



Roundtable

... with Louis C. Fink

Bird Behavior

During the summer, we keep our feeder filled with stale bread. The birds like the "plastic" breads rather than home-made or good Pepperidge Farms bread, and will not touch rye bread. We have the impression that males of the Red-bellied Woodpecker take over the entire responsibility for feeding the young when the young are first able to leave the nest. Ours is feeding three young, two males and one female, who can fly to the feeder and feed themselves if the parent male is occupied with one of the others. The female is around, but we do not observe her caring for the young.

Another observation which interests us is the Common Grackle which prefers to dip his bread in the water bath before eating it. Once—when we had taken a large chunk—he carefully waded to the center of the bath and deposited the bread there. Then he took small pieces to the edge, ate them, and returned for seconds. Any other bird who tries to interrupt this delicate dining is summarily chased off.

Do we have uniquely behaving birds, or are these two patterns normal?—MRS. BRUCE NICKLAS, 3101 Camelot Court, Durham, N.C. 27705.

Note: Arthur A. Allen wrote in *The Book of Birds* (National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., 1932), speaking of grackles, "Each March, however, we were glad to have the 'blackbirds' come back and we watched them carry dry crusts to the water and soak them before trying to eat them."

"The Specimen Was Collected"

C.E. Pinckard, a member of the Carolina Bird Club, calls our attention to The Pan-American Society for the Protection of Birds, P.O. Box 3681, Baltimore, Md. 21214. "If you are angered by the above phrase," he says, "you will be interested in the recently formed Society."

The Society was formed to protect birds from the dangers caused by man. "The Society is aware that many people are concerned about the many abuses perpetrated by the bird-collectors, particularly where birds are killed solely for the purpose of documenting the record of an extralimital vagrant."

This column will be interested in comments from our members with collecting licenses.

Bird-finding in the Carolinas

Medoc Mountain.—This acreage has been bought for a North Carolina State Park, and has not been "developed." I made my visit on 10 September, and I cannot recommend it for its abundance of bird life. Mockingbirds, Blue Jays, and Carolina Wrens were all I found in an hour's walk—but the walk itself was sheer delight . . . along a grown-over auto track, down hill to a stream, a steep climb back up through a second-growth stand of mixed hardwoods and a few pines. No sound of truck or plane disturbed the silence, and the only evidence of man was the trash. (The Great Swamp Refuge in New Jersey deliberately left trash along its trails, pointing out that "man is the only animal whose waste is a permanent blot on the landscape.")

To reach Medoc Mountain drive north on US 301 and I-95 from Rocky Mount to NC 48 and North on 48 to Gold Rock and Ringwood. Three miles past Ringwood, turn left on 1002, a paved road. One mile to the west is a fire tower. Turn in (right) and go 3/4 of a mile on a gravel road. (Or walk in and enjoy it.) The approach ride produced an abundance of Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlarks, Mourning Doves, Sparrow Hawks, Eastern Bluebirds, and five Turkey Vultures over Medoc itself.

Lake Erie Birding

In late September, I had the good fortune to be in Cleveland and to look for birds with Mr. and Mrs. Carl Newhous (CBC members who send regards to friends in the Wilmington area). It became a joke that we could not find a Downy Woodpecker or Tufted Titmouse, but we counted eight Red-breasted Nuthatches, 50 Common Flickers, and untold warblers. My count for the weekend was 77 species.

Hawk Migration Association

The Hawk Migration Association of North America has been established to increase communication among hawk watchers, to standardize the data on hawks, and to improve coverage of hawk migrations. What happens after the birds leave such spots as Hawk Mountain? Carolina bird students are asked to establish lookouts on hills, along rivers, or on the coast.

Individual dues are \$5 a year. Send to Dorothy Crumb, 3983 Gates Road North, Jamesville, N.Y. 13078. Regional editor is Robert Kennedy, Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. 70803. Write him for details.

Our Writers

We know many bird students who disdain to keep notes, and others who dislike to join clubs and share their knowledge with friends. Fortunately, the Carolinas have produced a number of careful observers who are willing to set down their findings, so that others may benefit.

For years, Robert P. Teulings has prepared the exhaustive report on the Southern Atlantic Coast Region for *American Birds*, a monumental source of information and yes, diversion.

In the August 1974 issue of *American Birds*, a most interesting section called "The Changing Seasons" was prepared by Sidney A. Gauthreaux Jr. and Harry E. LeGrand Jr. of the Department of Zoology, Clemson University.

Probably the most prestigious of all is *The Auk*, journal of the American Ornithologists' Union. In the issue of July 1974, there appears a brilliantly detailed technical article, "Relationship of Anting and Sunbathing to Molting in Wild Birds." It was prepared by Eloise F. Potter and the late Doris C. Hauser.

I am not competent to review this work critically. The magazines have exacting standards, and you'll be rewarded by reading all of the material mentioned.

Eastern Wilderness

Nineteen wilderness areas have been approved by the U.S. Senate, but need endorsement in the House of Representatives from specific Congressmen. Of interest to CBC is Pocosin, N.C., 17,000 acres, in the district represented by Congressman W.B. Jones.

New Address

Eloise F. Potter has a new mailing address: Route 3, Box 114 AA, Zebulon, N.C. 27597. The location of her home and her telephone number remain the same.

**Bird Count Compilers Please Note:
Correction in Definition of Count Period**

Last minute revisions in the "New Policies Concerning the Spring and Christmas Bird Counts" (*Chat*, 38:53-55) resulted in an unfortunate error in the definition of "count period." Carolina Bird Club will continue to use the Christmas Bird Count dates adopted by *American Birds*. The period during which species may be reported with an asterisk as having been seen in the count circle during the count period but not on the count day will be the 3 days before and the 3 days after the actual count day. Carolina Bird Club dates for Spring Bird Counts will be 16 April through 15 May, and the local count period will be the 7 days before and the 7 days after the actual count day. Thus a Christmas Bird Count taken on 30 December would have a count period of 27 December through 2 January. A Spring Bird Count taken on 20 April would have a count period of 13 April through 27 April. The Editor regrets any confusion that may be caused by her carelessness and apologizes to Harry E. LeGrand Jr., who was in no way responsible for the erroneous statements.—ED.

