

ulations of herons in the Illinois-Iowa region declined in 1973, (Graber, pers. comm.; Bjorklund, pers. observ.; Kleen, Amer. Birds 27:874-875, 1973), only one other documented case of a similar complete collapse is known to me. Richard Graber has informed me that the "Heron Pond" colony SSW of Vienna, Johnson Co., Illinois, which had been in existence at least 20 years, contained about 60 Great Blue Heron nests and 12 Great Egret nests last spring. The Egret nests and possibly some of the Great Blue Heron nests were deserted before the end of the 1973 nesting season, and the birds did not establish nests in the 1974 season. The Heron Pond colony was in a cypress swamp having minimal human disturbance. Cause of that desertion is unknown.—RICHARD G. BJORKLUND, Dept. of Biology, Bradley Univ., Peoria, IL 61625. Accepted 24 Oct. 1974.

Canada Goose parasitizing Mallard nest.—On 20 April 1974 in northwestern Cook Co., Illinois near Barrington Hills, an active Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) nest containing 11 Mallard eggs and one Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) egg was found on top of a muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) house. The muskrat house was wedged between two willows (*Salix* sp.) in approximately 60-80 cm of water at the wooded end of a .75 ha pond. Cattails (*Typha* spp.), sedges (*Carex* spp.), and creeping bent grass (*Agrostis palustris*) formed the predominate emergent vegetation. Willows and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) were the dominant trees. The nest was checked each time we were in the area, a total of 10 times. On 17 May, following a 7-day period when the nest was not checked, we discovered that the nesting attempt had been terminated. We found no trace of the Mallard eggs; however three-fourths of the goose eggshell was present. The shell lining was present and intact on the shell. Rearden (J. Wildl. Manage. 15:386-395, 1951) gives a similar description for eggs eaten by raccoons (*Procyon lotor*).

On subsequent trips to the area, we watched for sign of a brood. On 30 May the carcass of a half-eaten Mallard duckling was found floating near the nest. The duckling was approximately 2 weeks old (Southwick, J. Wildl. Manage. 17:1-8, 1954). Two days later, with the aid of an Irish setter, I flushed a broody Mallard hen. Because no other nesting Mallards were found in the area, we assumed that this was the hen that we observed on the nest. Apparently the Mallard eggs had hatched successfully.

By using the age of the dead duckling, we estimate the date of hatching to be between 12 and 16 May. Backdating and using a 28-day Mallard incubation period, the egg-laying period was estimated to be approximately 14 to 19 April. During this period Canada Geese were known to have been in the area at least twice and there are several local flocks in the Cook Co. area.

Fannin (Auk 11:332, 1894) cites an instance of a Canada Goose laying eggs in the nest of an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 130, 1925) also reported an observation involving the same two species. Weller (Ecol. Monogr. 29:333-365, 1959) records the case of one Canada Goose parasitizing the nest of another.—ROGER L. BOYER, Landplan Systems, Commonwealth Associates Inc., 209 E. Washington Ave., Jackson, MI 49201, and MARK J. PSUJEK, Environmental Services, Dames and Moore, 1550 Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Accepted 11 Nov. 1974.

Carrion feeding by birds in southwestern Louisiana.—From 15 May 1973 to 6 August 1974, along State Highway 27 within Sabine National Wildlife Refuge and

TABLE 1
INCIDENCE OF CARRION FEEDING BY THREE SPECIES OF MARSH BIRDS, 1973-74

Carrion species	Boat-tailed Grackle		Red-winged Blackbird		Common Gallinule
	male	female	male	female	
Dragonfly (<i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i>)	—	—	10	—	—
Dragonfly (<i>Cannacria grauida</i>)	—	—	20	4	—
Alligator (<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>)	4	—	—	—	—
Mud turtle (<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i>)	3	—	—	—	—
Green water snake (<i>Natrix cyclopion</i>)	22	1	2	—	3
Broad-banded water snake (<i>Natrix fasciata</i>)	2	—	1	—	1
Cottonmouth (<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i>)	4	—	—	—	—
Least Bittern (<i>Ixyobrychus exilis</i>)	7	—	—	—	—
Common Gallinule (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>)	4	—	—	—	—
Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	1	—	—	—	—
Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)	2	—	—	—	—
Boat-tailed Grackle (<i>Cassidix major</i>)	2	—	—	—	—
Muskrat (<i>Ondatra zibethica</i>)	2	—	—	—	—
Nutria (<i>Myocastor coypus</i>)	10	—	—	—	—
Armadillo (<i>Dasyurus novemcinctus</i>)	1	—	—	—	—
Total Observations:	64	1	34	4	4

along State Highway 82 between Johnson's Bayou and Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, Louisiana, we saw Common Gallinules (*Gallinula chloropus*), Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and Boat-tailed Grackles (*Cassidix major*) feeding on animals killed by motor vehicles. This behavior has been noted of several avian species (e.g. Long, Wilson Bull. 73:210, 1961; Hubbard and Hubbard, Wilson Bull. 81:107-108, 1969).

Of the birds we observed, Boat-tailed Grackles consumed more carrion than did the other two species (Table 1). Common Gallinules were rare carrion feeders. Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 211, 1958) reported that carrion consumed by Boat-tailed Grackles included ducks killed by hunters as well as mammals caught by trappers.

We rarely saw female grackles or female Red-winged Blackbirds feeding on carrion (Table 1). Possibly, roadside carrion may not be suitable food for nestlings, or females concentrate their feeding activities away from roads. All carrion feeders fed most often on the entrails of fresh roadkills though portions of decomposed animals were occasionally eaten by Boat-tailed Grackles.

Carrion have provided an easily acquired, abundant food source, but the adaptation to feeding on such materials sometimes has indirectly caused the death of the carrion feeder when it remained in the path of an oncoming vehicle.—HARLAND D. GUILLORY and DWIGHT J. LEBLANC, *Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette 70501. Accepted 27 Nov. 1974.*