

outside their normal wintering range may have prompted this association.—STEPHEN A. NESBITT, *Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Wildlife Research Office, 4005 S. Main, Gainesville, FL 32601. Accepted 26 Aug. 1974.*

**Renesting and second broods of wild Mallards.**—During 1968–71, nesting Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) hens were captured on nest baskets in prairie marshes of Western Stutsman Co., North Dakota (Doty and Lee, *J. Wildl. Manage.*, In press). Each duck was marked with an identifying nasal saddle (Doty and Greenwood, *J. Wildl. Manage.*, In press). Eight of the marked hens were subsequently observed nesting twice in a breeding season on baskets. Five of the hens renested in the same previously used baskets and three were in different baskets but in the same marshes. The time between termination of the first nests and initiation of egg laying in renests averaged 23 days (9 to 66 days). The long delay for some of the ducks indicates that other nesting attempts could have taken place, but periodic checking of all nest baskets precluded the possibility that interim nesting occurred in them.

Three of the eight renesting hens had hatched clutches of eggs earlier in the season. The successful hatch of the first and second observed clutches of two hens was deduced from the appearance of egg membranes and shells, and the absence of any sign of duckling mortality. These hens laid the first egg of their second clutch approximately 22 and 25 days after termination of the first nests. There were 11 and 10 hatched ducklings in the first broods and 6 and 3 in the second broods. The third hen hatched five of six eggs in its first observed clutch but the ducklings died of exposure soon after they left the nest. A temporary confinement pen set around the nest basket (for capture and marking of young) had apparently prevented the hen from properly brooding the ducklings during a rainstorm in the evening of the day of hatching. That hen laid the first egg of its second clutch in the same basket 11 days after the earlier hatch, but the hen died after laying four eggs in the second clutch. The apparent cause of death was peritonitis possibly brought on by oviduct necrosis due to an impacted, thin-shelled egg.

Instances of individuals renesting after hatching eggs in earlier clutches have been reported for the Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) by Barnes (*Auk* 65:449, 1948), Hester (*Proc. S.E. Assoc. Game and Fish Comm.* 16:67–70, 1965), Grice and Rogers (*Massachusetts Div. Fish and Game, Final Rep., Proj. W-19-R*, 1965), McGilvrey (*Auk* 83:303, 1966), Rogers and Hansen (*Bird-Banding* 38:234–235, 1967), and L. Fredrickson (pers. comm.); the Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) by Stotts and Davis (*Chesapeake Sci.* 1:127–154, 1960), and Benson and Foley (*N.Y. Fish Game J.* 9:73–92, 1962), the Pintail (*A. acuta*) by Sowls (*Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa. and Wildl. Manage. Inst., Washington, D.C.*, 1955), the Mallard on managed areas (Burger, *Proc. N.E. Fish and Wildl. Conf.*, 1964; Bjarvall, *Wilson Bull.* 81:94–96, 1969), and released Mallards (Benson and Foley, *N.Y. Fish Game J.* 9:73–92, 1962).

I thank Charles W. Dane for his review of the manuscript.—HAROLD A. DOTY, *Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jamestown, ND 58401. Accepted 8 Aug. 1974.*

**Artifactual clutch size in Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies.**—Certain seabirds including Procellariiformes and some Laridae usually incubate single-egg clutches, but have been found occasionally with more than one egg. Several investigators have con-