before depositing the final one. Intraspecific nest parasitism was defined as occurring whenever the rate of egg deposition exceeded 1 per day (Clawson et al., J. Wildl. Manage. 43:347–355, 1979). In 1981–1982, 30 nests found during the laying period were visited on consecutive days, thus enabling documentation of the deposition of an egg from a parasite. Nest parasitism was also suspected if additional eggs appeared in the clutch several days after incubation was initiated. In the two years, I made 289 visits to 64 nests after final clutch size was determined.

Evidence of nest parasitism occurred during laying when 2 eggs were added in less than 10 h and again when 3 eggs were deposited in less than 32 h, both in the same nest. In one instance, clutch size may have increased several days after onset of incubation.

I made the following observations of parasitism in a single nest. On 28 May 1982 at 0840, nest #1-82 had 2 eggs and on the same day at 1800, 4 eggs were found. Encrusted snow covered the nest during 29 May and the morning of 30 May. On 31 May at 0840, 4 eggs were observed and on 1 June at 1600, there were 7; an addition of 3 eggs to the nest in 31 ⅓ h. Laying continued at the rate of 1 egg per day until there was a clutch of 10. On 10 and 12 June, the nest had 4 cold and uncovered eggs, a suspected partial predation and subsequent desertion. However, on 16 June at 1255, there were 7 cold eggs, one of which looked freshly laid (pigmented blotches were shiny). This was the only instance in the 123 nests observed during the study in which a single site was used more than once. On 17 June at 2245, 9 eggs were found. I suspect another instance of parasitism here, but since the intervening period was 34 h, it would have been possible for the resident hen to lay 2 eggs if she had not in fact laid an egg on the morning of 16 June. On 17 June at 2245, the clutch was slightly warm and uncovered, indicating that incubation had begun. The following day, 18 June at 1400, the resident female was sitting on 9 warm eggs, but on 21 June at 1138, she was incubating 10 eggs.

All mated females within a 1 km radius of nest #1-82 were individually color-banded. However, on 3 occasions (26 June, 2 and 8 July) an unbanded and apparently unmated hen was observed in the vicinity. It was most unusual to see a lone hen on the study area before mid-July, and it is possible that two or more of these sightings were of the same female and that she was the nest parasite.

I suspect that nest parasitism is an uncommon event in Willow Ptarmigan, but do not know if my observations of 2 actual and 2 potential instances in 30 nests are a reliable estimate of frequency for the species. Willow Ptarmigan have apparent defenses against conspecific nest parasites. Pairs are secretive near their nests, and during the laying period, hens conceal their eggs by covering them with surrounding debris. Hannon (J. Anim. Ecol., In press, 1983) reported that female Willow Ptarmigan, and to a lesser extent their mates, behave aggressively to intruder hens during the pre-laying period. If female-female aggression extended through the laying period, this would be an effective deterrent to potential nest parasites.

Acknowledgments.—I thank S. Alexander and S. Stephenson for assistance with nest observations, and F. Cooke for use of the La Perouse Bay field camp. This note was reviewed critically by J. Eadie, J. Hamann, S. Hannon, and J. Reynolds. Financial assistance for this study was provided by the Canadian National Sportsmen's Fund, Arctic Institute of North America, Canadian Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and Queen's University Advisory Research Committee.—KATHY MARTIN, *Biology Department, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 3N6.* Received 31 Aug. 1983; accepted 8 Jan. 1984.

Observations on Detrimental Effects of Great Blue Herons on Breeding Black Terns.—Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), although primarily piscivorous, occasionally eat birds (e.g., Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 135, 1926; Palmer, Handbook of North American Birds. Vol. 1, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Connecticut, 1976). We observed 2 instances of Great Blue Herons eating Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) chicks on the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, Creston, British Columbia. To our knowledge, Black Terns have not been reported as prey of Great Blue Herons.

On 26 July 1981 a Great Blue Heron captured and ate an approximately 10-day-old Black Tern chick after landing on a mound within reach of the tern's nest. The heron captured the chick with one strike, reoriented the bird between its mandibles, and swallowed it head first. Several adult terns mobbed the heron for 4 min before the attack, and 2 adults continued to mob the heron for an additional 3 min after the attack, following which they departed. Seven minutes later, 2 adult terns mobbed the heron for another 3 min. The heron assumed a defensive posture, struck several times at the adult terns, then departed from the area.

On 4 August 1982 a Great Blue Heron captured and ate an approximately 17-day-old Black Tern chick after landing in shallow water near the nest. The heron spent nearly 4 min eating the chick. Six adult terns mobbed the heron for 11 min during and after the attack. Two of these terns mobbed the heron for another 25 min until it departed.

In May 1983 we observed another interaction between Great Blue Herons and Black Terns in the same area. From 26–30 May, 7 pairs of terns had been claiming mounds and building nests. On 30 May 1983, at 1500, 4 Great Blue Herons landed within 20 m of some of these nests. Terns from nests nearest to the herons immediately took to the air and called alarm while flying over the intruders. This in turn resulted in the remaining terns joining in the alarm. After 4 min of calling, the terns left the area for the rest of the afternoon. The intruders were joined by 6 other herons throughout the following 4 h. Within one day of this disturbance, the terns abandoned the nests. On 3 June, one adult tern was observed on one of the nest mounds, but never again after that date.

In conclusion, herons may occasionally eat Black Tern chicks and affect placement of their nests.

We thank N. A. M. Verbeek, D. R. Flook, and D. D. Moore for logistic and moral support, and I. Bonsel for field assistance. Financial support was provided by NSERC (grant no. A0239) to N. A. M. Verbeek. A. M. Martell, C. D. Orr and N. A. M. Verbeek kindly reviewed the manuscript.—BETTY-ANN CHAPMAN, *Dept. of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5A 1S6,* and L. SCOTT FORBES, *Canadian Wildlife Service, Box 340, Delta, British Columbia, Canada V4K 3Y3* (Present address: *Dept. of Zoology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 2N2*). Received 17 Sept. 1982; accepted 29 Mar. 1984.

Observer Recognition by the Northern Mockingbird.—In reference to a male Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Laskey (1935:379) remarked "That he recognized me as the intruder who visited his nest was quite evident for all his attacks were directed to me while for others scoldings were deemed sufficient." In a study of Northern Mockingbirds in southern Florida, I found that males and females learned to recognize me. The phenomenon represents a barrier to researchers attempting a simultaneous study of adults and offspring. This note describes the phenomenon and discusses its biological relevance.

Observations were made on a color-banded population of Northern Mockingbirds on the main campus of the University of Miami. My research focused on the singing and reproductive behavior of mockingbirds (Merritt 1984). I made regular visits to the territories of 15 adult males from March to August 1980. During separate visits to each territory I (1) quantified behaviors of adult males during timed intervals, (2) recorded songs, (3) viewed contents of nests to determine the stage of nesting, and (4) banded nestlings when they were 6–8 days old. In addition to these activities, after 14 May 1980, Y. Oniki and I visited nests daily and made measurements on eggs and nestlings.

When I looked into nests containing eggs and young nestlings, adults usually hovered above me or perched nearby and gave alarm calls. When I returned to these territories later the same day or on subsequent days to make behavioral observations, the adults did not act aggressively toward me.

Both adults attacked me when I banded nestlings at the first nest on 4 April. When I returned to this territory on 5 April to make behavioral observations, the male gave alarm calls and began following me as soon as I entered the territory. I left the territory