

opening in the wall used by the Ravens as their entrance, and we were indeed surprised to find that an approach to the nest had been constructed by laying sticks of sage-brush across the two parallel timbers uniformly bridging the space between, and forming a walk-like approach from the opening in the wall back to the nest. One might question whether this was accidental, but there was not the slightest appearance of careless dropping of nest material en route during the period of construction. We believe that any observer would have concluded that this walk-way was constructed with deliberate intent. Quite possibly the accidental dropping and lodging of a few sticks may have given these crafty birds a hint which they were keen enough to follow up.

In all, we have made this observation of a pair of Ravens nesting in an old cabin on five different occasions.—R. T. CONGDON, M. D., *Wenatchee, Washington*.

**Green Heron captures flying dragonflies.**—On July 31, 1946, while watching birds in Harrison Park, Owen Sound, Ontario, I saw a Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) capture two small, blue dragonflies while the insects were in flight. The heron was perched on a branch of a sunken log, about eighteen inches above the surface of the water, with its neck folded. Suddenly it darted out its head to capture one of a group of dragonflies which were flying about over the water. After eating the insect, the bird opened and closed its beak slowly several times, then 'froze' until another dragonfly came within reach, when the performance was repeated. A. C. Bent (1926) describes a case of the Great White Heron (*Ardea occidentalis*) capturing moths hovering about flowers, and calls the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) "an expert flycatcher," but I have been unable to find any other case of the Green Heron catching flying insects.—FRED WARBURTON, 444 Second Ave. East, Owen Sound, Ontario.

**Triangle spike rush as waterfowl food.**<sup>1</sup>—During field investigations in connection with the waterfowl studies of the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, several observations were made of ducks feeding on triangle spike rush (*Eleocharis robbinsii*). Although this plant is distributed over much of the eastern United States, there seems to be no specific record in the literature of its use as waterfowl food.

Frequent observations at the Davis-Holbrook Marshes in East Eddington and Holden, in central Maine, revealed that the majority of the ducks seen were flushed from areas in which triangle spike rush was growing. Seventy-nine separate observations totaling 621 ducks, chiefly Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*), but including a few Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and Ring-neck Ducks (*Aythya collaris*), were recorded during August, September, and October, 1946. Thirty-eight of these observations (385 ducks) were of birds among beds of triangle spike rush. At a typical observation recorded at 6:25 A. M. on August 16, thirty-one Black Ducks and two Wood Ducks were flushed from the emergent vegetation consisting of pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*), duck potato (*Sagittaria latifolia*), horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), and triangle spike rush (*Eleocharis robbinsii*). The site was littered with the freshly uprooted plants of spike rush from which the tubers (thickened portions of subterranean stems) and the more fleshy parts of the root had been stripped, leaving only the fibrous, tougher sections of the roots.

During October, 1946, four Black Duck stomachs were collected at the Davis-Holbrook area. Stomach analyses were based upon dry material. Food items found

<sup>1</sup> Contributions from the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Orono, Maine; Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game, University of Maine, Wildlife Management Institute, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating.