one of these footprints and performed somwhat awkward but very recognizable nest-building movements, kicking back with the feet and pressing the breast against the side of the depression in a "smoothing" motion. The bird also picked up a small piece of dried grass and tucked it beneath the body.

This observation lends support to Dilger's statement that "the innate releasing mechanisms responsible for reacting to nest-building stimuli must be present at an early age."—SALLY F. HOYT, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 19 October 1960.*

Notes on nesting of the Caracara.—Bent (1938. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, 170 (2):127–135) listed the range of the Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) in central Texas as Sheffield, San Angelo, Mason, Waco, and probably Houston. While working in Brazoria County, Texas, I had occasion to observe the nesting success of this interesting bird each year from 1955 through 1959. The location of the nesting site was 1 mile south of Danberry, Brazoria County, Texas. Danberry is 43 miles south of Houston. The general agriculture of the area is rice farming and cattle grazing.

The birds were seen each year close to the same nesting site in late January. They are known to nest earlier in Florida and south Texas. However, waterfowl hunting is common in this area and shooting may keep these shy birds away until the waterfowl season closes.

The nest was located about 15 feet high in a clump of live oak trees (*Quercus virginiana*), a common nesting plant for the caracara. The clump of trees was in an open pasture surrounded by rice fields. Its location enabled the birds to view the surrounding country with ease. The birds were observed at a distance, for they flush while the intruder is some distance away. Only the sentinel bird would be seen during the period they were incubating. The family group was seen in June but the nest itself was not examined during the nesting season because the landowner had asked that it not be disturbed.

Because the family group remained together in the general vicinity of the nest for some time after the young left it, the nesting success was easy to determine. Two young were raised each year in 1955, 1956, 1957, and 1959. Only one young bird was raised in 1958. The family could be seen until late June or July. It would then leave the area and would not be seen again until the nesting pair returned in January of the following year. The young evidently left the area for good, for none of them was seen again.—OLAN W. DILLON, JR., *Soil Conservation Service, Ithaca, New York, 1 November 1960.*

Distraction display of the Common Gallinule.—Common Gallinules (*Gallinula chloropus*) at Lake Alice, University of Florida Campus, Gainesville, Florida, most commonly build platform nests on small floating islands, but sometimes build floating nests in water pennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*). Alexander Sprunt, Jr. (Bent, 1926. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, 135: 349 pp.) describes the reaction of incubating birds to his presence at the nest: ". . . the adults within a few feet of me while photographing the nest and examining the eggs. . . ." He comments on the "utter unconcern on the part of the bird. Walking about . . . picking up food . . . within 6 and 8 feet . . . they stroll about as if there was no enemy . . . within miles." Although this behavior is well recorded, I have not seen it at Lake Alice.

Two types of behavior are exhibited by Common Gallinules when they are flushed from their nests at Lake Alice. Most of the birds walk or spatter rapidly away from the immediate nest site and do not return until the intruder leaves. Some individuals