

females averages 1.7 seasons or longer. This follows from an observed mean productivity of 1.15 chicks per nest in 52 nests in 1971, 1972, and 1973 (Table 1), given that the sex ratio is even (as it is at least among captured birds), and that no winter or multiple summer broods are raised. The length of flowering at RMBL seems to preclude double summer broods (2 months versus a mean duration from first egg laying to fledging of 40 days for 46 nests), and we have seen no signs of them. There is also no evidence that these birds breed on their southern wintering grounds (but see opinions in Wagner 1948). This speculative deduction of minimum longevity of RMBL females is in accord with our empirical estimates for ten individuals of at least a two-season life-span.

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Brown-headed Cowbird courting a Purple Martin.—The evening of 21 March 1976 I was watching 14 pairs of Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) at my backyard martin colony in Sherman (Grayson Co.), Texas. At about 1850 a male Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) lit on a nearby utility wire between two adult male martins. The martins were preening and ignored the cowbird. Within a few seconds the cowbird fluffed out the feathers of its back, neck, breast, and flanks and gave a series of notes that might be represented as a liquid "bub ko lum tsee." The cowbird slowly stepped toward one of the martins, continuing the display with half-open wings. The martin stopped preening, and bending low and horizontal to the wire, gaped at the cowbird which approached within about 6 inches of the martin. After displaying constantly and directly to the martin for 60 sec or longer, the cowbird flew away. The martin resumed preening. I saw no female cowbirds in the vicinity.

The cowbird's behavior fits the arboreal courtship display as described by Friedmann (1929, The Cowbirds. *A Study in the Biology of Social Parasitism*, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill.). I saw no indications that this behavior was of the preening invitation display (Selander and La Rue 1961, *Auk* 78: 473-504). The cowbird's bill was not pointed in toward its body, and its head was not especially directed toward the martin. Moreover, almost its entire plumage was fluffed out which is not consistent with the preening invitation display, which is described as unaccompanied by any vocalizations. I have seen male cowbirds display in this same manner to female cowbirds, and I suggest that this is probably an example of interspecific courtship by the Brown-headed Cowbird.—CHARLES R. BROWN, 2601 Turtle Creek Drive, Sherman, Texas 75090. Accepted 6 May 76.