

**Difference in weight of male and female cormorants.**—Total body weight was measured of 22 sexually mature Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) collected in Muscongus Bay, Maine, between 2 July 1966 and 24 July 1966 inclusive and sexed by dissection. The 10 males ranged from 2,072 to 2,566 g and averaged 2,233 g; the 12 females ranged from 1,732 to 2,026 g and averaged 1,861 g.—CHANNING R. KURY, 246 Arch Street, Sunbury, Pennsylvania 17801.

**Redwinged Blackbird destroys eggs of Common and Roseate Terns.**—While watching from a blind at the Great Gull Island tern colony of some 5,000 birds off the northeastern tip of Long Island, New York, on 19 July 1966, I saw a female Redwinged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) destroy eggs of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and the Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*). Although 12 to 15 pairs of Redwinged Blackbirds nested on the island, I believe all the destruction was by the same bird.

At 0615 hours a female Redwinged Blackbird hopped over to the unattended nest of a Common Tern. With two pecks she broke open one of the two eggs in the nest. After taking two "bites" of the well-developed embryo and of fluid in the egg, she flew off. Both Roseate and Common Terns sitting on nearby nests made no attempt to chase her off. At 0630 hours the blackbird returned, took two bites from the same egg, and left. She was again ignored by terns incubating on nearby nests. Two minutes later the Common Tern returned to its nest and after some hesitation sat on both eggs; 15 minutes later the Red-wing approached the nest containing the broken egg but was driven off by the now incubating tern. The female Red-wing returned again at 0700 hours and without hesitation hopped into the nearby grass to an unattended Roseate Tern nest and took three bites of a broken egg. Returning at 0725 she again pecked at this egg, and 10 minutes later she reappeared to peck again at it.

Turning my attention back to the Common Tern nest at 0740 I noted that the broken egg from that nest was now 20 cm away on the pebbles, with the tern still sitting on the nest. At 0750 the female Red-wing appeared, hopped over to the discarded egg, and proceeded to eat it. The incubating tern less than a foot away remained quiet and made no attempt to chase her away. Other terns incubating nearby paid no attention to the Red-wing. Returning at 0800 she hopped over to the nest of the Common Tern, once more unattended. As she approached the remaining egg I interfered by sticking a finger out of the blind. I then left.

Later observations suggest that more than one Redwinged Blackbird may be responsible for egg destruction at this colony. On 28 May Donald M. Cooper saw a male Redwinged Blackbird feed on the abandoned egg of a Common Tern about 200 yards from my blind. Then on 15 June Cooper caught a male and a female Red-wing in separate traps set over Common Tern nests; the nest with the male blackbird contained a freshly broken egg.

The terns here attack Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) and many larger birds that fly near the colony, but in no instance have we seen them mob Red-wings. This suggests they do not recognize Red-wings as predators.

I find no mention in the literature of Red-wings feeding on the eggs of other birds. During the wet summer of 1967 no Red-wings were noted feeding on tern eggs at Great Gull Island although they foraged in nearby vegetation. Possibly the Red-wings' food supply was so limited during the very dry summer of 1966 that the population on this small island developed a new behavior pattern of egg feeding in response to it.—CATHERINE M. PESSINO, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York 10024.*