

phenomenon of imprinting is of great adaptive value, ensuring, as it does, that the young will respond properly to the parent at the same time at which they are physically capable of dispersal. Among altricial birds, needless to say, their physical inability to leave the nest makes the same mechanism less important. However, it will also be seen that the ability to be imprinted represents a highly maladaptive trait among domestic ducks and geese, as in such birds there would be a high likelihood of the occurrence of imprinting onto the wrong object. One would thus suspect the ability to be imprinted to be a rather labile trait which could be maintained only in the face of strong selection. As a consequence, inbreeding and domestication, with its concomitant and unnatural reduction of mortality, would tend to produce individuals differing greatly from the parent stock with respect to their imprintability. In this connection, it is well to recall the loss of broodiness in the white races of the domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*). I would suggest that this could account for the differences in the sensitive periods and success of imprinting reported by several different workers: Fabricius (1951. *Proc. Tenth Internat. Ornith. Congr.*), E. H. Hess (1955. MS), K. Lorenz (1937. *Auk*, 54:245-273), M. M. Nice (1953. *Condor*, 55:33-37), and Ramsay and Hess (1954. *Wilson Bull.*, 66:196-206).
—PETER H. KLOPFER, *Osborn Zoological Laboratory, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, September 28, 1955.*

Little Gull taken in Indiana.—On December 22, 1955, William J. Barmore, Ted Chandik, Richard E. Phillips, and I found an adult Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) feeding with about 20 Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) in the harbor at Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana. The gulls were feeding among the drifting ice cakes in a relatively open channel. After repeated observations of the Little Gull as close as 10 feet I collected it. This constitutes the first specimen for Indiana (although there are numerous sight records) and evidently one of the few specimens for the United States. It was very fat and weighed 155.5 grams. The sex could not be determined. Two of the three small minnows removed from the gullet were identified by Dr. Reeve M. Bailey, University of Michigan, as *Notropis atherinoides* (Emerald Shiner).

Phillips and I had observed an adult Little Gull at the above place on January 27, 1955, but had been unable to collect it. It fed with an immature female Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), which I collected, and a few Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), but there were no Bonaparte's Gulls. The previous night the temperature had been at least -10° F. and the gulls were feeding in two small, warm water outlets of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company plant. Except where these outlets flowed into Lake Michigan, no other open water was visible.

The Little Gull skin and partial skeleton are deposited in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology; the Kittiwake skin has been deposited in the Purdue University Wildlife Laboratory Collection.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, January 26, 1956.*

Evening Grosbeak nesting in Michigan.—Actual nesting records of the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) in Michigan are few. Wood (1951. *Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool. Misc. Publ.* no. 75:456) listed only two, although summer observations of adult birds were recorded from several areas. I would like to thank Dr. Lawrence H. Walkinshaw, who gathered most of the following information, for graciously turning it over to me for publication.

Dale and Marian Zimmerman observed about 50 grosbeaks July 25, 1952, along Highway M-77 at the Alger-Schoolcraft County line, 11 miles north of Seney. These birds were eating the fruits of wild cherry and *Amelanchier*; at least three birds were stub-

tailed young, barely able to fly, being fed by the adults (*Audubon Field Notes*. 6:284). From June 18 to 20, 1953, John and Ruth Bunnell, William A. Dyer, Peter Hovingh, Jr., James Ponshair, Walkinshaw, and the Zimmermans observed 11 to 12 birds per day at this site. The grosbeaks were coming to feed at a salt block behind Rustic Cabins Lodge. Grosbeaks came from the south, southeast, and northwest. Since more males than females were seen, the observers thought perhaps the birds were nesting nearby. These observers also found three male and one female Evening Grosbeak in the Dutch Fred Lake woods, two miles south of the Lodge.

In 1954, Dr. and Mrs. W. Powell Cottrille, Dyer, Vivian Mumford, Walkinshaw, and the writer made their headquarters at Rustic Cabins in late June. We found from five to 15 Evening Grosbeaks utilizing the salt block daily. On June 21, while working through a woods north of Dutch Fred Lake with Powell Cottrille and Walkinshaw, I noticed a rather conspicuous nest high up in a 90-foot sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). It was found to be occupied and a forked tail projected over the nest rim. After considerable stick throwing, we finally flushed the incubating bird, a female Evening Grosbeak. She called as she flew from the nest. Cottrille climbed the tree on June 24, but was unable to approach closer than about 10 feet from the nest. It was constructed on top of an almost horizontal, slightly ascending, small branch, about eight feet from the trunk of the tree. The four greenish-blue eggs were quite heavily marked with brownish spots and blotches which averaged less than an eighth of an inch in diameter. The nest was 54 feet (measured) above the ground and was rather loosely constructed of twigs and small sticks, which ranged in size from one-sixteenth to one-fourth inch in diameter and from four to six inches in length. Finer twigs composed the lining and the nest was well shaded and mostly covered from above by a clump of leaves. It was still occupied on July 1, when last visited.

From June 14 to July 2, 1955, H. Lewis Batts, Jr., the Bunnells, the Cottrilles, Dyer, Eliot Porter, Josselyn Van Tyne, and Walkinshaw again visited the area. They saw Evening Grosbeaks daily, but found no nests. From these records it appears that the Evening Grosbeak may nest regularly in the region north of Seney.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 1, 1956.*

The nest and egg of *Tachyphonus phoenicius*.—The Red-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus phoenicius*) is a medium-sized tanager which inhabits the Guianas, northern Brazil, southern Venezuela, and eastern Peru. The male is glossy black on both the upper and under surfaces, and there is a bluish sheen to the upper parts; the upper lesser wing coverts are scarlet and the axillaries and underwing coverts pure white. The female is totally different, the general color of the upper surface being dusky brown, while the throat and middle abdomen are Isabelline white. Ten male specimens which I collected in Surinam average 21.38 grams, and three females weighed 21, 23 and 25 grams, respectively.

I have been unable to find a description of the nest and eggs of this species. The eggs were not listed in the collection of the British Museum (Ogilvie-Grant, 1912. "Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum," vol. 5), in the Nehr Korn collection (1910. "Katalog der Eiersammlung nebst Beschreibungen der ausser-europäischen Eier." Berlin), or in the Penard collection from Surinam (Hellebrekers, 1942. *Zool. Meded.*, 24:271-272). Neither H. Snethlage (1928. *Jour. f. Orn.*, 76:726-728) or E. Snethlage (1935. *Ibid.*, 83:21) mentions nests or eggs from Brazil.

Zimmer (1945. *Amer. Mus. Nov.* no. 1304:23) stresses the paucity of information concerning the habits of this species. In Surinam *Tachyphonus phoenicius* inhabits rather open, sandy savannas covered with scattered bushes. It is rather common in this