

Approaching as near as possible without frightening the birds away, I watched them repeatedly snip off a blossom, hold it in the upturned beak for a second or two and then drop it to earth and move on to another blossom where the performance was repeated. After watching this activity for some time, I examined many of the discarded blossoms and found that in every one of them the calyx was slashed just where the petiole was attached to the sepals—a neat, deep incision about the length of the Cardinal's beak.—PHYRNE SQUIER RUSSELL, *Natural History Museum, Stanford, California*.

**Cardinal, *Richmondena cardinalis*, Wintering in North Dakota.**—On November 7, 1948, I saw a male Cardinal at Fort Yates, Sioux County, North Dakota. Fort Yates is on the west bank of the Missouri River about 60 miles south of Mandan. Numerous additional sight records were secured during the following weeks. In December, I placed a feeding shelf outside a kitchen window and within a few days we had two bright males and one female feeding regularly at the shelf. This was the greatest number seen at any one time. One male was banded on January 8, 1949. I last saw a male bird on March 7. No summer records were secured. Mrs. K. H. Lee, a reliable observer, stated that several of these birds spent the winter of 1947–48 in Fort Yates. According to Dr. S. O. Kolstoe, an accomplished ornithologist, about a dozen Cardinals spent the winter of 1947–48 on the campus of the North Dakota Teachers College at Valley City in Barnes County, 60 miles west of Fargo. It has not been determined whether any Cardinals are spending the present (1949) severe winter in that state.—HENRY C. KYLLINGSTAD, *1419 Santa Cruz Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico*.

**Doubly-occupied Nests of the Eastern Cardinal, *Richmondena cardinalis*.**—On March 1, 1948, the junior author began making regular observations on a pair of Cardinals that eventually nested in a yard in Warrensburg, Missouri. The male soon established his territory and defended it against all other male Cardinals. The territory included an area approximately 120 feet wide by 250 feet long in the yards of two adjoining residences. By the last week of March, the female accepted the male and remained in his territory.

The pair began nest building on March 27. The nest was built in a rambler rose bush that climbed the side of the front porch. Cardinals had nested in this same rose bush for the past two years, and the present pair used the lower part of a nest that remained from the preceding year as a substrate for the new nest. The nest was a typical Cardinal's nest in all other respects. It was completed by March 31.

The first egg was laid on April 2 but, although the female was frequently on the nest on April 3, a second egg was not found in the nest until April 4. There is, however, the possibility that a Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*, could have removed an egg had one been laid on April 3. On April 4, a Cowbird egg also appeared in the nest, but the female Cardinal began incubation and did not pay any attention to the Cowbird egg. The female was often frightened from the nest by the passage of persons through the door of the house located a few feet away, but she returned as soon as they had left the area.

On April 11, a second pair of Cardinals appeared in the vicinity. The two males fought considerably on April 12, but on that day another Cardinal's egg appeared in the nest. The following day, two more eggs appeared in the nest. One of these was thought to be a Cowbird's egg, but it was so similar in appearance and size to the eggs of the Cardinal that its identity could not be determined with certainty.

From April 12 to April 20 there were two female Cardinals sitting or attempting to sit on the same nest. Each day during this period, both females were actually observed on the nest, facing in opposite directions. On the morning of April 17, it was found that the one known Cowbird's egg had been eliminated from the nest and lay broken on the ground. Later that morning we were able to take moving pictures of the two females together at the nest.

As nearly as it was possible to tell with unmarked birds, the male of the second pair did not come into the other male's territory except to feed his mate. At such times, he was attacked and chased if he did not leave quickly. One of the females was noticeably more aggressive than the other at the nest.

On April 21, one female deserted. Two eggs disappeared from the nest the following day and were found on the ground below. The number of eggs then remaining in the nest was three. These were incubated until May 31, which was at least two weeks over the normal period for the species. Failure of the eggs to hatch may have been due to poor incubation.

It was not until January, 1949, that we heard of a similar instance of a doubly-occupied nest of the Cardinal. Ruth Ann Young, of the Central Missouri State College Biology Department, had seen such a nesting in June, 1936. The nest was in a cherry tree at her home in Marshall, Missouri. Two females, facing in opposite directions, were often observed sitting on the nest. The eggs hatched, but it was not known whether the young were raised successfully. In this case also, Cardinals had nested in the same tree for several years.

When shown the moving pictures of the two females at the nest, Dr. Arthur A. Allen remarked upon the possibility of the second female being so attached to the nesting territory because of having previously occupied it, that she could not be intimidated. This might be possible if the second female had been one of the birds that nested in the same spot the previous year.—OSCAR HAWKSLEY AND ALVAH P. McCORMACK, *Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Missouri.*

**Cardinal, *Richmondia cardinalis*, Assists in Feeding of Robins.**—After maintaining a feeding station during the winter of 1949 in Champaign, Illinois, my wife and I watched a family of Robins, *Turdus migratorius*, and a family of Cardinals enter into an unusual relationship. During a windstorm on April 30, the nest of the Cardinals was destroyed and the two young, which were about two days old, perished. The adults began to build again in an undetermined place two or three days later, or about the same day that a family of young Robins was hatched. The four young Robins left their nest on May 15.

On the afternoon of May 27, we were amazed to observe the male Cardinal and the male Robin feeding one of the young Robins. The adult birds worked in perfect harmony, foraging for insects or insect larvae in the immediate area and alternately feeding the young bird. This was observed again at dusk. During each of the next seven days, the male Cardinal was almost as active in feeding the four Robins as were the parent birds. This apparently began a day or two before the second set of Cardinals hatched and, once established, continued for a few days while the Cardinal had young of his own. The young Robins came to regard the Cardinal as a third parent, recognizing with "eagerness" his every appearance in the yard and following him for food which after two days of feeding solely on the ground consisted largely of cherries.

On June 8, two young Cardinals, not more than a day or so out of their nest, were being fed by the male Cardinal. During the period when the Cardinal had young in the nest, he ranged widely, bringing in food for the Robins at intervals of about one-