

Flycatcher perched 8 inches from the first and seemed to threaten it, causing the first bird to fly. Thereupon the second bird flew to the fork, sat there 10 seconds, and flew. A nest was begun at this site on 22 May. The sexes of these birds are unknown, but surely the birds represented pairs. If so, both males and females showed interest in potential nest sites.

On 12 May 1957, I saw a Least Flycatcher go to an old nest (which I could not identify) of a previous season, sit on it, give the chattering call, then fly and sing *chebec*. I am not certain of the sex of this bird. Its behavior causes one to speculate whether the old nest was that of a Least Flycatcher, although a bird observed by de Kiriline examined an old nest of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*).

My observations seem to indicate that both the male and the female take an active part in selecting (or inspecting) the nesting site. One alternative may be that the male is only attracted to the spot by the presence of the female there. Someone will have to clarify this point by the study of banded birds.

Secondly, my notes suggest that both sexes sing *chebec*. MacQueen (1950. *Wilson Bull.*, 62:194-205) stated, "The female does little, if any, true singing." Davis (1959. *Wilson Bull.*, 71:73-85) thought only the male gave the *chebec* song. It may well be that female Least Flycatchers sing *chebec* only during the period of nest-site selection, but evidently no one has intensively studied this species during this phase of its reproductive cycle. Acadian Flycatcher females sing at least through the incubation and brooding periods, thus it would not be surprising to learn that female Least Flycatchers also sing.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, *Department of Forestry and Conservation, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, 11 October 1961.*

Total albinism in a Nebraska Bobwhite.—There have been several reports of total albinism in Bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*) (Sprunt, A., 1928. *Auk*, 45:210-211; Stoddard, H. L., 1931. "The Bobwhite Quail: Its Habits, Preservation, and Increase." Pp. 85-86). Stoddard (op. cit.) states: "While very rare in nature, albinistic examples of bobwhite are by no means rare in museum or in natural history collections. Pure albinistic bobwhites usually show a creamy tint or suffusion." Sprunt (op. cit.) mentioned it was remarkable that a bird of this extraordinary plumage could survive long in the wild.

There seems to be no record of the age of quail which are fully albinistic. On 23 October 1960, a total albino Bobwhite was shot three miles north and three miles east of Arapahoe, Nebraska. It was taken from a covey, all other birds of which appeared of normal coloration. The bird, a male, had pure-white plumage; its bill and feet were magenta; its eyes clear. The ninth and tenth primaries were characteristic of an adult bird and the shape of primary coverts also indicated it to be an adult. From this we may assume that the bird had survived at least 16 months in the wild.—KARL E. MENZEL, *Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, Lincoln 9, Nebraska, 19 July 1961.*

A record of a puffin in Vermont.—The AOU Checklist (1957) lists only two inland records for the Common Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). A recent occurrence from Vermont is therefore worthy of note.

On 10 December 1960, the *Rutland Daily Herald* carried a large picture of a "strange bird" which had been picked up by Marshall Fish on Cold River Road, Rutland. The story accompanying the picture gave no indication of the size of the bird, and the

picture did not show the bird distinctly, although it was evident that it was an alcid. I wrote, therefore, to Mr. Fish, who kindly sent me a colored photograph which clearly showed the bird to be an immature puffin.

The bird would not eat and was released after a few days. ALLEN H. BENTON, *State University of New York College of Education, Albany, New York, 19 July 1961.*

A hybrid between a King Eider and Common Eider observed in Iceland.—In an earlier paper (see Pettingill, 1959. *Wilson Bull.*, 71:205–207) I reported two instances in Iceland of a male King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) mated with a female Common Eider (*S. mollissima*). These birds I observed in 1958 at their nests in a colony on the farm of Gisli Vagnsson.

Gisli has written me that in 1960 two male King Eiders were again mated with female Common Eiders in his colony and, in addition, a male that was obviously a *spectabilis* × *mollissima* hybrid was mated with another female Common Eider. Gisli's son Einar took several photographs of this pair, one of which was sent me by Dr. Finnur Gudmundsson (see Fig. 1).

The hybrid specimen, according to Gisli's description translated by his son, showed the following hybrid characters: Bill processes slightly higher, more prominent, and deeper yellow than in *mollissima*; cheeks white at the base of the bill, becoming pale

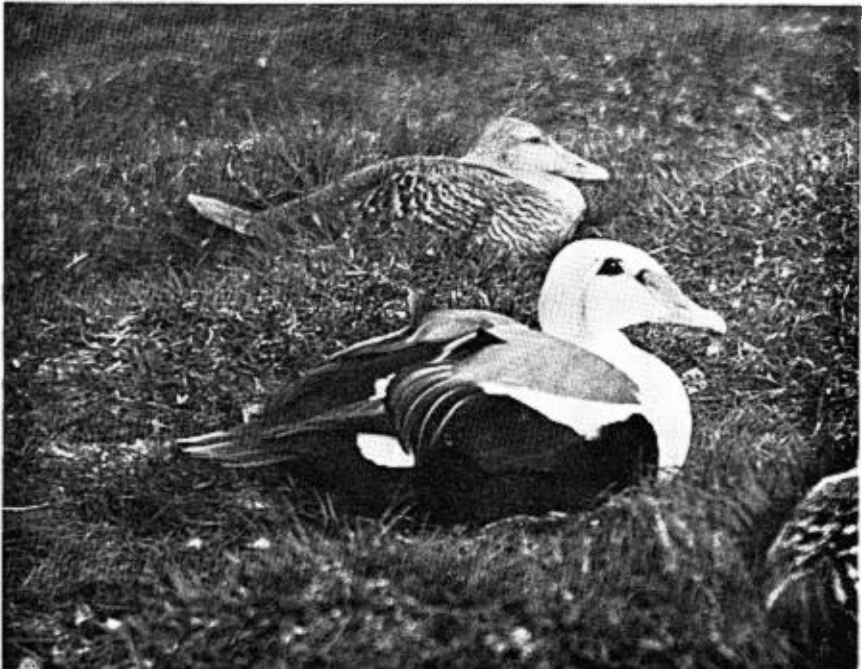


FIG. 1. A male King Eider × Common Eider hybrid mated with a female Common Eider. Photographed in Iceland by Einar Gislason.