

Quebec. The author is aware of two previous records in the southwestern part of the province: the first one being recorded in the A.O.U. Check-list (1957), as breeding at Chambly Basin; and the second is a specimen preserved in the Quebec Provincial Museum collection. It was collected at Notre-Dame de Stanbridge (Iberville County) on 20 June 1953. These two localities are approximately 150 miles southwest of Quebec City.

The present specimen is now preserved in the collection of the author. It is a male whose skull is fully ossified. Its testes measured respectively 10.5 x 7.8 mm. and 11.5 x 6.0 mm. It has a very bright spring plumage.—HENRI OUELLET, 341 Fourth Street, Quebec City, P.Q. Canada.

Clutch Size of the Clapper Rail.—Incidental information concerning the clutch size of the Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) was obtained during other studies of this species in the extensive salt marshes near Chincoteague, Virginia. Clutches were considered complete when repeated visits to the nest showed no additional eggs or when embryonic development could be clearly detected.

The size of completed clutches was determined for 149 first or primary nests. Nineteen of these were found on 17 May 1951, nine on 4 June 1952, and 50 during the period 30 May–2 June 1953. Data for 71 nests found during 25 May–9 June 1950 (Stewart, 1951), were included also. The number of nests for each clutch size was:

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4 eggs— 1 nest (0.7%) | 9 eggs— 43 nests (28.9%) |
| 5 eggs— 4 nests (2.7%) | 10 eggs— 39 nests (26.2%) |
| 6 eggs— 5 nests (3.4%) | 11 eggs— 21 nests (14.1%) |
| 7 eggs—13 nests (8.7%) | 12 eggs— 1 nest (0.7%) |
| 8 eggs—22 nests (14.7%) | Total—149 nests (100.0%) |

Nests with nine eggs represent the largest clutch-size class, closely followed by those with 10 eggs. The mean clutch size was 9.00 ± 0.19 eggs. This is somewhat lower than mean clutch sizes reported from New Jersey and North Carolina, and higher than the clutch size recorded from Georgia. In New Jersey, "the average number of eggs per clutch in 1948, 1949 and 1950 was 9.9, 10.00 and 9.3 respectively, based on 176 completed clutches" (Schmidt and McLain, 1951). Additional data from New Jersey include a mean clutch size of 9.86 ± 0.24 (range 3–14) based on 43 nests (Stone, 1937), and a mean of 10.05 ± 0.26 (range 5–14) based on 61 nests found in 1948 by Kozicky and Schmidt (1949). In North Carolina, a mean clutch size of 10.5 ± 0.29 (range 9–12), based on 13 nests found in 1956, was reported by Adams and Quay (1958). The low clutch size in Georgia was reported by Oney (1954), who recorded an average of 8.2 eggs per nest, with a range of 5–14 eggs, apparently based on about 100 nests in three years.

The full clutch size in 16 replacement or secondary nests in the Virginia area also was determined. These represented nests that were constructed by breeding pairs following the destruction of their first nests through predation or action of severe high tides. They included 13 nests found near Chincoteague during the period 20 June–27 June 1959, and three nests found near Cobb Island on 10 August 1951. The mean clutch size of this series was 5.62 ± 1.06 , which is 3.38 less than the mean for the first or primary Virginia nests. This difference can be considered to be statistically significant. The number of secondary nests for each clutch size was:

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| 3 eggs—1 nest (6.2%) | 7 eggs— 1 nest (6.2%) |
| 4 eggs—2 nests (12.5%) | 8 eggs— 1 nest (6.2%) |
| 5 eggs—5 nests (31.2%) | 9 eggs— 1 nest (6.2%) |
| 6 eggs—5 nests (31.2%) | Total—16 nests (100.0%) |

Apparently, five and six eggs represent the prevailing clutch-size classes for secondary nests. These data appear to be at variance with a statement by Oney (1954), who found no "appreciable decrease in the size of the clutch toward the end of the nesting season" in Georgia.

LITERATURE CITED

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Unusual Responses of a Prairie Warbler to Sunlight.—The occasional suddenness of the initiation of sun bathing in birds and the striking way in which sunning may take precedence over feeding behavior have been described by Hauser (1957). Responses to sunlight by a female Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) observed at Bloomington, Indiana, are interesting in this connection for two reasons: first, the dominated activity was probably the gathering of nest material; second, the bird attempted to hop while in a sun-bathing position, with the result that she moved as though crippled. The observations were made on 28 May 1959, at 11:00 A.M., when the sky was unusually bright and the air temperature was about 80°F. The warbler had just lost her second nest to a predator, and although her third nest was not found until four days later, she had probably begun its construction when the following behavior was witnessed.

When discovered, the bird was perched on a low branch in partial sunlight, her bill open, her wings half spread, her tarsi slightly flexed. A similar rigid attitude often denotes hostility in the Prairie Warbler, but this female was periodically giving her attention to normal preening and did not appear to be tense. In retrospect, it seems likely that she was in the shading position, heretofore seen by me only at the nest, where it usually functions to shelter nestlings from direct sun.

After about a minute, the warbler hopped to the nearly bare ground, in full sunlight. Here she immediately tilted her body to one side and assumed a sunning position corresponding to that designated by Mrs. Hauser as "level III" (see illustrations 2 and 3, *op. cit.*, p. 86). The warbler remained thus for some three seconds, flew to perch in the shade, and in about two minutes returned to the ground. This time she fell into a crouch, resting her belly on the ground, spreading