

Islands, seems to be worthy of record, in view of the rarity of these eggs in collections, especially those of North American institutions.

The eggs were presented to this museum by Capt. Frank A. Johnson, master of the SS. *Mariposa*, a vessel which in the course of its voyage between San Francisco and Sydney lies off to Ninafou Island to pick up mail. On the occasion of her call in July, 1935, a friend on the island sent out to Captain Johnson, as an interesting novelty, three eggs of *Megapodius pritchardi*. The eggs had evidently been newly collected, for they were still in good condition when they reached the museum on August 28. When they were blown they showed only a slight trace of incubation. In color the three differ considerably. One is pale pinkish cinnamon,¹ another is light vinaceous-cinnamon, and the third light onion-skin pink. They measure (in millimeters) as follows: 75.5 x 45.0; 76.25 x 43.0; 74.5 x 45.5.—M. E. McLELLAN DAVIDSON, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California.*

Sex and Resistance of Bob-whites and Ring-necked Pheasants to Starvation.—In the course of wild life studies the past few years, we have met with a certain amount of opinion to the effect that some gallinaceous species are subject to differential sex mortality during periods of winter crisis. Insofar as winter food shortage may mean serious emergency for the Bob-white (*Colinus v. virginianus*) and Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*) populations in north-central states environment, the following data on these two species may be of some interest.

We have dying weights of fifty-one starved Bob-whites, mainly Wisconsin birds but some from Iowa and Missouri. These birds died during winter weather that was comparatively mild as a whole (1930-33) and were either birds picked up as intact carcasses in the wild, or were captives that succumbed in connection with experiments. Of the 51 birds, 27 were cocks and died at an average of 113 gr.; 24 were hens dying at an average of 113.7 gr.

In a series of drastic but not necessarily lethal experiments (intended primarily to test the nutritive qualities of questionable winter foods), no significant difference in ability of one sex or the other to maintain weight was observed. Eleven important experimental lots contained Bob-whites of both sexes (28 cocks and 17 hens), and practically all exceptionally high loss rates shown by the individual records are more convincingly explained on grounds other than sex.

Full weight Wisconsin specimens taken from early winter to mid-winter, 1930-'32, averaged 197.9 gr. for 35 cocks and 192.2 gr. for 21 hens, but it is highly probably that a larger series of birds would reveal scarcely any weight differences between sexes. H. L. Stoddard (*The Bob-white Quail*, 1931, p. 74), for example, gives 165.11 gr. as the average weight for 475 winter cocks in the Thomasville-Tallahassee (Georgia-Florida) region and 164.87 gr. as the average for 413 hens.

We have insufficient data on Pheasants starving in the wild to draw many conclusions, but the data from a number of food experiments conducted in cooperation with the Iowa Fish and Game Commission during the winter of 1932-33 may be of significance.

The Pheasants used in the experiments were of game-farm origin and were lighter in weight than birds collected from the wild. Eighteen fully-fleshed game-farm cocks averaged 1132 gr. and 46 hens averaged 877 gr., compared with an average of 1266 gr. for 68 wild cocks and 934 gr. for 13 wild hens.

During the experiments, 9 cocks died of starvation at an average of 594.3 gr. or at 52.5% of their original full weight. Similarly, 27 hens died at an average of 482 gr.

¹ The capitalized names of colors are those of Ridgway's *Color Standards*, 1912.

or at 54.9% full weight. Variations in temperature did not appear greatly to affect dying weights (unpublished).

Eleven of the sixteen food experiments having an adverse effect on the Pheasants used had to do with both cocks and hens. Comparisons were always made of the loss rates of the two sexes in the same experimental lots. This eliminates variations in losses brought about by differences in diet, air temperature, time of weighing, etc., as all of the birds in each lot were kept and handled under conditions as nearly identical as possible. Differences in physical condition of the birds themselves introduce a degree of error into the calculations, but for purposes of conciseness these may best be neglected for the present.

Comparing the average daily losses, lot by lot, we find that of 18 cocks and 46 hens, 11 or 61.1% of the cocks and 25 or 54.3% of the hens lost at rates not differing materially from the rates of opposite sexes in the same experiments. The daily loss rates were computed in terms of percentage of full original weight lost, for the obvious reason that a 50 gr. loss by a 1300 gr. cock is not in all ways comparable to a 50 gr. loss by a hen weighing but 800 gr.

Only 1 or 5.5% of the cocks lost at a decidedly more rapid rate than members of the opposite sex in specific experiments, compared to 18 or 39% of the hens. Six or 33.3% of the cocks and but 3 or 6.5% of the hens lost at rates decidedly lower.

Cock Pheasants, then, seemingly show somewhat more resistance to hunger than the smaller hens. The Bob-white, which has not the pronounced sexual dimorphism of the Pheasant, loses weight from hunger at rates which are not appreciably influenced by sex.

In the event of differential sex mortality in winter Bob-white populations, we may reasonably suspect the operation of factors other than straight starvation, unless the evidence ultimately points in a different direction than it does now. But while Pheasant cocks may not have a tremendous advantage over hens in subsisting on scant fare, even a comparatively slight advantage may conceivably have enough winter survival value under marginal or emergency conditions to result in a predominately cock population by spring.—PAUL L. ERRINGTON, *Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.*

Cuban Snowy Plover (*Charadrius n. tenuirostris*) in Wisconsin.—Temporarily on deposit at the Chicago Academy of Sciences is the collection of Mr. Walter Weber who permits me to report the specimen it contains of a Snowy Plover taken by him in Kenosha County, Wis., June 1, 1934. It is a male in full plumage. Compared with specimens of western birds in the collection, the color above appears to be nearly snow white. Hence it is ascribed to *tenuirostris*. Except the record by Fleming of its appearance in Ontario there seems to be no other report of this species from the Great Lakes region.—E. R. FORD, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Ill.*

Continued Wintering of the Long-billed Curlew on the South Carolina Coast.—In 'The Auk,' (vol. L, p. 215), the writer recorded the farthest north winter record for *Numenius americanus americanus* on the Atlantic coast. It is interesting to note that, for the two winters succeeding that observation, this species has wintered in the same locality. Seen first in January, 1933, on the U. S. Wild Life Refuge at Cape Romain, S. C., they have occurred there in the winter of 1933-34 and 1934-35. The numbers are few, about five to seven birds being seen, but they remain from early December certainly through February, making a three months period. They could hardly have been overlooked before, and it seems to indicate an increased occurrence of the species northward along the coast in winter. Several have been