

The three legs are held together at the top by a welded piece: three 1/2-inch pipe couplings (threaded) of galvanized iron were attached to three 1/2-inch EMT connectors (one end threaded, one end with set screws). The three pipe couplings were then welded together at angles that would give approximately 40 inches between each of the legs at the bottom.

The cover was cut from 45-inch wide unbleached muslin. Each side was a triangle about 7 1/2 feet long from base to apex and was slightly truncated to allow an opening for the rather bulky welded piece at the top. A long zipper was inserted in the middle of one side and three tapes were sewn into each seam on the inside, for tying the cover to the frame.

The teepee shape has several advantages. It is tall enough in the center for the observer to stand upright, and the sloping sides provide knee room when the observer is seated in the blind yet allow one's face to be near the observation hole.

We used the blind in strong trade winds and found it necessary to use guy ropes. The light weight and color of the unbleached muslin proved ideal for us. However, modifications in the covering material might make it more suitable for other habitats. If space and weight are no problem, the legs can be made longer, giving more height and/or basal area, and larger diameter EMT can be used for greater strength.

My thanks are due Anthony Gallardo and William Heslin for their help in the design and construction of this blind. Financial assistance from the Mae P. Smith Fund is gratefully acknowledged.—MARY LECROY, *Dept. of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y. 10024*. Received 20 September 1974, accepted 18 October 1974.

Capturing nesting Canada Geese with mist nets.—Numerous techniques have been developed for capturing nesting ducks (Sowls, *Trans. N. Am. Wildl. Conf.*, **14**: 261-262, 1949; Weller, *J. Wildl. Manage.*, **21**: 456-458, 1957; Coulter, *Bird-Banding*, **29**: 236-241, 1958), but only Atwater (*J. Wildl. Manage.*, **23**: 93, 1959) has reported a method for capturing nesting Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). Although Atwater captured individual nesting geese using modified Hancock beaver traps, I considered the risk of egg breakage and nest damage by the captured goose too great for a study of broods. A method insuring minimum disruption of nesting during trapping and hence normal nesting success and brood size was developed during a study of Canada Goose brood behavior using radio transmitters on nesting females. The field work was done at the Crex Meadows Wildlife Management Area near Grantsburg, Wisconsin.

Females on nests that could be the most quickly and quietly approached because of their locations in the marshes were chosen for trapping. To minimize desertion, geese were trapped late in incubation or while goslings were being brooded in the nest. One or two mist nets, 121 mm mesh, 12 m x 2.6 m, were set in a V around the nest with the nest being within 1 to 2 m of the point of the V. Upon returning to the nest, Canada Geese usually swim as close to the nest as possible before walking or flying to the nest site. To avoid capturing females on their way back to the nest, nets were set with the V opening in the direction of the nearest water. The nets were set at dusk or after dark because geese returned more readily to a nest with nets set around it at this time. One or two hours after setting the nets, the nest was approached from the opening in the V by two or three persons attempting to flush the goose from the nest into the nets. If the female had failed to return to the nest after two or three return visits by the investigators, the nets were removed.

During three years of effort, 14 nesting geese were captured in 21 attempts. Of 15 females with goslings, 12 were captured, and two of four geese with pipped eggs were caught. Birds on two nests with eggs one or two days from pipping were not caught.

No nest desertion, egg breakage, or gosling mortality occurred during trapping, although both pipped clutches were lost shortly after the females had been captured. One of these clutches was chilled during a subsequent rainstorm and the other lost to mink predation the same night the goose was captured.

Geese were most easily captured from nests situated on upland islands where grass and shrubs partially screened the nest, on calm nights, and when the nests contained hatched goslings. Although the man hours necessary to

capture nesting geese with this method may be considerable, the technique proved to be a very workable means of capturing nesting Canada Geese.—MICHAEL C. ZICUS, *Department of Entomology, Fisheries, and Wildlife, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn. 55108*. Received 23 November 1974, accepted 16 January 1975.

Dwarf eggs laid by a Starling.—On 30 April 1974, two undersized eggs were found in a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) nest box near Kennett Square, southeastern Pennsylvania. The eggs, which were light bluish-green in color and had the normal surface texture of Starling eggs, measured 15.1 x 13.3 and 19.1 x 15.3 mm. They weighed 1.4 and 2.5 g, respectively, or 20 and 36% of the average weight of Starling eggs (7.0 g fide Kessel, *Amer. Midl. Nat.*, 58: 259-331, 1957).

On 29 April 1974, at 0900 the nest box had contained a completed Starling nest. The eggs were discovered at 1700 the following day. Because Starlings commonly lay their eggs after 0900, the eggs could have been laid by the same female on consecutive days. The eggs were present in the nest on 1 May at 1700, but the smaller egg disappeared before 1130 the following day. On 2 May the larger egg was broken open and found to lack a yolk. No additional eggs were laid in the nest box during the remainder of the breeding season. Undersized eggs had not previously been found in this colony over a period of five years, during which about 400 clutches, consisting of perhaps 2,000 eggs, were observed.

Kessel (op. cit.) does not mention finding undersized Starling eggs near Ithaca, New York. Dwarf eggs are, however, well-known in the domestic hen (Romanoff and Romanoff, *The Avian Egg*, New York, Wiley, 1949: 256-262, 295-298). Dwarf eggs have also been reported in several passerines (Ingersoll, *Condor*, 12: 15-17, 1910; M'Williams, *Scot. Nat.*, 166: 108-110, 1927). The relative volumes of dwarfs in Figure 8 of Ingersoll's paper, calculated from their dimensions and expressed as a percent of the volumes of normal eggs from the same clutch, are 35% (*Icteria virens*), 38% (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), and 45% (*Catharus ustulatus*). Ingersoll noted that "The yolk is generally present but sometimes much reduced in quantity and occasionally entirely lacking." M'Williams (op. cit.) stated that most dwarf eggs are yolkless. In the domestic fowl, yolks are always present in eggs greater than 57% normal weight and always absent from eggs less than 20% normal weight (Romanoff and Romanoff, op. cit., p. 295). Yolkless dwarf eggs apparently can form around a dry object (e.g., a blood clot or fragment of yolk) introduced into the oviduct. Yolkless eggs may even follow normal ovulation if the ovum is prevented from entering the oviduct, perhaps by an infection of the funnel of the oviduct. The yolk ends up in the body cavity. Consecutive dwarf eggs laid by the same female was not mentioned either by the Romanoffs or by Ingersoll, but M'Williams (loc. cit.) reported finding more than one miniature egg in otherwise normal clutches, and two cases of full clutches of miniatures in the Songthrush (*Turdus philomelos*). M'Williams estimated the proportion of dwarf eggs among all birds to be 1 per 1,000 or 2,000, and probably less among passerines.—ROBERT E. RICKLEFS, *Department of Biology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19174*. Received 22 December 1974, accepted 30 January 1975.

Co-roosting of Barred Owls and Common Grackles.—Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) flock in large numbers throughout most of the year (Meanley, 1971). Graber and Graber (1963) in their intensive censuses of Illinois birds reported the grackle as "encountered commonly in summer throughout the state." The Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) is found in dense woods, swamps, and thick pines (Bent, 1938). In Illinois its habitat seems to be mostly in second-growth oak-hickory (*Quercus-Carya*) forests often along streams or lakes. When pine plantations are available owls will use them as roosting and feeding sites. I have recorded data on use of pine plantations by Barred Owls from several locations in central and southern Illinois since 1969.

In June and July of 1974, while studying birds in a utility right-of-way in Morgan Co., Illinois (Applegate, 1975), I discovered that an apparent family group of Barred Owls (male, female, three young) was using an Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) plantation with a flock of approximately 2,500 grackles. The plantation was 2 acres in size with trees averaging from 3-9 meters high. The stand was 9 years old.