

other warblers, the Black-throated Green Warbler and Swainson's Warbler, both of which have isolated coastal plain and mountain breeding populations. This idea of two separate populations is speculation until more field work can be done, but there is some supporting evidence. F.R. Scott (*Raven*, 29:118) found a singing male in Chickahominy Swamp in SW New Kent County, Virginia, on 12 June 1948. In the summer of 1958 he again found several males in the same swamp and vicinity, but no positive nesting evidence was secured. This area is only about 80 miles NE of the Halifax colony and seems to relate both geographically and ecologically to the Halifax site. Also, in parts of the Virginia and West Virginia mountains, especially on steep, deciduous hillsides, the Cerulean Warbler is locally common in several breeding bird census plots (*American Birds*, Vol. 20-26, December issues 1966-1972). The Wilkes County birds seem to relate to this segment of the population. The exact status and distribution of the Cerulean Warbler in North Carolina should be determined by future summer field work.

Addendum: Extensive field work by the author in June 1973 revealed that at least 25 pairs of summering Cerulean Warblers were present and apparently nesting at the Halifax colony.—JML

## **Brown-headed Cowbird Increases in North Carolina Mountains**

JANE P. HOLT

Department of Biology  
Presbyterian College, Clinton, S.C. 29325

The Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) appears to be on the increase in the North Carolina mountains. Eugene P. Odum found no cowbirds during a survey of breeding birds of the Highlands plateau in 1946-1947 (*Ecology*, 31:587-605). In a similar breeding bird census in Highlands in 1959, 1960, and 1971, I found the cowbird absent. In the spring of 1972, however, the cowbird appeared in the area around the Highlands Biological Station and in an overgrown field 6 miles E of Highlands. Both adults and young have been noted during late May and early June of 1972. They appear to be common. David W. Johnston, in reporting the birds of the Highlands area in 1964, classified the cowbird as uncommon with only one observation during the breeding season (*Jour. Elisha Mitchell Sci. Soc.*, 80:30-38). Their recent increase has been noted in other areas of the North Carolina mountains as well as in the Highlands area. Because the presence of these birds affects the population density of other birds, variations in the Brown-headed Cowbird population should be carefully noted.

### **CONSERVATION**

(Continued from Page 65)

#### **New Book**

A long awaited book has just emerged that will prove invaluable to anyone who grows wild flowers. *Growing Wildflowers*, by Marie Sperka (Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., 10 East 53rd St., N.Y. 10022, \$8.95), fullfills a need for a practical guide to soil requirements, site preparation, and the specialized needs of each individual species. Marie Sperka, a long time personal friend, has many years experience in growing wild flowers and runs a nursery at Crivitz, Wisconsin. She is a dedicated conservationist and one of the very few nursery operators who raises all of her stock, collecting from the wild only where roads or development threaten natural habitat. Marie has successfully grown bog plants in sphagnum moss on an aluminum foil base, and she has succeeded with many rare beauties extremely difficult to propagate.