

BLACKBIRDS Numerous grackles and cowbirds accompanied starlings into group water traps during mid-day hours. In addition, several cowbirds accompanied a parent (cardinals and song sparrows) into traps throughout the day.

FINCHES Although the family average and most of the 14 member species show late morning preference, 46% of 26 indigo buntings were trapped after 4:00PM, and both towhees and song sparrows were more active during the early morning and late afternoon periods.

OTHER FAMILIES 13 species of 8 families followed the All Species trend. Only the total of 6 cedar waxwings, all taken in late afternoon, disrupted this picture.

BANDING GOSHAWKS By Benjamin P. Burtt

An expedition to band young goshawks in the nest and to record on tape the calls of adults and young was made recently in a wild area of New York State known as the Tug Hill plateau. It meant an auto trip of 80 miles on paved roads, 20 miles on the dirt roadbed of an old railroad and 3/4 of a mile down a brook. From that point it was 1 1/2 miles on foot.

Prof. Paul Kellogg of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell went along with his recording equipment as well as Fritz Scheider, Dr. Walter Spofford and myself. The sound equipment consisted of a large bowl-shaped reflector mounted on a tripod with a microphone fastened at just the right point in front of it and connected to a portable tape recorder. Sounds striking the four foot reflector bounced into the microphone. Thus it picked up sounds from directly in front of it, while noises coming from the side were not so intense.

Near the nest, the recording equipment was readied. When the adult goshawk first spied us, she swooped over, uttering her wild "cuk, cuk, cuk, cuk." Scheider aimed the reflector and microphone at the moving bird and Kellogg operated the recorder. The young called from the nest and that was taped, too.

In the nest, I found three good sized but downy young goshawks. They were bold and unafraid. Repeatedly they struck at me with their wings and feet. After pulling up a camera and photographing them, each received a leg band. They were then lowered to the ground for the rest to see and to photograph. When I put them back in the tree, they scrambled into the nest eagerly. Their three-foot platform of sticks was all the world they knew. So I went down the rope and left them in their wild and isolated home.

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