



Roundtable

... with Louis C. Fink

Can A Blue Jay Really Produce Music?

Anyone acquainted with the shrills, squeaks, and hawk imitations of the Blue Jay is likely to scoff at the notion that a jaybird, or at least one individual, sings. The bird in question—I suspect that I've heard the same one three or four times—likes to crouch on my TV antenna and warble forth. The song is a sort of subdued prattle, not at all unpleasant, with, seemingly, no beginning or end. The jaybird's own special notes are frequently interspersed with caws like a crow and the "wicker" notes of the Common Flicker. Naturally I don't know the sex of the bird, but should like to suggest that it is a sort of mezzo-soprano for whatever that's worth.

The song probably does not relate to territorial advertisement inasmuch as Blue Jays do not nest in my yard nor any closer than a thicket two blocks away. Perhaps pure *joie de vivre* is as good an explanation as any. Have any of you bird watchers out there heard the song of Bre'r Jaybird?—JOSHUA A. LEE, 5104 Newcastle Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27606.

This reporter hopes for some reaction: Bird behavior is as important and as interesting as bird identification.

George Gladden in *Birds of America* (Garden City Publishing Co., Inc., 1936) writes, "That a Blue Jay? Nonsense!" many people exclaim, when told that a very melodious, bell-like note coming from a thicket is one of the calls of a bird whose sole vocal accomplishment, as far as they know, is his harsh cry of *Thief, thief*. But he frequently sounds this note and many others that are really musical. . . ."

Richard A. Pough in *Audubon Bird Guide Small Land Birds* (Doubleday and Co., Inc., 1946) speaks of "sort of soft warbles and twitters."

Song and Garden Birds of North America (National Geographic Society, 1964) mentions a "bell-like *tull-ull* call, most often in autumn, when other birds are quiet" and refers to the "barely audible but exquisite medley of sweet, lisping notes. . . ."

I plan to listen more attentively.—LCF

Attention, Program Chairmen

Excellent program materials, guest speakers, movies, slide shows, and film strips are available from the various state and federal agencies that are responsible for conservation education. Although some of the motion pictures carry high rental fees, many aids are available free of charge or for a small fee to cover postage.

A two-part slide show featuring the nesting and feeding habits of marsh and shore birds of the Southeast has been assembled by Mary Kay Clark, Audio-Visual Coordinator for the North Carolina State Museum. Intended for an audience of high school age or older, the 100-slide program titled "Feeding and Reproductive Niches of Marsh and Shorebirds" has an accompanying printed text (with glossary), and a cassette recording of the script is planned. This program, as well as others currently

being produced for the North Carolina Biological Survey, is free to those who can pick up the slides and return them in person. Anyone wishing to order the show by mail, however, is requested to send a check for \$1.50 payable to the Museum Extension Fund, to cover postage and handling. To reserve a slide show or obtain further information about educational materials available through the museum, write Mary Kay Clark, North Carolina State Museum, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

The National AudioVisual Center issues descriptive brochures on a regular, ongoing basis. A recent title is "National Park Service Film Collection." To obtain this publication or to be placed on the mailing list, write: National AudioVisual Center, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Reference Section BW, Washington, D.C. 20409.

Golden Eagle Hacking Project

David Cone, curator of education at the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia, N.C., is directing a project with the ultimate goal of establishing a pair of breeding Golden Eagles in the Shining Rock area of Pisgah National Forest. Assisted by Don Hammer, a TVA biologist who successfully reestablished Ospreys and Bald Eagles in Tennessee, Cone obtained two eaglets, a male and a female. These birds were placed in an artificial nest atop a cliff at Shining Rock and tended by volunteers, many of them members of the museum's Expedition Society. If they survive to fledging, the young Golden Eagles will be released in August 1981. According to Cone, this is the first attempted hacking of Golden Eagles in the United States. The project may have to be repeated several times because the chances are slim that both of the birds hacked in 1981 will reach maturity and return to breed at Shining Rock.

Wing Haven

Wing Haven, the Charlotte home, garden, and bird sanctuary of CBC members Edwin O. and Elizabeth Barnhill Clarkson, was described in a recent Associated Press article by Elissa McCrary. The Clarksons donated the 3.5-acre garden in the heart of North Carolina's largest city to the Wing Haven Foundation in 1975 for public use. A 15-minute film about the sanctuary will soon be shown to nature groups around the country. Filmed by a Charlotte company, the documentary will be narrated by Dick Cavett.

Work on the garden began in 1927 when Mrs. Clarkson came to Charlotte as a bride and moved into a white frame house surrounded by an almost treeless field of red clay. Over the years brick walkways, a pond, and fountains were constructed; shade trees grew; and more than 130 species of birds, including breeding Wood Ducks, came to the garden.

Mrs. Clarkson's ornithological publications include an annotated list of the birds of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.—EFP

Inflation Strikes Again: Bird Prints \$4

Because printing and mailing costs ran higher than anticipated, *Carolina Country* has been forced to raise the price for reprints of John Trott's male Cardinal to \$4 each. This is the same photo that appears on the jacket of *Birds of the Carolinas* reproduced in a format suitable for framing. The address is Cardinal Photo, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.