

I shouted, and both rose and flew away, disproving this supposition. Lesser Scaup Ducks can be seen in abundance on the fresh and salt water until the last week in April, throughout central Florida, and a few can be seen during the month of May.

Mr. Charles E. Doe and I were camped in an oak thicket just south of Bassenger, Florida, between January 17 and January 22, 1927. Two Whip-poor-wills were calling each night while we were there. Another bird was heard calling just before day-break, on March 6, 1927, just west of Malabar, Brevard County, Florida. Mr. William L. Dawson was with me at the time. These birds are far from being a common winter resident, and few are heard.

A Sora Rail was seen feeding around the edges of a salt water pond, back several hundred yards from the Indian River, on Merritt's Island, on May 2, 1926. Its black throat was plainly visible through the binoculars. I was in company with William L. Dawson at the time. I have never found a nest of this species in Florida, nor have I ever heard its mating call, and I have been in the Florida marshes every season for years. If it breeds here it must be very local, or else I should have seen it.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Fla.*

Experiences with Song Sparrows in 1929.—Song Sparrow No. 1 returned March 9, 1929, to the same place in which he had nested in 1928, next to our house in Columbus, Ohio. The next day he won this territory from Song Sparrow No. 4, who, since February 25, had been appropriating twice his proper share of land. From March 12 to 15 No. 1 sang a great deal, but on the 15th a mate arrived and he stopped singing almost entirely until April 11, when incubation began. All the Song Sparrows in the region did likewise, singing with much enthusiasm to warn other males from their homesteads and to invite mates, but becoming comparatively silent upon the arrival of the mates. Females announce their sex by a high-pitched, nasal "ecccc". One of the main duties of the male is to protect his land from intruders and in this his mate assists. All migrant Song Sparrows were driven off, and nearly all other species smaller than a Robin. There were also constant quarrels over the boundary between No. 1 and No. 4.

From March 21 to April 4, No. 1 and his mate indulged in a kind of "building play", each gathering nesting material and carrying it to many different spots. On April 6 the female began building in earnest and the male took no further part. Incubation starts with the second or third egg, and is performed by the female alone. The male sings a great deal during incubation, stationing himself fairly near the nest. When he considers it time for his mate to leave the nest he comes very near, perhaps within two yards, and gives an especially loud song, perhaps as a signal that all is well and that he is ready to guard the nest. She did not always come off at his suggestion, and he never guarded during the whole time of her absence. During the first incubation thirty-six periods on the nest of No. 1's mate averaged 34 minutes; forty-six periods off averaged 8 minutes. Two months later twenty-four periods on the nest averaged 29.4 minutes, and thirty periods off 8.7. The last incubation of No. 4's mate came at almost the same time as that of No. 1's mate, but twenty-four of her periods on the nest averaged only 21.4 minutes, while twenty-nine periods off averaged 7.9 minutes.

The males of both pairs did the major part of the feeding of the young, both in the nest and out of it. Singing again dropped to a low point. From

two to six days after the young left the nest, the two females began building for the next brood, meanwhile feeding the young to some extent, but soon leaving them to their fathers, who cared for them almost up to the day the next brood hatched.

It takes seven and one-half weeks for the complete cycle, from courtship to the weaning of the young, but due to this overlapping of cycles, No. 1 and his mate raised three broods to independence in three and one-half months. The number of days consumed in the various stages follows: Preliminary or courtship (except the first, which lasted three weeks) 4-5; building 3-4; laying 3-5; incubation 12; care of young in the nest 10-11; care of young out of the nest 16-18.

Each of the two pairs studied made four attempts at nesting. No. 1 and his mate raised three broods—a total of nine young; No. 4 and his mate raised two broods, amounting to five young.

On September 1 the females and young had left the region, but the four males that had nested near by were here, molting. No. 6 was heard singing October 4, No. 5 sang a little from October 10 to 15, and No. 1 a little from September 28 to October 13. He left for the south on the night of October 14. No. 4 was heard to sing once on September 8; beginning September 24, he sang more and more, reaching a maximum between October 7 and 13. After this he sang less and less until November 17, since when he has not been heard, although he is still on our grounds at the date of writing—December 20, 1929.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio.*



ALBINO HAWK AT NASHVILLE

Albinism in the Red-tailed

Hawk.—A perfect albino Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis borealis*) was caught in a trap set for fur-bearing animals in Lewis County, Tennessee, fifteen miles from Hohenwald on the Buffalo River, on January 10, 1930, by Mr. Russell Fite. Later it was brought to Nashville, Tennessee, and presented to me. I tried to save its life, planning to band and release it. It had, however, been kept so long without food before being brought to Nashville, and ate so heavily when food was offered it, that it died soon after. It was mounted by an expert taxidermist for Dr. H. Van Coles of Nashville, who now has it in his possession. The bird is pure white on all parts of its body, with no pigment anywhere.—HERBERT C. SANBORN, *Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.*