TABLE 1

THE NUMBER, PERCENT, AVERAGE LENGTH, AND WEIGHT OF 216 PREY REMAINS COLLECTED FROM BELOW FOUR FAVORED FEEDING PERCHES AND SIX ACTIVE NESTS

Common name	Number	Percent	Length (cm)[1]	Weight (g)[2]
Bluegill	76	35.2	12.8	51
White crappie	7	3.2	18.3	77
Black crappie	67	31.0	17.2	82
Yellow perch	28	12.9	15.3	37
Largemouth bass	22	10.2	21.9	144
Pumpkinseed	9	4.2	13.2	54
Northern redhorse	4	1.8	27.0	612
Northern pike	3	1.4	42.8	624

[1] total length tail compressed.
[2] weights varied due to stage of desiccation, decomposition, and missing tissue.

mis gibbosus), and largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) were attracted and captured in this way. These surface disturbances may have attracted the fish by their resemblance to floundering prey (fishermen sometimes deliberately stir the surface to attract the same fish).

The frequency of use of various fishing methods was influenced by weather and by the type of lake fished. Ospreys used the foot dragging method only over calm water. Because I could not maintain observation of individual birds for extended periods of time and over the extensive areas visited by them I was unable to gather good data on frequency of use of each method.

Prey species.—I found no prey other than fish. Fish taken as prey (and also most common in fishermen's catches, gill nets, and seine hauls) were: bluegill, white crappie, black crappie, yellow perch, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed, northern redhorse (*Moxostoma aureolum*), and northern pike. Centrarchid species (crappies, bluegill, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed) composed 83.9 percent (181) of the prey found in or below four feeding perches and six nests (Table 1). Ospreys seldom took northern pike except during spawning or when found after winter- or summerkill. The average lengths and weights of prey remains are given in Table 1.

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Clapper Rail in Tamaulipas, Mexico.—On 17 December 1938, George B. Saunders collected an adult male Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) in a brackish marsh, 10 miles south of the mouth of the Rio Grande, in Tamaulipas, Mexico. This specimen, now no. 532700 in the National Museum of Natural History, has recently been identified by me

as a representative of the subspecies *R. l. saturatus*. To my knowledge this is the first record of this subspecies in Mexico, and the first record of any Clapper Rail in Tamaulipas (Friedmann et al., Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 29, 1950; Dickerman, Wilson Bull. 83:49–56, 1971). The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (1957) indicates that the range of *saturatus* extends along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico from Alabama to Brownsville, Texas. Whether this bird was a stray from slightly farther north or a member of an unreported resident population is not known, but there is no intrinsic reason why the range of this coastal subspecies should not extend beyond the international boundary.—RICHARD C. BANKS, *Division of Wildlife Research, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C. (mailing address: National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560).* *Accepted 29 August 1973.*

A possible "assist" to a hatching chick by an adult Whimbrel.—At the nest of a Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) under prolonged observation near Churchill, Manitoba, in July 1967, I observed a sequence of events that seem to represent an "assist" to a hatching chick by the incubating adult. The egg in question pipped about 48 hours prior to the "assist," during which time the other three eggs hatched and the chicks remained in the vicinity of the nest scrape. In the 39 hours after the egg first pipped, a crack about ½ inch wide and halfway around the short axis of the shell developed. After 43 hours the adult Whimbrel moved the egg out of the scrape with a series of pushes from its bill, eventually leaving it about 8 to 10 inches from the nest. The bird pushed the egg about as far as it could stretch its neck without leaving the sitting position. The crack in the egg remained on top throughout this movement. The egg then remained outside the scrape in this position for 5 hours. From the blind I could see that occasionally the chick moved and the egg shook slightly. I could not hear any sound from the egg, but the wind was from the blind toward the scrape. After the 5 hour period the adult stood up and stepped over to the egg. Facing the scrape, the adult pushed and rolled the egg back to the nest; the egg rolled over completely once. The adult turned to face into the wind, started to sit down, but then stood again and very carefully inserted its bill into the crack in the egg, opening the mandibles as it did so. For about 2 minutes the adult repeatedly moved its bill along the crack, periodically opening the mandibles and seeming to pry at the crack during the process. The adult moved its body as well as its bill. After the "assist" the adult tucked the egg in with the chicks in the nest and sat down again. An hour later the adult took a single piece of shell out of the scrape and deposited it a short distance to the side. This piece of shell represented about a third of the long axis on one side and half on the other. After another hour, the adult stood up and walked off with this piece of shell. Then the bird came back, picked up another piece of shell from the scrape and flew off with it. This second piece of shell appeared to represent the reciprocal portion of the entire eggshell in comparison with the first fragment. Inspection of the nest during absence of the adult showed one wet chick and 3 dry ones. I left at that time, making a brief search of the area to which I had seen the adult carry the first shell fragment. I was not able to find it, so no inspection could be made that might have shown that the shell was abnormal in some way. A more extensive search was not made as this could have kept the adult from returning to brood the wet chick. The next morning 2 adults and 4 apparently normal chicks were in the area. Shell fragments were again sought, but could not be found.

I have never seen such a prolonged insertion of the bill into the crack of a hatching