

opening in the undergrowth about 15 feet in front of him where she uttered low hoarse calls, fluttered her wings and tail, and moved in a zigzag path. She continued this behavior for some 30 seconds before flying off with a flock of passing cowbirds. The bird's actions were reminiscent of the diversionary behavior many species perform when a potential predator approaches their nest. This was the last time the pair of Kentucky Warblers was seen at this location. Three days later a destroyed ground nest containing one cowbird egg was found at the site. It is suspected that the observer may have disturbed the laying cowbird and triggered a behavioral response designed to conceal and protect the host's nest.

Friedmann (*The cowbirds*, Springfield, Illinois, Charles C. Thomas, 1929) considers the Brown-headed Cowbird the most advanced in the series of cowbird species in the western hemisphere that show progressive loss of normal nesting behavior. Our observations suggest that the Brown-headed Cowbird has retained the ability to perform certain behavioral patterns normally associated with concealment and protection of the host's nest, and which apparently are not performed unless the nest is threatened while the female is either on or close to the nest. At such times the female cowbird may call attention to the host's nest by her presence. We suggest that the potential to perform such acts may be very short-lived and appear only during a brief period of time when the cowbird is laying or performing some other act connected with it at the host's nest. The actual laying of an egg may be a releaser of this protective behavior. Natural selection may act to retain any such behavior that helps insure the success of the parasitized nest and thus contributes to the species' reproductive success.—RUSSELL P. BALDA, *Department of Zoology, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois*, and STEVE CAROTHERS, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona*. Present address of first author: *Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona*.

Great Kiskadee parasitized by Shiny Cowbird in Surinam.—On 3 June 1967 I received a nest of the Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) with three eggs of the flycatcher and one egg of the Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus benariensis*) which was found at Marienburg, Surinam. Two of the eggs of the host measured 26.4×20.5 and 26.5×20.4 mm. The egg of the Shiny Cowbird measured 20.2×16.4 mm. Friedmann (*Host relations of the parasitic cowbirds*, U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 233, 1963, see p. 199) does not mention the nominate race of *Pitangus sulphuratus* as a host of our local race *Molothrus bonariensis minimus*. See also Hoy and Ottow (*Auk*, 81: 186–203, 1964).—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *P. O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam*.

Roseate Spoonbill chick attacked by ants.—On 29 March 1967 a nest of a Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) was discovered on an island in Sabine Lake near Bridge City, Texas. This nest was built approximately five feet from the ground in the cane (*Arundinaria* sp.) which grows abundantly on the island; it contained two eggs measuring $6.99 \text{ mm} \times 4.36 \text{ mm}$ and $7.19 \text{ mm} \times 4.20 \text{ mm}$.

On 21 April the nest contained four eggs, one of which was just hatching. The nest was invaded by ants, which were entering the piped hole and were noted biting the chick inside the egg. This experience apparently did not harm the young spoonbill, for on 28 April the nest contained three nestlings and an egg that did not hatch, and no sign of ants. The three chicks were healthy and showed no ill effects from ant attacks, and the egg was whole.—JED J. RAMSEY, *Biology Department, Lamar State College of Technology, Beaumont, Texas*.