

TABLE 1
WEIGHT AND MEASUREMENTS OF LONG-BILLED CURLEWS AT HATCHING

	Weight (g)	Culmen (mm)	Tarsus (mm)	Wing chord (mm)
Chick 1	66.0	22.0	46.0	28.0
Chick 2	62.0	22.0	47.0	30.0
Chick 3	62.0	22.0	47.5	30.0

which still had an egg tooth. The downy plumage was as described by Bent (ibid.) and Palmer (ibid.). The distal $\frac{1}{3}$ of the bill is black, the remaining $\frac{2}{3}$ pink.

It is interesting to note that within a few hours of hatching two chicks spent much time out of the nest, wandering as far as 9 m away. They occasionally pecked at the ground slowly, but did not seem to be feeding. From time to time a chick went back under the incubating adult briefly.

On the morning of 5 June Ronald Ryder and Brent Giezentanner had the presumed adults (no others known to be in the area) circle them in alarm over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the nest. They did not locate the chicks, but found the one unhatched egg still in the nest. Bannerman (ibid.) notes that infertile eggs are left in many European Curlew nests. On 6 June I searched an area $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in diameter around the nest thoroughly and did not find the birds.

These observations were made while I was supported as a predoctoral trainee by an NIH Training Grant (No. 5 TO1 GM01779) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.—WALTER D. GRAUL, *Department of Ecology and Behavioral Biology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455*. Accepted 4 May 70.

Nest parasitism by Red-breasted Mergansers in Wisconsin.—In June 1967 I found eggs of the Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) in nests of the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), the Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), and the Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) on Gravel Island, Spider Island, and an island locally known as the Reef, all of which lie in Lake Michigan within a mile from the southeastern tip of the Door Peninsula, Wisconsin. I find no previous North American records of nest parasitism by Red-breasted Mergansers; an apparent record (Weller, *Ecol. Monogr.*, 29: 339, 1959) is erroneous, presumably based upon a photograph by Strong (Auk, 29: Plate 22, 1912) of a captive Red-breasted Merganser duckling following a Domestic Fowl (*Gallus domesticus*). Table 1 gives the details of my observations.

TABLE 1
CASES OF NEST PARASITISM BY RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS IN WISCONSIN

Date observed	Location	Host species	No. of merganser eggs	No. of host's eggs or young
5 June 1967	Gravel Island	Mallard	1 egg	13 eggs
7 June 1967	The Reef	Gadwall	2 eggs	11 eggs
9 June 1967	Spider Island	Lesser Scaup	2 eggs	6 young
9 June 1967	Spider Island	Lesser Scaup	1 egg	8 eggs
9 June 1967	Spider Island	Gadwall	7 eggs	9 eggs

In all cases except the last in this table, the host females were brooding the mixed clutches; in the last case the merganser was incubating. Although I noted about six pairs of Red-breasted Mergansers flying and swimming near Gravel Island, and a pair of this species flew from the Reef when our boat landed there, the low and sparse vegetation on these two islands made them unsuitable habitat for normal Red-breasted Merganser nesting. However, Spider Island, with its growth of white spruce (*Picea glauca*) and white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), was quite suitable for normal Red-breasted Merganser nesting; on this island I found five regular nests of this species containing 11–14 eggs each. I estimated the breeding population of Red-breasted Mergansers on Spider Island to be 30 pairs; this figure may have been high.

In Europe the Red-breasted Merganser has been reported to parasitize occasionally the nests of the Sheld-Duck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Mallard, Gadwall, Common Teal (*Anas crecca*), Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*), and the Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) (Curth, *Der mittelsager: soziologie und brutbiologie*, Wittenberg Lutherstadt, Germany, Neue Brehmbucherei Nr. 126, 1954, pp. 69–70; Weller, *op. cit.*, p. 340; Ardamskaya, *Ornitologiya*, 7: 456–457, 1965; Kortegaard, *Dansk, Ornithol. Foren. Tidsskr.*, 62: 57–59, 1968). Perhaps nest parasitism by the Red-breasted Merganser has merely been previously overlooked in North America; however it is not unexpected, as 20 other species of North American waterfowl have been reported to be nonobligate nest parasites (Weller, *op. cit.*, pp. 338–339).

I am indebted to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology for supporting my work on the Wisconsin islands through a Steenbock Scholarship, and to the U. S. Coast Guard for transporting me to the Reef and Spider Island.—HENRY W. PELZL, *School of Philosophy and Letters, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri 63108. Present address: Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York 10024.* Accepted 23 Feb. 70.

“Egg-dumping” by the Grasshopper Sparrow in a Savannah Sparrow nest.

—Incidental deposition of eggs in the nests of other bird species has been recorded from time to time in several species (e.g. some of the nonparasitic North American *Coccyzus*; Bent, *U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 176, 1940; Wiens, *Southwestern Naturalist*, 10: 142, 1965). Such “egg-dumping” may possibly be a consequence of nest destruction during or immediately prior to egg-laying, accidental placement of eggs, or lack of synchronization of nest building and egg-laying, and has been suggested as having played a role in the evolution of brood parasitism (Hamilton and Orians, *Condor*, 67: 361, 1965). Here I describe an instance of apparent “egg-dumping” by the Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) in a nest of the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*).

On 22 June 1965, while studying the behavioral ecology of the breeding birds of a grassland plot near Madison, Wisconsin (see Wiens, *Ornithol. Monogr.*, No. 8, 1969), I found a Savannah Sparrow nest on the ground at the base of a clump of sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) in a tussock of litter, a situation typical for the species in this area. Two Savannah Sparrows gave disturbance “chips” from a perch 7 meters away while I examined the nest, which contained a full clutch of five Savannah Sparrow eggs as well as two Grasshopper Sparrow eggs; one of the latter was slightly depressed into the nest lining. On 24 June the situation was unchanged. On 5 July a brooding Savannah Sparrow left the nest as I approached. The nest now contained one pin-feathered Savannah Sparrow chick, three Savannah Sparrow eggs, one pin-feathered Grasshopper Sparrow nestling, and one Grasshopper Sparrow egg.