

tality. On August 16, 1941, Dr. E. G. Davis and I crossed this same bridge over Albemarle Sound just at sunset. A very large flock of Purple Martins was circling down and roosting on the timbers and rafters under the bridge, not on the railing. As we approached the southern end of the bridge, a threatening thunderstorm broke and the still circling birds were forced lower and lower until many were struck by cars and a few landed unharmed but drenched on the roadway. On returning on foot, we counted 173 birds on the bridge; 169 were dead, either struck in the air or crushed on the ground, and of the other four, two were injured and died shortly afterward, whereas the other two flew away after dusk when partially dried out. After dark, there were no birds on the railings or flying about, but many hundreds could be seen by flashlight on the timbers underneath the bridge.—DR. NORMAN P. HILL, *Arlington, Massachusetts.*

Unusual nesting behavior of a Wood Duck.—The Indiana Department of Conservation, cooperating with the Illinois Natural History Survey, released on the Jasper-Pulaski Game Preserve in Jasper County, Indiana, 95 Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) at the age of 11 weeks on July 14, 1944. Frank C. Bellrose, Jr., of the Illinois Natural History Survey, collected eggs from nests of wild Wood Ducks in Illinois and raised the young ducks used in this experimental release. The collection of records in Indiana was conducted by O. D. McKeever as an activity carried out in connection with his Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Research investigation of waterfowl.

The following year, on May 5, 1945, Mr. McKeever captured one of the previously banded birds, bearing U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service band 41-602047, in Wood Duck nesting box No. 17 erected on this same game preserve. It had a nest containing 12 eggs. On May 11, 1945, eight eggs were pipped and three eggs showed no signs of incubation. One newly hatched young, with a piece of egg shell still attached, was also found dead on the ground under the box. On May 12, eight young were found in the box and the other three eggs were removed and placed in a semi-domesticated Mallard nest at Wallace Lake, a display pond, located in another part of this game preserve. These three eggs did not hatch until May 25, 1945, indicating that more than one hen had been laying in this nest. On May 14, seven young were still in the nesting box and one young was dead. The adult female was nowhere in evidence; consequently, the seven live ducklings were removed to an electric brooder. It is believed that the inner surface of the yellow poplar lumber used for construction of the box did not afford enough rough surface for the young ducklings to climb out of the box and that they were abandoned by the mother.

On July 7, 1945, Mr. McKeever again captured this same adult female in nesting box No. 37, three-fourths of a mile from the original nesting box No. 17. She was incubating eight eggs. Upon re-inspection of the box on July 17, it was found that three eggs had hatched, probably two or three days previously, and the young were successful in leaving the box. Of the five remaining eggs, four were infertile and one showed imperfect hatching.—WM. B. BARNES, *Project Leader, Indiana Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Research Project, Indianapolis 4, Indiana.*

Polygamy at a Groove-billed Ani nest.—Near the middle of August, 1947, I saw some Groove-billed Anis (*Crotophaga s. sulcirostris* Swainson) causing much clatter in a tree with abundant foliage and many bunches of long, dried capsules. At first I thought the birds were chasing insects, but as they persisted about this tree for some days, I began to suspect something about a nest, and decided to watch them closely. On August 15—a bright day—the birds started work about 8:00 A.M.

Three birds arrived from a near-by field and began hopping in the branches, climbed to the treetop and, in the sun, started preening their plumage. This continued for a time; then suddenly one of the birds dashed against one of the bunches of dried capsules, bit and pulled until it broke off a stick, then flew with this in its bill to a branch with heavy foliage. So I confirmed my suspicion that they were building a nest.

Soon there were two birds working hard while the third remained preening in a branch in the vicinity of the nest. At about 9:00 A.M. the three birds flew out to the near-by field. They returned one hour later and perched in a tree some ten meters distant from the nest. Up to this time I had thought they were two adults and perhaps a young of a previous nest, but now, watching them carefully, I saw that the three had very worn plumage. Then, dispelling my last doubt, one of the birds approached one of the others and, after some mutual preening, copulated; then to my astonishment, he flew toward the third bird and again copulated. It was evident that there were two females and a male.

After some minutes the three flew to the nest. One female sat in the nest and arranged the material the other brought, sometimes receiving it in her bill and now and then going out of the nest and bringing dried sticks from the near-by bunches of capsules. Meanwhile the other female made one trip after another, bringing from a near-by tree fresh green leaves which she cut in bunches.

In the meantime the male was perching on a branch in the vicinity of the nest, watching the females working and now and then calling. Sometimes the two females both carried material but never of the same kind, one bringing fresh green leaves and the other dried sticks; both materials were gathered high up in trees in the vicinity. This hard work continued during all the morning, with now and then a little rest.

About noon they stopped work and perched close together in a branch near the nest. Suddenly the male copulated with one female and then at once with the other. After a time the three flew toward the field, and for the rest of the afternoon they did not return.

Next day all was about the same, but I saw three copulations with both females. The females worked hard all morning, but in the afternoon not one bird was seen in the vicinity of the nest. This promised an interesting study, but unfortunately that night there came a heavy storm with rain and many branches of trees were broken, including the branch that held the nest, which was on the ground. The birds were not seen again.—MIGUEL ALVAREZ DEL TORO, *Museo de Historia Natural, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, México.*

House Finches "drinking" peaches.—I watched a female Common House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) feeding on my peaches this morning (July 26, 1947). From a distance of seven or eight feet I watched her every motion as she sat on a horizontal limb on a level with my eye, feasting with apparent relish on an Elberta directly in front of her. The peaches were firm, just ripening, and not yet advanced to what might be called the juicy stage. Each bit of peach which she removed from the fruit was pressed rapidly and intermittently between her mandibles. Her throat muscles indicated the drinking process. After desiccating each piece of pulp or skin, she discarded the residue with a shake of the head. Although she must have consumed some of the peach pulp she appeared to be seeking only the juice.

When she flew after about eight minutes, I picked the peach. It had been opened on the rosy or blush side. The opening was completely to the stone and was about one by one and a half inches. The skin around the perimeter of the opening was neatly cut and notched as though done with pinking shears.