

**A record of swimming in Bobwhites.**—Twenty-eight Bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*) were observed to swim between 600–700 feet, approximately one-half the distance across the main axis of the west portion of 3300-acre Lake Carl Blackwell, Payne County, Oklahoma on October 13, 1958. The birds were seen about 7 a.m. slightly south of a point mid-distance from either shore where a north-south transect across the lake measured almost 500 yards. The quail were scattered in an area 10x40 feet swimming toward the south shore. The water was glassy calm, otherwise the birds probably would have gone unnoticed.

The head, neck and upper third of the body were all that protruded above the water as the Bobwhites “paddled” slowly along until 18 reached the south shore line. These individuals appeared completely exhausted. The remaining 10 birds, one of which was only 2 feet from shore, floated quietly just holding their heads above water. These floating birds offered no resistance when picked up by hand and placed in the grass at the shoreline. Two quail were so fatigued that they could not stand, but fell on their side when placed in the grass.

Two days later one dead bird was found intact where it had been placed in the grass, and the remains of two others had been partially eaten by some predator.

It is possible that these birds were attempting to fly across the lake, although the 500 yards is not an extreme distance for quail to fly. The birds could have been flushed some distance from the shore line and then become exhausted attempting to fly across the lake. This seems unlikely since the quail were able to swim the 600- to 700-foot distance and should have been able to fly the same distance more easily. Although there was no fog in the area where the Bobwhites were first seen, approximately 20 minutes earlier in another portion of the lake a light fog rising from the water surface was evident. With a light fog and perfectly calm water, the birds could have alighted in the lake by accident.

A weekly news report of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Department dated November 7, 1958, gave another account of six quail being rescued from Ft. Gibson Reservoir in Northeastern Oklahoma. Population pressures may have some bearing on these unusual incidents. High Bobwhite populations in Oklahoma during the fall of 1958 produced many unusual behavior and distribution patterns. Coveys of quail were reported in downtown areas in several cities and quail were seen regularly in residential sections from late summer throughout the fall period.—WILLIAM R. HEARD, *Department of Zoology*, (Contribution No. 288) *Oklahoma State University*, May 18, 1959.

**Ground nest of Florida Red-shouldered Hawk.**—On Saturday, March 7, 1959, I visited the area of the Kissimmee Prairie between Lake Jackson and Lake Kissimmee, Florida. Having visited this area many times since 1950 I knew where several birds usually nested. For this reason a search was made through a small cabbage palm hammock on the west side of Lake Jackson, in Osceola County, for a nest of a Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). A single bird was seen on the outside, and upon entering this hammock a nest was found that had been blown to the ground by the recent high winds. Some 40 yards away another such nest was found. Both of these nests were composed of Spanish moss, oak sticks, shreds of airplant, and a few pieces of oak twigs with green leaves still attached.

After walking another few yards, possibly 20, I heard a scream from a bird flying overhead through the treetops. I immediately started looking closely in the trees for the new nest, as the parent bird remained close by and continued to call. Soon a nest with two warm eggs was found on the ground about 9 feet from the base of an oak and entirely unconcealed.



The nest was composed of Spanish moss, a branch of oak twig with green leaves, two pieces of coarse brown fiber from the cabbage palm and a piece of green plant commonly known as "dog fennel." This nest resembled the lining portion of most tree nests, but lacked the sticks and twigs.

The parent bird made several passes overhead and uttered the usual scream as she did so.

Some eight years previous a frail nest with two broken eggs was found in this same hammock. An investigation revealed this nest had been built on a horizontal palm frond, some 7 feet above the ground, and had blown off the night before.

This appears to be the only record of ground nesting of the Red-shouldered Hawk.—  
CHARLES E. CARTER, 1339 30th Street, Orlando, Florida, June 8, 1959.