

## DIVERSIONARY BEHAVIOR OF RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER

On April 26, 1948, Lucien Harris, Jr., John W. Burch, and I found 2 occupied nest holes of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos borealis*) in longleaf pines about 50 yards apart. One of these holes, only 5.5 feet from the ground, is the lowest yet recorded for the species to the best of my knowledge. The young had left both nests by June 13, 1948. On May 29, 1949, I again visited this spot with J. B. McCall, Jr., hoping to have him photograph the birds which occupied the lower nest site. When we had approached within 5 feet of the nest a female carrying food approached; upon seeing us she flew with somewhat impeded flight, stopping at several intervening trees, to the second nest hole 50 yards distant, entered the hole still carrying the food, emerged without the food, and flew away. McCall and I satisfied ourselves that the second nest hole was unoccupied. The visit of the female to the unoccupied hole served effectively to divert our attention from the occupied nest. I left, but McCall remained and was successful in taking excellent color movies of the female feeding the young from a distance of 20 feet within the next half hour. These observations occurred near Kingsland, Camden Co., Ga.—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 Walnut Street Building, Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania.

## BEHAVIOR OF SPARROW HAWKS

On March 22, 1949 at about 1 P.M., 3 Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) were seen flying above and around the roof of the 7-story Department of Justice Building, Washington, D. C., directly across the street from our observation window on the fifth floor of the Internal Revenue Building. One alighted on a chimney on the Justice Building, another about 100 feet distant from the first on a wire attached to the same roof; the third hawk alighted near the bird perched on the chimney. After a few moments the third bird mounted the perching bird, and the two birds apparently copulated; the upper bird was clearly smaller than the other. Within a few minutes both flew away, the larger bird out of sight and the smaller bird directly to a position near the bird perched on the wire. The smaller hawk soon mounted the bird perched on the wire and the 2 birds apparently copulated; again the upper bird was clearly smaller than the other bird. After the second apparent copulation, the smaller bird flew away and out of sight; the larger bird remained perched in the same place. Only 3 birds were involved in the behavior described. About 5 minutes later a smaller sparrow hawk flew to, and mounted, this same perching bird, and the 2 birds apparently copulated. The total elapsed time for all of these observations was approximately 20 minutes.—ARTHUR H. FAST AND LEWIS H. BARNES, Internal Revenue Building, Washington, D. C.

## SPARROW HAWK BAFFLED BY ROOFLESS COURT

The skill of the sparrow hawk in flight would seem to assure its ready escape from a roofless enclosure approximately 85 feet high and with an area of 115 x 195 feet. Such an enclosure seemed to offer an insoluble problem, however, for a female sparrow hawk (*Falco sparverius*) which died of starvation and thirst in a court of the U. S. Department of Commerce building in Washington, D. C. This court has no side exits, but is entirely open to the sky.

There was no indication that the sparrow hawk was incapacitated in any way when first observed in the court on July 21, 1949. It flew many times with no difficulty at all from one side of the court to the other, and on at least one occasion ascended to a cornice just one floor below the top of the building. As the hot July days progressed, however, it became less alert and permitted observers at windows to approach within a few feet. On July 27 it was offered a chunk of liver which it accepted and tore with its beak, without eating more than a few shreds if it ate any at all. The next day it disappeared, and the day thereafter, 8 days after it was first seen, it was found dead on the cement floor of a sunken alleyway adjoining the