

The Cowbird as Bait for the Capture of its Foster Parents.—In 1931 I caught a female Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia beata*) by placing one of the nine day old Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater ater*) she was raising in a government sparrow trap six feet from the nest, afterwards replacing the young bird which stayed another day in the nest. In 1932 I repeated this expedient with an eight day nestling and also improved upon it by "lending" two Cowbirds to pairs of Song Sparrows that had no young of their own. One of the little birds I transferred at the age of two days to a nest which—due to the activities of some unknown enemy—contained but one Song Sparrow three days old; my reasons being both to relieve congestion in the home nest which had held two interlopers and three proper young, and also to use *Molothrus* later for the capture of his new foster-mother.

When the other Cowbird was five days old I introduced him into a nest with three Song Sparrows two and three days old; in this case I wished to catch both adults. The following day I put my subject into the trap beside the nest, but he was too young to call and was disregarded by the foster-parents; after an hour I replaced him. The next morning I repeated the experiment and the male Song Sparrow was quickly caught, but the female refused to enter; so presently I introduced the Cowbird into a third nest with four Song Sparrows three to five days old. After a two hours' rest here, he was put into the trap beside this nest and soon the female was caught—she, fortunately, being the bird I wanted. My useful little Cowbird was then carried a quarter of a mile to his original home, apparently uninjured by his varied experience. It may, perhaps, have been somewhat unsettling to him, for the following morning when I had planned for him to continue his good deeds, I found he had left, a day or two earlier than his kind usually do. It might be possible to use seven to nine-day Cowbirds in this way without even the two hours' preliminary visit in the nest of the birds that it is proposed to capture.

Two records of special interest were made here this past June: a pair of Song Sparrows succeeded in raising two Cowbirds and two of their own young in the same nest, while a pair of Northern Yellow-throats (*Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*) raised a Cowbird and three of their own young.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea eurhyncha*) Breeding in Guatemala.—Mr. Ludlow Griscom, in his recent work on 'Distribution of Bird-Life in Guatemala,' makes the statement that "While there is no definite breeding record of the Blue Grosbeak for Guatemala, he has no doubt that it is resident." On July 20, 1932, while walking through a scrubby pasture along the Rio Motagua, about one mile below El Rancho, I found a nest of this species, which confirms Mr. Griscom's conclusion and is apparently the first definite breeding record for the country. The nest, four feet up in a low bush, was composed externally of fine sticks, with a middle layer of strips of bark, and lined on the inside with fine rootlets. Cobweb had been employed in binding the structure together. There were three

nestlings, their eyes just opening. While I looked at them the male sang a clear, sweet warble, but very low and lacking in volume. Since the birds were not collected, they are referred to the form *eurhyncha* on the basis of geographic probabilities.—ALEXANDER F. SKUTCH, *Tecpam, Guatemala*.

Molt of the Nonpareil.—I have had a male Nonpareil in my aviary since June, 1927. Last summer after returning from a six weeks absence I was surprised to find that the golden green of the back had changed to chocolate brown. This spring the color had brightened to coppery red which in certain lights appears as brilliant as the scarlet underparts. There is no trace of green in the plumage and the bird appears red with blue head and dark brown wings and tail. The plumage is bright and glossy. With the exception of the first spring when the red of the underparts changed to yellow—which in turn changed back to red the next season—the bird has always been lively and active.

In the same aviary are three waxwings: a Cedar-bird and European and American Bohemian Waxwings. The American Waxwing is a trifle larger and has the tail somewhat longer. The color is somewhat deeper and in the European bird the rusty flush on the forehead extends to the sides of the neck. The rump is much paler gray in contrast to the grayish-brown of the back. It appears a brighter colored bird than the American. It has been much attracted to the Cedar-bird and puffs out the feathers of the rump, breast and crest until it seems twice the size. It dances about on the perch and occasionally reaches down and takes the beak of the other bird in its own. This must be the display dance practiced by the bird during the mating season. The Cedar-bird though in adult plumage lacks the wax-like appendages on the wings.

In the same enclosure are a Turnstone, Virginia, Sora and Yellow Rails. The first three birds roost on branches eight or nine feet above the ground while the Yellow Rail roosts in the underbrush.—KARL PLATH, 2847 *Giddings St., Chicago*.

Lark Sparrow Breeding in West Virginia.—Within the past few years Lark Sparrows (*Chondestes grammacus grammacus*) have become very rare in West Virginia, so it seems worth recording that the species bred during the 1932 season at French Creek, Upshur County, W. Va.

On June 27, 1932, I observed a female repeatedly feeding young birds which had left the nest. The male bird sang on a nearby telephone wire. All offered a fine opportunity for observation. Later, birds were seen in two other localities close to French Creek, so they may have bred quite generally throughout this territory.

Twenty years ago Lark Sparrows became abundant over this entire region, but those seen this year were the first I have observed in the last five years.—MAURICE BROOKS, *French Creek, W. Va.*

Seaside Sparrow at Revere, Massachusetts.—On the morning of July 3, 1932, I went to the Revere marshes to look for Sharp-tailed Spar-