

Titmice Killing Other Birds.—With reference to the note by Stewart (Auk, 72: 83, 1955) attention may be drawn to the fact that individuals of the European Great Tit (*Parus major*) may kill and eat other small birds when retained with them in the same cage. This is well known to aviculturists and reference to it is frequently found in books dealing with cage birds.

During the winter of 1954–1955, I obtained an immature Great Tit. The bird seemed ill and sat with its plumage fluffed out. After being fed as much as it would eat, it was put into a cage with a Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) and a Siskin (*Spinus spinus*). Food and water were available in the cage. The Great Tit was in such poor condition that I thought it impossible for it to harm its two healthy cage mates. However, the following morning the titmouse was found to have killed the Redpoll and eaten its brain. It was still clinging to its victim when discovered. A few hours later the Great Tit died, apparently as a result of its previously debilitated condition before capture. It is interesting that it was able to kill the Redpoll only a few hours before its own death in spite of its weakened condition.

There seems to be no record of the Great Tit killing other birds in the wild, and I have no knowledge of any other European species of *Parus* doing so even in captivity.

The circumstances of Stewart's record of cannibalism in a Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) suggest the possibility of that bird having not only eaten, but also killed, its fellow. The Great Tit, having killed another bird, seems always first to open the skull and eat the brain. Since Stewart found a Tufted Titmouse eating the brain of its cage mate the possibility that it also killed it should not be ruled out unless there is certain evidence of a mammalian predator (as assumed by Stewart) having entered the cage.—GERD DIESELHORST, *Zoologische Staatssammlung, Menzingerstr. 67, Munich 38, Germany.*

Cowbird Parasitism on Brown Thrasher.—In his "Notes on Cowbird Parasitism on Four Species" (Auk, 72: 88–92, 1955) Nickel quotes Bent as follows: "—Tilford Moore (MS) saw a Brown Thrasher feeding three young Cowbirds.' No date, place, or other details were given."

It seems that this rather rare event should have its details recorded. I made this observation on July 1, 1943, at Midway Parkway and Pascal Street, in Saint Paul. Midway is one of those parkways with service roads on each side. These are separated from the main street by lawns 30 to 40 feet wide. It was on the south lawn that I saw the birds. The great contrast in color of the actors was what first drew my attention and caused me to stop. When I backed to get another view the Cowbirds flushed into a small tree, but the Thrasher continued its search for food in the grass.—TILFORD MOORE, 2265 Carter Avenue, Saint Paul 8, Minnesota.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) on Bimini, Bahamas, B.W.I.—While a guest investigator at the Lerner Marine Laboratory of the American Museum of Natural History on Bimini during the summer of 1955 I recorded an adult Lark Sparrow, in good plumage, on the laboratory grounds on 23 August. When I pointed out the bird to Dr. Louis A. Krumholz, Resident Biologist of the Laboratory, he remarked that he had seen it in the same general area on the previous day. It was quite tame and could be approached to within about five yards. The bird remained in the vicinity of the laboratory buildings where it was observed daily until 26 August. The only other record of the Lark Sparrow from the West Indies appears to be a 12 December 1911 specimen taken by Ramsden (Auk, 29: 395, 1912) from Guantánamo, Cuba.—RICHARD E. TASHIAN, *Department of Tropical Research, New York Zoological Society, New York 60, N. Y.*