

in an attempt to copulate, and when this occurred, the duck in question would either fly a short way to rid herself of the dove or enter the water for the same purpose. None of the male Mallards bothered the dove at any time.

At this same location, a winter feeding area, there were usually three Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), two females and one male. The dove completely ignored these female ducks, even when there were no female Mallards in the immediate vicinity. The Rock Dove was the only individual of his species in the area. Perhaps this was the reason for the dove's mis-matched mating attempts, although I can offer no opinion why he ignored the female Wood Ducks.—JOHN L. WOLFF, *Linnaean Society of New York, New York, N. Y., July 31, 1948.*

Songs of the Brown Towhee Evoked by Nest Robbing by Scrub Jays.—About noon on June 6, 1948, hearing a harsh, high-pitched note in the backyard of my home in Berkeley, California, I went out to find four Brown Towhees (*Pipilo fuscus*), presumably two pairs, fighting with two Scrub Jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*). Each pair of towhees attacked the jays, fluttering wide-spread wings and tails and uttering this harsh note. They then dropped to the ground a few feet away from where I stood, showing no fear of me. In their excitement the resident towhees intermittently attacked the other pair of towhees in what I took to be a defense of territory. One jay was driven off, but the second, after being driven from the nest bush three times, was no longer molested.

In a few moments I moved within a short distance of the nest bush and observed the jay eating from the nest before it flew away. Upon examining the nest two eggs were seen, one of which was partly eaten. I then withdrew about ten feet and observed the actions of the towhees upon their return to the nest. One of the towhees arrived and nervously hopped around in the surrounding shrubs before moving up near the nest, where it gave a few faint "tsip"s. It then went to the nest and removed the broken egg in two trips. The last time, as it hopped to the rim of the nest, it sang a high-pitched, warbled song not unlike that of a House Finch, but so faint that I could barely hear it. I could see the bird making singing movements with its bill and throat, and I checked the surrounding bushes to be sure no other birds were present. The bird then sat on the nest, which now contained but one egg. Meanwhile the other bird of the pair was chipping nearby and occasionally uttering a wheezy note that I had heard commonly during the preceding week, and which Quaintance (Condor, 43, 1941:152-155) has called the "mate call." The next day the birds were not heard in the yard and a check of the nest on the following day showed the other egg to be missing and the nest deserted. The towhees were also missing, and they have not been seen in their territory to this date.

A summary of the notes and songs used on this occasion is as follows: a *chip* used commonly and varied with excitement of territorial and nest defenses, a thin *tsip* on approaching the nest, the mate-call, a harsh distress note uttered during the attack on the jays, and a high-pitched, warbled note by a bird on the rim of the nest, resembling the song of a House Finch. These last two are in addition to those reported by Quaintance (*op. cit.* and Condor, 40, 1938:97-101).—HENRY E. CHILDS, JR., *University of California, Berkeley, California, June 16, 1948.*

The Cowbird Moves Northward in California.—Until recent years the humid coast belt of northern California has been free of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). The writer had never expected that this parasite would reach the dense groves of fir and redwood in Humboldt County. However, sufficient data from Humboldt County have now accumulated to warrant listing the Cowbird as at least a casual summer visitor in this section. Observations on six nests each containing an egg of the Cowbird and sight of a pair at close range seem to indicate that this species is more common than thought even though it still is more or less localized. It occurs on suitable open river bars, avoiding the heavy timber.

Two Cowbird eggs were noted in June of 1941, on the Eel River Bar, in the vicinity of Fernbridge, Humboldt County, California. One was in the nest of either a Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) or an Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*). The single egg was in the nest and no other eggs were present. The other egg was found in the nest of a Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), which contained one egg of the flycatcher as well. These two eggs could well have been deposited by the same female. A third Cowbird egg was noted that same year in June on the Van Duzen River Bar at Alton, Humboldt County, California.

Observations were discontinued during the war years, but in June of 1947 another Cowbird egg