

of 0.8 mile between traps. The nest-box traps were placed at sites not earlier occupied by nest boxes. Except for the period 22-26 April, the traps were operated continuously from 20 February until 11 June, and they were checked twice daily.

A total of 43 Starlings (37♂, 6♀) were banded. The largest number of Starlings captured in one trap was eight, with an average of 4.3 birds per trap in the 10 traps capturing at least one of these birds. Except for two females captured in one trap, the females were all captured in different traps. Of the 37 males, six were captured in each of three traps, four in two, three in two, two in two, and one was captured in one trap. Only 11 recaptures were made; nine of these, six females and three males, were of birds recaptured where they had been captured first. One male was recaptured 0.9 mile from where first captured, and another was recaptured 2.1 miles from where first captured. These data suggest that male Starlings may move about searching for nesting cavities more than females. Also, in the earlier study (Stewart, *Wilson Bull.*, 85: 291-294, 1973) 39 of the 56 Starlings captured and removed were males and 17 were females, also indicating more movement of males than females. However, with 56 Starlings captured at one site when the birds were removed after capture and an average of 4.3 captured at each site when the birds were banded and released, there was much less exploration of nest boxes when the birds were banded and released than when they were removed. Thus, it was indicated that new birds move in to explore potential nest cavities chiefly when other birds are not already present, instead of contesting cavities. Also, only four Starlings, three males and one female, were captured in 1974 at the site where 56 were captured and removed in 1972.

Fifteen male and nine female Eastern Bluebirds were banded. The largest number of bluebirds captured in one trap was seven, with an average of three per trap at the traps that captured at least one of these birds. Of the 24 bluebirds captured, seven were captured in one trap, five in one, three in two, two in two, and one in two traps. With 1.7 male bluebirds captured per female compared with 6.2 male Starlings per female, bluebirds showed more of a tendency than Starlings to seek nest cavities in pairs. Both members of four bluebird pairs were captured in successive visits, also showing that these birds sought cavities in pairs. Only six bluebird recaptures were made, with five of these being the same pair captured in the same nest box or at two boxes 0.1 mile apart. These two bluebirds captured in the same or a nearby box were captured at various times between 7 March and 5 June, and they appeared not to have nested during the 1974 nesting season, instead continuing to remain in the same area unsuccessfully attempting to use the boxes equipped with automatic traps. The longest recorded movement of a cavity-hunting bluebird was 0.8 mile, made between 30 April and 31 May.

The Starlings were trapped from 24 February to 1 June, with 9 April the median date; the bluebirds were trapped from 24 February to 10 June, with 18 March the median date. My data thus indicate that Starlings searched for nest cavities most intensively slightly later in the year than bluebirds, but the bluebirds continued their searching after Starlings had stopped theirs.

In addition to the Starlings and Eastern Bluebirds three Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*), four Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), and six House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were trapped. Repeated captures of the Carolina Chickadees and Carolina Wrens were not made; thus, the presence of these birds probably had little influence on exploration of the nest boxes by Starlings and bluebirds. However, the six House Sparrows were all taken in the same nest box, and no Starlings or bluebirds were taken there, suggesting that this one box may have been held by House Sparrows against use by Starlings and bluebirds.—PAUL A. STEWART, 203 Mooreland Drive, Oxford, North Carolina 27565. Received 6 February 1976, accepted 20 April 1976.

**A Brown-headed Cowbird in Postjuvenile Molt at Age of about 38 Days.**—On 5 August 1975 I found a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) nest about 80 yards north of my home. When I reached toward it, a single young bird, not clearly seen, fluttered to the ground and was lost in weeds. For some time one or more Song Sparrows had been coming from the north to feed in my pull-string trap, and after this, continued to do so. On 18 August one fed a young Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) beside the trap, then flew north. The

cowbird entered the trap, and I banded it. On 3 September I retrapped it; on the left side of its breast, beneath the gray juvenal plumage, was a patch of black feathers, the vanes opening.

Friedmann (*The Cowbirds*, Springfield, Ill., Chas. C. Thomas, 1929: 265) writes that young cowbirds usually leave the nest on the 10th day after hatching but if frightened may leave on the ninth. A few even earlier departures, at the estimated age of 6-7 days, have been observed by Richard A. Hill (Host-parasite relationships, summer movements, and population structure of the Brown-headed Cowbird in a prairie habitat of west-central Kansas. M. S. thesis, Fort Hays Kansas State College). So if, as I believe, it was this cowbird that I startled from the Song Sparrow nest on 5 August, the bird must have hatched on about 28-31 July. On 3 September, then, its postjuvenal molt was already under way at the age of about 38 days, or perhaps even 34-35 days.

I thank Jay M. Sheppard for suggesting this note.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21207. Received 16 February 1976, accepted 6 May 1976.

**Bay-breasted Warblers Feeding on Fruit: Interspecific Social Facilitation?**—At about 1135 on 4 October 1975 we noticed a Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) feeding on the fruits of a very large dogwood (*Cornus florida*) about 2 m from the window of our home west of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. A few seconds later we saw a Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) and a Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinensis*) also feeding on the fruits. We then saw a Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) feeding on a fruit. Within the next 15 min we noted more Bay-breasted Warblers feeding on the fruits, with as many as four individuals engaged in the activity at one time. Intermittent observations over the next three hours revealed an occasional, single Bay-breasted Warbler eating the fruits. Each individual appeared to have difficulty in plucking the fruits, often pulling at several before removing one from the tree. The fruits were swallowed entire. We have not seen the behavior before or since, although we saw Bay-breasteds in the dogwood several days before and after 4 October. The temperature at the time of the observation was about 16°C, and no frost had yet occurred in the area that autumn. Insects appeared to be of at least normal abundance.

Bent (*U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 203:385, 1953) states: “. . . the bay-breasted is almost wholly insectivorous, indulging occasionally, perhaps, in a little wild fruit.” He gives no details concerning possible frugivory. We do not know whether our chance observation indicates that the Bay-breasted Warbler may frequently consume dogwood fruits or if the frugivory by the warblers was a case of interspecific “social facilitation.” It does seem unusual that our only observation of frugivory in the Bay-breasted Warbler is also the only case we have seen of more than one individual bird, let alone several species, feeding simultaneously on the fruits of dogwood.—HELMUT C. MUELLER, *Department of Zoology and Curriculum in Ecology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514*, and NANCY S. MUELLER, *Department of Biology, North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina 27707*. Received 12 February 1976, accepted 5 April 1976.

**Incomplete Prebasic Molt in a Dark-eyed Junco.**—On 15 November 1975 I banded (1360-93684) an adult female Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) (skull completely ossified; eye, red-brown; wing chord, 72 mm and coloration pale gray) that had not yet completed its prebasic (postnuptial) molt. It had already renewed fully all of its primaries, secondaries one through four, tertials, and wing coverts. All were new in texture and color and not worn. However, secondaries five and six as well as all three alular feathers were a worn and faded brown compared to the other newer, gray plumage. The wings were symmetrical. The tail consisted of six fully grown, new rectrices on the left side, but on the right side rectrix one was missing. In addition, rectrices two and six were incompletely grown. The former measured 51 mm, and the latter 55 mm, whereas the overall tail length was 63 mm. The body plumage appeared new and uniform, and showed no signs of incomplete or continuing molt.

Based on observations made on breeding juncos in the Adirondack Mountains 52 km (32 miles) north of my yard where this capture took place, molt in adults