

Mourning Doves nest in Black-crowned Night Heron nests.—On June 14, 1952, during banding operations in a large colony of Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) on Harsen's Island, St. Clair County, Michigan, I found two young Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) about eight days old in an unoccupied nest of this heron. The colony was in a permanent marsh where the water was 40 inches deep at the time. The heron nest was only 25 inches above the water in a small willow (*Salix* sp.). The doves had added only a few scattered straws to the original nest which was composed largely of coarse willow twigs, the entire mass being 20 inches in diameter. The Mourning Dove young were in the center which was slightly depressed. They were being brooded by an adult which left the nest reluctantly. Several occupied nests of the heron were nearby. Mention was made of this nest in "Bird Survey of the Detroit Region," 1952, Detroit Audubon Society.

On July 12, 1953, in the same colony, I found a Mourning Dove sitting on two eggs in a heron's nest in the same part of the colony. This was a nest which I had tagged and numbered 17 on June 7. At this time it held two eggs and one newly hatched young of the heron. The nest was 90 inches above the water in the upright fork of a willow. No new material appeared to have been added by the Mourning Doves.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, December 14, 1952.*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo's egg in Mourning Dove's nest.—On June 10, 1952, I found one egg of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) in the nest of a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*). The location of this nest was on the Cranbrook Estate in Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The measurements of the egg were 33.6 mm. by 23.3 mm. This nest, built on a horizontal branch at its juncture with the axis 92 inches above the ground, was discovered on April 29. It held two small nestlings of the Mourning Dove on this date. The young doves were banded on May 5, and observed on May 6, 11, and 13. They flew on the latter day. The empty nest, being beside the path which I walked three times daily to and from the Cranbrook Institute of Science, was observed many times between May 13 and June 10 when the cuckoo egg was deposited. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard in the vicinity several times previous to the deposition of the egg. I left the egg and made daily observations through June 16 but saw no cuckoo at the nest; on June 16 the nest and its contents were collected.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, January 4, 1954.*

Red-wings hatch and raise a Yellow-billed Cuckoo.—On June 2, 1953, when revisiting a nest of the Red-wing (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), I found that it contained three eggs of the hosts and one of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). A fourth Red-wing egg lay broken on the ground directly below the nest. The nest was in a shallow marsh in southeastern Pontiac Township, Oakland County, Michigan. I had found this nest May 17 when it was not yet lined. Its height above the wet ground was seven feet, and it was fastened to five upright branches in the forks of a shrub willow (*Salix* sp.). A durable tag, numbered 10 for this location, was tied to the nest shrub on May 17. When visiting the nest again on June 11, I found two Red-wing nestlings about six days old and a Cuckoo nestling about the same age. The cuckoo exhibited wing quivering and a buzzing noise in a characteristic fashion. All three young were banded. I watched the nest for about half an hour from a distance of 30 feet with 7 × 35 binoculars. During this time the male Red-wing fed the young once and the female fed twice;

I could not see how the cuckoo was fed as the nest was too high. On June 14, three days later, the Red-wing nestlings crouched in the bottom of the nest when I lowered it for observation. The cuckoo stood erect with beak pointed upward for a moment, then climbed over the side of the nest. Its feathers had already burst from their quills and it appeared to be ready to leave the nest. The bottom of the nest was filthy from the cuckoo droppings which had not been removed by the Red-wings. My observations of many nestling cuckoos, both Yellow-billed and Black-billed (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) indicate that the droppings are not encased in gelatinous envelopes. The cuckoo was replaced in the nest where it remained until I left several minutes later. On June 18 the nest was empty, and I was unable to locate the young in the vicinity. According to many observations I have made on both nestling Red-wings and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, the cuckoo would have left the nest, normally, on the 9th or 10th day after hatching which would have been June 15, the next day after my last observation of the nestling. The nestling Red-wings normally should have left a day or two later or at least a day before I found the nest empty. I did not see adult cuckoos in the vicinity at any visit to the nest, but heard one calling at a distance on May 17, the day the unfinished nest was found.

While eggs of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo have been found in nests of the Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), and Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*), reported from several observers by A. C. Bent (1940. *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 176:56), I have not found any record of the eggs of this species in the nest of the Red-wing. The cuckoo egg was not measured, but was distinguished by its larger size, more oval shape, and lighter color from that of its black-billed relative.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, January 4, 1954.*

Avocets nesting in Kansas.—On May 15, 1951, two nests of the Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) were located by the writer in Finney County, Kansas, seven miles north of Garden City. One nest contained four eggs and the other, three eggs. The nests were again visited and photographed on May 22, 1951. The nest that previously contained three eggs had been destroyed. A third nest, containing four eggs, was located and of these two remaining nests, one was destroyed by the destructive hail storm of May 30, 1951. Eggs in the other nest hatched and the young survived.

During the spring of 1952 the writer located two more Avocet nests about four miles west of the nests observed the previous year. One of the two nests was destroyed by some unknown predator; three of the four eggs in the other hatched and the young survived. The pond around which the nests were observed in 1951 was dry in 1952 because of drought in the area.

On June 26, 1953, the area that had breeding birds in 1952 was again visited. Seven nests were located; all were on islands within the lake and each contained the full clutch of four eggs.

There are few previous nesting records of the Avocet in Kansas. Mr. Ed Gebhard of Meade, Kansas, told me that he has seen nests in wheat fields and around potholes in Meade County. Also, Mr. Frank Robl of Ellinwood, Kansas, told me he has seen nests in the Cheyenne Bottoms area of Barton County. It appears that the Avocet is a rather rare, but widely scattered nesting bird in western Kansas.—MARVIN D. SCHWILLING, *Forestry, Fish, and Game Commission, Box 864, Garden City, Kansas, August 1, 1953.*