

Conflict between a Mallard hen with brood and a male Red-winged Blackbird.—On 2 June 1971, from 18:45 until 19:00 (EST) while conducting routine behavioral studies of Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and Blue-winged Teal (*A. discors*) on a state-owned flooding in Roscommon County, 6 miles southeast of Houghton Lake Heights, Michigan, I watched a brooding Mallard hen defend her seven 4-day-old ducklings against the agonistic behavior of a male Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). The following observation was made with the aid of a 20 × spotting scope from a 15-m high tower at a distance of 50 m.

The Mallard hen and brood were proceeding in a zigzag manner through a flooded meadow of sedge (*Carex* spp.) containing irregularly spaced clumps of blue joint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) toward an isolated island of willows (*Salix* sp.) When the hen and brood approached the sedge-willow ecotone an adult male Red-winged Blackbird flew from his perch on the nearest willow toward the approaching family. As the Red-winged swooped low over the brood, the hen uttered a raucous quack and rushed with flapping wings from the rear to lead the brood. When the hovering Red-wing dove again, the hen flew vertically from the water to a height of approximately 0.3 m and struck the antagonist with her breast, knocking the blackbird to the water. As the blackbird rose at an oblique angle from the water, the hen gave immediate chase for a distance of 6 m, flapping her wings, quacking, and running on the surface. The Red-wing retreated directly to the willows; the hen then abandoned her chase and returned to the brood, now concealed in the flooded meadow. The hen's clamorous quacking was heard for an additional 2 minutes after she disappeared from my view.

At the same location 5 hours earlier I saw a Red-winged Blackbird repeatedly strike the back of a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) as it moved through the area foraging. After about 2 minutes of this harassment the heron took flight and landed in another patch of sedge and open water about 300 m away.

According to Nice (1949, Bird-Banding 20: 192) the defense of precocial young by a parent is greatest shortly after hatching. Sows (Prairie ducks, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, The Stackpole Co., and the Wildl. Mgmt. Inst., 1955, p. 149) reported that a Mallard hen successfully defended her newly hatched brood against a mink (*Mustela vison*) by flapping her wings in the face of the predator. Although the documentation of physical defense and feigning on water by Mallard hens against predators appears to be common (Hochbaum, The Canvasback on a prairie marsh, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, The Stackpole Co., and Wildl. Mgmt. Inst., 1959, pp. 105–108), published accounts of a hen defending her brood against other marsh inhabitants appear to be uncommon.

Leslie W. Gysel and Harold H. Prince critically read the manuscript and their helpful criticisms are appreciated. This research is financed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Game Research, Waterfowl/Wetlands Unit.—E. PAUL PELOQUIN, Fisheries and Wildlife Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48823. Accepted 1 Apr. 72.

Jaçana breeding in Brazoria County, Texas.—The Northern or Middle American Jaçana (*Jacana spinosa*) is widely distributed through tropical Mexico to western Panama and the Greater Antilles; the A.O.U. check-list (Check-list of North American birds, fifth ed., Baltimore, Amer. Ornithol. Union, 1957) considers it "casual" in Texas. Most of the Texas records are from Cameron and Hidalgo Counties, but individuals, mainly immatures, have occurred in Mitchell, Bexar, Victoria, Matagordo, and Brazoria Counties. According to Peterson's "A