

5; Semipalmated Plover 141; Piping Plover 10; Killdeer 48; American Oystercatcher 18; Greater Yellowlegs 1; Lesser Yellowlegs 41; Willet 253; Spotted Sandpiper 5; Whimbrel 22; Ruddy Turnstone 219; Red Knot 9; Sanderling 103; W. Sandpiper 83; Least Sandpiper 6; Purple Sandpiper 1; Dunlin 535; peep sp. 3; Short-billed Dowitcher 692; Common Snipe 4; Woodcock 1; Laughing Gull 2187; Bonaparte's Gull 35; Ring-billed Gull 2598; Herring Gull 1043; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 23; gull sp. 350; Caspian Tern 46; Royal Tern 589; Sandwich Tern 13; Forster's Tern 972; Black Skimmer 1030; Rock Dove 252; Mourning Dove 448; Common Ground-Dove 18; Black-hooded Parakeet 2; E. Screech-Owl 9; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 46; Red-bellied Woodpecker 34; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5; Northern Flicker 10; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Eastern Phoebe 18; Tree Swallow 55; Blue Jay 72; American Crow 22; Fish Crow 14; Carolina Chickadee 3; Tufted Titmouse 25; Carolina Wren 25; House Wren 7; Sedge Wren 3; Marsh Wren 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 73; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 6; E. Bluebird 11; Hermit Thrush 3; Am. Robin 26; Gray Catbird 10; Northern Mockingbird 72; Brown Thrasher 1; Cedar Waxwing 1; Loggerhead Shrike 12; European Starling 323; White-eyed Vireo 5; Solitary Vireo 5; Orange-crowned Warbler 4; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1421; Yellow-throated Warbler 2; Pine Warbler 7; Palm Warbler 21 Black-and-white Warbler 2; Common Yellowthroat 4; Northern Cardinal 73; Rufous-sided Towhee 21; Bachman's Sparrow 1; Chipping Sparrow 58; Vesper Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 32; Seaside Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 5; Swamp Sparrow 3; sparrow sp. 1; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Red-winged Blackbird 1076; E. Meadowlark 2; Rusty Blackbird 150; Boat-tailed Grackle 243; Common Grackle 289; Brown-headed Cowbird 25; American Goldfinch 7; House Sparrow 6.

A total of 17,901 birds of 137 species were observed during the count. The following individuals participated in the 1988 Christmas bird count: Pete and Jessica Ahmed, Paul Beiderwell, Mary Davidson, Ruth Erke, Greg Gilbert, Rhoda Josephson, Robert Loftin, Cliff Petit, Peggy Powell, Diane Reed, Bob Richter, Bud and Skeeter Rottman, Loren Stein, Irene Stone, Esther and Robert Vermouth, Diane and Robert Wears, Terry West, Jim Wheat.

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Predation of Domestic Fowl Eggs by Red-bellied Woodpeckers

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At my farm in Beulah Community, Kingstree, Williamsburg County, South Carolina, during 1957 and 1964, I found Red-bellied Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes carolinus*) eating the contents of the eggs of Domestic Fowl (*Gallus gallus*). During the first period (June-August 1957) I found 72 eggs punctured by two female Red-bellied Woodpeckers. The chickens were nesting in an array of 16 open-sided wooden nest boxes placed on the side of a small shed (average height of the boxes = 1.5 m). On numerous occasions, the woodpeckers were seen flying directly to unattended nests from nearby trees. They then pecked holes (5-7 mm in diameter) in the sides of the eggs, and consumed the eggs' contents while perched

at the nests. The chicken eggs were the brown type, and measured 45-63 mm in length. Three of the 72 eggs had more than one hole (two in each of the three eggs). I collected four specimens of destroyed eggs during the period 18 July-4 August 1957 (ChM no. 1984.64).

Brackbill (1969) reported Red-bellied Woodpeckers taking the eggs of House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). This appears to be the only other report of their taking birds' eggs. However, Phillips *et al.* (1964) have reported the closely related Gila Woodpecker (*M. uropygialis*) eating chicken eggs.

I thank W. Post for useful suggestions on the manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

- BRACKBILL, H. 1969. Red-bellied Woodpecker taking birds' eggs. *Bird Banding* 40: 323-324.
- PHILLIPS, A. R., 1964. *Birds of Arizona*. Tucson, Arizona; Univ. Arizona Press.

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The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds.—Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye. 1988. Simon and Schuster, New York, NY. ISBN 0-671-65989-8. Paperback, 815 pages. \$15.95.—For those interested in observing and learning more about birds in the field, this is the most valuable book to appear since Roger Tory Peterson's field guide. Unlike other field guides, it answers all those questions you've always had about birds once you've identified them. In essence, "The Birder's Handbook" compresses an entire ornithological library into a volume that