

tance away. One adult, presumably the female, arrived at the nest and sat in it briefly before flying off. One of the birds returned, sat on the edge of the nest for about a minute, and then began to hook an egg under its beak and attempt to roll it out of the nest. After several minutes it succeeded in removing the egg from the nest. The egg fell into the water below where it floated and I retrieved it. The egg was a flycatcher egg but was infertile, and had a small puncture at the narrow end. I believe that two eggs in the flycatcher nest hatched and that the Red-bellied Woodpecker ate the other nestling just before I arrived.

Similar episodes have been reported by other observers. Roach (Fla. Field Nat. 3:19) saw a male Red-bellied Woodpecker remove three young and one egg from a nest that may have been its own or that of a neighboring pair of the same species. Roach could not determine whether the adult was a parent trying to move the young to another cavity or a competitor attempting to clean out the cavity for its own use. Watt (Wilson Bull. 92:249) saw a female Red-bellied Woodpecker remove three young in succession from an American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) nest. Neither woodpecker was seen eating the nestlings. Dunn (Chat 48:74) saw a male Red-bellied Woodpecker pull a White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) nestling from a hole in a Tupelo Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), fly with it to a higher branch, and proceed to eat it.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers are quite active in the woods around our house. Other species known to nest in the area include Wood Thrushes (*Hylocichla ustulata*), Summer Tanagers, Eastern Wood Pewees (*Contopus virens*), Red-eyed Vireos (*Vireo olivaceus*), and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*). I think that nest predation in these woods by Red-bellied Woodpeckers might be one of the limiting factors in the breeding success of these small woodland birds.

According to Harrison (A Field Guide to Birds Nests) Acadian Flycatchers are single brooded and while this pair remained around the yard during June, July, and early August, I have not been able to find any evidence that they re-nested.

## **Late-Season High-Elevation Breeding Record of Cedar Waxwing in the North Carolina Mountains**

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Around 25 August 1984, Duyck found a nest with two fresh eggs of the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) at 1769 m on Black Balsam Knob, Haywood County, North Carolina. The nest was 1.2 m above ground in a *Rhododendron* 1.5 m tall. Habitat was extensive *Rhododendron* (spp.) and northern hardwood shrubs and thickets on the north slope of the mountain. The nest was checked almost daily thereafter. Two adults associated at the nest and no further eggs were laid. The clutch hatched on 3 September. One of the

nestlings disappeared, but the remaining bird was fed by the adults through 16 September. That night, a severe freeze with thick hoar frost occurred. When Duyck returned to check the nest on 17 September, the nestling was frozen and the adults were absent.

On 25 August 1987, McNair found one bird of a pair of waxwings nest-building at 1708 m, about 3 km W of the above locality in the Great Balsam Mountains. The nest was placed 2.1 m above ground in the crotch of a 4.6-m-high yellow birch (*Betula lutea*) near the edge of a young northern hardwood and red spruce (*Picea rubens*) forest. On 15 September, the nest was finished, but contained no eggs. Only one adult waxwing was in the vicinity. Later checks confirmed that the nest had been abandoned.

Cedar Waxwing nests with eggs or young have been found in the southeastern United States occasionally through late August, including ones in upper and middle elevations of the Blue Ridge Mountains (McNair, 1987). Although waxwings are most numerous as breeders in North Carolina at upper and middle elevations of the Blue Ridge Mountains, severe weather at the upper elevations may limit opportunities for successful breeding late in the year. Nevertheless, to determine the frequency and importance of late-season breeding at various elevations requires thorough study.

Acknowledgements. We thank R. Knight, L. Moseley, C. Nicholson, and E. F. Potter for reviewing this note.

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## Strange Behavior in a Canada Goose

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In early June, 1990, a local resident observed a Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) harassing Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) ducklings on his two-acre pond. The goose would seize the ducklings and hold them under the water for short periods, but none was drowned. He was aggressive toward Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and domestic white geese (*Anser anser*), chasing them from the pond.

Fearing that the goose would eventually harm the other waterfowl, the man shot it. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service band indicated that the goose had been banded as a gosling at a nearby pond on 1 August 1988.

A search of the literature did not yield any accounts of similar behavior in Canada Geese.