

observations on the use of flower parts such as rose petals in these nests. Such an observation, therefore, seemed worth recording.

On the morning of June 13, 1943, the writer was watching an Eastern Kingbird as it sat on a telephone wire a few feet away. Suddenly it dove viciously at one of the outer blossoms of a huge rosebush bearing large, white flowers. It returned to the wire with a prominent white object in its beak which was assumed to be a captured moth. This it dropped, and quickly plunged again at the white flowers, coming up with a larger beakful, and loosing a gleaming shower of petals. It flew some thirty yards to the top of an apple tree and there busied itself. Soon it returned to the wire above the bush, and the diving on the blossoms was repeated. This was again followed by a beak-filled rest on the wire and then a trip to the same tree.

Suspicion that the kingbird might be using these white petals as nest material prompted an investigation. In the upper branches of the apple tree there was found a nest which was lined with literally dozens of the petals. Many were white and absolutely fresh; others were in various stages of dying and becoming brown as they progressed outward. This indicated that the petal-gathering probably had been in progress several days prior to June 13.

Sixteen attacks on the blossoms, followed by trips to the tree, were observed during the course of the day. It was noted that two other rose bushes on various parts of the premises were likewise visited. One of these possessed pure white flowers, as did the first, while the petals of the third bore just the faintest traces of pink.

Adjacent to the bush of white roses which was most frequently visited there was one the flowers of which were a deep, rich pink. It is of interest that these highly colored blossoms were never touched by the petalophilous kingbird.

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- ROBERT M. STABLER, Department of Zoölogy, University of Pennsylvania.

Unusual Matings of a Brown-headed Nuthatch.—On April 28, 1942, at the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, Jones County, Georgia, I found the nest of a Brown-headed Nuthatch, (*Sitta pusilla pusilla*, Latham) containing five eggs in a log nesting box which I had erected for bluebirds. On May 10, the female was captured while feeding the young and banded. Fifteen days later the male was caught in the same manner and also banded. For convenience I called the male M-42 and his mate F-42. Their five fledglings were banded on May 27 with bands 42-33536-42-33540 inclusive.

In the spring of 1943, a pair of these nuthatches nested in a box approximately 35 yards from the previous year's nesting site. When the male was caught on April 23, his band showed him to be M-42 and his mate was found to be the same one of the previous season. Thus this pair was mated for two consecutive seasons. The pair succeeded in raising four fledglings and they were banded on April 28 with bands 39-7611-39-7614 inclusive.

In the spring of 1944 a nest of this species was found in a nesting box approximately 400 yards from the two previous nesting sites. The male was caught while

feeding young on April 16 and by his band, proved to be M-42. However, he had abandoned his mate of the previous two seasons, his new mate when caught was found to wear band 39-7612 and was one of his own daughters of the 1943 brood. This mating was a success and six young were banded April 20 with bands 39-7673-39-7678 inclusive.

No further records were made of any individuals of the three family groups until December 14, 1944. At dusk on this evening I noticed a bird of this species apparently going to roost in a nesting box about 75 yards from the nesting sites of 1942 and 1943 mentioned above. I carefully closed the door on the box trapping the bird inside. Much to my surprise, instead of one bird being inside there were four. Of these four birds three of them wore bands. They were M-42 and his mate of 1942 and 1943, F-42 and 39-7677, either a son or daughter of M-42 by his 1944 wife. The unbanded bird was banded and all four were placed back in the box where they had presumably sought protection from the cold.

In the spring of 1945, a nest of this species was found in the same nesting box that the species used last year. I looked at the nest April 7, which was an unusually cold day for the season, and both parents were caught in the nesting box while brooding four newly hatched young and they proved to be M-42 and F-42, the third mating of these individuals in four years. When I went to band the nestlings a few days later, I found them gone, probably destroyed by some predatory animal.

Another observation was made of the nesting box May 6 and was found to contain another nest of the species with four eggs. May 18 I caught the parents while feeding the young and they proved to be M-42 and a new wife banded at my station February 8, 1945 with band 43-47541. The three nestlings were banded May 19 with bands 43-47556-43-47558 inclusive.

In conclusion, a banded male Brown-headed Nuthatch was found to be a parent of 27 young in four years. He mated with the same female for three years, two of them consecutive in a restricted area. In the third season he moved some distance away from this area and mated with his own daughter. The following winter the male was found roosting in a nesting box near the original nesting site with his original mate, an unbanded stranger and one of his own children of the 1944 mating. In the spring of 1945 the original pair was found nesting in the box used by the species last year. Upon the destruction of the four nestlings by some predatory animal, the male cast aside his original mate and mated with a female banded at my station last winter and successfully raised a brood of three.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, Fish and Wildlife Service, Round Oak, Georgia.

Trap Behavior of Bronzed Grackles.—In *Bird-Banding*, April, 1937, pp. 78 and 79, Mr. Geoffrey Gill reported on the trap behavior of Purple Grackles at his banding station at Huntington, Long Island, New York, which he judged to be very similar to those taken by Mr. Horace McCann at his station at Paoli, Pennsylvania, which McCann reported on in *Bird-Banding*, October, 1931. In this paper, I will give some notes on the trap behavior of the Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*).

I began banding birds in early summer in the year 1924, and I have operated a station since that time, except from May 19, 1925, to July 31, 1927; and November 2, 1945, to December 16, 1945. To date I have banded 151 Bronzed Grackles, and all were banded near McMillan, Luce County, Michigan.

The first Bronzed Grackle that I trapped to band was on May 8, 1929. Since then, two years (1932 and 1945) slipped by with not a single grackle trapped