

Of particular interest was a local gathering twice observed by Donald Vogtman (Corres., 1948 and 1949) at the channel separating the middle and east portions of Devils Lake. Here he counted 125 birds in November, 1948, and 150 on September 21, 1949. We believe that this was only a fall flock, but a breeding population may possibly be using the locality.

We do not know whether the rare breeding female migrates from southern wintering grounds in the spring or moves in from the east about June 1 when the males appear.—MERRILL C. HAMMOND AND EDWARD J. SMITH, JR., *Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of Interior, Upham, North Dakota, and Germfask, Michigan.*

On *Accipiter striatus suttoni* van Rossem.—In Number 4, Part 1, 13, of the 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas' recently published, the name *Accipiter striatus suttoni* van Rossem was placed in the synonymy of *A. s. velox* with a note (p. 71) stating that none of the Mexican material in the Field Museum showed the characters of this race except an immature from Michoacan. At the request of Dr. George M. Sutton, I have just examined the type and four topotypes of this form. These birds are very different from anything in our collections except one specimen from the Huachuca Mountains in Arizona which is very like *suttoni*. They bear out Dr. Sutton's belief that the race is a very good one. Evidently all our Mexican examples, except the Michoacan specimen, are migrants.—BOARDMAN CONOVER, *Chicago Natural History Museum (Field Museum), Chicago, Illinois.*

Sparrow Hawk Pursued by Chimney Swifts.—As noted by Bent (U. S. N. M. Bull., 176: 284, 1940), the speed and erratic flight of the Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*, renders it almost immune to attacks by birds of prey. He cites one report of such an attack, however; a swift was seized by a Sharp-shinned Hawk just as it was about to drop into a chimney (Musselman, *Bird-Lore*, 33: 397, 1931). In view of the rarity of such occurrences any evidence that Chimney Swifts regard hawks as enemies seems to me to be worth reporting.

In downtown Washington, D. C., shortly after sundown on October 3, 1949, my attention was attracted by 40 or 50 Chimney Swifts pursuing a Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius*. My first thought was that possibly they just happened to be going in the same direction, but then the hawk reversed its course and they promptly turned to follow, swarming around the hawk like mad bees. I was unquestionably observing a genuine pursuit which ended only when the hawk abruptly descended to land on the ledge of a building. It seems unlikely to me that the swifts would have taken after the hawk if they had not been molested or had not recognized the species as an enemy.—FRANK C. CROSS, 9413 Second Ave., Silver Spring, Maryland.

Red Ant Predation on Bob-white, *Colinus virginianus*, Chicks.—During nesting studies of the Interior Bob-white, *C. v. mexicanus* L., in southeastern Iowa, evidence was found of red ant, *Monomorium pharaonis* (Linne), predation in a newly hatched quail nest. This ant was identified by Dr. H. H. Knight, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Iowa State College. On July 5, 1946, a Bob-white nest containing 13 eggs was revisited six hours after the first egg had been found pipped. The clutch had hatched and there was no evidence of the new family at the nest or in the near vicinity. While recording the necessary data, a weak chick call was heard. Examination of the nest revealed a single egg at the bottom beneath 12 discarded shells. The cap of this egg had been partially pipped, so that the chick, which was still alive, could be seen. Several red ants were not only in the nest but were also moving in and out of the egg opening. Upon removal from the shell, the chick had no sense of balance but continued to *peep* when held in the hand. The ants

had eaten the flesh from the back of its head and neck. The chick died about six hours later. Only one of 46 nests under observation was parasitized by red ants.

Ant predation on quail chicks in the nest is not entirely unknown. Stoddard (The Bob-White Quail, pp. 193-194, 1931) reported considerable loss due to the thief ant, *Solenopsis molests* (Say), during his studies in southeastern United States. Mortality due to the red or Pharaoh's ant was unusual, for this species is resident around buildings and not normally found in the open fields (Metcalf and Flint, 'Destructive and Useful Insects,' p. 770, 1939). The nest from which these data were obtained was located in an open, bluegrass pasture, 80 rods from the nearest building and no red ant nests were found in the vicinity.—W. D. KLIMSTRA, Iowa Cooperative Research Unit, Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa. (*Journ. Paper No. J-1683, Project 494.*)

Adoption of a Human Parent by Bob-white, *Colinus virginianus*, Chicks.—In looking through old correspondence, I came across the following in a letter from the well-known game bird propagator, William B. Coleman (then at the State Game Farm, Boulevard, Va.), dated September 28, 1925, which seems a good early record of the adoption by birds of a human "parent." "We have learned some very interesting things," wrote Mr. Coleman, "about the little quail from our experiments with the brooders. The birds soon learn to regard the keeper as their mother and when they are only a week old he can lead them from the brooder house to feed in the field for hours at a time and then lead them back again. Imagine having 200 baby bob-white quail all in the grass, without any fence or enclosure of any kind and not losing any of them. The keeper moves around over the field slowly, stopping every few steps to let the little birds feed all around him. If he fails to speak to them every few minutes they feel that they are lost and start calling but as soon as he speaks to them they get back to feeding at once with their satisfied little chirps." This letter bears also on the question as to the origin of large-scale rearing of quail with incubators and brooders.—W. L. McATEE, Chicago, Illinois.

Incubation Period of the Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis tabida*.—During the spring of 1949, in the Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary, Calhoun County, Michigan, I noted that a group of three cranes occupied one certain portion of the marsh. I watched these three cranes for some time at a prospective nest site on April 17. On April 21, I visited the spot and found an empty nest. During the early morning of April 27, I flushed a crane from this nest and found that the nest contained one egg. I marked this egg No. 1. Fearing desertion of the nest, I did not return until May 7, when I found the parent incubating two eggs. Jim Walkinshaw, Fred Woodard and Horace Bennett checked the nest during the late afternoon of May 26. They found No. 1 egg pipped with an opening about one-half inch in diameter. On May 27, during the late afternoon, I visited the nest but the young crane was not quite out. It completed hatching during the early morning of May 28, a period of at least 31 days after the egg was laid. No. 2 egg was infertile. Since cranes, as a rule, lay eggs on alternate days, the incubation period in this case was probably either 31 or 32 days. This agrees with the incubation period of other cranes obtained in captivity and of the European Crane, *Grus grus grus*, in the wild. Hoffmann found that in *G. g. grus* it required 30 days after a third egg was laid for the first egg to hatch, (Rund um den Kranich, 1936, Ferd. Rau, Oeringen).—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, 1703 Central Tower, Battle Creek, Mich.

Clapper Rail, *Rallus longirostris*, in Maine.—On December 13, 1949, Mrs. Leonard F. Bidwell of West Waldoboro, Maine, wrote that her cat had that day