

Openings are normally covered with a luxuriant growth of weeds and various other annuals, many of which reach a height of seven to eight feet.

The Clay-colored Robin was most frequently seen in or near a section of ebony trees where there was dense undergrowth of small shrubs and large weeds. It was in a rather low-lying area near a shallow stream bed, in a habitat almost identical to ones in which I have frequently seen the bird in Mexico.

It apparently remained in the park for at least three weeks, being last reported by Mrs. McConnell about 8 June. During this time it was observed by a number of visiting ornithologists and was photographed by P. B. Myers of McAllen, Texas. A kodachrome slide of the bird provided by Mr. Myers has been sent to Dr. George H. Lowery and is now on file at the Louisiana State University Museum.

The only previous record of the Clay-colored Robin in Texas appears to be a sight record published by L. Irby Davis in "Bird Lore," vol. 42 (3), May-June Supplement, 1940, although there has been at least one unconfirmed and unpublished report of the bird in the same area within the last few years.—PAULINE JAMES, Associate Professor of Biology, Pan American College, Edinburg, Texas.

Canada Geese Nesting on a Beaver Lodge.—The benefit of a beaver (*Castor canadensis*) pond for nesting and migrating waterfowl has been reported in the literature and is generally accepted by most investigators. Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*) lodges have been reported by Williams and Nelson (Auk, 60: 341-345, 1943) as being influential ecological factors and add considerably to the nesting value for Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) of certain emergent environments, notably cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and alkali bulrush (*Scirpus spp.*). Beaver lodges may have a similar influence on the nesting value of certain areas for Canada geese.

On 23 April 1960 the author observed an unusual commensal interaction between a beaver colony and a pair of Canada Geese. A nest containing three eggs was observed on top of an active beaver lodge in the Conneaut marsh located in Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

On 28 May 1960 it was observed that the clutch was successful, and that the beavers had not interfered with incubation. The beaver colony and the Canada Geese shared the same lodge with no serious consequences resulting to either.—FRED J. BRENNER, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.

Great Black-backed Gulls Killing Dovekies.—On 16 November 1959 there was a Dovekie "wreck" on Cape Cod, which centered at Bodfish Park, East Sandwich, at the head of Cape Cod Bay. During the second day of a northeast gale observers there watched for two and a half hours as an estimated thousand Dovekies (*Plautus alle alle*) were driven ashore by a 50-mile-an-hour wind, which was directly onshore. The dramatic scene was described to me by the marine biologist, Colonel E.S. Clark, with whose permission I am recording the following details.

Flocks averaging about 25 Dovekies each were blown in, one after another, and, attempting to land on the six-foot waves crashing on the shore, were hurled to the beach. Here, on the sand or in small pools, they were pounced upon by the Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) hovering over the area. Picked up in a gull's bill, the Dovekie was carried high over the parking area and dropped directly on the black-top surface. The gull followed it down, tore it apart, and swallowed the pieces. If the Dovekie was able to break its fall by spread wings, the gull picked