

**Feeding Helpers among Immature White-eyes.**—Skutch (Condor, 63:198–226, 1961) defines a helper as “a bird which assists in the nesting of an individual other than its mate, or feeds or otherwise attends a bird of whatever age which is neither its mate nor its dependent offspring.” Helpers may be intraspecific, and aid others of their own kind, or interspecific, and assist birds of different kinds. Helpfulness is expressed when a bird sounds an alarm cry at the approach of danger, causing all the birds in the area to take flight. Another common way of helpfulness among birds is in feeding. An excellent discussion of the role of helpers, as well as an annotated list of numerous species known as helpers, is given by Skutch (*op. cit.*), but he does not mention the Zosteropidae.

The White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosa japonica*) was introduced from Japan to Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands in 1929 and has increased rapidly and spread to the other major islands since its introduction.

My first White-eye fledgling flew through the open window into our laboratory at the Waikiki Aquarium on 27 April 1966. It was just barely able to fly and had not yet developed its characteristic yellow throat and white eye-rings. This bird was tame and demanded food every 8 to 10 minutes. It quickly swallowed any food placed into its mouth and would continue to beg until satisfied. I fed the White-eye papayas, bananas, avocados, mangoes, egg-yolks, and mixed cereal. This bird became independent by 15 May, when it was about 29 days old.

On 31 May 1966 I found two fledgling White-eyes on the lawn at the University of Hawaii. Both were under the same tree, and a nest was found blown to the ground nearby. I hand-fed White-eyes No. 2 and 3 for 12 days. My first White-eye was now eating by itself but still begged when I came to the cage with food. It had not yet developed the white rings around the eyes.

Because of a busy examination schedule, plus the fact that White-eyes No. 2 and 3 were demanding food every 8 to 10 minutes, on 11 June 1966 I placed White-eyes No. 2 and 3 into a large cage with White-eye No. 1 and a number of finches. The first White-eye immediately flew to the newly introduced birds and, when they began to beg, carried food to them and fed both young. Whenever I came to the cage, the older White-eye flew to my finger, begged for food, and carried it to White-eyes No. 2 and 3. No more hand-feeding was necessary for any of the birds.

I found a fourth White-eye fledgling on the lawn of the university on 28 June 1966. When I placed this bird into the large cage, the three older White-eyes immediately began carrying food to it. All three of the immature birds continued to feed the fledgling until it was able to secure its own food.

On 26 July 1966 a fifth fledgling White-eye was given to me. When I placed this bird into the cage with the others, there was an immediate conflict over feeding. All four immature birds carried food to the fledgling, but, as one bird approached to feed the fledgling, the others flew into it, causing it to drop the food or swallow it. The finches also were constantly chased if they approached the fledgling.

After 24 hours without any cessation of the feeding conflicts, I removed the fledgling and placed it in a small cage attached to the side of the large cage. This enabled me to hand-feed the fledgling and yet did not isolate it completely from the older White-eyes. Within three minutes after the fledgling had been placed into the small cage, the four older White-eyes were on the wire near the fledgling, and, when it begged, the four birds passed food through the wire to it.

On 28 July 1966 I again placed White-eye No. 5 into the large cage. For 30 minutes there was a constant conflict among the four older White-eyes. Then each bird took food to the fledgling, and each in turn fed it. At times one bird would be feeding the fledgling while the other three birds perched beside it with food ready for feeding. This feeding behavior continued until the bird was able to secure its own food.

These birds also showed a high degree of group preening. I have on numerous occasions observed one bird preening another while the second bird was preening a third. There also appears to be much body contact between immatures. The five birds sleep, and often perch during the day, so closely that they look quite like one bird with five heads.

I am indebted to Andrew J. Berger for suggesting techniques for raising the birds in captivity and for encouraging me to prepare my observations for publication.—C. ROBERT EDDINGER, *Department of Zoology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, 27 September 1966.*

**Diving Wood Duck Ducklings Entangled in Filamentous Algae.**—During 1955–1957, I conducted research on Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) at the Olentangy Wildlife Experiment Station in Delaware and Marion counties, Ohio. This research involved frequent visits to the 40 ponds on the area for the purpose of making brood counts of the ducklings. By making sudden appearances at the ponds, it was frequently possible to count the ducklings before they dived, or skittered over the water surface to cover.

In 1955 at one pond only one brood was present, and this brood of recently hatched ducklings was usually seen and the ducklings counted during several visits to the pond. The brood was twice found near the center of the shallow pond that it occupied, and my sudden approach then caused the ducklings to dive beneath the water surface rather than to hide in emergent vegetation. On the second of these visits I was surprised to note that there were only six ducklings in the brood instead of the 11 present the previous day. I was also surprised to note that only one of the six ducklings reappeared on the water surface after diving. I therefore waded out into the pond and found the five missing ducklings entangled in filamentous algae beneath the water surface. There seemed little doubt that the five ducklings would have drowned if I had not rescued them. In six additional cases at other ponds at the Olentangy Wildlife Experiment Station individual Wood Duck ducklings were not seen to return to the water surface after diving near beds of filamentous algae.

*Oedogonium* and *Spirogyra* were the algae genera identified in the ponds described. Some species of *Oedogonium* have particularly strong strands and grow so dense that "algae paper" is formed when the water disappears from the beds (Prescott, *How To Know the Fresh-water Algae*, 1954, p. 103). Francis M. Uhler (personal conversation) advised me that several species of *Utricularia* grow abundantly on some of the ponds managed for waterfowl production at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and he has the impression that duckling survival is lower on the ponds containing *Utricularia*.

Based on his work in British Columbia, J. A. Munro (*Canad. J. Res.*, 19:131, 1941) reported heavy loss among Lesser Scaups (*Aythya affinis*) as a result of ducklings becoming entangled in weeds or filamentous algae. Drowning, following subsurface entanglement, was suspected as one of the chief causes of loss of ducklings.

My observations on Wood Ducks indicated that the ducklings do not normally dive to escape unless closely pressed, and it seems likely that my activities caused the ducklings to dive and thus made the algae a critical feature of the habitat in all of the cases described. It seems inevitable, however, that conditions must sometimes occur when the ducklings are closely pressed in the absence of research activities, and filamentous algae must then be a hazardous feature of the ducklings' habitat. It appears desirable for pond managers to strive to create conditions so that small Wood Duck ducklings can always move easily into surface cover when on ponds containing thick growths of filamentous algae.

The research reported in this note was conducted under the direction of E. H. Dustman when I was a research fellow of the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. Personnel of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aided in typing and in reviewing the manuscript.—PAUL A. STEWART, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Entomology Research Division, Oxford, North Carolina 27565, 27 September 1966.*

**The Occurrence and Possible Breeding of McKay's Bunting on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.**—On 29 June 1966 an adult male McKay's Bunting (*Plectrophenax hyperboreus*) was observed on top of Sevuokuk Mountain in the northwest cape area of St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, but was lost in heavy fog. On 25 July 1966 a specimen was collected near the place that the above-mentioned bird was seen. The specimen (U.B.C. Mus. Zool. no. 13274), an adult male with en-