

conflict or preponderance of drives. Of course people have taught an individual wild bird to come and feed from the hand but the performance of the whole assembly was more impressive.

In a learning situation an animal ordinarily needs several experiences in order to build up an association of the type in question. It is doubtful that a bird seeing a man scatter food in the trap just once would form the association. But it is probable that some of our birds did have several experiences. Whenever I chased them down the funnel to the gathering cage some reached the end and flew back past me in spite of vigorous arm waving and raucous noises. Anyway a number were always left in the trap to serve as decoys. So conceivably a given bird may have remained in the trap a week or more although this cannot be documented. However many of the birds we banded did enter the trap again (repeats). Some of them did it several times. I have seen a bird released at the banding table fly directly to the ladder and back in within 30 seconds.

Thus it is probable that an appreciable number of the birds observed a man scattering corn in the trap enough times to form the association. So when hungry these birds would approach me. The species involved are somewhat social and often do things together. So when the experienced nucleus, under the food drive, came toward me their companions might do likewise.

In summary, cowbirds, redwings and grackles in a decoy trap when hungry would approach a person who sat down in the trap with corn around him and perch on his feet and legs. Evidently the hunger drive overcame the fear/flight drive. But it was not entirely the attraction of the food as such. Some birds formed an association between the operator and food. Some individuals presumably were in the trap for several days and had enough experiences of seeing a man scatter food to form this association.

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#### RADIO PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS WANTED

Radio Station WAM, Altoona, Pennsylvania, now has a 15 minute radio program running 5 days a week called "Birds". EBBA member W. J. Moughemer has given several talks on it and would like to hear from any member who has suggestions, addresses where materials are supplied by various states, state check lists, etc.

Send your ideas to: W. J. Moughemer, Lower Brush Mt., RD #2,  
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