

the disgorging of food can be seen as an effective means for transporting viable propagules from the birds' feeding places to their roosting places.

The observations reported in this note were made when I was a Research Fellow of the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.—PAUL A. STEWART, *Entomology Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Oxford, North Carolina, 13 July 1966.*

Buff-breasted Sandpiper in northwestern Ohio.—On 11 June 1966 I was participating in a state-wide breeding bird census. I, accompanied by five of my students, ran a 25-mile transect stopping to make a 3-minute observation every half mile. Approximately half of my transect was in Hardin County and the remainder in Wyandot County. At 10:00 AM we were standing outside the car beside a plowed field on Wyandot County Road 294, five miles west of Harpster, Ohio. While I was listening for bird songs from a nearby woodlot my attention was drawn to a sandpiper moving among the clods in the adjacent field. It was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*). Within a few minutes we located six other individuals. They were exceedingly tame and fed over the plowed field independently. On several occasions they approached within 30 feet and we observed them for 20 minutes. At the end of that time the birds got up as one and flew off to the east. The only previous spring record of this species in Ohio is given as 6 May 1923 by Borror (1950. *Ohio Jour. Sci.*, 50:1-32). Although the spring record of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Ohio is unusual, the date is not. Oring (1966. *Wilson Bull.*, 78:173) had this species in Oklahoma on 3 June.—RICHARD S. PHILLIPS, 334 Liberty Street, Findlay, Ohio, 23 July 1966.

Egg teeth and hatching methods of the Long-billed Curlew.—Recent discussions on egg teeth (Wetherbee, 1959. *Bird-Banding*, 30:119-121; Clark, 1961. *Wilson Bull.*, 73:268-278; Parkes and Clark, 1964. *Wilson Bull.*, 76:147-154) stress the paucity of information on Scolopacidae, so some recent observations on three hand-reared Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus*) seem pertinent. The set of four eggs was obtained from a nest west of Brigham City, Box Elder Co., Utah on 24 May 1966. Upon pipping, all four chicks had cream colored egg teeth on both upper and lower bills. The upper tooth was a raised projection 1 mm from the distal tip of the culmen. The lower tooth, on the distal tip of the lower mandible, was smaller, rounded, and barely raised from the surface of the bill. Both teeth were ephemeral and deciduous. In each of the three birds that survived, the lower mandibular teeth were lost on the first day after hatching, and the upper tooth persisted until the second day. The same situation has been described for the American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) by Wetherbee and Bartlett (1962. *Auk*, 79:117), and for the Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) by Tomkins (1965. *Wilson Bull.*, 77:151-167). Conflicting data have been reported for other members of the genus *Numenius*. Willink (cited in Clark, op. cit.) found only a lower egg tooth in *Numenius* sp.; while Parkes and Clark (op. cit.) found only an upper bill tooth in *N. tahitiensis*.

Observations on the hatching method of *N. americanus* showed that the pip hole was started approximately one third the distance from the large end of the egg. It was progressively enlarged until a circle about 1.5 cm in diameter was formed. The chick then pushed out the large end and emerged by splitting the remaining shell into three approximately triangular pieces. This method is similar to that utilized by the

Willet (Tomkins, op. cit.) but different from that of the woodcock (Wetherbee and Bartlett, op. cit.).

I wish to thank K. L. Shirley for cooperation in gathering data and Dr. K. L. Dixon for criticisms of this note. This study was supported by an NDEA Predoctoral Fellowship.—DENNIS M. FORSYTHE, *Department of Zoology, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, 18 July 1966.*

Foreign Eggs in Nests of California Gulls.—During a study on the interactions between California (*Larus californicus*) and Ring-billed gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) at Miquelon Lake, located at 53°15'N and 112°55'W in Alberta, in 1964 and 1965, three coot, two grebe and two Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) eggs were found intact in California Gull nests and were being incubated. Neither coots nor grebes nested on the island or had been seen visiting gull nests. It appears, therefore, that they were ingested whole by the gulls and regurgitated in the nest. On several occasions grebe and duck eggs were observed which were pecked open just outside and over the nest rims. As a rule, when the gulls bring whole eggs back from different localities and regurgitate them outside the nest, they are pecked open and devoured. However, when the eggs are regurgitated within the nest, the drive to incubate these eggs may be stronger than the urge to eat them.

Twomey (1948. *Condor*, 50:97–100) observed California Gulls bringing other birds' eggs to their nests in Idaho. Sometimes they were carried in the bill, but more often they were swallowed and regurgitated at the nest. The eggs brought were those of Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*), Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), American Coot (*Fulica americana*), Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), and Eared Grebe (*Podiceps caspicus*). Sugden (1947. *Condor*, 49:93–96) found Ring-necked Pheasant, Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) and Cinnamon Teal eggs in the California Gull nests in Utah. These data all confirm the suggestion that California gulls swallow eggs whole and regurgitate them later in the nest.—KEES VERMEER, *10177-104 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, 2 August 1966.*

Bonaparte's Gull feeding on walnut meat.—The food of Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) wintering along the seacoast usually consists of live marine life, mostly taken from the surface of the water (Bent, 1921. *U.S. Natl. Mus., Bull.*, 113:178).

During many years of observation of gull concentrations in New Jersey, I have never seen a Bonaparte's Gull at garbage dumps, pig farms, or the other scavenging areas where the larger gulls congregate. Therefore, I was surprised to find the crop of a Bonaparte's Gull crammed full of walnut meat. This food was also in the gizzard, whereas no other food was present. The walnut meat was in the form which is commonly used by housewives.

The bird, a female in immature plumage, was collected on 22 April 1963 at South Amboy, Monmouth County, New Jersey from a flock of about 200 Bonaparte's Gulls. This species is common at this time of year at this location. Large numbers are often noted feeding in the tidal rifts in Raritan Bay.

I have no idea where this individual could have obtained its unusual meal. The specimen is no. 210605 in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.—ROBERT C. FROHLING, *Howell, Michigan, 6 April 1966.*