down from the upper-most small twigs hammering at the galls and seemingly obtaining food from them, all without removing the leaves. This process continued uninterrupted for the half hour we were in the area. A question arises as to the commonness of the behavior exhibited by the Gila Woodpecker. Inquiries to several colleagues yielded only one similar observation. On 17 April 1973 Russell P. Balda (pers. comm.) and several students on a field trip to Montezuma Castle National Monument, Yavapai Co., observed 2 Gila Woodpeckers picking gall-infected cottonwood leaves and placing them in the forks of the upper branches where the galls were opened and their contents eaten. Cottonwoods occur in only a small part of the Gila Woodpecker's range—in riparian areas in the desert and in adjacent higher areas. *P. populitranversus* was common in 2 of the 5 groves we inspected in Santa Cruz and Pima Cos. Thus the leaf-picking-stuffing-opening behavior is probably, at best, uncommon in the Gila Woodpecker.

The behavior we observed is similar to that employed by this species to use food resources as reported by Phillips et al. (The Birds of Arizona, Univ. Ariz. Press, Tucson, 1964). Apparently only the European Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) is also known to gather, place, and open galls in the manner reported here (Pfutzeureiter, Vogelwelt 78:120–123, 1957; H. Winkler, pers. comm.).

We thank G. A. Clark, Jr. and H. Winkler for their comments on an earlier version of this note, and the latter for sharing his interest in woodpeckers.—STEVEN SPEICH AND WILLIAM J. RADKE, *Dept. of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Ariona, Tucson 85721.* *Accepted 24 Oct. 1974.*

Bahama Duck exploiting feeding habits of yellowlegs.—At 17:00 on 11 April 1971, while investigating the birdlife of Prickly Pear Island, north of Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands, I came upon several groups of shorebirds and one Bahama Duck (*Anas bahamensis*) in a partially dried up salt pond at the southeast corner of the Island. The shorebirds included about 50 Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*), 1 or 2 Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*), and 30 dowitchers (*Limnodromus* sp.). The yellowlegs were searching for food in an erratic manner while making slashing lateral bill movements.

Anas bahamensis feeds primarily on algae (Wetmore, Birds of Porto Rico, U.S.D.A. Bull., Bull. 326:29, 1916). The normal feeding posture is to submerge the head while paddling forward. This particular bird, however, would also rapidly swing its head and neck from side to side in a more exaggerated style than the yellowlegs pausing only periodically to breathe. For several minutes the duck fed directly behind an actively foraging yellowlegs and every movement of the shorebird was simulated by the duck.

The following morning I revisited the pond and again noted the Bahama Duck feeding in this manner and at times doing so behind a yellowlegs. At one point the Bahama Duck lost track of the yellowlegs whereupon the duck withdrew its head from the water, relocated the shorebird and paddled off hurriedly to follow it again.

There are various instances of anatids being involved in feeding associations. Bailey and Batt (Auk 91:488–493, 1974) mention various works that discuss ducks exploiting the wasteful feeding habits of swans. Siegfried and Batt (Auk 89:667–668, 1972) discuss feeding associations of Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) and Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) in which the phalaropes fed trailing Shovelers; a reverse of the interaction presented in this paper. Christman (Condor 59:343, 1957), Parks and Bressler (Auk

80:198–199, 1963) and Emlen and Ambrose (Auk 87:164–165, 1970) describe several species of herons and the Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) benefitting from the feeding of the Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) and Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). Ducks seldom appear to benefit from feeding associations with birds of other orders.

There is minimal data in the literature on the feeding habits of *A. bahamensis*. Wetmore (op. cit.) analyzed stomach contents of 10 Bahama Ducks (both sexes) collected in Puerto Rico and found only vegetable matter in the stomachs of adults (all but one of which were in breeding condition). Though these data are scanty, that 2 reproductively active Bahama Duck hens had not eaten animal matter is interesting since Krapu (Auk 91:278–290, 1974) found that breeding Pintail (*Anas acuta*) hens feed significantly on animal material during the reproductive period.

I don't know if the Bahama Duck on Prickly Pear Island was a breeding bird. I saw over 60 Bahama Ducks in the Virgin Islands from 11–16 April with no indication of breeding behavior. While April is a key month in the breeding cycle of *A. acuta*, the nesting of *A. bahamensis*, as shown by the literature (Wetmore 1916; Struthers, Auk 40:469–478, 1923; Danforth, J. Dept. Agric. Porto Rico 10:1–136, 1926) is highly erratic.

I have not noted this feeding technique among thousands of other Bahama Ducks that I have observed in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Surinam, even though some of these birds were reproductively active and many were in salt ponds similar to this one and were closely associated with yellowlegs, or other foraging shorebirds.—HERBERT RAFFAELE, *Dept. of Natural Resources, Box 5887, Puerta de Tierra, Puerto Rico 00906.* *Accepted 23 July 1974.*

The age at first flight for young American Ospreys.—Only generalizations regarding the duration of the preflight (nestling) period of American Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) are found in the ornithological literature. Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 167:361, 1937) stated, "The young remain in the nest about eight weeks. I have seen the young leave the nest as early as July 26, but most of them do not leave until the first week in August or later [in Massachusetts]." Palmer (Maine Birds, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 102:153, 1949) states, "Fledging probably requires about 55 to 65 days [in Maine]." More recently, Reese (Auk 87:747–759, 1970) indicated that young first fly at 6 to 8 weeks of age (in Maryland). Brown and Amadon (Eagles, hawks and falcons of the world, McGraw-Hill, N.Y., 1968) summarized information concerning the European subspecies (*P. h. haliaetus*) with the following statement (p. 199), "From about 42 days onward they perform vigorous wing-flapping exercises. They make their first flights at from 51 to 59 days, usually about 52–53, . . ."

Osprey nesting activities were recorded during intensive investigations of waterfowl nesting in offshore duck blinds along the upper eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay in Maryland in 1956. We visited nests as many as 10 times during the season and the dates of hatching and first flight were determined for the young in 18 nests. The mean hatching date was 25 May and the mean date for the first flight was 18 July (Table 1). The time to first flight varied from 48 to 59 days (mean = 54 days). This period represents the time between the date the first egg hatched and a member of the brood made its first flight. All members of the brood did not make their first flight on the same day. The findings were nearly identical to those reported for European populations.