

Steiglitz and Wilson (J. Wildl. Mgmt. 32:921-924, 1968) found that 67.1 percent of Mottled Duck nests in the Merritt Island area are initiated prior to 16 April. My study was conducted during the latter part of the 1967 nesting season, and brood abandonment may account in part for the relatively low percent of Class II and Class III broods being seen with the female. Hochbaum (The Canvasback in the prairie marsh, Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa., 1959) observed that a hen may remain with an early-hatched brood until it is ready to fly, while broods hatched later may be left when two or three weeks old or earlier. Early abandonment of late-hatched broods may also result in a greater mortality of such broods. Grice and Rogers (The Wood Duck in Massachusetts, Mass. Div. Fisheries and Game, Boston, 1965) indicated that only 22 percent of late-hatched Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) reached flying stage, versus 66 percent in early-hatched individuals.

Sex and age ratios.—The sex and age of 70 Mottled Ducks captured by night-lighting or in wire traps were determined. The ratio of males to females in immatures was found to be 0.9:1 (in mature birds 1.3:1), while immatures outnumbered adults 1.72:1.

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Aerial feeding by Snowy and Great Egrets in Louisiana waters.—Various aerial feeding methods have been described for the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*). The most common is hovering over shallow water, while stirring the water or raking the bottom vegetation with the feet, which has been described by Bond (Auk, 51:500-502, 1934), Grimes (Auk, 53:439, 1936), Meyerriecks (Wilson Bull., 71:153-158, 1959), and Sprunt (Auk, 53:203, 1936). Picking up food in direct flight has been reported by Dickinson (Auk, 64:306-307, 1947) and Jenni (Ecol. Monogr., 39:258, 1969), while Kushlan (Wilson Bull., 84:199-200, 1972) has described the taking of food in direct flight while the feet are dragged through the water.

In Barataria Bay, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes, Louisiana, I observed on 32 occasions the hover method of feeding described for the Snowy Egret. The sightings were made from 24 May through 25 July 1972 and from 29 May through 26 July 1973. In these instances, the egrets were feeding on dead fish that were at or very near the surface in 4 to 5 feet of water. The egrets would pick up small fish with their bills while hovering over the surface of the water. On a few occasions the feet dangled in the water, but no stirring or foot dragging of the type described by the above authors was observed.

Groups of 12 to 120 Snowy Egrets were observed feeding on the dead fish discarded from boats trawling in the bay for shrimp. Feeding with the Snowy Egrets on these occasions were Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), as well as Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*), Royal Terns (*Thalasseus maximus*), and Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). The Great Egrets flew 3 to 5 feet above the surface of the water, the legs horizontal and the head tucked back in the normal flying position, until a dead fish was sighted near the surface. On approaching the fish the egret would hover, extend the head downward, and pick the fish up with the bill. During this time the legs dangled beneath the egret, and the feet often dragged the surface of the water. The egrets would then fly upward and swallow the fish while in flight. This behavior was repeated many times by

individual birds. In a few instances, I observed Great Egrets picking up small fish in direct flight. In this method, the egret flew low over the water with the legs and head held in the normal flying position. Slowing its speed, the legs remaining nearly horizontal, the egret extended its head downward and picked up the fish.

Snowy Egrets always outnumbered the Great Egrets in these mixed aggregations, with a maximum ratio of one Great Egret to five Snowy Egrets in a flock. During my observation of hover feeding, I heard no vocalizations from either Snowy or Great Egrets. As indicated before, these mixed-species aggregations contained no other species of herons, although other species breed in great numbers with Snowy and Great Egrets on nearby islands. On two occasions, mixed flocks of egrets were seen to follow shrimp boats when the trawling nets were being cleared.

Snowy and Great Egrets nest commonly in the area where hover feeding was observed, and on a sunny day these white birds stand out for long distances against the background of a clear sky. Both species of egrets have been observed to fly from the vicinity of the breeding islands and join the feeding aggregations of egrets. On 4 June 1972, while I was on one of these islands, I watched a Great Egret leave the island and fly out to a mixed group of egrets hover-feeding approximately 1,500 feet offshore. Since there were no apparent vocalizations on the part of the actively feeding egrets, I am of the opinion that sight of the conspicuous white plumage serves as a signal indicating the presence of a readily available food source to Snowy and Great Egrets on nearby islands.—JAMES A. RODGERS, JR., *Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803. Accepted 10 September 1973.*

California Condor specimens in collections.—As part of a study of former numbers and distribution of the California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), I have been able to locate 185 mounted birds and study skins, 51 skeletons, and 55 eggs of this endangered species. All but two skins and three eggs are housed in public or scientific institutions. United States collections contain 151 skins and mounts, 50 skeletons, and 52 eggs. In the following alphabetical-by-locality list, specimen numbers are listed in order: adult (A) and immature (I) plumaged skins or mounts/skeletons/eggs. I believe most specimens now in existence are included, and would appreciate learning of any additions.

AUSTRIA: Naturhistorisches Museum (Vienna)—2A,II/0/0; Oberosterreichisches Landmuseum (Linz)—1A/0/0. BELGIUM: Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles (Brussels)—2A/0/0. CANADA: National Museum of Natural Sciences (Ottawa)—II/0/0; Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto)—1A,II/0/0. ENGLAND: British Museum (Tring)—7A, 3I/1/3. FRANCE: Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris)—2A,II/0/0. GERMANY: Zoologisches Museum (Berlin)—1A/0/0. MEXICO: Universidad Nacional Autonoma (Mexico City)—1A/0/0. NETHERLANDS: Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Histoire (Leiden)—1A/0/0. SWEDEN: Naturhistoriska Museum (Gothenburg)—2A/0/0; Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet (Stockholm)—1A/0/0. SWITZERLAND: Museum d'Histoire Naturelle (Geneva)—1A/0/0; Naturhistorisches Museum (St. Gallen)—1A,II/0/0. U.S.S.R.: Zoological Institute—Academy of Sciences (Leningrad)—2A,II/0/0. UNITED STATES, ARIZONA: University of Arizona, (Tucson)—1A/1/0. CALIFORNIA: Arthur Bryant Collection (Los Angeles)—1A/0/0; Bakersfield College (Bakersfield)—II/0/0; California Academy of Sciences (San Francisco) 12A,3I/1/1; Clarke Museum (Eureka)—1A,II/0/0; Fillmore High School (Fillmore)—0/1/0; Foster Bighorn Bar (Rio Vista)—1A/0/0; Fresno State College (Fresno)—1A/0/0; Kern County Museum (Bakersfield)—II/0/0; Los Angeles County Museum (Los Angeles)—10A,6I/10/1; Museum of Natural History (Santa Barbara)—3A,II/1/2;