FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Protracted Incubation Behavior of a Female American Goldfinch.—Near the University Arboretum in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on July 12, 1949, I found the basal portion of a nest of the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*). When the nest was completed I do not know, but the first egg was laid on July 25; the last (fifth) egg was laid on July 29. The female was still incubating on August 19, but the nest had been abandoned by my next visit on August 25. The five eggs showed no visible sign of development. Walkinshaw (Jack-Pine Warbler, 16 (4), 1938:11) found that incubation by the American Goldfinch began "at nests of five eggs about the day the third egg was laid." Inasmuch as I did not determine when incubation began at this nest, it is necessary to assume that this female followed the general pattern reported by Walkinshaw, and, therefore, that incubation commenced on July 27. Thus, this female incubated the five eggs for a period of at least 23 days. This is nearly twice this goldfinch's normal incubation period of slightly less than 13 days (Walkinshaw, *op. cit.*).

Odum (Auk, 59, 1942:430-431) made careful observations on the nesting of a pair of Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*) whose eggs failed to hatch after being incubated for 24 days. Odum stated: "Examination of the six eggs showed that no development has (*sic*) taken place in any of them." Schantz (Auk, 54, 1937:190) reported a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) which incubated a clutch of three eggs for 24 days. When Schantz opened the eggs he found "half-grown embryos." Latham (Oölogist, 53, 1936:71) reported a female Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) which incubated three eggs for 22 days. According to Latham these eggs "proved to be sterile." Byers (Wilson Bull., 62, 1950:136-138) described an interesting case in which a female Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) incubated eight Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) eggs a minimum of 19 days before the nest and eggs were destroyed. Nice (Trans. Linn. Soc. N. Y., 6, 1943:222-223) gave other records of unusually long incubation periods.

There is a paucity of precise information on the maximum length of broodiness behavior in passerine birds. It is interesting to note from the case histories here reviewed that the incubation period was in each instance approximately twice the normal period. Indeed, several of the nests were destroyed apparently while the females were still stimulated to incubate.—ANDREW J. BERGER, *Department of Anatomy, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan, September 6, 1952.*

Food of the Common Merganser in Churchill County, Nevada.—The Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) occurs from November to March in the Lahontan Valley, Churchill County, Nevada. Only rarely has the species been observed in the area in summer. Nevertheless, adults with small young have frequently been seen at Pyramid Lake, about 50 miles northwest of the Lahontan Valley.

Between November 14, 1940, and March 14, 1945, 110 Common Mergenser stomachs were obtained for examination from the Lahontan Valley. The stomachs from 20 of these were found to be empty or contained fish remains that were digested beyond identification. Gravel up to ⅜ inch in diameter was found in some of the stomachs. The birds were obtained from seven general localities as follows: Carson River, from Lahontan Dam downstream to the river mouth at Carson Sink; irrigation canals, all within a radius of 10 miles of Fallon; Indian Lakes, 9 miles north-northeast of Fallon, a series of small lakes developed by fishermen; Rattlesnake Reservoir (an irrigation reservoir situated about 2 miles east-northeast of Fallon); Harmon Pasture (a small pond situated in a pasture about 5 miles east-southeast of Fallon); Hazen Reservoir (a small water supply reservoir situated approximately 2 miles south-southwest of Hazen; and Dutch Bill Lake (a lake situated approximately 5 miles north of Stillwater).

The total number of stomachs examined from each locality, together with the results of the analysis of the food contents is given in the accompanying table. Of the fish found in the stomachs, the carp were from 1 to 12¼ inches in length, the Sacramento perch were from 1¼ to 4½ inches, the yellow perch were all about 4 inches long, the suckers were all about 7¼ inches, the bullheads were all about 4½ inches, and the largemouth bass were from 2½ to 10 inches in length.

It is interesting to note that except in one instance the mergansers taken on the irrigation canals

and the Carson River, where the water is comparatively swift, contained a larger percentage of carp than those taken on ponds and lakes.

Of the total of 267 fish, or their remains, found in the stomachs examined, only 64 may be classed as game and food fish. This would indicate that approximately 76 per cent of the food of this merganser in this locality consists of rough fish that are not used by local persons for food.

Locality	Number of stomachs examined	Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)	Sacramento Perch (*Archoplites interruptus*)	Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*)	Suckers (*Pantosteus* and *Catostomus*)	Catfish (Bullheads) (*Ameiurus*)	Other	
Carson River	54	95	2	2	5	8	1	Red-striped Shiner (*Richardsonius*)
Irrigation canals	23	51	2	6	6	1	....	
Indian Lakes	21	11	7	1	....	....	9	Largemouth Bass (*Huro salmoides*)
							1	Bluegill (*Archoplites*)
							1	Chub (*Siphateles obesus*)
Rattlesnake Reservoir	5	2	....	11	....	....	....	
Harmon Pasture	3	17	....	....	1	....	....	
Hazen Reservoir	3	13	14	....	....	....	....	
Dutch Bill Lake	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	Copepods
	110	189	25	20	12	9		

I am indebted to Karl F. Lagler and Robert R. Miller who examined 46 of the stomachs at the University of Michigan in 1943. The remaining 64 were examined by the writer.—J. R. ALCORN, *Fallon, Nevada, September 4, 1952.*

Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting Recorded in Utah.—On January 1, 1952, I had the opportunity to take a male Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus alascensis*) while trapping Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) in my back yard at Roosevelt, Duchesne County, Utah. The Horned Larks concentrated at my feeding station during the extreme cold weather and heavy snowfall that occurred between December 28, 1951, and January 10, 1952. I did not recognize the longspur among the Horned Larks before it was captured. However, careful observations did not reveal others among the flock of approximately 200 Horned Larks that stayed in the vicinity. I extend my sincere thanks to Frank A. Pitelka for verifying the identification of the longspur. The specimen is now a part of the ornithological collection at the Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. According to Woodbury, Cottam, and Sugden (Univ. of Utah, Bull. No. 16, 1949:39) this is the first record of the Lapland Longspur in Utah.

A male Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) was captured, banded and later released at Roosevelt on January 2, 1952. It was observed feeding at the traps during the next two days but it did not reappear after January 4. A flock of 15 was observed feeding at a cattle feed yard near the Uinta River, 4 miles north of Fort Duchesne, Uintah County, Utah, from January 14 to February 10, 1952. A male was collected on January 14, 1952, and is now a part of the Brigham Young University collection.—MERLIN L. KILLPACK, *Union High School, Roosevelt, Utah, September 16, 1952.*

Hybridization of Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teal in Northeastern California.—In northeastern California where the Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) and the Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) occur together during the breeding season, it is not surprising that these two closely allied species should occasionally be found to hybridize. Since the writers, however, are not aware that such a hybrid has ever been mentioned in ornithological literature from this region, the following observations may be of interest.