



# Roundtable

... with Louis C. Fink

## 1984, a Good Year for Bluebirds

In 1982 I offered a note in *Chat* (46:109-110) on the question of whether or not Eastern Bluebirds are single-brooded; that is to say, cease attempting to nest after one success. That particular year each of the seven pairs under my scrutiny fledged a single brood with no attempts at renesting. Some pairs fledged a brood early in the season and seemingly quit for the year, whereas others succeeded on the second attempt and ceased nesting.

The 1983 season was a very poor one for bluebirds at Raleigh. There were only two broods fledged from my seven houses, several broods dying in the nest, presumably from the severe heat experienced that year. Nevertheless, there was no shortage of nesting pairs in the area in 1984, and those fared very well, as the following data show:

<i>House number</i>	<i>Nesting attempts</i>	<i>Successful broods</i>	<i>Young fledged</i>
1	2	0	0
2	2	1	4
3	1	1	4
4	2	2	7
5	3	3	12
6	2	2	6
7	3	2	7
Totals	15	11	40

There was a full clutch of 5 eggs in House 3 by 1 April. Four young were fledged, and there were no further attempts at nesting, although a pair of adults and some juveniles remained in the area throughout the summer. House 5 might have been used by more than one pair, but I doubt that. My experience has been that a pair, if both members survive, guards a territory throughout the summer whether they renest or not. House 6 afforded good evidence for double-broodedness for the resident pair. The first brood of three fledged in May, remained in the territory, and helped feed the second brood. The first brood apparently dispersed after the second brood of three had fledged. The parents and the second brood remained until 25 August and then dispersed.

Thus there is good evidence that the pair using House 3 was single-brooded, that the pair in House 6 was double-brooded. The pair in House 5 appears to have been triple-

brooded. My observations do not prove the point, of course, but do suggest that Eastern Bluebird pairs are variable in their reproductive investments, both within, and among, seasons. The problem offers an opportunity for more precise research.—JOSHUA A. LEE, 5104 Newcastle Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27606

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** Quite unusual was one singing at Clark's Park near Fayetteville on 13 October (Philip Crutchfield, Jim Sipiora).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** This species is rare in the Carolinas after August; thus, one seen by Ricky Davis at Jordan Lake on 16 September was late.
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** Heavy coastal flights occurred on the nights of 26-27 and 27-28 September, under cloudy skies and northerly winds during the offshore passage of Tropical Storm Isadore. Allen Bryan and Ricky Davis had three live and five tower-killed birds—the most common species in the kill—at Buxton, N.C., during the period. Will Post picked up a dead Connecticut at a TV tower at Mount Pleasant on 28 September. The only inland sighting was an adult male near Pineville on 6 October (David Wright et al.).
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** One rather late warbler was collected at Mount Pleasant on 18 October by Will Post.
- CANADA WARBLER:** Quite rare on the coast in fall were individuals banded by Will Post at Mount Pleasant on 30 August and 10 September.
- DICKCISSEL:** Will Post collected one for the Charleston Museum on 30 September at Mount Pleasant, and one was seen near York on 24 November by Bill Hilton Jr. and Kevin Craig.
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** A netted bird at Mount Pleasant was collected on 7 October by Will Post. Very rare inland was another observed on 5 November near Townville by Charlie Wooten; it was still present on 2 December, when seen by Wooten and Sidney Gauthreaux.
- LARK SPARROW:** In addition to a fall record from the North Carolina Outer Banks, where regular, individuals were reported in South Carolina by John Hatcher in his yard at Aiken on 2 October and at an impoundment near Savannah, Georgia, on 4 October by Chris Haney.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** North Carolina birds were noted near Ringwood in Halifax County on 4 October (Merrill and Karen Lynch), Charlotte on 10 and 11 October (David Wright), Raleigh on 13 October (Harry LeGrand), Hendersonville on 15 October (Ron Warner), Cornelius on 18 October (Wright), Fairview on 21 and 27 October (Ruth Young), and Pungo refuge on 17 November (Allen Bryan). In South Carolina, Will Post netted sparrows at Mount Pleasant and Sullivans Island on five dates from 3 October to 6 November; another was near Townville on 11 November (Sidney Gauthreaux, Charlie Wooten).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** One was rather early at Pea Island on 12 October, as seen by James and Elizabeth Pullman, and Douglas McNair had an excellent count of 17 at the Laurinburg-Maxton Airfield, N.C., on 27 November.
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Likely a record count for the Carolinas was a group of four females and one male, all immatures, seen foraging along the edge of a tidal pool at Cape Hatteras point on 3 September by Bruce Peterjohn and Larry Rosche. One was seen by Graham Dugas at Hilton Head Island, S.C., on 28 October.
- RED CROSSBILL:** One was seen by Ricky Davis at Beaverdam Reservoir on 7 October.