

GENERAL NOTES

American Redstart Assists at Yellow Warbler Nest.—In spring 1977, near Goose Creek on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in northeastern Oregon, I observed an adult (apparently >1 year old, see Ficken and Ficken, *Wilson Bull.*, **79**: 188–199, 1967) male American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) acting as a “nest helper” to a pair of Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica petechia*). Skutch (*Condor*, **63**: 198–226, 1961) reviewed numerous examples of interspecific interactions of this kind and reported that relations between helpers and parent birds ranged from cooperation to open conflict. However, none of the examples given described a helper that reacted differently toward the male and female of a given pair of parent birds. In the interaction reported here, the redstart accepted the presence of, and cooperated with, the female Yellow Warbler but was agonistic toward the male Yellow Warbler and attempted to take over his duties at the nest.

On 1 June, the female Yellow Warbler was constructing a nest 2.1 m above the ground in a black hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*) shrub. On 5 June, the nest held 1 egg; on 16 June 5 eggs were present, and the female was incubating. A male Yellow Warbler (assumed to be her mate) was singing within 20 m of the nest on both of these dates. By 23 June, the eggs had hatched and while I was watching the male Yellow Warbler feed the nestlings, a male American Redstart flew to the nest and fed the brooding female Yellow Warbler. In a 30-min period, the redstart and the male Yellow Warbler each returned six times to the nest with food. The redstart most often fed the brooding female (an interspecific interaction that Skutch classed as rare) but twice fed the nestlings; the male Yellow Warbler most often fed the nestlings. On one occasion when both males were at the nest, the redstart chased the male Yellow Warbler away.

Observations on 27 June clearly indicated that the redstart was the dominant male near the nest. In a 30-min period, the redstart fed the nestlings six times and between foraging bouts sang from a perch above the nest. In the same period, the male Yellow Warbler made five attempts to feed the nestlings, but was successful only twice because the redstart persistently chased him away. During these interactions, the female Yellow Warbler foraged near the nest, often within 2 m of the redstart. When I returned to the nest on 5 July, it was empty, but I saw both juvenile and adult (a male and female) Yellow Warblers near the nest. I did not see the redstart.

Skutch stated that if parent birds lose their nestlings before the drive to feed young birds is exhausted, they may feed a neighbor's offspring as an outlet for this parental urge. This statement suggests a potential explanation for the unusual behavior of the American Redstart, but since the history and breeding status of the redstart are unknown, such an explanation is purely speculative.

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An Invalid Record of a 14-year-old Banded Bald Eagle.—The purpose of this note is to call attention to an invalid longevity record of a banded Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and to warn of possible pitfalls of uncritical use of band recovery data in longevity studies.

While analyzing band recovery data for a paper on migratory movements of Bald Eagles, I came across a recovery report for band no. 448-12921. According to the printout received from the Bird Banding Laboratory this band was placed on a nestling in Florida on 01/14/46 by the late Charles L. Broley, and the bird was reported shot (How Obtained Code: 01) on the Niagara Peninsula, near St. Catherines, Ontario. The date was given as 02/73/60 (Unknown Date Code: 73 = date or postmark of letter + 50), meaning that the letter reporting the band was dated or postmarked 23 February 1960. This was evidently