

In spite of the published records of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in western North Carolina, a great deal remains to be learned about the distribution of the bird in the area. Observers should be alert to document any breeding of the species in the region.

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Blue Jays Mob a Dead Common Grackle

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During the morning of 20 February 1972 I heard Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) screaming wildly in the small trees on the lawn of my home, and upon looking out the window I saw no cat where the birds were centered; thus, I watched the birds a few minutes and determined the exact spot receiving their greatest attention. After the mobbing behavior had stopped, I went to the spot and found a dead Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*). The head and tail of the grackle were buried beneath fallen pine leaves so that the exposed part of the dead bird gave little indication that the black object was a dead bird.

There was little reason to doubt that the dead grackle was the object of the Blue Jays' attention. Inasmuch as Blue Jays normally do not mob living grackles, it is noteworthy that these jays mobbed one that was dead and partly buried.

Two Instances of Apparent Sublimation of Sex Drive in Robins

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While watching the birds in my yard near Zebulon, Wake County, N.C., for anting and sunbathing behavior during the cool and sunny days following the heavy rainfall associated with the passage of Hurricane Agnes, I noted an adult male Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) repeatedly mounting pine cones, waving his wings to keep his balance, and apparently attempting copulation. The bird alternately mounted several cones in rapid succession and sunbathed for about 30 minutes beginning at 06:30 EST. Following the last observed mounting, he flew to a tree and began singing. Later in the day (24 June 1972) I saw birds of other species sunning, but they did not mount pine cones.

On 25 June the banded adult male Robin that held territory on the east side of our house and had mounted pine cones the previous day attempted to mount his mate, but she was not receptive. On 28 June she was nest building, and on 2 July she was incubating. I saw the pair feeding young out of the nest on 1 August.

I believe that the mounting of pine cones was a sublimation of the male's sex drive. The Robins had lost their nest on 22 June, and apparently the male was ready to begin renesting activities before the female was ready for copulation.

About a dozen juvenile Robins no longer dependent upon their parents had flocked by 11 July. Rainfall began about noon on this date and continued off and on until clearing began about 09:30 on 13 July. By 09:50 Robins and several other species of