

another species with which I am very familiar. It commonly makes what I would describe as a quavering chirp, which is possibly the "croak" described above. R. Stjernstedt recorded this on tape. On 21 January 1973 I saw an Akalat singing about a foot above the ground in a thick bush. The song consisted of seven notes, the second much higher than the rest, which were all about the same pitch, and were very soft, subdued, and rather slow. The bird sang three times, after which I tried to imitate its notes, which made it fly off.—CLIVE F. MANN, *P. O. Box 337, Kapsabet, Kenya*. Accepted 26 Feb. 73.

Prolonged incubation behavior by a Marbled Godwit.—On 9 May 1972 I flushed a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) from a nest containing four eggs in a large field of mulched wheat stubble in northwestern Stutsman County, North Dakota. I revisited the nest on 31 May and on 7, 9, 12, 15, 16, 20, and 21 June, and found an incubating adult on the nest during all visits except 21 June. Another adult was seen near the nest site only on 9 May. On 12 June the eggs looked rotten, and the incubating bird seemed to have a crippled leg. On 21 June Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) destroyed the eggs.

Almost no published information is available on the incubation period of the Marbled Godwit. Lindmeir (1960, *Flicker* 32: 9) reported that a nest of this species in Minnesota hatched after 23 or 24 days of incubation. The nest I watched was incubated from 9 May to 20 June, a total of 43 days.—KENNETH F. HIGGINS, *U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, North Dakota 58401*. Accepted 20 Feb. 73.

Use of burrows by Brown Towhees and Black-throated Sparrows.—Most desert birds, unlike mammals, do not retreat to cool underground burrows and thus face extreme midday temperatures in summer. Bartholomew and Cade (1960, *Auk* 80: 504) questioned whether such birds as thrashers and towhees make use of burrows during midday. During the summer of 1970 Austin observed two instances of utilization of badger (*Taxidea taxus*) burrows by Brown Towhees (*Pipilo fuscus*) on the Santa Rita Experimental Range, Pima County, Arizona. On 22 July one was flushed from a burrow at 11:00. On 24 June at 09:00, a towhee entered a burrow and remained for 1 hour when it was flushed. The bird could not be seen from the surface and was at least 1 meter from the entrance. Burrow temperature at this depth was 31.6° C; air shade temperature 1.5 m above ground was 36.8° C.

On 16 June 1971, Smith thought he saw a Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) fly out of a burrow at 11:30; later at 11:50 he clearly saw one come out of the same burrow. Air shade temperature at 1.5 m was 41.5° C, burrow temperature was 34.0° C (both black bulb).

Such behavior allows the dissipation of stored heat and reduces water requirements and is reminiscent of the behavior of ground squirrels (*Citellus leucurus*) under hot conditions (Hudson 1962, *Univ. California Publ. Zool.* 64: 1).

These data were gathered during research supported by the US/IBP Desert Biome program under grant No. GB15886 from the National Science Foundation.—GEORGE T. AUSTIN and E. LINWOOD SMITH, *Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721*. Present address of first author: *Department of Biological Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas 89109*. Accepted 1 Mar. 73.