

bright as the terrain which was visible through the windows. Nor was it staying in the darkest area, for the ceiling of the north corridor was much darker.

If the Ruby-throated Hummingbird possessed an innate drive to fly upward when meeting a vertical obstruction, this would explain its constancy in flying only inches below the ceiling, its failure to investigate the windows three feet lower than the ceiling, and its failure to find the doorways 13 feet below the ceiling. An innate drive of this sort would be of selective advantage in natural situations.—EDWIN C. FRANKS, *Department of Biological Sciences, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois, 4 December 1967.*

Egg measurements of California and Ring-billed Gull eggs at Miquelon Lake, Alberta, in 1965.—During a study of the breeding biology of the California (*Larus californicus*) and the Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) on two islands in Miquelon Lake, Alberta (53° 15' N and 112° 55' W), egg measurements were taken

TABLE 1
DISTRIBUTION IN LENGTH AND WIDTH OF CALIFORNIA AND RING-BILLED GULL EGGS AT MIQUELON LAKE, ALBERTA IN 1965

Length in mm	Number of eggs					
	California Gull			Ring-billed Gull		
	I egg	II egg	III egg	I egg	II egg	III egg
71.9-70.0	1	1				
69.9-68.0	9	2	1			
67.9-66.0	13	12	3			1
65.9-64.0	20	27	11	2		
63.9-62.0	8	8	24	2	5	2
61.9-60.0	3	5	10	9	9	1
59.9-58.0	1		5	14	14	17
57.9-56.0			1	14	11	11
55.9-54.0				2	3	6
53.9-52.0					1	4
51.9-50.0						1
Mean in mm	65.42	64.95	63.09	58.88	58.79	57.22
Width in mm	Number of eggs					
	California Gull			Ring-billed Gull		
	I egg	II egg	III egg	I egg	II egg	III egg
51.9-50.0	1					
49.9-48.0	13	9				
47.9-46.0	26	30	16			
45.9-44.0	15	15	29	2	1	1
43.9-42.0		1	9	23	25	7
41.9-40.0			1	16	15	30
39.9-38.0				2	2	5
Mean in mm	46.82	46.61	45.07	41.98	42.06	41.13

TABLE 2
MEAN LENGTH AND WIDTH OF EGGS I, II AND III, IN MM, IN EIGHT GULL SPECIES

Authority	Location	Gull species	No. of clutches measured	Mean length of eggs in mm			Mean width of eggs in mm		
				I	II	III	I	II	III
Harris (Ibis, 106: 432-456, 1964)	England	Great Black-backed Gull	35	76.0	75.8	71.6	51.2	51.6	52.2
"	"	Herring Gull	100	68.7	68.7	66.5	48.3	48.4	46.3
Paludan (Vidensk. Medd. Dansk. Naturh. Foren., 114: 1-128, 1951)	Denmark	"	57	72.44	72.10	69.16	50.58	50.53	49.18
"	"	Lesser Black-backed Gull	62	66.94	66.31	63.74	46.45	46.56	45.32
Harris (loc. cit.)	England	"	59	67.1	66.5	65.8	46.7	46.9	45.8
Behle and Goates (Condor, 59:235-246, 1957)	U.S.A.	California Gull	93-100	66.5	66.7	65.9	46.7	46.7	45.5
This study, 1965	Canada	"	55	65.42	64.95	63.09	46.82	46.61	45.07
"	"	Ring-billed Gull	43	58.88	58.79	57.22	41.98	42.06	41.13
Coulson (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 140: 211-227, 1962)	England	Kittiwake	33	55.29	54.27	55.00	40.73	40.57	39.32
Preston and Preston (Ann. Carnegie Mus., 33:129-139, 1953)	U.S.A.	Laughing Gull	15	55.32	54.56	54.33	39.45	39.29	38.38
Ytreberg (Nytt Mag. Zool., 4:5-106, 1956)	Norway	Black-headed Gull	105	52.05	51.45	50.34	36.56	36.65	36.10

of the first (I egg), second (II egg) and third eggs (III egg) laid in the clutches of these species (Table 1). In both species the third egg of the clutch is smaller on the average than the first two eggs laid. This appears to be a common phenomenon in gulls (Table 2).—KEES VERMEER, 10015-103 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, 5 February 1968.

House Sparrow occupancy of Cliff Swallow nests.—Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 179:468, 1942), and Burleigh (Auk, 47:48, 1930) reported occupation of Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) nests by House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). Buss (Wilson Bull., 54:153, 1942), Stoner (Wilson Bull., 51:221, 1938) and Brewster (Mem. Nuttall Ornithol. Club, 4:1, 1906) noted that sparrows in taking over nests not only destroyed swallow eggs, but also young nestlings. However, direct observation of such interactions have not been reported, nor has it been determined whether House Sparrows affect Cliff Swallow populations.

During the summers of 1967 and 1968 I observed House Sparrows taking over Cliff Swallow nests near Bruceton Mills, West Virginia. In one case in 1967, five pairs of swallows had nests completed or nearly completed by 13 May, in a row along a girder