

**An Overlooked Record of Parasitism of the English Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, by the Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*.**—In his note concerning an observation of the Cowbird parasitizing the English Sparrow, Brackbill (*The Auk*, 68(4): 513. 1951.) quoted three previous records listed by Friedmann. The abstract of this note (*Biological Abstracts* 26(10): 29764. 1952.) refers to it as the fourth record. However, the writer reported earlier (*Cleveland Bird Calendar* 44(3): 15. 1948.) an observation of a female English Sparrow feeding two juvenile Cowbirds on the banks of the Cuyahoga River at Kent, Ohio, on July 1, 1948. Unfortunately this record was published in a local bulletin with restricted distribution and hence has been overlooked.—Ralph W. Dexter, Department of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

**Bluebirds Lured to Ground Traps.**—Although not considered a permanent resident in northern Westchester County, N. Y., each winter several small groups of Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) can usually be found. This past season, four females and two males were seen constantly in the immediate vicinity of my house. The weather during December was milder than usual; January was the coldest month, with several days of sub-zero temperatures; February was the second warmest in the N. Y. Weather Bureau's history.

Quite often, during December and January, the above group would sit quietly in the shrubbery overlooking my ground traps, watching the other species freely feeding. On January 31, I baited the traps with some layer cake (yellow) for the finches. The next morning, before sunrise, the Bluebirds were again perched in the shrubbery; of a sudden, one male flew down and without hesitation, entered a 1-cell trap. By February 5, three females and 1 other male had been trapped—no repeats. The temperature, during this period, ranged from 25 to 35 degrees.

The birds seemed to develop a wariness; their manner of securing the cake became similar to the Starlings I get, in that they stood in the entrance of the traps, thrust in the bill to seize a piece of cake, and either ate it on the ground a few inches away or flew into a nearby oak tree to do so. In all cases, it was definitely the cake that the birds were seeking. A. C. Bent, in his *Life Histories of N. A. Thrushes*, . . . (1949), cites Prof. Beal to the effect that of 855 Bluebird stomachs examined, only two were found to contain grain.

The behavior of the five birds, upon being trapped, gave evidence of a sexual distinction. The females remained docile and quiet throughout; the males being active and emitting irregular cries of alarm while in the trap and during handling.

I would be interested in hearing of other banders' observations in baiting and trapping Bluebirds with ground traps.—James R. Nolan, Edgewood Road, Peekskill, N. Y.

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker Banded in Rome, Ga.**—On February 17, 1953 I identified a Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Dryobates borealis*) in a pine tree on my lawn. It was the first time I had seen and identified this species. Occasionally afterwards there were as many as four birds at one time feeding in my immediate area. After securing a bird banding permit in August, 1953, I learned through *Bird Banding Notes* that through the 1949 bird-banding year no individual of this species had been reported as banded. On November 18, 1953, of three birds at the birdbath, I was able to trap one in my drop-water-trap. Mr. G. L. Hight, Jr., took several pictures of this female in black and white and color film. It carries a size 1A band. In February, 1954 I banded another Red-cockaded, this time an adult male showing very clearly the red on its head. According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Md., there is no official record of this species having been banded up to May, 1953.—Dr. Fred Crenshaw, Battey State Hospital, Rome, Ga.

**A Turnstone Coincidence; Shrimp as Bait.**—During the late fall of 1950 I banded eleven Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) in large Potter traps baited with dead shrimp. My visits to the banding area (the Titusville, Florida, causeway) are infrequent but on one made on December 5, 1952, I stopped my car to observe shore birds. I noticed a bird lying dead at the roadside; upon examination this bird (which had been killed within a few hours) proved to have been banded by me within a few yards of the place of recovery on November 21,

1950 (Band No. 48-230562). Incidentally, other species taken with shrimp as bait include Black-bellied Plover (*Squatorola squatorola*), Willet (*Catotrophorus semipalmatus*) and Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*).—William Davidson, 1504 Bodell St., Orlando, Fla.

## RECENT LITERATURE

### BANDING

(See also Numbers 10, 16, 47, 48, 49, 62)

**1. Bird-Banding in 1938-1943.** O. Olstad. 1953. *Statens Viltundersøkelser*, Horten, Norway. Banding Results IV, pp. 1-42. Lists the 5,861 birds of 149 species banded in Norway during the critical and difficult war years, and presents all the data available for the 289 of them of 41 species heard from after banding. Most of the records are returns and short time and distance recoveries. The comparatively low ratio of banded birds heard from is not remarkable, even under wartime occupation conditions, for 5,135 were banded as nestlings, only 726 as adults. The largest numbers banded, and the highest recapture percentages are for the Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*), 79 records from 218 adults and 261 nestling banded, and for the Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), 50 records from 264 nestling banded in 1938 and 1939. The 19 percent recovery of the herons is remarkably high considering the circumstances; the immediate postnuptial returns demonstrate vividly the grenade effect in juvenal dispersals before migration. The later heron recoveries are equally interesting, with significant numbers reported from the British Isles, France, and Belgium, and none directly south or southeast of Norway. A few recoveries of other species were reported from Holland, Denmark, and Germany, but none whatever from farther east, which of course doesn't mean that no Norwegian birds go behind the iron curtain.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

**2. Bird-Banding in Norway 1951.** Holger Holgerson. 1952. *Dreyer Stavanger* (unnumbered), pp. 1-34. Lists by species the 17,737 birds banded in Norway in 1951 under the Stavanger Museum and Government Game Investigation Service ringing programs, and presents the data on the more important and interesting of the recoveries received during the year. Notable are a Turnstone and a Knot, each banded during their autumn southward migration in Norway and each recovered in Iceland, one the following the other the second-following spring, probably on route to their Greenland breeding grounds. A Hooded Crow was recovered at least 11 years old.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

**3. Bird-Banding in Norway 1952.** Holger Holgerson. 1953. *Sterna* (Stavanger Museum) No. 11, pp. 1-23. Shows a commendable increase in bandings and recoveries over the previous year (No. 2 above). In 1952 a total of 28,197 birds were banded, bringing the totals to 127,930 since banding started in Norway in 1914. Among the selected recoveries listed are many from abroad, the most significant being of various waders which the Scandinavians are banding in large numbers so successfully. A Knot banded in Norway in August 1948 was recovered on its Greenland breeding ground in June 1950. There are direct recoveries of a Woodcock from Spain, a Sanderling from the Canary Islands, and two Common Terns from East Africa.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

**4. Bird-Banding by the Stavanger Museum 1952.** (Stavanger Museums Ringmerkingarbeid 1952.) Holger Holgerson. 1952. *Saertrykk av Stavanger Museums Arbok*, pp. 79-86, with English summary. Lists by species the totals banded in Norway under the Museum's auspices in 1952: 21,816 birds of some 132 species, 5,400 of them "trapped" presumably as adults, the rest as nestlings. Largest bandings of one species are 3,340 Fieldfares (*Turdus pilaris*), with smaller but still respectable numbers of seven other Turdids. Most impressive are the large numbers of waders handled, 2,321 Dunlins, 808 Lapwings, and lesser numbers of 21 other species. Among the colonial seabirds, probably banded as juveniles, are 1,264 Common Gulls, 700-odd each of Black-headed and Herring Gulls, and 481 Black-backed Gulls; also 319 Common and 23 Arctic Terns. For some of the results of the Museum's banding see Numbers 2 and 3.—O. L. Austin, Jr.