

On top of a bluff which formed one border of the beach there was a disused gravelly road. It was a favorite resting place for the locusts. At each side of the road was a row of telephone and hydroelectric poles, and on warm days two or three Red-headed Woodpeckers could be seen perched on the posts. They would swoop down to snatch up the flying locusts and then return to their former perches or continue across the road to a post on the other side. In some cases a bird would follow a locust down to the ground and then carry it to a pole before devouring it.

The Red-headed Woodpecker's habit of foraging for flying insects is referred to by A. C. Bent (1939, Life histories of North American woodpeckers. U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 174), who records that young grasshoppers are eaten and that the woodpeckers make flights from perches to capture insects.—W. W. JUDD, *Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada.*

Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) Feeding on Ocean Beach.—A Robin, apparently an adult female, was observed feeding on the sand beach near the edge of the ocean near the Quogue Beach Club, Quogue, Long Island, New York, on July 26, 27, and 28, 1954. The bird was chiefly following the line of marine algae washed up on the sand by the waves, which contained an unusually large amount of such material on those days, and was evidently feeding on small organisms in the weeds. The Robin fed close to small flocks of Sanderling (*Crocelithia alba*) along the water's edge and came as near as three yards to the wash of the waves.

In some forty years of observing birds on the beaches of eastern Long Island, I had never before seen a Robin feeding on the beach in this way. This bird was seen to fly to a line of pines back of the dunes, near the lawn of a house. I suggest that the severe drought of that July dried up the Robin's usual sources of food and drove it to feed on the beach. Following a hard rain-storm on the night of July 28, the bird was no longer observed on the beach.

On July 20, 1955, a Robin was again observed feeding in the same manner at the Quogue Beach Club, and it is interesting to note that the weather had been very dry during the preceding few days.—WALDEN PELL, II, *St. Andrew's School, Middletown, Delaware.*

A Cowbird Incident.—On May 21, 1954, while setting out tomato plants in my garden, I noticed a male Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) on the ground at the edge of the garden plot. Soon he was joined by a female; and the two were joined by another female as they moved along toward the north. The three went into the long grass bordering the garden and seemed to be searching for something. As I knew of a Song Sparrow's nest, well concealed in the grass only a few yards farther north, I watched closely.

Suddenly one of the female Cowbirds made a run and a lunge for the hidden nest, seemed to strike its contents, and, as I started forward, flew off carrying a very young nestling in her bill. All three flew off together.

The three callow young Song Sparrows that remained (eyes not yet open) were packed together in a small pocket of the grass about eight inches from the empty nest. One of them was bloody about the head but apparently not disabled. I replaced them in their nest, and for a few days they were cared for by their parents; but on May 25 the nest was empty.

It would seem probable that the original brood of four tiny nestlings, perhaps tangled together in the small nest, had been displaced en masse by the Cowbird in the moment before one of them was securely grasped by her bill.—A. D. DU BOIS, *Christmas Lake Road, Excelsior, Minnesota.*