

pierced with a bill-sized gash in the soft throat or near the eyes. None of these frogs exceeded eight centimeters in length.

June 23 found three birds at the pool, but one flew at my approach. I observed one bird eating a frog in a small oak above the pool and noted that the other was actually in the water and that the belly feathers were wet. This bird repeatedly stabbed at frogs and missed, but I later found two dead frogs floating in the pool; both had been pierced through the head. Here again the frogs measured about eight centimeters in length and though there were larger frogs available, these smaller ones were apparently easier to catch and handle. The last bird was seen at the pool June 24; one frog was taken into the small oak and eaten. The grackle held the frog across the branch in hawk-like manner with one foot, and tore the flesh with its bill. All birds observed were adults.—STANTON GRANT ERNST, *Dept. of Forest Zoology, New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y.*

**Nestling House Wrens hatch a foster egg.**—The ability of young birds in a nest to incubate and hatch eggs by their own body warmth was tested and proved by a family of House Wrens (*Troglodytes aëdon*). In my yard were two families of nesting House Wrens. The parent females were banded 139-72379 and 41-98935. For convenience, they shall be called no. 79 and no. 35. No. 79 laid her five eggs July 7 to 11, 1943. On July 17, when no. 79's eggs had been incubating six days, no. 35 laid her first egg. This was marked and left in the nest. On July 18, the second egg was laid before 8 A. M. and was immediately removed, marked on each end with a single painted dot, and placed in the nest of no. 79. The next day, before 8 A. M., the third egg was marked with two dots and placed in the other nest. Later eggs were treated in like manner. The evening after the fifth egg was removed, the mother bird, no. 35, was caught and found to have another egg ready to be laid the next morning, but that sixth egg was not deposited in this nest and the mother was never seen again. Then no. 35's first egg was removed and placed in the nest with the others. These foster eggs seemed to remain in the positions in which they were placed, and surrounding the eggs properly belonging to that clutch. I enlarged the cavity slightly, to make a base large enough to hold the ten eggs without over-rolling. On July 24, three of the eggs of wren no. 79 were hatched and two more were hatched early the next morning, the 14th day. With five young birds to feed, the parents had little time to brood them and to warm the foster eggs. Numerous observations showed that the adults spent only enough time within the box to feed their young, which grew rapidly. On August 2, one of the foster eggs was hatched; it had been laid July 17. This young bird was scarcely larger than the heads of the older birds, and although I would place it upon their backs and it held its mouth open, I do not believe it received any food. It died the next day. The other eggs were not hatched, but three of them were advanced in incubation; one was not fertile. After the brood of wren no. 79 left the nest on August 9, I examined the remaining foster eggs and found well-developed feathers in one, progressively less developed features in the others, showing that had the foster eggs been added to the second nest earlier possibly all might have been hatched and reared.—HAROLD B. WOOD, *Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.*

**Age of a Red-vented Bulbul.**—"Billy," a Red-vented Bulbul (*Molpastes cafer*), long-time resident of the Los Angeles County Museum, escaped through an open window, February 20, 1944, during a very heavy rainstorm. He was picked up dead six days later, probably a victim of the inclement weather. The writer has