made obstacles. However, it is more unusual that they should be found at an inland television tower. The nearest known present breeding site for Black Rails are the marshes of Chesapeake Bay, about 200 miles NE of Raleigh.—Micou M. Browne and William Post, *Zoology Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, 27607, 3 February 1972.*

Eggshell removal in the Spotted Sandpiper.—Tinbergen and co-workers suggested that the latency of eggshell removal depends on two factors: the importance of cryptic coloration to protection of the eggs and young and the extent of predation on unguarded young (Tinbergen, Broekhagsen, Feekes, Houghton, Kruuk, and Szulc, Behaviour, 19: 74–117, 1962; Tinbergen, Nat. Hist., 72:28–35, 1963). Partially hatched and wet gull chicks are subject to heavy intraspecific predation (Tinbergen, 1963, op. cit.). Removal of conspicuous eggshells is often delayed until the chicks dry. The Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) and Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) are less subject to the intraspecific predation found in gulls, depend on cryptic coloration for escape, and remove their eggshells much sooner after hatching than do the gulls. But this is all the comparative evidence Tinbergen mustered in support of his hypothesis.

On 14 July 1970 I saw an adult Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) flying over a speckled alder thicket and holding an eggshell in its bill. The shell hung down, pointed end forward. The bird called loudly every 5 sec during its entire flight. It landed on a plank bridge and placed the eggshell on the bridge. It stood by the shell for a short time then flew through the alders in the general direction of its nest. It continued to call, a loud *peet-weet* whistle, while standing by the shell, but became silent upon departing.

The eggshell, the larger portion with the pointed end, the blunt end having been knocked out, was damp inside with the allantoic membranes still clinging to the inner surface. The shell was deposited about 40 m from the nest.

Four chicks were present in the nest which less than two hours earlier had contained only two chicks. There were no eggshells in the nest nor within 1 m of the nest. Two of the chicks were dry, one was damp, and the fourth was wet.

I had checked the nest two hours earlier, thus no more than two hours could have elapsed between hatching and eggshell removal. The wet membranes lining the eggshell and the chick's wet down would seem to indicate that only a few minutes had elapsed. The Spotted Sandpiper, a solitary-nesting species not subject to intraspecific predation on wet chicks, a species whose eggs and young are cryptically colored, appears to remove eggshells quickly as predicted by Tinbergen.

I made these observations while doing research supported by a grant from the Surdna Foundation to Bowdoin College.—Edward H. Burtt, Jr., *Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, 14 February 1972.*

Stomach capacity in the Common Nighthawk.—Analyses of the stomach contents of the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) have occasionally revealed the presence of surprisingly large numbers of insects, particularly winged ants (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 176:224–225, 1940). Two nighthawks collected from a migratory flock near Roanoke, Virginia, on 4 September 1971, contained such an impressive quantity of food material that I was prompted to make the following measurements.

The birds, both female, weighed 101.2 g and 99.7 g, and were extremely fat. Their stomachs were distended with queen ants (Formicinae), and the wet weights of the