

the male stood and watched a brood of Gadwalls about 50 m offshore. At 18:37 he flew directly to the brood, landed among the young, and instantly grabbed a duckling. He shook and speared the young bird into several pieces. As the male crane ate the pieces, the female walked over and ate with him. All the remains were eaten by 18:45. The male drank briefly, then the pair walked to the shore.

In July 1962 a member of the refuge staff watched a male catch and eat a young Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). The crane approached the brood from the rear, caught one young, violently shook it 2 or 3 times, and swallowed it intact. This incident occurred in a meadow in about 5 to 7 cm of water. R. C. Drewien (pers. comm.) has seen Sandhill Cranes consume young Mallards and Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) near Grays Lake, Bonneville Co., Idaho.

Mullins (M.S. thesis, Univ. Idaho, 1974) collected 20 Greater Sandhill Cranes in southeastern Idaho and reported on their stomach contents. Plant material comprised 73% of the diet, and insects and earthworms accounted for 27%. No remains of eggs or young birds were found. Harvey et al. (Wilson Bull. 80:421-425, 1968) found that Lesser Sandhill Cranes (*G. c. canadensis*) readily fed on Snow Goose (*Anser hyperborea*) eggs and Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) chicks. Walkinshaw (The Sandhill Cranes, Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 29, 1949) also reported on the food habits of Sandhill Cranes, but none of these reports mention ducklings in their diet.

The importance of young ducks as a food source for cranes is unknown, but crane predation on ducklings would normally go undetected because vegetation height restricts visibility and prevents close observation at the time of duck hatching.—CARROLL D. LITTLEFIELD, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Box 671, Burns, OR 97720. Accepted 25 July 1975.

Successful parasitism of the Gray Catbird by the Brown-headed Cowbird.—The Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) is considered a poor host species for the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) because it normally ejects cowbird eggs from its nest (Rothstein, Auk 91:796-807, 1974). Thus the following record is of interest. On 12 June 1971 I found a catbird incubating 3 catbird eggs and 1 cowbird egg. On 15 June the nest contained a down-covered cowbird and 3 catbird eggs. On 19 June there was a large cowbird nestling and a small, nearly naked young catbird; the other 2 catbird eggs had disappeared. On 23 June the feathered cowbird was sitting on the dead catbird nestling. On 29 June the nest was empty, and the adult catbirds were scolding vigorously, as they had on all visits, suggesting that the young cowbird was in the vicinity.

The nest was 1.2 m above the ground in a clump of mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) located in a 0.8-1.2 ha wood lot in a residential area near Takoma Park, Montgomery Co., Maryland. Canopy trees were mainly white oak (*Quercus alba*). There was little herbaceous understory but many clumps of 1.5-1.8 m mountain laurel shrubs.

Two previous reports give specific information on young cowbirds in catbird nests. Nickell (Wilson Bull. 70:286-287, 1958) found a nest in Ontario that contained two 6- to 7-day-old catbirds and a cowbird 1 or 2 days older. The second report (Auk 79:116-117, 1962) concerned a Michigan catbird nest containing 4 catbird eggs and 1 cowbird egg. That cowbird egg hatched, but the nest was subsequently destroyed by a predator. Later in the same vicinity, catbirds were seen feeding a young cowbird and 3 fledgling catbirds. Another record appears erroneous. Elder (Bird Lore 23:185-191, 1921) states that catbirds frequently rear 1 or 2 of their own young in addition to 1 or more cowbirds. A careful reading of Elder's paper indicates that this statement probably refers to the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*).—JOAN C. WOODWARD, 2433 Southgate Square, Reston, VA 22091. Accepted 30 May 1975.