, or 62.5 per cent, of these nests had the normal full set of 4 eggs; 8, or 20 per cent, had only 3 eggs; and 7, or 17.5 per cent, had sets of 5 eggs. These figures may give an erroneous sug-