

mediately, it began calling the familiar *chick-a-dee-dee-dee* very excitedly and soon flew away.

The second experience occurred when a Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea arborea*) was feeding on the shelf. A Chickadee landed on the edge of the shelf, six inches from the Tree Sparrow; immediately the latter showed the usual antipathy to another bird on the feeding tray by a defiant attitude with open wings and bill. The Chickadee started to go, when apparently it was caught by extreme nervous excitement. The legs trembled, the body was jerked from side to side and the head was thrust backward and forward while the bird seemed rooted to the spot. This condition lasted about ten seconds; then, the bird regained poise and fairly tumbled off the shelf in its haste to get away. It appeared normal a few moments later. With the start of the performance, the Tree Sparrow resumed feeding and paid no further attention. I shall be interested if other observers have had similar experiences.—GORDON BOIT WELLMAN, *Wellesley, Mass.*

A Robin's nest containing eight eggs.—On April 26, 1938, at my brother's home in Media, Pennsylvania, I found eight eggs in a Robin's nest. Neither my brother nor his wife had noticed any unusual behavior among Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) about the lawn. I suspected, however, that two females had laid these eggs, inasmuch as in the only other recorded case of eight eggs in a Robin's nest, two females had incubated them side by side (Forbush, E. H., 'Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States,' 3: 413, 1929). I therefore examined the eggs very carefully. First I found it possible to separate them into two groups of four each by a general inspection of their contours. One 'set' had sharper ends than the other. My sister-in-law then noticed that the set with sharp ends was uniformly a few shades lighter in color than the set with blunt ends. On measuring the two sets, I found further evidence for their double origin:

Light set, sharp ends

30 x 21 mm.
30.5 x 22
31 x 21.5
31 x 21.5

Dark set, blunt ends

29.5 x 22 mm.
29.5 x 22
29 x 22
29 x 23

I watched this nest carefully on subsequent visits to Media: *May 3*, eight eggs still present; *May 7*, one egg just hatched; *May 8*, one young Robin, one piped egg, six un-piped eggs; *May 10*, two young Robins thriving, six un-piped eggs; *May 11*, no change; *May 16*, oldest fledgling almost ready to fly. It has pushed out the other fledgling, which is dead on the ground; three eggs have also been pushed out. Only one of these eggs is to be found; it contains an embryo about ready to hatch and not noticeably decomposed. *May 19*, fledgling has flown; three remaining eggs sterile.

My conclusions from these facts are that an unmated female laid her eggs, none of which hatched, at about the same time that the mated female did, but that this unusual happening resulted in irregular oviposition and incubation on the part of the mated female, so that her eggs hatched, actually or potentially, at irregular intervals. That the superfluous female was unmated is suggested further by the fact that at no time did a third Robin object to my presence at the nest.—C. BROOKE WORTH, *Dept. of Zoölogy, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.*

Starlings summer in Arkansas.—Three Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were observed sitting on the crosspiece of a light-wire post, along the road, six miles west of Fayetteville, on June 15 and 16, 1938. Identification was made at close range with