

Two groups, each consisting of eight heterosexual pairs, were studied. Females of Group A were permitted to retain and incubate the first egg they laid. Subsequent eggs were removed within eight hours following oviposition. Females of Group B were not permitted to retain any eggs: again, eggs were removed within eight hours following oviposition. Consequently, females of Group B were never exposed to the presence of an egg in the nest nor permitted to incubate an egg for more than eight hours at a time.

Results were clear-cut. All females of Group A laid only the species-typical number of eggs per clutch. Each female's ovary, when examined by laparotomy on the third or fourth day after her last oviposition, contained only small follicles (2.0 mm or less in diameter) typical of the inactive non-breeding state. All females of Group B continued to lay eggs until the arbitrary termination of this study, after each female had laid 20 eggs. Laparotomies of Group-B females, on the fourth day after each had laid its twentieth egg, showed that each female still possessed an active ovary containing large follicles of various diameters (8.0 mm or less). Indeed, in the interval between being removed from their breeding cages and the day of laparotomy, six Group-B females had laid an additional, twenty-first egg.

These findings indicate that the cessation of full ovarian activity and egg-production by female Budgerigars may be influenced by the performance of incubation behavior and/or conditions within the nestbox. Therefore, I would suggest that Budgerigars be reclassified as indeterminate egg-layers.

The author is indebted to Mrs. M. Goodrich and Mr. W. Schubach for help during this study. This study was supported by Grant GB-3191 from the National Science Foundation.—BARBARA F. BROCKWAY, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. (Present Address: 2175 Tabor Drive, Denver, Colorado.) 2 March 1967.*

**A territorial encounter between Screech Owls.**—While studying Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) population density on the night of 28 June 1965, at 10:30 PM Hardy Stebbins and I stopped at an oak woods northwest of South Bend, Indiana and observed a territorial encounter between two owls. After our giving only three imitations of an owl call, a gray phase owl responded from 10 m away. This owl flew about 74 m farther away upon our approach with a net. Our second approach flushed the owl about 42 m farther and after a few minutes it was forced about 122 m into the territory of another Screech Owl. The low monotone call of the first owl and our own imitations probably brought in the other owl, whose call descended the scale. As the two owls moved closer together, the quality of their calls changed. During three years of owl-calling I have never heard so many unusually low, angry-sounding, and ominous calls. The first owl was seen 9 m off the ground when the second owl came diving in out of the darkness and struck it on one side. Thereupon they grasped one another and tumbled to the ground, then separated, and flew off in opposite directions. A moment later the owls again moved toward one another giving their unusual calls. We could tell that a fight was about to occur when the calls became increasingly ominous and angry-sounding. The second and third fights were not observed directly, but the owls could be heard tumbling through the leaves to the ground. Finally, the first owl moved back to its original location, and the calling of both owls then diminished rapidly.—SCOTT C. REA, *952 Riverside Dr., South Bend, Indiana, 10 January 1967.*