

birds had begun sunbathing, and they continued to do so frequently through the morning of 19 July.

The morning of 15 July the yard was full of juvenile Robins that were bathing in the pools and sunbathing. Between 08:00 and 09:00 several of these birds were chasing each other and bumping windows the way adults do during the mating season. They would interrupt their chases occasionally to mob other juvenile Robins sunning in the driveway. The mobbing behavior appeared to be an extension of the pursuit flights, and there was no attempt to injure the sunbathers. On one occasion several juveniles excitedly mobbed a flattened pine cone in the driveway near a place particularly favored for sunning. One of these birds, distinctive because of its bare forehead and somewhat advanced state of postjuvinal molt, left the group that had just mobbed the flattened pine cone and immediately attempted to mount an open cone that had not been crushed. This same bird continued to mount one cone after another for about 20 minutes. At 10:20 I saw a juvenile Robin, presumably the same bird, repeatedly mounting a pine cone in a distant part of the driveway. Again the mounting of pine cones appeared to be the sublimation of an ill-timed sex drive; however, in the latter instance this behavior, along with the pursuit flights and mobbing activity, might be considered a form of juvenile sex play.

For the next month (20 July through 17 August) I continued to watch the juvenile Robins closely. Although there were several periods of heavy rainfall during these 4 weeks and the birds frequently bathed at the pools, I saw no anting, only one sunning episode, no pursuit flights, no mobbing, and no pine cone mounting by either juvenile or adult Robins.

Adjustments of Blackbirds and Starlings to Shot Injuries

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At Scotland Neck, N.C., a large roosting congregation of birds was present during each of the recent falls and winters. The congregation contained Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*). Gunmen often visited the roosting site to shoot the birds, and many birds were thus killed and crippled. When spending weekends at or near the roosting site during the falls and winters of 1970-1972, I saw numerous birds making adjustments to physical handicaps, at least some of the handicaps doubtless resulting from shooting.

The most striking adjustments were those made by birds deprived of their flight capabilities. Such birds normally remained in the woods occupied by the roosting congregation or near dense bushes at its edge. When feeding in the adjacent peanut field, they usually remained within 10 m of such escape cover and ran into the woods or bushes upon my approach, much too soon for me to be able to intercept them. Only once when they had foraged out from a less dense portion of the woods was I able to capture one Red-winged Blackbird and two Common Grackles by rushing toward them from within the woods. When in the dense bushes the birds often climbed quickly to the tops of the bushes where they watched their foiled pursuer. One incapacitated Common Grackle steadily climbed up a grapevine all of the way to the top of a tree about 18 m tall, remaining at the top of the tree during the following half hour that I quietly waited.

A short distance from the roosting site, at the barns of the Leland Kitchin Dairy Farm, a few birds were usually present. These birds, mostly Common Grackles, used the food wasted by the cattle and sought refuge from their would-be captors by flying into the nearby privet hedge. Other scattered birds remained all day in the vicinity of the roosting site, feeding on peanuts in the nearby fields or on food placed for other birds in Scotland Neck. The behavior of most of these birds clearly indicated injuries, but the behavior of some seemed normal, suggesting that not all were injured. Probably, though,

all birds remaining throughout the day at or immediately outside the roosting site had physical handicaps, some of which were not apparent in field observations.

Those birds remaining near the roosting site were noticeably less gregarious than others of the same species not remaining there, particularly the Common Grackles. The Common Grackles feeding in the peanut field beside the roosting site often fed widely scattered over the field; whereas, those feeding at a greater distance from the roost usually fed in much more closely organized flocks.

Most of the birds with distinctive afflictions which served to identify them survived only short periods of time.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Compiled by ROBERT P. TEULINGS
Route 2, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514
(All dates 1972 except as noted)

- COMMON LOON:** Again this year summer stragglers were reported in the coastal waters of the Carolinas. An individual was seen in the Cape Fear River off Southport, N. C., on 8 July by Richard A. Rowlett, and three were seen off Cape Lookout, N. C., by the same observer on 9 July. Ted Beckett found two dead birds, both in breeding plumage, washed ashore at Deveaux Bank near Charleston, S. C., on 24 June.
- GREATER SHEARWATER:** An individual was found dead at Morgan Island in the Cape Lookout channel on 18 June by Henry Haberyan, and another at Oregon Inlet on 24 June by Gilbert Grant.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER:** A single bird was closely observed resting in the waters off Cape Lookout lighthouse on 15 June by Gladys and George Smith and George Smith Jr.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** One was seen at Cape Hatteras on 11 July by Richard A. Rowlett.
- WILSON'S PETREL:** At least 100 were seen at Cape Lookout Bight on 3 June by Josiah Bailey, as reported by John Fussell. An onshore sighting of an individual was recorded at Rich's Inlet near Wrightsville Beach, N. C., 20 June by Robert Soots, James Parnell and Jay Carter. Two were also seen by Parnell and Carter at Carolina Beach 27 June, and five were noted off Cape Point at Cape Hatteras, N. C., on 11 July by Richard Rowlett.
- BROWN PELICAN:** A count of 287 pelicans was recorded from the Fort Fisher ferry in the Cape Fear River near Southport, N. C., on 8 July, Richard Rowlett.
- GANNET:** A sub-adult was seen off the tip of Cape Lookout on 9 July, Richard Rowlett.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Two were uncommon visitors at Roanoke Rapids Lake, Halifax County, N. C., 15 June, Chris Marsh and Merrill Lynch. Sixteen seen at Morehead City, N. C., on 21 June was an unusually high summer count for that coastal locality, John Fussell and Donald McCrimmon.
- ANHINGA:** Spring and early fall sightings were recorded well northward along the North Carolina coast, with an individual seen 15 April near Point Harbor on Currituck Sound by Plumer Wiseman and Fenton Day, and another at Pea Island on 11 August by Betty Lancaster et al. As many as 50 breeding pairs of Anhinga were noted by Evelyn Dabbs in May and June at a previously unreported nesting site on Lake Marion near Lone Star Landing in Calhoun County, S. C. The birds were nesting amidst a large and thriving Cattle Egret colony.
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** One was seen flying over Doe Hall Plantation, McClellanville, S. C., on 23 June by Jay Shuler.