LETTERS

J. Raptor Res. 33(2):176

OSPREYS INCUBATE GOOSE EGG TO HATCHING

Serial use of the same nest by Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) and Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) has increased in recent decades. Campbell et al. (1990, The Birds of British Columbia, Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria BC Canada) reported that 13% of the nesting Canada Geese utilized nests of Ospreys and Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in British Columbia. Because geese begin nesting earlier, Ospreys sometimes return to find their favored nesting site occupied by a pair of geese. Attempts to drive them from these nests vary in success (e.g., Flath 1972, *Auk* 89:446–447).

On 1 June 1995, while trapping adult Ospreys near the mouth of the Coeur d'Alene River in northern Idaho, I found a pair of Ospreys attending a nest containing an Osprey egg and a goose egg. I intended to leave the eggs undisturbed until I heard soft vocalizations and discovered that the goose egg was already pipped. Because there was no chance of its survival at the nest, I removed the gosling from the shell in the hope of releasing it into a brood on the Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area nearby. However, John Nigh, the area manager, informed me that most local broods hatched from 15 April–15 May which limited the opportunity to foster the bird. I was advised to euthanize it, a step I carried out with much regret. I am uncertain if the Osprey egg hatched; no birds were present when I returned in mid-July to band nestlings in the area.

I assume that a dispute over use of the nest occurred soon after Ospreys arrived from the south in late March or early April, before the geese had completed egg laying. A 1 June hatching date lagged behind that of most local clutches by 2–6 weeks, suggesting that the nest contained a single goose egg at the time Ospreys drove the geese off The goose egg was not incubated until an Osprey egg was laid several weeks later when the incubation of both began Alternate scenarios such as a delay in the initiation of egg laying or the reduction of a completed clutch to a single egg seem less likely.

Alteration of clutch size or differences in egg size or color apparently have little influence on incubation effort by Ospreys. Fannin (1894, *Auk* 11:322) found a pair of Ospreys incubating a mixed clutch of goose and Osprey eggs which they continued to incubate after he reduced the clutch to a single goose egg. Reese (1977, *Auk* 94:202–221) found Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) eggs in several clutches of Ospreys nesting in Maryland. In a cross-fostering experiment involving extensive replication, nesting Ospreys closely incubated 1–2 dummy Bald Eagle eggs for several weeks. All pairs later completed incubation of their clutches, which were maintained in an incubator during the experiment (E. Bizeau pers. comm.).

I thank Wendy and Jon Lawrence for field assistance. Tracy Fleming provided helpful comments on the manuscript and additional literature sources. The suggestions of C.J. Henny and an anonymous reviewer also improved the manuscript.—**Donald R. Johnson, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844 U.S.A.**

J. Raptor Res. 33(2):176–177

SWAINSON'S HAWKS IN NUEVO LEÓN, MEXICO

In Mexico, the Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) is considered mostly a migratory species that nests mainly in the U S. and Canada. Here, we report our observations of two Swainson's Hawk nests in the state of Nuevo León, Mexico

Previously, Urban (1959, Birds from Coahuila, Mexico. Univ. Kansas Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist. 11(8):443–516) reported two Swainson's Hawks in western Coahuila, Mexico. The first specimen was collected on 20 June 1952, two miles west of Jimenez. Measuring the gonads to be 6 × 4 mm, Urban concluded the bird must have been breeding. The second individual was collected at Iglesias, 24 km southwest of Sabinas on 22 August 1949. Swainson's Hawks have also been