

to the two ducklings. At the present time (July 17) only one duckling is left and both ducks are caring for it.

The Mallards at the Sanctuary are wild birds that have become tame; they are full winged and free to come and go as they please. Every year a score or more Mallards nest along the shores of the Sanctuary lake and it is with one of these late broods that the above observations were made. I was unable to ascertain which Mallard was the actual parent.—ARTHUR E. STAEBLER, *W. K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary of Michigan State College, Hickory Corners, Michigan, July 17, 1953.*

Robins eating minnows.—Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) are seldom thought of as fish eaters, although observations of Robins eating trout fry have been reported by Phillips (1927. *Bird-Lore*, 29:342-343) in Massachusetts and by Michael (1934. *Condor*, 36:33-34) in California.

I witnessed another type of this unusual feeding habit by a pair of Robins in the city of Sturgeon Bay, Door County, Wisconsin, on May 31, 1953. Scattered about a dock on the shore of Sturgeon Bay were many dead emerald shiners (*Notropis atherinoides*) discarded by fishermen. This abundant species is commonly called "lake shiner" by anglers and is much favored as a bait minnow in Lake Michigan and Green Bay waters.

Two Robins, possibly a mated pair, were seen foraging around the dock for a period of about ten minutes before being frightened off by the arrival of several fishermen. In this interval one of the birds twice picked up two dead minnows about 1½ inches long and flew off holding the fish crosswise in its bill, shortly to reappear without them. I was not able to see the destination of this bird's flight. It is possible that the minnows were being fed to nestlings.

The second Robin was observed to pick up and swallow four dead minnows, also about 1½ inches in length. Each fish was picked up crosswise and juggled in the bird's bill until it could be swallowed head first. All four fish were handled with some dexterity, as if the Robin had fed in this manner before.

The minnows eaten by these Robins had been dead long enough to be dry on the surface, but the flesh was still soft.—JAMES B. HALE, *405 Washburn Place, Madison 3, Wisconsin, July 6, 1953.*

Reddish Egret and White Pelicans in northwestern Pennsylvania.—In the afternoon of May 9, 1953, a Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*) in the dark phase was seen on Presque Isle, located near Erie, Pennsylvania. The bird was identified by Stanley Belfore, Mary Templin, Margaret Band, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shontz, and John Mehner, all of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Robert Sundell of Frewsburg, New York, and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Pees of Meadville, Pennsylvania.

The egret was seen in excellent light, through a 26 power telescope. It was observed feeding for a half hour near a sand spit at the eastern tip of the peninsula, and its characteristic behavior was noted. As it fed, the egret lurched about and ran in circles. Later it flew over the spit to a stump in the water where it was once again observed with the scope. This constitutes the first record of this bird in northwestern Pennsylvania.

A few minutes after the egret was found, two White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) were observed in flight over the sand spit. Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), and Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*), which were perched on the spit, immediately flew into the air, giving call notes. The

gulls and terns circled the area for approximately fifteen minutes, the majority coming back to the water instead of the sand. Later the pelicans alighted on the sandspit, and when they were last observed the gulls and terns were also on the spit. On the basis of information from George B. Sennett, Warren (1890. "Report on the Birds of Pennsylvania," pp. 29-30) writes that White Pelicans were seen in the vicinity of Erie between 1870 and 1875. Todd (1940. "Birds of Western Pennsylvania," p. 44) cites four other records for this bird in western Pennsylvania.—JOHN F. MEHNER, 1003 James Street, Pittsburgh 34, Pennsylvania, May 16, 1953.

Incubation period of the Mourning Warbler.—There are apparently few records of the incubation period of *Oporornis philadelphia*. Bent (1953. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 203) does not give any information about the incubation period nor about the time spent in the nest by the young of this warbler. Therefore, the following notes seem worthy of record.

On June 12, 1951, I flushed a female Mourning Warbler from her nest. The nest, containing three eggs, was located in a *Populus-Alnus* swamp within the city limits of Duluth, Minnesota. It was placed on the ground in a drier portion of the swamp, and was well hidden by wild strawberry plants. On June 13 a fourth egg was added. On June 23 the female was still incubating the four eggs. I was unable to visit the nest again until June 28 at which time I found the four eggs had hatched. I estimated the age of the young to be about four days, based on a comparison of their development with that of the Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas*). The young left this nest on July 2.

The second nest was found on July 1, 1953, in a windfall clearing on the grounds of the University of Minnesota Forestry and Biological Station at Itasca State Park. The nest was placed 14 inches above the ground, and was supported mainly by a swamp thistle (*Cirsium muticum*). At the time the nest was found it was empty. On the morning of July 3 the nest contained two eggs, and by 9:00 a.m. on July 4 a third egg was added. The nest was visited daily, and on July 16 all three eggs had hatched. I left Itasca Park on July 18, but Dr. William H. Marshall, of the University of Minnesota, provided me with further information on this nest. He visited the nest on July 23 and again on July 26. On July 23 the nest contained three well-developed young, but on July 26 the nest was empty. It was Dr. Marshall's opinion that the young had successfully left the nest, probably before July 26.

The observed incubation period for the second nest and the estimated period for the first nest indicate an incubation period of 12 days. The young apparently leave the nest at an age of eight or nine days.—P. B. HOFSLUND, *Biology Department, University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch, Duluth, Minnesota, August 12, 1953.*

An unusually high nest of the Yellow Warbler.—On June 6, 1953, Geza Hufnagel, Harold Mahan, Walter P. Nickell, and I made observations on the nesting birds at Rondeau Park, Kent County, Ontario. The habitat in the area studied is an extensive climax forest of beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and sugar maple (*Acer accharum*) with an admixture of red maple (*Acer rubrum*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and other deciduous trees. The predominant undershrubs are American hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), and raspberry (*Rubus*). These and other shrubs together with wild grape (*Vitis* sp.) and an abundant growth of beech and maple saplings form a dense understory.