

dots or lines whatever, but over the larger end had sepia washings of varying shades and tones as though painted on with a brush. Freshly laid eggs were found from May 12 to July 12, suggesting two broods for this locality. Sixteen of the thirty-seven nests which were followed through had successful broods, a nest efficiency of forty-two per cent. Including all nests which were built, only one-third produced full grown young which left the nests. Twenty-three nests contained seventy-three eggs of which fifty-three (seventy-two per cent) hatched; the balance had been infertile, deserted, or destroyed. Only thirty-five full grown young birds left the nests, a productivity of forty-eight per cent.

In an adjoining swamp Merrill Wood made a previous study of redwings, reporting in *Bird-Lore* (July-Aug. 1928, p. 262). Twelve nests contained thirty-nine eggs, with two infertile, producing thirty-three nestlings and twenty-one fledglings, a productivity of fifty-two per cent. The incubation period was definitely determined, eleven days in three cases and twelve days in one instance; the young birds left the nest in from eight to eleven days. These young were banded but never heard from again.

The incubation period was not determined by me. Incubation by the Red-winged Blackbird evidently begins before the entire clutch is laid, as all birds are not hatched on or near the same day. Laying with the redwing is probably not a momentary operation, as with some birds such as swallows, but requires several hours upon the nest during which time the eggs laid previously are subjected to incubation. Eleven days seemed the approximate time spent by my young birds in the nest. Twenty-three were banded. The young redwings have a few small sparse tracts of black natal down, located as parietal, occipital, ulnar, scapular, lumbar, sacral, and femoral, with an oblique abdominal.

The ability of a nestling redwing to take care of himself was tested. A nestling less than two or three days old would be apt to drown if it should tumble out of the nest. As they grow older they become more able to save themselves. Placed in water, the half-grown nestling will float and can swim, but in a very excited manner. They will swim to the reeds and hold on, calling for their parents. When well covered with feathers, but yet a few days before being ready to vacate the nest, they readily swim, but excitedly, and can climb up the cattails to the nest. They are not combative and can not protect themselves against enemies. None of these young had any ectoparasites. An attempt was made to determine their stomach contents by aspiration with an eye dropper, but only liquids and digested material were obtained. By dissection, one stomach was found to contain flies and other insects, no seeds. All of the birds left the swamp on their southern migration early in August.—HAROLD B. WOOD, M. D., *Harrisburg, Pa.*

Blue Goose in Western New York.—On November 11, 1937, I discovered a lone Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) in immature plumage on a small pond which is cut off from Lake Keuka by a willow-grown sandbar. I notified Mr. Verdi Burtch, who made the bird's presence known to a number of Yates County bird lovers and it was visited by several observers in the next couple of days. It remained on this pond for five days and was last seen on November 15. Eaton ("Birds of New York", 1910) mentions the Blue Goose as "one of the rarest waterfowl which visit the waters of New York State". He gives data on but six collected specimens known to that date.—CHAS. J. SPIKER, *Branchport, N. Y.*