

brought to the females by the males during the period of incubation. Laboratory examination was made of all bits of hair, feathers, and partial castings found in the vicinity of the nest, and several stomachs were taken from birds accidentally or purposely killed by farmers and sportsmen. (The Red-shouldered Hawk is specifically protected by law in New York State.)

Based on these observations, I have revised somewhat a table showing the approximate percentages of various foods included in the diet of this species, applicable to this section of the state and perhaps to a larger area where conditions of habitat and food supply are similar.

TABLE BASED ON OBSERVATIONS ON 16 RED-SHOULDERED HAWK NESTS, 1939-1942, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

MICE AND RATS (principally <i>Microtus</i>)	58%
FROGS, AMPHIBIANS (principally <i>Rana pipiens</i> and salamanders)	18%
INSECTS (largely made up of grasshoppers taken in July and August; beetles and spiders also taken, caterpillars of several species)	10%
REPTILES (largely common garter snakes, water snakes)	3%
SMALL BIRDS (often taken during spring migration; includes Song Sparrow, Horned Lark, Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker)	8%
MISCELLANEOUS (includes crawfish, carrion, minnows, etc.)	3%

By far the most popular food throughout this region of medium to heavy agriculture is the field mouse, which is common and easily captured. It is the food most commonly fed the three or four young during the brooding period, and of decided economic value to the local farmers.

The Red-shouldered Hawk generally begins nesting activities in this region anywhere from the first to the twentieth of April, and during this period occasionally preys on the small migrating birds or on the winter residents. In four years, only one authentic case of a hawk taking poultry was observed; on June 1, 1940, an adult female brought a freshly killed domestic duckling to the nest.

There can be no doubt that this species is a decided asset to the farmers of this region, and should be encouraged in every woodlot where it has set up residence.—STANTON G. ERNST (formerly, Dept. of Forest Zoology, New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, New York).

Food of Ruffed Grouse in southern Michigan.—The crops of thirteen Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus umbellus*) were preserved in formaldehyde by Michigan hunters and were later sent to me for food analysis. The birds were collected on the southern peninsula in the month of October. Of the thirteen crops, eleven were full of food and two were practically empty. All the food contained was vegetable. The two main staples in the diet of these birds were the acorn of the pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) and some leaves of a tree that was not identified positively, but appeared to be either a birch or an aspen. Nine of the crops contained either or both of these foods and nothing else. The cups of the acorns were discarded by the birds. Some of the acorns were of large size (2 x 1.5 cm.), and several of these nuts caused bulging crops.

Other food found in the crops was: Leaves of alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*)—in two birds. Cornaceous fruit of hawthorn (*Crataegus*)—found in one crop. Dandelion leaves (*Taraxacum officinale*)—one crop. Flat seeds with shiny black fruit skins, one of the *Viburnums* probably the black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*)—found in one crop.

There were no parasites found in the crops. The eggs of the botfly were found on the outside of the stomach wall, but must have been laid there before the crops were preserved.

I wish to express my appreciation to Dr. Albert Bechtel, Professor of Botany, for identifying this plant material with the aid of the Wabash College herbarium.—HOWARD H. VOGEL, JR., *Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind.*

American Rough-legged Hawk found dead at Crawfordsville, Indiana.—

An immature male Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus s.johannis*) was found dead on the campus of Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana, in late November, 1944. The bird had no broken bones, and showed no evidence of being shot, but showed a hemorrhage of the brain, indicating that death was probably due to concussion. There was no food in its digestive tract.—HOWARD H. VOGEL, JR., *Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind.*

Food habits of Sanderlings.—On the beach at Lawrence Harbor, Middlesex County, New Jersey, August 26, 1944, Henry W. Fowler and the writers were watching Sanderlings (*Crocethia alba*) feeding among dead and decaying bivalves, which they found at the high-tide mark. Suddenly a few found some dead silversides (*Menidea menidia*), which the authors had left on the beach. First they pecked at them, but their slender bills made little headway against the tough scales of the fish. Others attempted to secure the fish for themselves, and consequently a violent battle was in progress most of the time. One Sanderling would viciously chase another while in the meantime, a third would run off, carrying the fish in its mouth. When the battle became too great, the momentary possessor swallowed the fish whole. It is doubtful if the Sanderlings were capable of catching living silversides, but the dead ones seemed much in demand.—JANET L. C. AND WILLIAM F. RAPP, JR., *University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.*

Blue egg in a Pheasant's nest.—In the belief that the occurrence of a bright blue egg in the nest of the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus* Gmelin) is sufficiently rare, the following note would appear to be worth placing on permanent record. On June 7, 1941, I forwarded to the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, in Toronto, three pheasant eggs, two of which appeared to be normal in color and size, while the other was bright blue and somewhat unusually large. In acknowledging the receipt of the eggs, Mr. L. L. Snyder, Assistant Director, informed me that although there is considerable variation in color, size, and shape of the pheasant eggs in the museum collection they had nothing like the blue one. The specimens in question were obtained from an abandoned nest, said to contain twenty-six eggs when first seen, but which was later found to be much disturbed by some animal, with most of the eggs broken and the hen bird missing. The nest was situated in a dense bed of tansy weed within a few feet of the public road just north of the village of Queenston in Lincoln County, Ontario, and the salvaged eggs were brought to me by Mr. G. H. R. Laidman of that village who had seen the nest before it was destroyed and deserted and had been interested in its welfare. The presence of over a score of eggs in the nest when first seen would probably indicate the product of more than one female, a supposition expounded by Ogilvie-Grant (*Lloyd's Natural History—Game-Birds*, 11: 14, 1897, London). The same author, in the same place, describes the eggs as "generally brown or olive-brown in colour, more rarely bluish-green." The foregoing is the only reference in literature that I have been able to find in which the colour blue, or bluish, is even mentioned in reference to pheasant eggs.—R. W. SHEPPARD, *1805 Moulant Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario.*