

a gentle pressure with the edge of my hand against the pushing breast I could provoke an increased effort at this particular spot. It would seem likely that the irregularities of a nest as it is being shaped provide a tactile-proprioceptive stimulus to the bird's breast which acts as a releaser for the thrusting response; the thrusting ceases when the nest fits as the thrusting ceased when I allowed the bird to "push" my hand into shape.

Other similar observations have been made; for example, D. Goodwin, (1954. *British Birds*, 47:81-83) describes nest-building movements performed by juvenile Mistle Thrushes (*Turdus viscivorus*). These observations indicate that the innate releasing mechanisms responsible for reacting to nest-building releasing stimuli must be present at an early age. These precocious behavior patterns are probably not observed more often because of lack of observers and because the stimuli releasing these acts seldom are available to juvenile birds, which, in any case, must have a low state of internal readiness to perform patterns of behavior associated with nest building and other reproductive activities.—WILLIAM C. DILGER, *St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York, October 22, 1955.*

**Water moccasin as a predator on birds.**—During field investigations of rails in the coastal marshes of Cameron Parish, Louisiana, a water moccasin, *Agkistrodon piscivorus*, with an engorged digestive tract was observed and collected on April 13, 1955. Upon dissection a male Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) was found in a fairly fresh condition with only the head and forequarters digested.

On October 13, 1955, in the same locality, a water moccasin was collected and found to contain the feathers, feet and bill of a Seaside Sparrow (*Ammospiza maritima*).—WILLIAM H. ADAMS, JR., *Department of Forestry and Game Management, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, October 25, 1955.*

**Pleistocene Birds from Crystal Springs, Florida.**—Among several lots of fossil birds submitted to me for identification by S. J. Olsen of the Museum of Comparative Zoology are three specimens from Crystal Springs run, in the southeastern corner of Pasco County, Florida. This material was collected on June 4, 1941, by Dr. L. J. Marchand of Gainesville. The bones are well mineralized and resemble Pleistocene material from other Florida spring deposits; all represent living species.

*Anas carolinensis*. Green-winged Teal. Left humerus. Recorded from the Pleistocene at Seminole Field, Florida (Wetmore, 1931. *Smithsonian Misc. Coll.*, 85(2):21), as well as from several localities in the western United States.

*Aythya collaris*. Ring-necked Duck. Left carpometacarpus. The previous fossil records of this species are somewhat unsatisfactory. Shufeldt (1913. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 32:156) recorded it with a query from Fossil Lake, Oregon, and Howard (1946. *Carnegie Inst. Wash. Publ.*, 551:174, 191) also queried the determination. Wetmore (1940. *Smithsonian Misc. Coll.*, 99(4):26) listed it from the Lower Pliocene of Nevada. This record is based on a report by Merriam (1916. *Univ. Calif. Publ. Dept. Geol. Sci.*, 9:173), whose specimens were so fragmentary that it would have been preferable to confirm the determination with better material before extending the record of living species of birds back to the Lower Pliocene.

*Aramus guarana*. Limpkin. Right carpometacarpus. Previously recorded from two Pleistocene localities in Florida (Wetmore, 1931).—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, November 11, 1955.*