

**Blue Jay attacks cowbird nestling.**—At approximately 2:00 PM, 15 July 1963, my family and I were suddenly attracted to the sound of quarreling birds at the asphalt parking lot of the Audubon Nature Center, Greenwich, Connecticut. I turned in time to see an adult Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), at a height of about 3 feet, drop a nestling from its bill to the ground, apparently as the result of an attack upon the Blue Jay by an adult Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). After dashing at the Blue Jay, which dropped its prey, the Catbird flew to the hedge bordering the parking lot, remained hidden, but constantly called. The Blue Jay attempted three or four times to pick up the struggling nestling in its bill as we approached, but gave up and flew away.

Upon examination, I found two of the secondaries of the left wing badly torn and projecting up oddly. I easily broke them off. The nestling was a Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) of the size and activity which I had some years ago found capable of limited flight and able to leave Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) nests. After holding it in my hand so that it could be viewed by my daughters and others interested, where it remained completely calm and with eyes closed, I took it to the hedge bordering the parking lot. By tapping its legs against a small branch, I caused it to perch, but within ten seconds it flew toward the calling Catbird in a descending flight, disappearing into the dense cover about a foot above the ground.

It would seem that the cowbird nestling was, in some way, attractive to the Catbird and may have been from its nest. While Young (1963. *Wilson Bull.*, 75:117) includes the Catbird as a species infrequently parasitized by the cowbird, Friedmann (1929. "The Cowbirds," pp. 193, 194, 253) indicates that the Catbird is a very uncommon victim and is absolutely intolerant of cowbird eggs. It is entirely possible, of course, that the Catbird was merely attracted by the distress calls of the nestling, and that its disquieted continuing calls after the incident were in reaction to the entire situation complicated by human interference. Moreover, the direction of flight of the cowbird young was not only toward the calling Catbird but directly away from me. Whether or not the cowbird nestling was from a Catbird nest, actual accounts of interspecific predatory relationships are sufficiently infrequent to warrant mentioning of this interesting occurrence.—KENNETH W. PRESCOTT, *Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 19th and Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 7 August 1963.*

**Unusual behavior of a Northern Shrike.**—On 1 December 1962, at Ester Dome, 7 miles west of College, Alaska, I observed an adult Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) abandoning a freshly killed Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) to attack a Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*). The shrike, when first seen, was pursuing a flying grosbeak, which took refuge in a clump of high-bush cranberry shrubs where other grosbeaks were sitting. After several minutes, one of the grosbeaks flew out and hovered in front of the bush, picking at berries. The shrike immediately left its perch in a nearby tree and attacked the hovering grosbeak, apparently hitting it with the bill or biting it in the head region, knocking the grosbeak to the ground. The shrike picked up the grosbeak in its feet and flew to a birch tree about 75 feet from me and alighted. A group of three Sharp-tailed Grouse, seemingly frightened when I moved, suddenly flushed from the ground about 35 feet from the base of the tree in which the shrike had just alighted. Almost simultaneously with the flight of the grouse, the shrike dropped the dead grosbeak and left its perch in pursuit of the grouse. The shrike flew low to the ground and overtook the grouse. Upon reaching them, it rose above the last one and struck down at its back with feet and bill. I could not observe whether the grouse was actually hit. Two such strikes were made before the birds were lost to view around a clump of trees.