

denly drawn to a Robin's nest in a small grove of trembling aspens about 75 feet away by a great furor created by two adult Robins, a pair of Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), and several Say's Phoebes (*Sayornis saya*). With 8 × 25 binoculars I could see that their concern was an adult (sex undetermined) Cooper's Hawk standing on the Robins' nest. The parent Robins repeatedly darted very close to the hawk. The hawk clenched its feet rapidly several times, presumably to kill the young nestling(s), uttered a low "cack-cack-cack" several times while being harassed, then quickly flew across a small marsh into another grove of aspens, hotly pursued by the kingbirds. By following the kingbirds' calls and attacks into the foliage I was able to find the hawk and see that it carried one almost fully grown young Robin. The kingbirds chased the hawk several hundred yards—and I was unable to see where the hawk took its catch.

Richards (Condor, 69: 88, 1967) reported a Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) tearing the top from the nest of a House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) while being harassed by a pair of Robins; he also noted seeing a Sparrow Hawk with a fledgling Robin "that must have been removed from a nest." Drinkwater (Auk, 70: 215, 1953) saw a Sparrow Hawk eating a young bluebird it had apparently taken from its nest. Obviously the Cooper's Hawk also occasionally captures nestling birds in their nests.—R. WAYNE NELSON, *Department of Biology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.*

A Brant specimen from Alabama.—On 10 January 1968, Eugene Collett and William Sweeton, both of Huntsville, Alabama, shot a Brant near the Beaverdam Creek Embayment of Wheeler Reservoir, Limestone County, Alabama. These men brought the specimen to the office of the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. Employees there tentatively identified it as a Brant and air expressed this specimen to the U. S. National Museum where its identification was verified as *Branta bernicla hrota* by Roxie C. Laybourne. The specimen, in first year plumage, is now preserved in the collection of that museum. This appears to be the first recorded specimen from Alabama.—THOMAS Z. ATKESON, JR., *P. O. Box 1643, Decatur, Alabama 35601.*

Egg puncturing behavior in Laughing Gulls.—Interspecific territorial disputes sometimes result in one species destroying the eggs of another species (Bent, 1926: 174–175, 182; Weller, 1961), but very few reports exist of breeding birds destroying eggs of their own species (Goethe, 1937; Dexter, 1956). This note documents a case of egg destruction by members of a colony of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*). During a 4-year study (1964–67) of habitat selection in a maritime Laughing Gull colony in Cape May County, New Jersey, I used 122 extensive and permanently established 20 × 20 meter quadrats to count and record the positions of hundreds of gull nests in various parts of the gullery. The low-lying salt marshes where the Laughing Gulls breed have an elevation at or near mean high water level and are often flooded by higher than normal tides during the breeding season (Stone, 1937: 337, 549, 573–574, 600–606).

On 15–16 June 1965 storm tides flooded parts of the gullery, floating many nests. The wind then pushed them along with other floating debris, mainly dead grass stems known locally as "thatch," into huge, floating, jumbled masses of nests and flotsam approximately 100–400 square meters. After moving 10 to 100 or more meters, these