

The Cowbird as Bait for the Capture of its Foster Parents.—In 1931 I caught a female Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia beata*) by placing one of the nine day old Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater ater*) she was raising in a government sparrow trap six feet from the nest, afterwards replacing the young bird which stayed another day in the nest. In 1932 I repeated this expedient with an eight day nestling and also improved upon it by "lending" two Cowbirds to pairs of Song Sparrows that had no young of their own. One of the little birds I transferred at the age of two days to a nest which—due to the activities of some unknown enemy—contained but one Song Sparrow three days old; my reasons being both to relieve congestion in the home nest which had held two interlopers and three proper young, and also to use *Molothrus* later for the capture of his new foster-mother.

When the other Cowbird was five days old I introduced him into a nest with three Song Sparrows two and three days old; in this case I wished to catch both adults. The following day I put my subject into the trap beside the nest, but he was too young to call and was disregarded by the foster-parents; after an hour I replaced him. The next morning I repeated the experiment and the male Song Sparrow was quickly caught, but the female refused to enter; so presently I introduced the Cowbird into a third nest with four Song Sparrows three to five days old. After a two hours' rest here, he was put into the trap beside this nest and soon the female was caught—she, fortunately, being the bird I wanted. My useful little Cowbird was then carried a quarter of a mile to his original home, apparently uninjured by his varied experience. It may, perhaps, have been somewhat unsettling to him, for the following morning when I had planned for him to continue his good deeds, I found he had left, a day or two earlier than his kind usually do. It might be possible to use seven to nine-day Cowbirds in this way without even the two hours' preliminary visit in the nest of the birds that it is proposed to capture.

Two records of special interest were made here this past June: a pair of Song Sparrows succeeded in raising two Cowbirds and two of their own young in the same nest, while a pair of Northern Yellow-throats (*Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*) raised a Cowbird and three of their own young.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea eurhyncha*) Breeding in Guatemala.—Mr. Ludlow Griscom, in his recent work on 'Distribution of Bird-Life in Guatemala,' makes the statement that "While there is no definite breeding record of the Blue Grosbeak for Guatemala, he has no doubt that it is resident." On July 20, 1932, while walking through a scrubby pasture along the Rio Motagua, about one mile below El Rancho, I found a nest of this species, which confirms Mr. Griscom's conclusion and is apparently the first definite breeding record for the country. The nest, four feet up in a low bush, was composed externally of fine sticks, with a middle layer of strips of bark, and lined on the inside with fine rootlets. Cobweb had been employed in binding the structure together. There were three