

**A simultaneous nesting of the Robin and the Blue Jay in one tree.**—The Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) and the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) are generally regarded as mutually antagonistic in the breeding season. Bent (*U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 196: 61, 1949) speaking of the west, says: "Jays are among the worst enemies of robins, as well as of other birds, as they craftily and persistently rob the nests of eggs or young." Brewster (*Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, 66: 501, 1937) mentions a Blue Jay stealing an egg from a Robin's nest; Loucks (*in* Bendire, *U. S. Natl. Mus., Spec. Bull.* 3: 360, 1895) tells of a pair of Blue Jays appropriating a Robin's newly completed nest; Howell (*Amer. Midl. Nat.*, 28: 557-558, 1942) mentions a strange case in which Robins occupied a Blue Jay nest containing two eggs (abandoned?), laid one of their own, and successfully reared a single young Robin; Forbush (*Birds of Massachusetts*, Vol. 3, p. 413, 1929), Howell (*op. cit.*: 534), and Brackbill (*in* Bent, *op. cit.*: 29-30) mention Robins attacking jays near their nests; and Kane (*Murrelet*, 5: 9, 1924) witnessed a battle between a Robin interrupted in incubation and a Steller's Jay, *Cyanocitta stelleri*, resulting in the death of the jay.

It is therefore of interest that a pair of Robins and a pair of Blue Jays both fledged broods in the same white pine (*Pinus strobus*) in Tuxedo Park, Orange County, New York, in 1962. The tree is about 60 feet (18 meters) tall with full middle branches which spread as much as 25 feet from the trunk. It partly shades one end of a cottage in a small clearing in untended, second growth, mixed woods.

The Robins' nest was first noted as the birds were building in early May and was situated near the end of a branch on the south side of the tree about 15 feet (4½ meters) from the ground. The nest was watched after the adults began feeding young 26 May. The existence of the jays' nest was not suspected until an eggshell was found under the tree 13 June. It was near the end of a branch on the opposite side of the tree about 7 feet above and 35 feet (10 meters) distant from that of the Robins. Three young jays fledged on 2 July. The young Robins presumably fledged earlier, probably before the jays' eggs hatched, but were not observed leaving the nest. On 10 July an empty nest of a Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) was found at shoulder height in another branch of the same tree. The sparrows probably did not use this nest, but laid in another in a hedge 100 feet (30 meters) distant (abandoned 13 June). The male sparrow, however, had singing perches in three trees adjacent to the pine.

While the Robins were building, no jays were noticed nearby, but after the eggs had hatched, a pair of jays showed interest in the nest. One of the Robins, probably the male, brought most of the food to the nest, which the female appeared to guard, and one Robin was continuously present at the nest. The (presumed) male Robin drove the jays away from the immediate vicinity of the nest. During this period, the female jay must have been incubating her clutch inconspicuously 35 feet away.

Another account of jays and Robins nesting peacefully "only a few yards" apart is given by Finley (*Condor*, 9: 121-127, 1907).

The lack of friction between the two species as here reported may have been related to food supply. The spring of 1962 was an outbreak year for the Linden looper (*Erranis tilaria*), an inch worm, in New York, especially in the southeastern counties where defoliation of deciduous trees was heavy (confirmed by New York State Conservation Department, Albany). Many trees near the cottage and the nest tree were almost completely denuded. The Robins were definitely eating the larvae and probably the jays were also. A feeding tray with bird seed under the nest tree was at times visited by the jays during nesting.

It appears probable that, when food supply is superabundant as it seems to have been in Tuxedo in 1962, jays may prey less on the nests of other birds and the aggressive interspecific defense of nest area by Robins may also be diminished. The consequent greater number of birds feeding in the area would have increased predation on the *Erranis* larvae. This implies that, when food is superabundant, reduced interspecific (and probably intraspecific) strife among predators may facilitate local control of forest insect outbreaks by permitting a greater population density of predators.

I thank my sister, Forsyth, who found the three nests.—GEORGE E. WATSON, *U. S. National Museum, Washington 25, D. C.*

**First nesting record of the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) in Canada.**—The first nesting record of the Cattle Egret in Canada was established on 4 June 1962 at Luther Marsh, Wellington County, Ontario, 22 miles (35.2 km) west of the town of Orangeville. Prior to 1962, only one other sighting of the Cattle Egret near Luther Marsh was recorded, when on 25 May 1961 A. T. Cringan and M. R. Wolfe saw a single bird in a wetland area situated one mile west of Luther Marsh, on Concession 7, in the Township of West Luther, Wellington County. The bird was not in breeding plumage.

The authors saw nine Cattle Egrets in breeding plumage on 25 May 1962 on a large island in the western part of Luther Marsh. Nesting was not suspected until five Cattle Egrets were observed in a heronry there on 1 June 1962. This heronry is located 150 yards (about 135 meters) south of the island on which the nine birds were seen. The heronry is situated in dead, flooded cedars (*Thuja occidentalis*) and elms (*Ulmus* spp.). It occupies about two acres, and lies within the protecting arms of two adjacent islands.

Nesting species of the heronry, up to the discovery of the Cattle Egrets, included Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), and Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*). Layering of nests was evident and can be described thus: first layer, 1 to 5 feet, Green Herons; second layer, 5 to 15 feet, Black-crowned Night Herons; third layer, 15 to 30 feet, Great Blue Herons.

Two occupied nests of Cattle Egrets were found in the heronry on 4 June 1962, located in the second layer. They were flimsy and meager in construction. The first nest contained one egg and the second had three.

On 9 June 1962, we showed these nests to a group including J. L. Baillie, of the Royal Ontario Museum, and A. T. Cringan, of the Ontario Agricultural College. At this time, the first nest contained two eggs and the second contained four eggs. A fresh egg collected from nest number one is in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum.

We found a third nest, containing four eggs, on 13 June 1962, and construction of a fourth was suspected to be under way at this date.

The daily range of the Cattle Egrets about the marsh has not been established definitely, but birds were observed on small islands and on the east shore of the marsh, up to a little over a mile from the heronry, apparently feeding on insects in grassland.

With the recording of these nests, the known breeding range of the Cattle Egret is extended by 250 miles from the Columbus, Ohio, nesting area listed by D. E. Davis (*Auk*, 77: 421-424, 1960).

A list of observations of Cattle Egrets in Ontario compiled by J. L. Baillie includes all sight records reported to the Royal Ontario Museum to 15 June 1962.