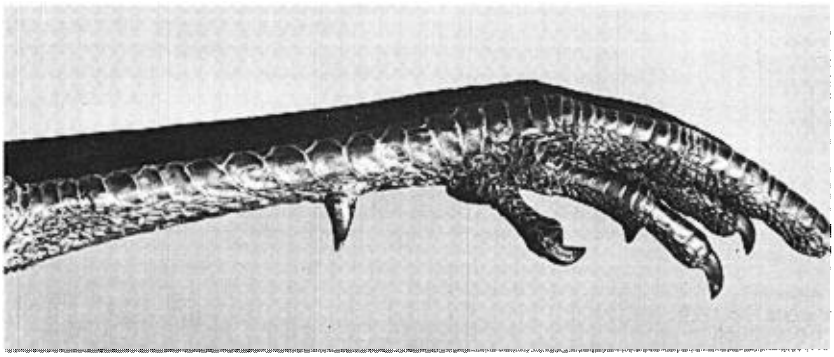

Figure 1. Left tarsometatarsus of wild turkey hen with a well-developed spur.

Two recent female specimens had well-developed tarsometatarsal spurs, which are especially interesting because we can find no previous report of spurs in female wild turkeys.

In February 1968 an adult hen with a spur measuring approximately 9 mm on each leg was taken near Palmdale, Glades County, Florida and preserved as a museum skin. Her ovary was normally developed for February and, except for the spurs, she had no other male traits that we could see.

Another adult hen taken near Palmdale 5 March 1968 had a single spur about 25 mm long on the left leg (Figure 1). She was equipped with a 50-gram tracking transmitter and released alive nearby. She was found later by directional radio equipment incubating a nest of 11 eggs, all of which hatched in normal time.

Game management personnel who have trapped turkeys near Palmdale have seen spurred hens before, and frequently enough so that experienced trappers no longer consider them especially noteworthy. We estimate that more than 1 per cent of the hens there usually have a spur. The specimen described above is the first we have seen or heard about with a well-developed spur on each leg.—Lovett E. Williams, Jr. and David H. Austin, *Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Wildlife Research Projects, Gainesville, Florida 32601.*

The breeding status of the Black-necked Stilt in Canada.—The basis for including southern Saskatchewan in the breeding range of the Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus* (Bent, U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 142: 53, 1927; Check-list of North American birds, fifth Ed., Baltimore, Amer. Ornithol. Union, 1957, p. 209), far north of other parts of its breeding range, is a set of four eggs in the National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada, collected at Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, 3 June 1894, by Edward Arnold. Arnold apparently published no reference to this extraordinary record until 18 years later, and then only by including the species in a list of 14 species whose eggs he claims he collected in western Canada. This appeared in the introductory paragraph to an article entitled, of all things, "A short summer outing in Newfoundland" (Auk, 29: 72, 1912)!

The Saskatchewan eggs measure 47.3 × 30.3, 44.9 × 29.6, 43.2 × 30.1, and 43.4 × 30.1 mm. Thus they are about average in size for the Black-necked Stilt. However, as eggs of the Black-necked Stilt and American Avocet, *Recurvirostra americana*, are similar in color and overlap somewhat in size (although those of the former average

decidedly smaller), the possibility exists that these are only small eggs of the Avocet.

Arnold is known to have told L. B. Bishop (Bishop in litt. to P. A. Taverner, September, 1925) that he had sent the eggs to Major C. E. Bendire for identification. Thus obviously Arnold did not identify the parent birds at the time he collected the eggs. This is suggested also by the data label on which the data are written in ink but the identification and A.O.U. number are pencilled in, presumably at a different time.

Thus the validity of this strange breeding record rests solely on the identification of the eggs. As they cannot be distinguished with complete certainty from the eggs of the American Avocet, which breeds regularly in southern Saskatchewan, the evidence for the nesting of the Black-necked Stilt in Saskatchewan, or indeed anywhere in Canada, is not acceptable.— W. Earl Godfrey, *National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.*

Differential survival among nestling Redwinged Blackbirds after a storm. —Great Gull Island, 7 miles east-northeast of Orient Point, Long Island, New York, is about 17 acres in area and the site of a large tern colony. A few Redwinged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) forage in the grassy sections of the island and nest in its scattered patches of bayberry (*Myrica carolinensis*) and rose (*Rosa* sp.).

In 1967 6 male and 21 female Redwinged Blackbirds remained on the island during the summer. Cold weather persisted through the end of May and nesting began 10 days to 2 weeks later than in 1966. We found 10 nests early in June and 1 nest on 21 June. Using Allen's (Abstr., Proc. Linnaean Soc. New York, 24–25: 43, 1914) determination of 12 days for the incubation period and his criteria for aging the young, egg laying in 10 nests started between 1–10 June: 5 nests, 1–5 June; 4 nests, 5–9 June; and the 10th contained 1 egg 10 June. Eggs in the 11th nest did not hatch and later disappeared. We checked the nests 17 June, 21 June, and 26 June (Table 1).

A 2-day storm 19–20 June (Table 2) limited production in all but one nest. Clutches in the five nests initiated 1–5 June hatched before the storm and the young ranged from 2 to 6 days in age on 19 June. None of the young in these nests survived more than a few days after the storm. Clutches in the four nests initiated 5–9 June hatched 17–21 June, just before and during the storm. Two out of three young survived in each of these nests. The clutch in the last nest, begun 10 June, hatched

TABLE 1

Nest Contents for Redwinged Blackbirds on Three June Checks

	June 17		June 21		June 26	
Nest No.	Eggs	Young	Eggs	Young	Eggs	Young
1	0	4	0	0	0	0
2	0	3	0	0	0	0
3	0	2	0	1	0	0
4	1	2	0	1	0	0
5	1	3	0	0	0	0
6	3	0	3	0	0	0
7	–	–[1]	0	3	0	2
8	3	0	1	2	0	2
9	3	(1 hatching)	0	2	0	2
10	3	0	0	2	0	2
11	3	0	3	0	0	3

[1] Nest not found until June 21.