Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) was 21 days, "not 15 as given in Bent's work." A more detailed account by Miller and Miller (1948. *Auk*, 65: 562) gave, for three nests at Belle Isle, near Detroit, Michigan, 20 to 22 days, and references showing periods from 19½ to 21 days. Nelson (1930. *Bird-Banding*, 1: 8) gave an incubation period of 21 days for one Michigan nest.

Miller and Miller (*op. cit.*, p. 561) stated that in seven nests observed by them one egg was laid daily, but that in two other nests one day was skipped between the laying of the second and third eggs. The latter part of this statement was, according to a personal letter from the authors, slightly in error: in one of the "two other nests" a day was skipped between the laying of the first and second eggs; in the other a day was skipped between the third and fourth eggs. These authors stated, in their paper (*op. cit.*, p. 566) that the chicks began to fly at 14–15 days of age.

At a nest which I found in May, 1950, the egg-laying pattern was distinctly different from anything suggested above. The nest was near the Carrie Dam in the Preston Frith, in Butler County, Pennsylvania, 30 miles due north of downtown Pittsburgh. A transcript of my record follows:

Sunday, May 14, 1950, shortly before noon E.D.S.T. the bird was flushed from one egg, presumably shortly after she had laid it.

May 15	5 p.m.	still only one egg
May 16	5 p.m.	two eggs
May 17	5 p.m.	two eggs
May 18	7 p.m.	three eggs
May 19	5 p.m.	four eggs, and bird sitting
June 11	noon	four eggs, none hatched
June 12	7 p.m.	one dead young in nest, other three gone.

The slow rate of egg-laying surprised me: it took five days (May 14–19) to increase the clutch from one to four eggs—almost two days per egg. The weather was favorable, but cool at night at the water's edge.

The incubation period was between 23 and 24 days (May 19–June 12), appreciably longer than anything recorded in the literature above mentioned.

So far as I could tell, the hatching was normal. The dead young one was dry and fluffy, apparently having been for some hours outside the shell.

From the time incubation started I noted only one adult sandpiper at the dam at any time, this despite the frequency of my observations. I do not know what the sex of the one bird was. After the eggs hatched I several times observed one adult and two young some two hundred feet from the nest in the spillway from the dam, and later along the shore close to the nest-site. Witherby *et al.* (*loc. cit.*) stated that the young were "tended by one parent." Nelson (*op. cit.*, p. 2) stated that incubation and brooding were done by the male bird only.

On June 26 and 27, when the young were 14–15 days old, they did not fly, even when my dog chased them, but on the 30th they flew without provocation. Their fledging period was a day or so longer than that reported by Miller and Miller.—F. W. PRESTON, *Butler, Pennnsylvania.*

Short-billed Marsh Wren breeding in Kansas.—On August 26, 1950, in a field south of and adjacent to U.S. Highway No. 40, and eight miles west of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas, we discovered at least six singing Short-billed Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus platensis*). A specimen shot by Tordoff that day proved to be a male (UKMNH No. 29664) with much worn plumage, completely ossified skull, and considerably enlarged (about 6 x 4.5 mm.) testes.

A search of the literature revealed that, despite Gosse's calling the Short-billed Marsh Wren a rare summer resident in the state (1891. "History of the Birds of Kansas," p. 617), the A.O.U. Check-List's inclusion of eastern Kansas in the breeding range (1931, p. 249), and Bent's statement that the species breeds south "to . . . central Missouri (St. Louis and Kansas City)" and "west to western Missouri (Kansas City) . . ." (1948. *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 195: 274), there was no definite breeding record for Kansas.

This being the case, we returned to the same field four days later (August 30) and hunted until we found a nest. Two wrens obviously were in possession of it, for one sang frequently and the other scolded vigorously while we were in the immediate vicinity. The nest held four eggs. After watching the scolding bird enter, we waited about three minutes, then flushed and collected it, finding that it had a well defined brood-patch. On obtaining the singing bird, we noted that its plumage, like that of the first specimen, was much worn, but that it had no brood-patch. The birds proved to be a male and female (UKMNH Nos. 29665 and 29666). Neither was fat. In each the skull was completely ossified. In neither had the postnuptial molt started. The testes of the male measured about 7 x 5 mm., the ovary of the female about 4.5 x 3.5 mm., the largest ovum having a diameter of about 1 mm. The four eggs proved to be considerably dehydrated and without visible embryos.

The population of wrens from which the three adults and the nest and eggs were taken ranged over nearly ten acres of gently southward sloping hillside. The vegetation of the area was a mixture of rank weeds and grasses, approximately four feet high, interspersed with many clumps of smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra* L.). The nest itself was 12 inches above the ground in little blue stem (*Andropogon scoparius* Michx.) and was constructed of dried and green blades of the same and other species of grass. The hillside, although heavily overgrown with weeds and grasses, could not by any stretch of the imagination have been called a marsh or swamp. In years of normal spring and summer precipitation, it would doubtless be relatively dry. In 1950, however, approximately 23.6 inches of rain fell in the Lawrence area between June 1 and September 1, and this excessive moisture may have been responsible for the wrens' nesting. Many lowland meadows in eastern Kansas should, it seems to us, offer a suitable nesting environment for this species even in seasons with much less rainfall.

Bent (*op. cit.*, 276) gives August 20 (New Jersey) as the latest "egg date" for the Short-billed Marsh Wren. Although the condition of the eggs in the nest described above indicated that they had been incubated for some time, the date, as far as we can tell, is the latest on record for a clutch attended by a female.—HARRISON B. TORDOFF AND GEORGE P. YOUNG, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence.*

***Turdus migratorius achrusterus* and *Passerculus sandwichensis mediogriseus* in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia.**—On April 2, 1949, at Beech Bottom, Brooke County, West Virginia, I collected from a flock of about 200 Robins two male specimens which appear to belong to the small 'southern' race, *achrusterus*. They measure respectively: wing, 122, 124 mm.; tail, 90, 90; exposed culmen, 19, 20; tarsus, 30, 32.

The Savannah Sparrow is a rather common summer resident in the open hilltop farmlands of the Northern Panhandle at elevations from 1000 to 1200 feet. To ascertain which subspecies nested in the region, I collected a breeding male on May 28, 1949, half a mile northeast of West Liberty, in Ohio County, finding that it represents the race *mediogriseus*, the breeding form of northern Ohio. It measures: wing, 70 mm., tail, 49, exposed culmen, 10.5, tarsus, 19.

Dr. Herbert Friedmann of the U. S. National Museum has handled the above discussed three specimens and concurs as to their identification.—LT. KARL W. HALLER, *Killeen Base, Killeen, Texas.*

Notes on *Icterus nigrogularis* and *I. chrysocephalus* in Surinam.—In his interesting and important paper, 'Convergent Evolution in the American Orioles,' Beecher (1950. *Wilson Bulletin*, 62: 70) states that the Yellow Oriole (*I. nigrogularis*) is an "arid zone" bird. This is wholly counter to my experience in Surinam, where the species is confined to swampy areas along the rivers and outer coasts. Conspicuous because of its melodious, flutelike notes, it is one of the most characteristic birds of the *parwa*, the broad strip of mangrove (*Avicennia nitida*) along the seashore. It is also found in the *brantimaka*, the thorny thicket of sickle-pod (*Drepanocarpus lunatus*) fringing the muddy banks of the rivers. I have never found it breed-