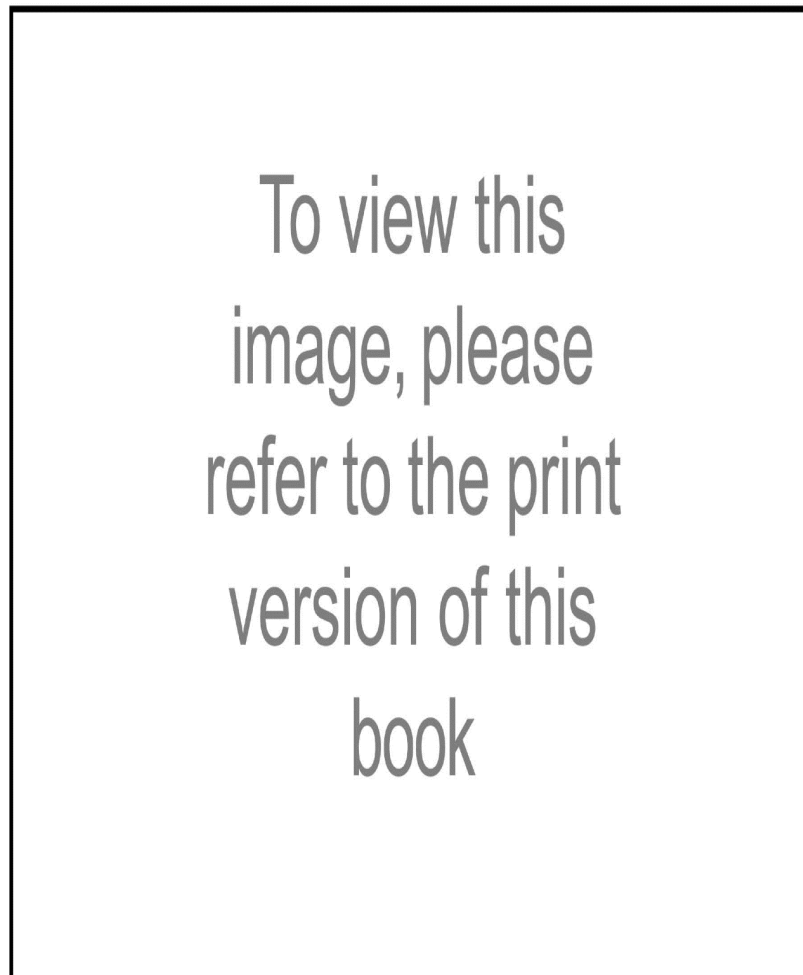


My best friend and male golden retriever Roscoe used to have a thing about my leaving him at home alone. He would go into my bathroom and carefully remove everything from my wastebasket and lay it on the floor. Batteries are a lot like Roscoe used to be; if left alone too long, they tend to cause problems. A battery not used for a month can easily self-discharge to 50 percent capacity. Temperature is a significant contributing factor to the rate of self-discharge; the higher the temperature, the faster the specific gravity decreases—as much as .003 per day with an ambient temperature of 100 degrees F.

- 100 degrees F— .003 SPGR per day.
- 80 degrees F— .002 SPGR per day.
- 50 degrees F— .0005 SPGR per day.



**Fig. 8-4.** Typical hydrometer readings.