Another instance of incubation by a male Whip-poor-will.—There has been a difference of opinion as to the role of the male Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) in incubation. Raynor (Bird-Banding 12:98–103, 1941) reported that the male sat on eggs for brief periods, but Arnold (Michigan Biological Station unpublished MS, 1937, cited in Kendeigh, Ill. Biol. Monogr. 22:1–358, 1952) believed only the female incubated.

My observations at a Whip-poor-will nest in an oak forest in Allegan Co., Michigan (on the "Small Oak Area" of Brewer et al., Mich. Bot. 12:217–234, 1973) agree with those of Raynor that the male sits on the nest. I found the nest with two eggs on 30 May 1970 after flushing a female from the nest site on leaf litter in a clone of flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*).

On my return visits in the next few days, the female would flush while I was still about 5 m from the nest and fly to a branch 8–15 m away. On 4 June, about 11:30, I set up a blind 10 m from the nest; I moved it to about 7 m from the nest 40 min later. The female did not flush when I entered or left the blind at this distance.

At 19:30, 4 June, the female was on the nest when I entered the blind. At 20:30, a male, identifiable by the white marking on the tail, alighted about 0.3 m from the nest. The female flew and the male walked to the nest, ruffled his feathers and settled over the eggs. At 20:37, the male flew from the nest, leaving the eggs uncovered. At 21:00 shortly after I heard two *whip-poor-will* calls nearby, a bird (sex unknown) was back on the nest. A bird was also on the nest when I checked, using a flashlight to produce eyeshine, at 03:35 and again at 04:00 on 5 June. At 05:00 and thereafter until I left the blind at 07:00, I could see the female on the nest.

I acknowledge the advice and editorial assistance of R. Brewer and comments on the manuscript by M. J. Mengel.—RALPH E. BABCOCK, *Dept. of Biology, Western Michigan Univ., Kalamazoo 49008.* *Accepted 12 Aug. 1974.*

Observations on the Aerial Drinking Performance of a Poorwill.—At 09:00 on 27 May 1973, I observed a Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) drinking water near my boat while the bird flew along the surface of the water. The location was a quiet cove on Amistad Lake north of Del Rio, Val Verde Co., Texas. The distance of the boat from shore was approximately 13 m when I noticed the bird. My attention was drawn to the fact that the Poorwill was only a few centimeters above the water's surface and did not appear to be feeding on insects. When within approximately 3 m of my boat the bird seemed to flutter its wings into a very tight vee over its back, lower its head with the mouth open and touch the water lightly, taking a drink. The bird repeated his performance several times then disappeared into the shadows. This type of behavior has been recorded previously for Common and Lesser Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor* and *C. acutipennis*) (Bent. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 176, Parts I and II, 1940) but to my knowledge, not for the Poorwill.—O. T. FEARS, III, *Casa de Oro, Apt. 203, Weslaco, TX 78596.* *Accepted 19 Nov. 1974.*

On the death of a midwestern heronry.—What was the largest heronry in Illinois in 1962 (Bellrose, pers. comm.) no longer exists. Though I am unable to date the origin of this heronry, it existed since at least 1935 (Borgelt, pers. comm.). The end came suddenly, though not unexpectedly in 1973–74. Located east of the Illinois River,

2 km north of Pekin, Tazewell Co., Illinois, it contained 820 occupied nests in 557 trees in 1962 (Table 1). This heronry was situated on a natural levee resulting from a former meander of the Illinois River, and was one of three in the Illinois River Valley that I have observed yearly since 1962, (Bjorklund et al., Trans. Ill. State Acad. Sci. 60:107–108, 1967; Hammerslough and Bjorklund, Jack-Pine Warbler 46:57–61, 1968; Bjorklund and Canterbury, Proc. Peoria Acad. Sci. 4:27–28, 1971; Bjorklund et al., Ill. State Acad. Sci. News Letter 2(6):10, 1973). Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodius*), Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), and Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) nested in the colony. Trees with nests were marked with numbered sheet metal tags throughout the period of the study.

The wooded levee on which the heronry was situated is bounded on the west by the old meander of the River and on the east by a flood-plain lake. Approximately 800 m south of the heronry the levee is permanently flooded, and only the stumps of dead trees emerge. The western bank is elevated slightly, sloping gradually (less than 1.0 m relief from the west edge of the levee) eastward to the lake. In the area of the heronry the levee is approximately 140 m wide (at mean water level). The principal species of trees and their former avian occupants are: cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*), averaging 25 m in height, preferred by the Great Blue Herons; silver maples (*Acer saccharinum*), mostly 18–22 m, occupied principally by the Great Egrets; green ashes (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), mostly 14–17 m, occupied principally by the Black-crowned Night Herons. Many crowded and stunted black willows (*Salix nigra*), rarely used as nesting sites in this colony, and a few scattered slippery elms (*Ulmus fulva*) are also present. The cottonwoods grow along the western side of the levee lining the shore of the old meander. Silver maples grow in the central portion, while further east green ashes predominate. Black willows line the eastern edge of the levee. Frequent flooding prevents development of a continuous understory, poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*) and maple seedlings, along with small willows on the eastern side, being the only vegetation of significance other than the canopy trees.

Most of the site, including the heronry proper, was owned by the Pekin Rod and Gun Club until 1965. In 1965 the Forest Park Foundation purchased the land. It has since been sold to the State of Illinois for use as a managed conservation area.

I have witnessed repeated insults to the stability of the area. The disturbance having the greatest impact during the period of my observations began during the autumn and winter of 1962, when clear cutting of timber began at the north margin of the heronry and continued, illegally, after the Forest Park purchase (Table 1). Nests were abandoned in the area adjacent to the logged margin. It was my subjective impression that both egg and nestling mortality increased in the exposed locations. The colony retreated southward in the heronry, but the southern portion of the heronry could not be extended to offset the losses at the north end of the heronry. The portion of the levee south of the original heronry consists of smaller stunted trees located on ground subjected to more protracted flooding. Less than one kilometer south of the heronry many of the trees are dead or dying as a result of permanent flooding. The Central Illinois Light Company obtained a high line corridor through the area in 1958, altering integrity of the heronry and effecting a hazard for low flying birds using a nearby feeding ground. Additional high line towers were planned with construction scheduled to begin in 1974, though CILCO did agree to delay construction until after incubation and hatching would normally have been well underway. Partial draining of a flood plain lake located near a major steel and wire company, and pollution of unknown dimensions from various sources reduced the number of feeding habitats. Several nearby forested areas were con-

TABLE 1
NESTING PAIRS OF HERONS
1962–74

Year	Occupied Nests	Great Blue Heron	Great Egret	Black-crowned Night Heron	Trees with Nests	Ave. Nests per Tree
1962	820	279	341	200[1]	557	1.5
Logging Began						
1963	751	124	272	355	373	2.0
1964	406	61	157	188	173	2.3
1965	475	50	192	233	187	2.5
1966	394	39	153	202	196	2.0
Logging Terminated						
1967	332	33	128	171	167	2.0
1968	83	28	49	6	35	2.4
1969	171	31	56	84	76	2.2
1970	235	29	70	136	106	2.2
1971	73	29	32	12	33	2.2
1972	216	41	58	117	92	2.3
1973	9	7	2	none	7	1.3
1974	none	none	none	none	none[2]	

[1] Estimated.
[2] Two remained from 1973 remnant nesting population.

verted to corn production. Wanton killing by man occurred from time to time, particularly after logging was initiated, when access to the area on foot at low water became increasingly easy. Also, I observed increased contacts between herons and owls as owls forced from their nearby nesting sites by the logging moved into the heronry and used heron nests (Bjorklund et al. 1967).

With the increase in human population, industry, highways, farming areas, and water and air pollution, it appeared unlikely that an abundance of any kind of wildlife could be maintained. Moreover the Illinois Department of Conservation, which now controls the area, was petitioned to raise the water level in an adjacent lake as a means for improving fishing. They denied the request to retain as much stability as possible in the area.

The prognosis for the long-term survival of this heronry was, from the beginning of my observations, unfavorable. Table 1 displays the population trend through 13 nesting seasons. While logging appears to have initiated instability, and many other factors appeared to contribute to the decline, the total collapse observed in 1973 was coincident with high water which inundated the heronry floor from late winter until mid-July 1973. This experience was repeated in 1974 when no nesting occurred (Table 1). I suggest that protracted high water was a factor contributing to abandonment. In 1974 I saw no Great Egrets or Great Blue Herons, and on only one occasion, 13 April 1974, did I see Black-crowned Night Herons in the heronry. On that date, which approximated the usual arrival time of this species (10-year average), 15 Black-crowneds were sitting in trees on the east edge of the heronry; I found no active nests. While many nesting pop-

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