

Egg moving by incubating ducks.—On the morning of 5 June 1962, I found a Pintail (*Anas acuta*) nest in the west meadow about one mile (1.6 km) southwest of Delta Waterfowl Research Station, Delta, Manitoba. The nest, which was in whitetop grass (*Scolochloa festucacea*), contained nine eggs that had been incubated about two days. During the afternoon of 7 June 1962, I returned to the nest and placed a nest trap over the nest. A pull string was laid out for about 75 feet (25 m) to allow dropping the trap from that distance. At dusk I returned and pulled the trap but the hen flew off. I then found all nine eggs in a new nest, most of which was on top of the trap's netting (see Figure 1). I placed the eggs in the original nest, covered them with down, and reset the trap. This sequence of events was repeated the next two days, after which I brought the eggs to the Delta hatchery and removed the trap.

The next day, 10 June 1962, I found a Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) nest by a roadside ditch, one mile south of Delta. This nest in phragmites (*Phragmites communis*) stubble contained five fresh eggs. On 12 June I flushed the hen and set a trap. Daily for four days, both morning and evening, I tried to catch the hen. Each time I visited the trap she was incubating the eggs in a new nest directly behind the old one. Each time I placed the eggs in the original nest beneath the trap. On the morning of 17 June, I flushed her from behind the trap. I put the eggs under the trap once more and left. About an hour later I returned to find one egg in a fresh nest about one and one-half feet behind the trap and another sticking through the trap netting, half under the trap and half behind it. I brought the eggs to the hatchery and removed the trap.

A trap was also placed over a Pintail nest I found 29 June in dead phragmites just west of the channel at Delta. The eight eggs had been incubated about 12 days.



Figure 1. New nest of Pintail on top of duck trap (left). The first nest of the same hen was in the dark depression (right). See text for details.

When I checked the trap the morning of 30 June, two eggs were about one foot behind the trap and a third was in the netting. I set up a canvas blind 12 feet (4 m) from the nest and waited in it. After two hours the hen returned to the nest (about 1300 hours) via a series of short flights from the nearby ditch. Immediately she pushed the eggs already behind the trap into the shade with the dorsal surface of her bill. She then pulled the egg in the netting toward herself with the ventral surface of her bill. As soon as it was through the net she wrapped her head and neck over, around, and under it so that it was wedged between the undersurface of her bill and her breast much in the manner described by Lorenz and Tinbergen ("Taxis und Instinkthandlung in der Eirollbewegung der Graugans," *I. Z. Tierpsychol.*, 2: 1-29, 1938) for the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*). She then walked backwards for about a foot and left the egg. Immediately she tried to reach the remaining ones. She poked through the net, neck outstretched, apparently trying to get her bill in front of the eggs. Several times I thought she had reached far enough to pull an egg, but she never did so. Although there were opened areas to the sides of the trap, the hen never went around and under the trap to reach her eggs. As time went on, she became more frantic in her attempts to reach them. She charged the net, thrusting her weight forward, then backing up and charging through another opening. This went on for about half an hour at which time she became aware of my presence and hid in the phragmites near the trap. For three hours we watched each other. Finally I left the blind and flushed the hen. I returned in the evening to find the eggs unmoved. Soon after dark I left the blind and picked up the eggs. I thought the hen had deserted the nest, but when I started to walk off she flew from about 10 feet away. I replaced the eggs and waited in the blind another hour but the hen didn't return. I brought the eggs to the hatchery and removed both the trap and blind.

In the course of the summer I set traps over the nests of 10 other Pintails and 15 Gadwalls (*Anas strepera*), none of which moved their eggs. Of the three nests where egg-moving occurred, only the area around the second Pintail nest was cleared in order to set the trap. Both Lyle Sowls and Charles Dane have nest-trapped large numbers of ducks at Delta and they reported (pers. letters) no instances of egg-moving by incubating hens. Why only the three above-mentioned hens moved their eggs, I don't know. Perhaps the trap nets over their nests dangled a little too low, perhaps the base of the trap was too near the nest, and perhaps there is still another answer yet unknown.

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Swaying display of a female Bell's Vireo.—Among vireos, metronome-like swaying, an uncommon display, has been recorded with certainty only for males. Swaying is known in an appeasement context in the Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*; V. Nolan, *Condor*, 64: 273-276, 1962) and in certain courtship situations in Bell's Vireo (*V. bellii*; J. C. Barlow, *Univ. of Kansas Pubs., Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 12: 241-296, 1962). On 18 May 1961, on the grounds of the Laboratory of Aquatic Biology of The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, where I was experimenting in the field with a dummy of Bell's Vireo (a mounted bird), I saw a female Bell's Vireo perform a swaying display as part of an aggressive response. This is the only instance of a female swaying that I have recorded in some 550 hours of field work on this species.