

since then I have confirmed the observation. I have also once noticed duetting by two birds on an electric wire. Through 1960 a total of 11 pairs have duetted; all of the birds were color-banded ones except the male of one pair and the female of another. A male and female were judged to be paired when they associated regularly, often being found at the feeder and elsewhere unaccompanied by others, and often coming to the feeder together and leaving together.

Typically, in the duetting, the female gives her rattly utterance during the *glug-glug-gleeee* song that a male gives with his bowing display. Sometimes the rattle begins with the male's second *glug*, but generally it accompanies the *gleeee* note, and when—as often happens—the male omits the *gleeee*, the combined utterances of the duetting birds sound like *glug-glug-rattle* given without a break. The female will duet not only when the male is directing his song and display to her, but when he is directing them at another male, at his reflection in the window pane, at some other species of bird, or at nothing.

Exceptionally, I have seen duetting by birds not regular associates. Two females besides his mate duetted with one male. One female duetted with three extra males, at times when all of the three were travelling regularly with other females, and once a female duetted when a male who was such an atypical duetting partner gave a *peee* note. All of these birds were color-banded ones. Possibly instances like these were the result of especially high sexual tension, for I have sometimes seen females give their rattle in response to silent acts of their mates; for instance, one did so when her mate ran silently toward her, and again when in a bow with wings spread he ran silently between her and another male.

Occasionally, also, I have seen a female begin a rattle and her mate then join in with a song and display; I have not been able to decide whether to regard this as an inversion of the usual duet or as a coincidence.

The frequency of the duetting has varied considerably. I saw one pair do so on 23 days in the period 21 March–20 May; another pair on 17 days 26 May–11 July; another pair on 5 days 18 May–10 July. Twice I have had pairs that I never saw duet. The rate has also varied; during some visits to the feeder a pair has given no duets; on other visits there have been as many as five in two minutes and eight in three minutes.

My dates for the duetting have been 21 March to 11 July 1957; 16 April to 19 July 1958; 19 April to 14 July 1959; 9 April to 16 July 1960. Extreme known egg dates for Maryland are 24 April and 28 July, with the nesting peak "early May to early July" (Stewart and Robbins, *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, North American Fauna No. 62: 329, 1958).—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

Shadow Boxing by Brown-headed Cowbirds.—In four of the five years that I have operated a window-sill feeding shelf at my present location, one or more of the color-banded male Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) coming to it have given the bowing display to their reflection in the pane, and the most persistent displayer also repeatedly attacked it. Less commonly, the vertical bill-pointing display has been given to the reflection. On a single occasion a female has been seen to display and attack. Almost all of the males have been paired birds, judging by the regularity with which each associated with a particular color-banded female.

In 1956 one male (out of eight patronizing the feeder) gave bowing displays to the pane, with the *glug-glug-gleeee* song, from 11 May to 19 July. In addition, from 12 to 30 May, and again 22 to 28 June, he sometimes pecked the pane or flew

against it. In 1957 this male returned and displayed to the pane from 21 March to 24 May, the date on which he was last seen. He pecked the pane from 29 March to 18 May.

In 1957 three other color-banded males displayed to the pane occasionally or frequently. In 1958 four, and in 1959 two, occasionally did so. In 1960 none of five was ever seen to do so. These included one that had sometimes displayed in 1958 and 1959; in those years he was paired; in 1960 he apparently was not.

The female's shadow boxing, on 8 June 1957, consisted of a very slight bow with a lifting of the plumage of the upper back, and then a dash against the pane. The bird was unbanded.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

The Caracara Nesting in Arizona.—On 20 March 1960 my brother John and I located a pair of Caracaras (*Caracara cheriway*) constructing a nest, about three miles north of Ali Chuk, Papago Indian Reservation, Pima County. The nest was situated 15 feet up a sahuaro cactus (*Cereus giganteus*) in a crotch formed where several "arms" joined the main stem or trunk.

On the same day a Caracara was seen flying low over Pacinimo (Pisinimo) about 20 miles northeast of Ali Chuk. This individual very likely represented another breeding pair.

Returning to the Ali Chuk nest on 24 May, we found that it contained three nestlings about a month old. The nestlings were photographed at this time.

On 9 June 1960 I located another active Caracara nest in a site similar to the above described nest, about six miles north of Quijotoa (Covered Wells). This pair was some 30 miles northeast of the Ali Chuk nest. The two young were out of the nest and barely able to fly, but were still in the immediate vicinity of the nest.

These appear to be the only reported breeding records of this species in Arizona since Herbert Brown's observations in 1889 as noted by Bendire (1892, *Life Hist. North Amer. Birds*, U.S. Natl. Mus., Spec Bull No. 1, 317).—SEYMOUR H. LEVY, Route 9, Box 960, Tucson, Arizona.

Albinism in the Small White-Checked Geese.—On 28 October 1959 a rare example of incomplete albinism, as defined by Nero (1954) and Pettingill (1956), in *Branta canadensis* ssp. was captured at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Alfalfa County, Jet, Oklahoma. An immature female and tentatively identified as *B. c. hutchinsii* (the term small white-cheeked geese includes the races *leucopareia*, *parvipes*, *hutchinsii*, and possibly others that are as yet unrecognized), it displayed the pink irides, yellowish to flesh-colored bill, tarsi, and feet of a typical albino. However, all areas of the plumage that would normally have been black—the head and neck, rectrices and primaries—were suffused with a creamy to light tan color. The remainder of the plumage was white. The white cheek patch of the head was discernible against the tannish background. During succeeding months it was observed that the new feathers of the first adult plumage were gray rather than creamy-tan or white. The feathers of the head and neck molted a rather dark gray; those of the body, a very pale gray.

Other examples of albinism in small Canada geese were observed in the 1958–1959 waterfowl season. At the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge, Johnston County, Tishomingo, Oklahoma, during a period of approximately two weeks from 12 to 28 December 1958 an example of partial albinism in a medium-sized goose, perhaps *B. c. parvipes*, was regularly observed. Close examination showed that the gray appearance of the head and neck was the result of a rather uniform speckling of