

Voice Maturity in Florida Sandhill Cranes

Walkinshaw (1973. *Cranes of the World*. Winchester Press, New York City) stated that Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) acquire their adult voice at age 10 to 12 months but gave no data or other basis for the statement. Throughout the fall and winter of 1973, I observed 3 pen-reared Florida Sandhill Cranes (*G. c. pratensis*) at least 3 times per week. The birds were hatched at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland, on 15 and 27 March from 2 eggs collected near Palmdale, Glades County, Florida, and on 9 April from an egg laid by a captive Florida bird. The 3 birds began adult calls in early January at 43 weeks, 5 days; 42 weeks, 5 days, and 40 weeks 3 days, respectively—that is, at less than 10 months of age for all three. Perhaps Florida cranes develop the adult voice sooner than some other subspecies.—*Stephen A. Nesbitt, Florida Game and Fresh Water Commission, Wildlife Research Projects Office, 4005 S. Main St., Gainesville, Florida 32601.*

Red-bellied Woodpecker Removes Young From Nest

On 31 May 1974 I was observing a nest of the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*) in a dead-tree cavity between an apartment complex and a heavily overgrown wooded area in Jacksonville, Florida. I had observed the nest several times daily since 18 May, and nesting seemed to be proceeding normally for this species.

At about 1500 EDT a male Red-bellied Woodpecker approached the nest from the southeast. He perched and looked into the hole for several seconds. He then put his head into the hole a number of times, as if he were feeding young inside. Then he entered the hole entirely and emerged within five seconds, carrying a nestling by its feet. He carried the nestling northward into the woods and returned within 30 seconds without it. The process was then repeated with 2 more nestlings. All 3 young were carried out of sight, but the third was heard falling into the undergrowth about 15 m from the nest. The adult then carried an egg northeastward from the nest (in a different direction from the young). Because of the heavy undergrowth, I was unable to find the young bird I heard fall.

The male did not return within the next several minutes, so I left the area. When I returned at 1700 a female Red-bellied Woodpecker flew in from the east, landed on the nest tree, and called loudly several times. Then she entered the nest and remained about 2 minutes. She then emerged and remained in the vicinity about 15 minutes, flying from tree to tree and calling repeatedly, after which she flew away to the north and did not return. No subsequent activity has been observed in the area.

It is difficult to interpret these observations, since it is not known whether the adult male was the parent bird. Three possibilities are suggested: (1) the male parent was attempting to move the brood to another location (2) an adult male, not the parent, was attempting to "clean out" the cavity for his own use, (3) the male's action was an instance of inexplicable, aberrant behavior.—*T. L. Roach, 3760 University Blvd., S., Apt. 118, Jacksonville, Fla. 32216.*