

On June 8, the nest was complete with 4 eggs at 8:30 a. m.

On June 26th, at 8:15 a. m., one egg was hatched and at 7:30 p. m., on the same date, the nest was vacated. Incubation required approximately 19½ days.

On June 30, after one hour and twenty minutes' search, I located the family with one adult. On July 21, the family was still in the home territory with one adult but was not seen thereafter. By imitating the call of the parent I was able to deceive the young and obtain some excellent photographs. The alarm signal was a strong *pett wheet* which caused immediate hiding and 'freezing,' while a softer *wheet*, often repeated and gradually diminishing, no doubt as the reunion progressed, brought them together.

With regard to 'injury feigning,' I do not wish to comment upon this at the present time. Attempting to analyze bird behavior according to human standards and modes of expression is a most difficult and hazardous pastime for a layman.

The habit of the adult perching on stumps and low bushes was much in evidence when they were caring for the young. While perching, the bird never stayed in one place more than a few seconds.

In 1935, after the young had left the nest, the birds were seen several times at 6:00 a. m., and shortly afterwards, making use of a shallow bird bath set flush with the ground fifty yards or so from the nesting site on the opposite side of the thicket.

It will be evident that I have made no mention of the sex of the adults. My opinion is that after the eggs were laid the male was the active agent in caring for the eggs and young. On one occasion only, after the young were hatched, another adult appeared in the home range and appeared passively but not actively interested in the young. This appearance quite probably was purely accidental.

In 1936 a pair of Spotted Sandpipers appeared on the site but did not nest.

From this record it would appear that the period of incubation is approximately 20 days. The weather during both periods was dry and warm. Other weather conditions might vary the time. The nest was vacated a few hours after hatching. 'Injury feigning' attained its height about five days before hatching and gradually diminished with repetition and the growth of the young. The young were protected in the home range for a period of approximately three weeks before leaving. There was not the tendency to wander far afield that I have seen in the Killdeer.—E. H. M. KNOWLES, *Regina, Saskatchewan.*

**Swimming ability of young Catbird.**—While walking along a bank of Fishing Creek near New Martinsville, Wetzel Co., West Virginia, on July 18, 1941, I startled a young Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) from its perch so that it fell into the slowly-moving stream about four feet from shore. The bird, evidently just out of the nest, inasmuch as its short tail was barely evident, landed dorsal side up and with six or eight strokes of its wings was ashore again. Except for an initial cry as it lost its footing, it seemed little excited and, floating high in the water, it headed immediately for the nearest dry land. Its head and neck were never wet. Movements of the feet could not be seen.—GEORGE A. PETRIDES, *National Park Service, Washington, D. C.*

**Great Black-backed Gull killing American Goldeneye.**—On October 19, 1941, in the Ile au Héron Bird Sanctuary, Montreal, Quebec, my wife and I were examining a flock of ducks with a 7-power binocular and a 42-power telescope, when our attention was suddenly drawn to an adult Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) on the far side of the flock. The gull was chasing a female American Goldeneye

(*Glaucionetta clangula americana*) with the obvious intent of capturing her. The pursuit continued for approximately ten minutes, with the duck using every means to avoid being caught, except that of flight. As she broke the surface after a short dive, the gull seized her by the tail and held on with great tenacity, despite the fact that by this time she was rapidly beating her wings and had partially risen from the water. Scaup and Goldeneye near by were undisturbed and continued to feed. An immature Great Black-backed Gull, a yearling, appeared to be mildly interested, and remained on the water a few yards away.

What immediately followed is pure conjecture, because the gull turned and faced in the opposite direction, holding its wings extended above its body; but we could see that it had pulled the duck into the water, had transferred its hold from the tail to the neck, midway between the head and body, and was killing it by shaking it from side to side and plunging it under the water. Then it released its grip, turned the duck over on its back, ripped it open, and for the next half hour gorged itself.

Two hours later we saw an immature gull of the same species kill a duck, but because of the great distance that separated us we were unable to identify the victim nor observe clearly the method the gull was using, but the result was the same.

During the summer of 1938, I visited the coast of Labrador as a guest-member of Dr. Harrison F. Lewis's party from the Dept. of Mines & Resources, Ottawa, Ontario, and there I soon became familiar with the methods used by the 'saddle-back' in capturing young eider ducks, but I have never observed, nor have I read of it taking anything very much larger.—J. D. CLEGHORN, *Montreal, Canada*.

**Northern Pileated Woodpecker eating salmon.**—On the evening of June 27, 1942, I set a wire box-trap for a cat at my home near Boonton, New Jersey. The bait for the trap was a piece of canned salmon wrapped up in a cheese-cloth. The trap was set at the edge of a wood road about one hundred yards from my garage. The salmon can was opened, the oil poured out, and small pieces of the fish were scattered about in the road in front of the trap. The next morning the trap was un sprung. Later in the day I was sitting in a semi-concealed spot when a Northern Pileated Woodpecker (*Geophloeus pileatus abieticola*) was observed flying up the wood road. He passed over the trap, then wheeled and lit on the trunk of a tree about six feet away. Almost immediately he started hitching down the tree to its base, flew to the roadway and after a moment's hesitation began picking up and swallowing the bits of salmon. He followed their lead to the entrance of the trap but a slamming door frightened him off.

On a nearby tree I have a suet basket which is kept filled throughout most of the year. Although I have never actually observed the Pileated Woodpecker feeding from this basket he undoubtedly does for I have seen him fly from this tree on numerous occasions. The suet may have attracted him to this general locality. The fruit of the pepperidge tree, *Nyssa sylvatica*, appears to be a favorite food of this woodpecker for during the season when the fruit is ripe a tree in our garden is visited regularly by these birds.—T. DONALD CARTER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

**Remarkable nesting date of the Everglade Kite.**—In recent years the writer has spent considerable time in field work on the remnant population of the Everglade Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*) which now appears to be staging its last fight as a bird of this country about Lake Okeechobee, Florida. Small breeding