

Dr. Hurst Shoemaker of the University of Illinois informs me that frequently two female canaries may lay and incubate their eggs in the same nest. Under domestic conditions, morals of wild birds often break down. Wild birds under captivity may display this trait more commonly than birds in the wild.—FRANK BELLROSE, JR., *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois.*

Bone repair in ducks (Plate 12, upper left figure).—The paper by Otto W. Tie-meier in the issue of 'The Auk' for July, 1941, reminded me that several years ago a young man presented me with the mended wing bones of two ducks which were shot, so he told me, in flight. I am not certain as to the species, but believe both were Mallards. In one specimen the radius had been fractured, and had mended without any distortion save a prominent callus. In the other specimen the humerus had been broken in the middle, the broken ends separated, and later fused through a flat bridge of bone. It is remarkable that a bird so handicapped should be able to fly.—CYRIL E. ABBOTT, *Searcy, Arkansas.*

Deformation in the wing of a Pied-billed Grebe (Plate 12, upper right figure).—A Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*) of great interest was received at the Zoology Laboratory of the New York State College of Forestry on October 15, 1942. The bird was one of ten brought to the laboratory by Game Protector Charles Hunter; the birds had been shot by duck hunters at Dalton Beach, Oneida Lake. This lake is frequented each fall by a great number of hunters from the nearby city of Syracuse, and the supposition is that a great number of grebes are mistaken for ducks and killed.

With a view to preparing the skins for the Roosevelt Wildlife Station museum, I closely examined each bird. The last bird to be examined was found to have a deformed and stunted wing. It was the belief of the staff that the bird had never flown; the wing and feather area were far too small to support the bird's body weight. Further examination showed the bird to be an immature. Having no power of flight, the grebe had been forced to rely on its swimming and diving prowess to escape predators and secure food. Oneida Lake is lined with summer cottages, and the summer human population is great. This fact plus the number of the bird's natural enemies (large fish, muskrats, snakes, and certain birds of prey) would lead me to believe that 'the survival of the fittest' should be modified to 'the survival of the luckiest.'

Except for the wing deformity, the bird was in excellent condition. Body weight was as heavy as, or heavier than, some of the others examined, plumage was in fine shape; internal organs were sound. There was a noticeable under-developed condition of the pectoral-muscle tissue as would be expected in a non-flying bird. Measurements showed the normal right wing extended to be 20.2 centimeters, while the stunted left measured only 8.5 centimeters. These measurements were made from the point of attachment to the body to the first primary feather, with the wing extended as shown in the photograph. Measurement from tip of bill to tail was 31.3 centimeters.

It is supposed that the bird was hatched with the deformed wing, for the bone structure at the carpal joint showed complete fusion; it was this malformation which made normal extension impossible. The bird must have led a solitary life—a life fraught with danger and hardship. It is probably just as well that this bird was quickly killed by a hunter's gun, for winter ice covers the largest part of Oneida Lake and the bird's problems would have been increased two-fold.

Photo by Dr. Justus F. Mueller.—STANTON GRANT ERNST, *New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, New York.*

Goshawk nesting in Hampshire County, Massachusetts, in 1941 and 1942.—Although Massachusetts is outside of its common nesting range, the Eastern Goshawk (*Astur a. atricapillus*) has, since 1922, nested with some regularity in northwestern Worcester County, and in 1931 a pair raised three young in northwestern Hampden County (see Bagg and Eliot, *Birds of the Connecticut Valley*: 152–154, 1937). From intervening Hampshire County, however, no breeding record was known prior to 1941. On April 20 of that year a pair was found nest-building by John M. Black, who lives in the northwestern part of Williamsburg and likes to spend his Sundays rambling in the forest that covers the hills to the westward. The nest was remote from any house or road, near the eastern edge of the township of Chesterfield, and some 1500 feet above sea-level. It was about 50 feet up in a white pine, and seemed half-built on April 20 but completed on April 27. Both birds were solicitous on May 4, but thereafter only one adult, seemingly the female, was noted. I climbed to the nest on May 9, found three eggs, and (to establish the record) took one of them which proved to be heavily incubated. The feet of the embryo were well formed, with toes a quarter-inch long. Diligence and patience at last emptied the shell, which is preserved in the Museum of Natural History at Springfield. It measures $2\frac{3}{8}$ by $1\frac{11}{16}$ inches.

On May 30, the two young, still downy and timid, were photographed by J. B. Mills of South Hadley. On June 19, one of them had disappeared, and a few days later the other, now nearly fledged, was carried off by a Northampton school-boy who hoped to train it. He kept it (but failed to tame it) until the end of July when it escaped, trailing its jesses; and though it was banded (36-714706), I have heard nothing more about it.

On April 19, 1942, Mr. Black found Goshawks again! Apparently the surviving adult of 1941 had brought a new mate to the mountainside, though not to the ill-fated tree. The nest, higher than before, was in another white pine about 200 yards southeast of the former one, and almost unclimbable. To aid successful breeding, Mr. Black told nobody of this nest until the young birds left it, shortly before June 28. There seemed to be only two. On July 7, I saw one of them by itself, and Mr. Black saw the other with one parent not far from the nest tree. From the base of this tree I gathered pellets and other refuse containing remains of at least two gray squirrels, a Blue Jay, and a banded pigeon. On August 2, one young Goshawk was still near the nest.

In both years, although spring was early here, egg-laying was curiously later than one would expect, especially at such a low latitude. At Petersham, Massachusetts, well-incubated eggs were collected on April 28, 1923, and April 18, 1924, and in North Chester, four eggs had already been laid on April 20, 1931. Near Mt. Monadnock, New Hampshire, three eggs were collected on April 24, 1941 (Auk, 58: 572, 1941), probably before our Massachusetts hawk had even begun to lay. Mr. Abbott, in the record just cited, makes no mention of the Mt. Monadnock Goshawk-nesting of 1933, recorded in 'The Auk,' 51: 80, 1934.—SAMUEL A. ELIOT, JR., 31 *Dryads Green, Northampton, Massachusetts.*

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in St. Johns County, Florida.—Records of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) in northern Florida are still not so common but that its occurrence in new areas should be recorded, especially when there are