

records of a complete nesting of the Sparrow Hawk, as most of the previous interest has been in collecting the eggs rather than in observing the life history.

The incubation period noted above together with that noted by Warren ("Birds of Pennsylvania," 1890, p. 141—21-24 days), by Althea R. Sherman (*Auk*, xxx, 1913, p. 406—29-30 days), and by Forbush ("Birds of Massachusetts," 1927, p. 178—21 days or 29-30 days), indicates variation which may be due to repeated or protracted absence from the nest of the parent birds. For instance, in the nesting described above the birds left the nest when a ladder was placed against the tree, and would not return for fifteen minutes or more after the intruder had gone.

That delay in development from partial chilling of the eggs may be possible, is indicated by the observations of Alfred R. Lee on the eggs of the domestic fowl (see *Farmers' Bulletin*, No. 1363, p. 4). Kendeigh and Baldwin (*Amer. Nat.*, lxii, 1928, p. 276) state that a young House Wren just out of the shell, and abandoned by its parents, survived three days. This may indicate that an egg about to hatch could endure a lengthening of the incubation period due to enforced absence of the parent.

Just what effect prolonged cooling might have on development seems to be unknown, and an interesting problem for experimental study is here suggested. With the facts on the temperatures of birds now being collected by Mr. Baldwin, it should be possible to set up an artificial incubator for the eggs of wild birds, and to ascertain the effects of varying temperatures.—E. C. HOFFMAN, *Lakewood, Ohio*.

Ten Minutes with a Kingbird.—The rapidity with which birds of the fly-catcher family catch and devour winged insects is remarkable. On July 16, 1926, the writer had the opportunity to observe an adult Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) following his trade. The bird's perch was a cross beam on a telephone pole near the house. Both long and short sallies were made from here, with the bird always returning to eat the prey and often to wipe the sides of its beak on the edges of the beam. The smaller insects were eaten in a hurry but some of the larger ones required more exertion. This observation started at 6:30 P. M. and ended at 6:40 P. M., and in that time the bird made eighty-two successful catches, with returns each time.—WILLIAM YOUNCWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

