

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.*