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Determining whether Common Loon eggs have hatched.—Egg remains may be found in nests of many nidifugous species after the eggs have hatched (Wallace, An Introduction to Ornithology, The Macmillan Co., New York, New York, 1963), presumably because there is no selective advantage in removing them, as the young leave the nest so soon. Palmer (Handbook of North American Birds, Vol. 1, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Connecticut, 1962), however, states that Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) sometimes carry away shells and membranes. Common Loons brood the first chick on and off the nest until the second chick hatches, whereupon the family leaves the nest and does not return. The danger of nest predation would be enhanced before the hatching of the second egg if the remains of the first egg were left on the nest, because the egg membranes and the inner surface of eggshells do not have the cryptic coloration of newly hatched young or of the outer shell surface. It would therefore be advantageous for the parents to remove the remains of the first egg unless the two hatched more or less synchronously. This may help to explain why the remains of only one egg are often found even when two eggs are known to have hatched (McIntyre, Ph.D. diss., Univ. Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1975).

Researchers conducting surveys of breeding loons often need to know which nests have had eggs that hatched. Although Heimberger et al. (Wilson Bull. 95:431–439, 1983) stated that they used the presence of egg membranes on loon nests to confirm hatching, this method has not been reported elsewhere. Here, I present data suggesting that the presence of an egg membrane sac can be used to confirm hatching.

While studying loon breeding success on 29 lakes in the vicinity of Sudbury, Ontario, in 1982 and 1983, I examined the egg remains of 46 loon nests. Each lake had only one pair of loons, so there was no difficulty in matching loon chicks with their nests. One or two egg membrane sacs were found in 17 of the 46 nests (37%; Table 1). Each sac had a large hole through which the chick had emerged. One or two loon chicks were observed in 13 (76%) of these cases. I believe that eggs in the remaining four nests also hatched, but that the young died before I could observe them. Loon chicks are especially vulnerable to hypothermia and fatigue during the first 2 weeks after hatching (Olson and Marshall, Minn. Mus. Nat. Hist., Occ. Paper 5:1–77, 1952). Also, one of the nests was disheveled, suggesting predation. It is possible that in this case the chick and the second egg were taken before the latter hatched.

In the other 29 cases, no egg membrane sac was found; instead, pieces of egg membrane were found still attached to their respective shell fragments. One or two young were observed in 14 (48%) of these cases, while in the other 15 cases no young were observed, suggesting

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF EGG MEMBRANE SACS IN EACH NEST AND NUMBER OF CHICKS OBSERVED ON EACH LAKE FOR 46 NESTS

Number of chicks observed	Number of egg membrane sacs on the nest		
	0	1	2
0	15	2	2
1	8	6	0
2	6	3	4

that the contents of the latter nests had been depredated. The absence of an egg membrane sac therefore does not help in distinguishing successful nests from depredated ones. However, sac presence can be used to verify hatching with reasonable certainty.

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Eastward range expansion of the Marbled Godwit in South America.—On 20 February 1984, we saw 7 Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*) on a mud flat of the Bocaripo Lagoon that forms part of the Chacopata Lagoon complex on the north side of the Araya Peninsula (10°41'N, 63°46'W), state of Sucre, in northeastern Venezuela. The birds were feeding intensely and were not disturbed by our approach; we observed them for about half an hour through 8× binoculars and a 15–60× zoom telescope from a distance of less than 40 m, and checked the distinctive field marks of their winter plumage. Between 2 and 7 individuals were regularly sighted at the same location by the third author from 21 July to mid-Oct. 1984, and photographic records were taken by her and Luis Gerardo Gonzalez. The species was also identified in the same area by Gedio Marin and the second author on 28 Jan. 1983, and had previously been observed on 3 occasions (Jan., 26 Mar. and 5 Apr. 1982) by Gedio Marin and Roberto Egañez or the second author in El Peñón Lagoon, approximately 3 km east of Cumaná, state of Sucre.

According to the A.O.U. Check-list (Check-list of North American Birds, sixth ed., American Ornithologists' Union, Lawrence, Kansas, 1983) and Meyer de Schauensee (Guide to the Birds of South America, Pan American Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, Intercollegiate Press, 1982), *L. fedoa* is known to winter irregularly or locally south of Mexico on both coasts of Middle America, and in South America south to Chile on the Pacific coast. Blake (Manual of Neotropical Birds, Vol. 1, Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois, 1977) and Meyer de Schauensee and Mack (pp. 429–463 *in* Meyer de Schauensee 1982) report sight records from northeastern Colombia on the Atlantic coast. Bond (Birds of the West Indies, Collins, London, England, 1979) and Blake (1977) consider *L. fedoa* as rare or casual in the West Indies. According to Bond (1979), the Marbled Godwit has been "recorded from Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, St. Croix, Anegada, Grenada and Carriacou," and "questionably from Guadeloupe and Martinique." The species is listed by Meyer de Schauensee (1982) as occurring in Trinidad and Tobago. ffrench (A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago, Livingston Publ. Co., Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, 1973) mentions it as "formerly recorded as a passage migrant, occurring on the coasts of Trinidad from August to October," but questions the reports for Tobago by James Kirk in 1883. The A.O.U. Check-list (1983) considers as questionable the reports from the Lesser Antilles, Tobago, and Trinidad. Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps (A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela, Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1978) do not mention the Marbled Godwit as occurring in Venezuela.

As far as we know, the present photographic evidence and sightings represent an expansion of the known winter range (casual) of the Marbled Godwit from the Pacific coast of South America eastward to the Caribbean coast of northeastern Venezuela. One copy of the color photograph has been deposited in the Colección Ornitologica Phelps in Caracas, and one is in the Ornithological collection, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Montreal.