quail probably died on 16 December, during an influx of cold weather. The bird, a juvenile female, was presumably a member of a nearby covey from which a second juvenile female, considered to be normal, was collected on 17 December 1964. Both quail had completed their postjuvenal molting.

Although both had well-filled crops and gizzards containing weed seeds and cultivated grains, plus grit in the gizzards, there were four lead shot in the gizzard of the quail found dead. The emaciated condition, enlarged gizzard, and discolored (dark red-lavender) flesh of the bird with the lead shot, which weighed only 130 grams, was in sharp contrast to the normal bird, which weighed 171 grams (Fig. 1). The shot were eroded to a diameter of about 1.5 mm or about the size of No. 11 shot.

Lead poisoning among waterfowl is well known but is rarely observed among gallinaceous birds. In New Mexico, Campbell (1950. *J. Wildl. Mgmt.*, 14:243–244) found a dead Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata pallida*) with 13 lead shot in its gizzard. Among wild pheasants, reports of lead poisoning are also rare (Hunter and Rosen, 1965. *California Fish and Game*, 51:207).

Stoddard (1931. "The Bobwhite Quail: its habits, preservation and increase") reported that a single shot pellet retained in the gizzard is sufficient to cause death from lead poisoning among penned quail up to 41 days of age and that one adult Bobwhite from Texas, which was liberated in Florida, died with two lead shot in its gizzard. Mortality of quail from ingested shot could conceivably reach significant proportions on intensively hunted areas without being noticed. As shown by Rosene and Lay (1963. *J. Wildl. Mgmt.*, 27:139–142) dead quail are rarely found in the wild, due to rapid decomposition, scavenging animals, and the density of their habitat.—RONALD L. WESTEMEIER, *Section of Wildlife Research, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois, 7 December 1965.*

Ring-necked Pheasant moves newly hatched young.—On 5 June 1954, at Metropolitan Beach, Macomb County, Michigan, I discovered a nest of the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) in which six of the ten eggs had hatched—apparently within the last few hours. The female ran some distance away through the tall grass and disappeared from sight. When I returned to the nest about two hours later all of the young were gone, leaving four unhatched eggs. I looked carefully through the grass to see how far the young had scattered, as some of these were still not dry at the first observation. About 25 feet away I found all of the young in a hastily scratched and wallowed depression around which tangled grass stems had been gathered. Under normal circumstances the female would probably not have tried to lead the young away from the nest until sometime the next day. Whether the female would have continued incubation on the remaining four eggs after removing the young is doubtful. I moved the unhatched eggs and placed them in the cavity under the young. In the late afternoon, before leaving the area, I returned to find the young still at their last location. None of the unhatched eggs had yet been hatched. I was unable to return to the place later, and hence did not learn what the final outcome was. I have found no reference to this behavior in the literature on this species.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 22 November 1965.*

Ring-necked Pheasants hatch in nest of Blue-winged Teal.—On 26 June 1954 near Metropolitan Beach, Macomb County, Michigan, I found the nest of a Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) containing 11 eggs. In the same nest were two of the smaller olive-brown

eggs of the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). One week later I again visited the area and was fortunate enough to find two pheasants, one with dry down feathers, the other newly hatched in the nest. None of the teal's eggs had hatched and none gave sounds of pipping activity. Under ordinary circumstances the incubation periods of the two species have been listed as 23 days maximum for the teal (Bergtold, W. H., 1917. "Incubation Periods of Birds," p. 81) and 25 days for the pheasant (Bent, A. C., 1932. "Life Histories of North American Gallinaceous Birds," p. 314) although 81.7% of 656 eggs listed by Bent hatched on the 23rd day. It has been generally assumed that Michigan ducks do not start incubation until the last egg is laid. This same is apparently true of the gallinaceous birds, including the pheasant. I cannot explain this apparent discrepancy in the hatching times of the two species in this nest.

Two years before, on 31 May 1952, I had found one egg of the Ring-necked Pheasant in the nest of the Blue-winged Teal in the same locality. The nest contained 8 eggs of the host (Fig. 1). Two other observers in this same locality reported Blue-winged Teal's nests containing the eggs of Ring-necked Pheasants. The first of these was reported (Detroit Audubon Survey Nesting Card) by Mrs. Irene Jasper. This nest contained 6 eggs of the host and one of the pheasant on 7 May 1952. The second nest on 28 May 1955 contained 12 duck eggs and two pheasant eggs (also Detroit Audubon Survey Nesting Card report, by Mrs. B. J. Johnston). The second observation on the following 2 June by Mrs. Johnston revealed two one-day-old pheasants on the back of a teal. These were photographed by William Hopkins. The two young pheasants were placed in the nearby nest of a teal which already contained eggs. Again, as in the first instance, the teal's eggs had not hatched.

FIG. 1. Egg of Ring-necked Pheasant in nest of Blue-winged Teal, Metropolitan Beach, Macomb County, Michigan, 21 May 1952.

It is well-known that under certain circumstances Ring-necked Pheasants not uncommonly lay one or more eggs in the nests of other birds of their species and occasionally in the nests of chickens, Bobwhites, Ruffed Grouse, and Sooty Grouse (Bent, A. C., op. cit.) but apparently nothing is known of the fate of the pheasant's eggs under these conditions. On 16 May 1953 Dr. D. S. McGeen, in Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan, found three eggs of the pheasant in the nest of a Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) in which there were 8 of the host's eggs.

I believe that the pheasants' laying in the nests of Blue-winged Teals mentioned above was due to the destruction of the pheasants' nests by grass cutters and lawnmowers in the park area. This destruction probably caused the pheasants to seek other nests in which already-formed eggs could be laid.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 22 November 1965.*

Tufted Titmouse destroys bagworms.—Several times during August 1965, I found a bagworm (*Thyridopteryx*) lying on the grass under a large pine tree in our yard in La Grange, Lewis County, Missouri. Yet no bags were visible on the tree. Each bag had been opened and the "worm" was missing.

On the morning of 20 August, a Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) carrying a bagworm, flew from a neighbor's ornamental evergreen into our pine. After working perhaps 30 seconds, the bird raised its head and gulped down some fairly large object. At the same time, the bag dropped lightly to the ground. Examination showed that the "worm" was absent and the upper end of the bag had been snipped off as neatly as if done with scissors—unlike the ragged tear in a cocoon robbed by a woodpecker.

Then I recalled that a family group of titmouses habitually visited the area, each morning, and centered activities around my neighbor's evergreen which was very heavily infested with bagworms. Before the next morning, my alarmed neighbor had disposed of his infested shrub. The titmouses ceased their regular visits and no more empty bags were found.—HENRY HARFORD, *Route 1, Box 1192, Mount Dora, Fla. 32757, 26 November 1965.*

Melanism in the Ovenbird.—A melanistic Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), was mist-netted at the American Museum of Natural History's Kalbfleisch Field Research Station, Huntington, New York (Long Island), on 4 September 1965. This bird, an immature female, had completed its first prebasic (postjuvenal) molt and was not fat. Mensurally, the specimen (A.M.N.H. 785767) falls within the range of variation of 32 fall females of *S. aurocapillus* examined. It appears to be aberrant only with respect to the greater intensity of melanin pigment in areas of the plumage that are normally dark (streakings on the breast and flanks, lateral crown stripes, and moustachial streaks) and the presence of melanin in regions where dark feathers normally are not found (pileum, throat, malar region, superciliary region, undertail coverts, and central back region). In addition, the bill is decidedly darker and the tarsi and feet are slightly darker than normal.

I know of no previously published report of such extreme melanism in *Seiurus*, and Dr. Stephen Eaton has written me that his studies of the genus uncovered nothing of this nature. Two additional melanistic specimens of *S. aurocapillus* were called to my attention, however, in response to inquiries sent to a number of museums. (1) Dr. Lester Short, Jr., of the U. S. National Museum, sent me a specimen (female, U.S.N.M. 375991) collected by John B. Calhoun near Emory University, Dekalb Co., Georgia, on 5 October 1943. It differs from the New York bird in having melanin still more profusely distributed in regions that are normally not so pigmented, including the throat, malar,