

C. Schmid, Jr., William W. Lukens, Jr., and I paid a visit to the newspaper office, where we were informed that the tenant on the 21st floor of the office building wanted this bird removed from the set-back in front of his office windows. Mr. Love, a pigeon fancier located in the newspaper building, was asked to remove the bird which he proceeded to capture, afterward turning it over to Dr. Robert M. Stabler of the Department of Zoology, University of Pennsylvania, one of the leading falconers in the Philadelphia region, who kindly consented to take care of it.

Dr. Stabler informed me that the falcon, when captured, was about five weeks old and still unable to fly since the wings were not fully developed. Dr. Stabler also stated that it is probable that the young falcon reached the set-back (which is 225 feet above ground and recessed 10 feet), by gliding downward and eastward from a ledge on the tower. The superintendent of the office building informed me that the young falcon had been on the set-back three days before it was removed, and that the parents had been feeding to it pigeons and other food, the remains of which were still on the set-back floor.

Edgar Zander and Edgar Zander, Jr., who are on the 23rd floor of this same office building, told me that they had been observing the falcons on the tower with 6 x 30 binoculars, daily since early spring, 1946, and in the latter part of May and early June, had noted adult falcons capturing pigeons and taking them to the young. Also occasionally, when the young were flying, an adult and a youngster would perch on a narrow off-set from the window sills. The Zanders also photographed the birds perching at their windows.

Although the nest was not definitely seen, I have information which I believe indicates the exact place. I think it is inadvisable to disclose this information at this time in order to protect these birds next year, should they breed here again. However, the facts that four birds were observed at the same time on June 3, three birds were seen together several times by different observers, the young falcons were seen being fed by the parents, and a young bird about five weeks old was captured within 100 yards of the tower where the adults always perched would seem to be adequate and sufficient evidence that a breeding record was established for the Peregrine Falcon in the center of Philadelphia. This makes the third breeding record, so far as I know, of the Peregrine Falcon on a high man-made structure in eastern North America.—HORACE GROSKIN, *Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pa.*

Evidence of polyandry at a Bluebird nest.—In the 1946 nesting season, the eleventh year of the Warner Parks Bluebird Nest-box Project at Nashville, Tennessee, a remarkable situation occurred at Box 17. In the course of the three nesting periods of the season, the box, eggs, or young were defended by two male Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis sialis*) which appeared to be on the most amicable terms with each other. They made vigorous swoops at my head repeatedly on each of some twenty visits that I made to the box. They came with great speed and some bill snapping, coördinating well with each other, one male in the lead, the other a foot or two directly behind him. At times the female participated in the defense, but her behavior was less pugnacious and she usually retired to a tree to watch, as the males came at me time after time, always swerving just above my head. The three birds never showed any pugnacity toward each other, flying together or perching in close proximity in the same tree.

Although the two males may have been on the territory earlier, I first became aware of this apparent instance of polyandry on April 23, when both males and the female displayed much concern as I handled the three nestlings for banding. Both males wore bands on the left tarsus, indicating they had been banded in some previous

season as nestlings; the female had a band on her right tarsus showing she had been banded as a breeding adult. That day, one male was more persistent in bill snapping and swooping at my head. On the 29th, the males were equally persistent in defense of the young while the female retired to a perch in the large elm near by. Again, on May 4, when the young had left the box and a new nest had been built over the old one, both males flew at me. This behavior continued throughout the season.

Numerous efforts were made to trap the trio for identification. On June 3, I caught one of the males with a net. He had been banded April 17, 1944, one of a brood of five about ten days old, in Box 17, the same box he was now defending. Previously (May 20) I had caught the incubating female and found she had been banded the previous year (1945) also in Box 17. In 1945, she was mated also with a left-banded male that had displayed the same type of pugnacity in nest defense as this one. It seems highly probable that he was the same bird. In that case his history could be summarized thus: He was raised in Box 17 in April, 1944, and he occupied that same area and box in his first and second breeding seasons of 1945 and 1946. His mother was not captured for banding in 1944. The circumstantial evidence in my field records indicate she was not the one trapped in Box 17 in 1945 and 1946. Unfortunately, I was never able to trap the second male to determine his relationship, if any, to the others of the triangle.

In the first nest of 1946, five eggs were laid, from which three young fledged; the two unhatched eggs contained large embryos. The second nest had six eggs, the last of which was laid on May 11. From this set, four young matured and two eggs were found added. The third nest held the complete clutch of four eggs on June 25. These eggs were still being incubated on July 19, then ten or more days overdue. On my next visit, July 22, they were deserted. All proved to be added. Although both males were still defending the nest on July 19, no birds were in evidence about the box on subsequent visits.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, *Graybar Lane, Nashville 4, Tennessee.*

Snapping turtles apparently preying upon passerine birds.—During the late summer of 1943, every few days, bunches of water-soaked feathers were found floating in our small lily pool. There were wings, tails, body feathers which, in many cases, were still attached to pieces of skin, and other remains of birds. Among the identified victims were two each of Yellow-billed Cuckoos (*Coccyzus americanus*), Bronzed Grackles (*Quiscalus versicolor*), Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*), and several Robins (*Turdus migratorius*.) All were adults or fully matured young birds. Close watching failed to reveal the predator; flour, spread on the flat rocks that bordered the pool, showed only the footprints of birds as they walked about the edge to drink or bathe. They used the shallow water where the gently sloping concrete walls of the pool gave them footing. Some also bathed on the large lily leaves above the deep part of the pool. Late that season, a freshly killed Robin was found floating. It was still intact except that half of the breast had been eaten. This furnished the clew that the predator was some aquatic creature living in the pool.

In late May of 1944, when moisture was becoming scarce at the beginning of our disastrous drought of that year, I found a snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) heading for the pool. I placed it in a large empty tub, intending to deport it, but within the hour it had escaped. From that time all of the lily leaves in the pool were cut off at the base as soon as they grew. Early in June, we drained the pool and found two snapping turtles. After their removal, there were no further casualties at the pool, no feathers floating in it and no depredations on the aquatic plants until 1946.