

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Towhee Helps Cardinals Feed Their Fledglings.—When two parent Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*) guided their three fledglings to a tray of seeds on my window sill at Globe, Arizona, a male Brown Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*), a companion resident, joined them in the shelling and feeding task. His smaller, conical bill was entirely satisfactory. If the fledglings were not at the tray, the towhee would seek them out in the near-by trees. The three adults worked together in complete harmony for about three weeks. The female cardinal was the first to end her care and later the towhee did so; the male cardinal continued to feed one retarded young for two more weeks.

It is significant that the begging young were not orphans or parasitic young and also that this male towhee had just completed a normal breeding cycle. He and his mate had reared two young in a nest on an ivy-covered trellis five feet from the window, and after hiding the fledglings in a near-by thicket for a few days, they coaxed them to the ledge for feedings. The family had scarcely disbanded when the cardinal family arrived. This male towhee had remained near the house all winter, often entering the doorway. A month after helping to feed the cardinals the towhees raised a second brood at another nesting site.—ADA ANTEVS, *The Corral, Globe, Arizona, July 7, 1947.*

Black and Mottled Ducks in Colorado.—As there has been considerable confusion regarding the occurrence of Black (*Anas rubripes*) and Mottled (*Anas fulvigula*) ducks in Colorado, I should like to list specimens which I have examined. Cooke in his second supplement to *The Birds of Colorado* referred the several early records to *Anas fulvigula maculosa*, but Felger (*Auk*, 27, 1910:451) considered Cooke in error and listed several additional specimens as *Anas rubripes*.

It is now evident that three species occur in the state. Unfortunately, the majority of specimens reported in the literature seem to have disappeared, but I have found seven skins available for study as follows:

Felger Coll.	<i>Anas rubripes</i> , Loveland, Larimer Co., November 13, 1904.
Colo. U. 2292	<i>Anas rubripes</i> , ♂, Windsor, Weld Co., December 9, 1923.
C. M. N. H. 24393	<i>Anas rubripes</i> , ♂, Jumbo Res., Sedgwick Co., December 9, 1944.
C. M. N. H. 353	<i>Anas fulvigula maculosa</i> , ♂, Loveland, Larimer Co., November 6, 1907.
C. M. N. H. 20557	<i>Anas diazi novimexicana</i> , ♀, Henderson, Adams Co., October 29, 1939.
C. M. N. H. 24392	<i>Anas diazi novimexicana</i> , ♂, Barr, Adams Co., November 19, 1944.
C. M. N. H. 25374	<i>Anas diazi novimexicana</i> , ♀, Jumbo Res., Sedgwick Co., March 4, 1947.

R. J. Niedrach and I took a female *novimexicana*, the first to be recorded from Colorado, from a flock of Mallards along the Platte River on October 29, 1939, while I was fortunate to take a second, a beautiful male, at the Mile High Duck Club, near Barr, on November 19, 1944. The third specimen for the state, a female, was taken by the game warden, G. I. Crawford, on Jumbo Reservoir, Sedgwick County, on March 4, 1947.

R. B. Rockwell and I saw a very dark "Mallard" at the Mile High Duck Club on February 9, 1937, which we believed was a high-plumaged male *Anas rubripes*, and Charles C. Sperry and Ralph H. Imler of the Fish and Wildlife Service trapped, banded and liberated a male *rubripes* at Valmont Reservoir, Boulder County, on January 2, 1946.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, May 20, 1947.*

Duck Hawk Predation upon Ring-necked Pheasants.—Late on the afternoon of November 24, 1946, while returning from the Fern Ridge Reservoir area west of Eugene, Oregon, I had an opportunity to watch a Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus*) attack and apparently kill a Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). When first seen, the falcon was flying low over an open field. It passed over six pheasants, without causing any excitement, to attack the seventh, a cock, on the edge of the flock.

In making the attack there was no hover, no stoop, and no indication of the coming strike. The falcon just glided along as if not interested in any of the birds and then suddenly struck. The pheasant was apparently stunned by the first blow. In quick succession the falcon hit three more times, each time bowling the pheasant over. The falcon then started to leave the scene, and the pheasant, recovering somewhat, jumped into the air and commenced flying off. Immediately the falcon turned and pursued the fleeing bird. The pheasant was then struck four more times while in the air, each time having its course altered, and on the last strike falling to the ground. Not yet crippled, the pheasant again rose to attempt escape and the falcon quickly turned and struck a ninth time. The pheasant fell limp to the ground, apparently dead.