

male, arriving in spring, as first establishing a large, aggressively-defended territory and then, after a mate arrives, gradually changing from hostile to sexual behavior as the two birds center activities on a nest. Under these conditions other males, arriving at successively late intervals, are able to establish themselves on his original domain, in what becomes a colonial type of nesting.

Dennis (*Bird-Banding*, 40: 290-308, 1969), in his account of Flickers nesting on Nantucket Island, a highly favorable habitat, considered them as being an adaptable species that, in a peak year, achieved a density of 19.5 pairs per 100 acres, two nests having been only 7 m apart. In the present case described for the beaver pond, three pairs were able to nest in an area of less than one acre. An ability to nest under such relative crowding would seem to have survival value from several view points. One is that suitable nest stubs, if one can judge from the efforts of Flickers to find them, are in short supply in central New Hampshire. This shortage is aggravated by competition from Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Flickers excavate holes, only to have them taken away as they near completion. The nesting season is thus broken up and a staggering of subsequent nesting times is the result. This may have its benefits, however, in permitting different pairs of Flickers to nest relatively close together, where special conditions, such as flooding by beavers, has led to a concentration of nest stubs. Flickers continue to hold their own in spite of competition from Starlings and this may be one mechanism by which they are able to do so.

Once Flickers are feeding older nestlings, like other species of woodpeckers they again become territorially aggressive over a wider area and increasingly so as nestlings approach the time of fledging. This was seen at the beaver pond where the males of Pairs B and C, although tolerant of each other, persistently attacked the later appearing male of Pair D. Although these attacks usually consisted of bill-waving dances (Kilham, op. cit.), on 14 July Male C made persistent direct attacks on Male D, knocking him from the stub where he and his mate were trying to establish themselves. Pair D failed to nest. The failure of this pair gave further indication that staggering can only be a value in permitting a colonial-type of nesting when it involves the relatively quiet time of incubation and brooding small young.—LAWRENCE KILHAM, *Department of Microbiology, Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, New Hampshire* 03755. Received 11 August 1973, accepted 5 September 1973.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We are undertaking a study of molt and other features of the Painted Bunting and initiated a color-banding project of the species in 1973. We are asking southern banders to be on the lookout for the color-banded birds during migration, at wintering sites, and on the breeding grounds next spring. Observers should write and tell us the color-band combination and state of the plumage. SAMUEL R. AND ISABEL H. TIPTON, *Star Route 2, Box 780, Southport, N. C. 28461*.