

It is well-known that under certain circumstances Ring-necked Pheasants not uncommonly lay one or more eggs in the nests of other birds of their species and occasionally in the nests of chickens, Bobwhites, Ruffed Grouse, and Sooty Grouse (Bent, A. C., op. cit.) but apparently nothing is known of the fate of the pheasant's eggs under these conditions. On 16 May 1953 Dr. D. S. McGeen, in Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan, found three eggs of the pheasant in the nest of a Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) in which there were 8 of the host's eggs.

I believe that the pheasants' laying in the nests of Blue-winged Teals mentioned above was due to the destruction of the pheasants' nests by grass cutters and lawnmowers in the park area. This destruction probably caused the pheasants to seek other nests in which already-formed eggs could be laid.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 22 November 1965.*

**Tufted Titmouse destroys bagworms.**—Several times during August 1965, I found a bagworm (*Thyridopteryx*) lying on the grass under a large pine tree in our yard in La Grange, Lewis County, Missouri. Yet no bags were visible on the tree. Each bag had been opened and the "worm" was missing.

On the morning of 20 August, a Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) carrying a bagworm, flew from a neighbor's ornamental evergreen into our pine. After working perhaps 30 seconds, the bird raised its head and gulped down some fairly large object. At the same time, the bag dropped lightly to the ground. Examination showed that the "worm" was absent and the upper end of the bag had been snipped off as neatly as if done with scissors—unlike the ragged tear in a cocoon robbed by a woodpecker.

Then I recalled that a family group of titmouses habitually visited the area, each morning, and centered activities around my neighbor's evergreen which was very heavily infested with bagworms. Before the next morning, my alarmed neighbor had disposed of his infested shrub. The titmouses ceased their regular visits and no more empty bags were found.—HENRY HARFORD, *Route 1, Box 1192, Mount Dora, Fla. 32757, 26 November 1965.*

**Melanism in the Ovenbird.**—A melanistic Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), was mist-netted at the American Museum of Natural History's Kalbfleisch Field Research Station, Huntington, New York (Long Island), on 4 September 1965. This bird, an immature female, had completed its first prebasic (postjuvenile) molt and was not fat. Mensurally, the specimen (A.M.N.H. 785767) falls within the range of variation of 32 fall females of *S. aurocapillus* examined. It appears to be aberrant only with respect to the greater intensity of melanin pigment in areas of the plumage that are normally dark (streakings on the breast and flanks, lateral crown stripes, and moustachial streaks) and the presence of melanin in regions where dark feathers normally are not found (pileum, throat, malar region, superciliary region, undertail coverts, and central back region). In addition, the bill is decidedly darker and the tarsi and feet are slightly darker than normal.

I know of no previously published report of such extreme melanism in *Seiurus*, and Dr. Stephen Eaton has written me that his studies of the genus uncovered nothing of this nature. Two additional melanistic specimens of *S. aurocapillus* were called to my attention, however, in response to inquiries sent to a number of museums. (1) Dr. Lester Short, Jr., of the U. S. National Museum, sent me a specimen (female, U.S.N.M. 375991) collected by John B. Calhoun near Emory University, DeKalb Co., Georgia, on 5 October 1943. It differs from the New York bird in having melanin still more profusely distributed in regions that are normally not so pigmented, including the throat, malar,