

a 12-day incubation period, two of the eggs hatched on the morning of 6 January 1966 and the third hatched the following day. On 6 and 7 January the adult fed worms to the young birds, but in the early morning of 8 January the temperature dropped to a low of 12 F and by daylight the ground was frozen and unyielding. That morning the adult shuttled on and off the nest, alternately brooding the young and searching for food.

The low temperatures and lack of food were evidently too much for the young birds and on January 9, the nest was completely deserted.

At no time during these events was more than one adult observed at the nest, and nest-building, incubation, brooding, and feeding were carried out by a single bird, presumably the female.

The initiation of nesting activity coincided with the construction of a huge Christmas display across the street from this office building. The thousands of bright, colored lights adorning this display may have been a factor in triggering nesting activity in this bird. Bissonette and Csech (1936. *Bird-banding*, 7:108-111) induced Connecticut pheasants to lay fertile eggs in January by "night-lighting," and Welty (1962. "The Life of Birds," p. 152) states that "'night-lighting' has stimulated other species of birds to lay eggs out of season; rats, mice, and sheep to breed precociously; and brook trout to spawn in December instead of March." Benoit (1950. Grasse, "Traité de Zoologie," Tome XV, Oiseau. Masson et cie, Paris) points out that red light rays penetrate the tissues of the head more effectively than the shorter wave length blue light, thus providing greater stimulation of the gonads via the anterior pituitary. This may have been a factor here for over half of the lights in the display were red.—STEPHEN W. KRESS, 680 Vernon Road, Bexley, Ohio, 27 January 1966.

**Wing and tail flashing of Painted Redstart.**—On 21 April 1961, near Payson, Arizona, I watched a Painted Redstart (*Setophaga picta*) as it moved around the exposed roots of an old sycamore tree (*Platanus occidentalis*) near the top of the steep river bank. While foraging the bird opened and closed its tail feathers as one would open and close a small fan and flashed its wings in a manner similar to that of the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). In the half-light among the roots, the white wing bars and tail feathers were made very conspicuous by these movements.—MARY WIBLE, Gaines, Pennsylvania, 28 January 1966.