

ious habits than the starling, at least in our own area -- our ever-present and contemptible Blue Jay.

"In the past two years, at my banding station, I have seen the Jays not only rob other nests of their eggs but deliberately molest any and all smaller birds, even to the extent of killing fledglings who happened to get close to the Jays' feeding spot.

"I would like to suggest to your readers that perhaps all our birds have both good and bad habits. Some of them may be criticised and condemned more than others, but I am sure that Mother Nature knows these facts and also the reason why.

"If we are to police all the actions of every bird in our respective areas, we will surely need more help even with the combined efforts of every EBBA NEWS reader and EBBA member.

"I suppose this article should be titled 'Live and Let Live' or 'The Survival of the Fittest'."

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COMMENTS ON THE JULY-AUGUST ISSUE

Dr. Charles H. Blake, Department of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass., has the following interesting observations to offer:

"May I offer a few disjointed comments on some of the items appearing in the July-August EBBA News:

"(1) In his comparison of dripping water versus still water, I think Merrill Wood gets the right answer, but I doubt whether his data actually prove it. I note that eight species showed more taken with still water than with dripping, and two other species were tied. The difficulty seems to be that for most of the species, the number of individuals taken was so small that it is doubtful whether they were in fact exposed to the same conditions in fact exposed to both conditions. Further, some of the species, such as the House Wren, will go into traps for no apparent reason. If we take the three species that were trapped in reasonable numbers, i.e., Robin, House Sparrow, and Grackle, we find that the ratio is 55

to 44 in favor of dripping water which is not a 50% but a 25% increase.

"(2) Chickadees seem to offer an unusual number of complications. I think Maurice Broun might be interested to determine how many of the Chickadees that appeared in December 1953 subsequently reappeared. I have had similar sudden reductions in the apparent population, and I feel convinced there is a considerable amount of migration, perhaps over very short distances, of this species. As to the trapping of Chickadees together over a considerable period, I think it is not coincidence nor does it indicate mating but rather association which sometimes holds for long periods during the winter and early spring. In one or two cases, I have evidence that the associated individuals were not mated the next breeding season.

"(3) Aviphobia is a hybrid, and I am just purist enough to prefer ornithophobia. I have encountered one case of it, in a woman who was afraid of birds, apparently because they might get in her hair. In this instance it has been cured by a pet canary which is now finger tamed."

(Note: Since the receipt of this note concerning Dr. Wildman's note on aviphobia, I observed a young woman practically have hysterics when a chicken suddenly approached her while she was standing on the back doorstep at her father-in-law's house; her screams brought members of the household running from all directions.--EDITOR)

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1955 ANNUAL MEETING AT HAWK MOUNTAIN

E.B.B.A. President Frank Frazier writes to say that the 1955 Annual Meeting will be held at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary on Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17. Detailed information as to accommodations, location of the various activities planned, and announcement of the program will be presented in early issues of EBBA News.

Members who desire to present papers at the meeting should advise President Frazier as soon as possible of their intention; he requests that he be given the title of the paper, the time which will be required for its presentation, whether it will be illustrated, and how (slides or motion pictures), and the equipment which will be required.

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