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; Ardamatskaya, 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.

Both adult Savannah Sparrows were seen feeding both nestlings later in the day. When the nest was checked again on 7 July it was empty with the lining undisturbed, suggesting snake predation; garter snakes (*Thamnophis radix*) were common in the field.

Hamilton and Orians (op. cit.) suggested that an egg-laying female whose nest had been destroyed might lay the remaining eggs that were not resorbed in nests of other nearby birds; in a highly territorial species, such an egg-laden female might have less difficulty in gaining access to nests of other species within the territory than nests of her own species in other territories. On the Wisconsin grassland both species were plentiful and highly territorial, actively patrolling territorial boundaries against deep intrusions by neighboring conspecific individuals. Territories of the two species broadly overlapped, and I once found nests of both within 3 meters of each other. These nests both held nestlings, and close watching failed to reveal any sign of overt aggression or interference between the species as they foraged for the young. Clashes between these species were not infrequent in other circumstances, and generally involved conflicts over song perch occupancy (Wiens, op. cit.). Individuals of either species moving about on the ground in territories of the other generally elicited no overt response. This degree of tolerance of another species on the ground near a nest site was not shown by the other species breeding in the area, and perhaps expedited this case of interspecific "egg-dumping."—JOHN A. WIENS, *Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Present address: Department of Zoology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.* Accepted 1 May 70.

Golden Eagle attacks a Mallard.—On 24 May 1969, while censusing birds on the Whittell Forest and Wildlife Area of the University of Nevada in Little Valley, Washoe County, Nevada, we watched a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) capture a male Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) in flight. As we approached a large beaver pond on Franktown Creek, our attention was attracted to a Mallard flying rapidly, within 25 feet of the ground, through a bordering stand of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) with a Golden Eagle in close pursuit. As the duck maneuvered side to side and up and down the eagle remained directly behind it. The eagle was able to maneuver through the pines and over the willows (*Salix* sp.) almost as well as the duck. Within seconds the Mallard disappeared downstream in a thick stand of pine, and the eagle rose to about 100 feet in the air, apparently breaking off the chase.

Suddenly the duck reversed direction and reappeared in weaving flight close to the ground. The eagle turned, stooped, snatched the Mallard out of the air, and still holding the duck in its talons, landed within 100 feet of us. As it surveyed the surrounding area, the eagle detected us, released the duck, and flew away. After the eagle left we tried to find the duck, but it was gone; all we found were a few blood-stained duck feathers.

Sharp (J. Wildl. Mgmt., 15: 224, 1951) mentioned Golden Eagles preying on Mallards and Grossman and Hamlet (Birds of prey of the world, New York, Clarkson N. Potter Inc., 1964) point out that the Golden Eagle has been known to harass ducks in flight. Woodgerd (J. Wildl. Mgmt., 16: 457, 1952) and Brown and Watson (Ibis, 106: 78, 1964) stated Golden Eagles ate Mallards and Carnie (Condor, 56: 3, 1954) reported Mallards in stomach analyses and nest material examinations; but a literature search revealed no exact description of a Golden Eagle capturing a Mallard in flight.—JAMES V. KELLEHER and WILLIAM F. O'MALIA, *Biology Department, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89507.* Accepted 18 Mar. 70.