

Great Horned Owl. The Florida Gallinules, Least Bitterns and rails returned to the "oasis" in the spring of 1924, but we did not take the time for a census.—CHARLES R. WALLACE, *Delaware, Ohio*.

The Behavior of Birds at a Georgia Feeding Tray.—The behavior of different birds at our feeding tray has been a source of considerable interest to us. The tray, placed in the top of a cherokee rose bush, with an evergreen tree overhanging the bush, is about twenty feet from the house and in full view of several windows. Brown Thrashers, Blue Jays, Mockingbirds, Cardinals, Towhees, Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows and English Sparrows have been more or less regular visitors

English Sparrows and Mockingbirds have been unwelcome, and have been driven away frequently. The English Sparrows soon learned they were not welcome, and most of them would fly away if they heard the door open, or even if one tapped on a window-pane. Some, however, merely slipped into the bush to return to the tray shortly. Many learned that other species were not driven away and so would wait until some other bird was on the tray, when they would slip up with the other bird. Towhees and Cardinals would sometimes allow English Sparrows to eat at the same time as themselves, but the Cardinals, especially, frequently drove them away. English Sparrows never dared to come to the tray, or to remain there, if a Thrasher, Blue Jay, or Mockingbird was near by.

The Mockingbird never ate at the tray but often perched on it and allowed no other bird to approach. One Mockingbird was fond of perching in a near-by tree and driving away any other bird that came to the tray. The Blue Jay alone was free from molestation. In fact the advent of a Blue Jay near the tray meant the departure of the Mockingbird.

Of all the birds that visited the tray the Blue Jay was the most wary. The slightest noise would cause it to fly away, and yet when the Blue Jay appeared, any bird, except a Brown Thrasher, that happened to be on the tray would at once yield its place to the Jay. Two or even three Jays would eat side by side, sometimes feeding each other. Now and then a Blue Jay would carry food to a bird apparently too timid to come to the tray.

The Song Sparrow much preferred to feed on the ground and search for bits dropped by other birds, but would sometimes sneak up through the bush. The White-throated Sparrows also preferred the ground, but they came to the tray more frequently and more openly.

The Brown Thrashers often came in pairs and fed side by side. They had no fear of Blue Jays and were the victors in any dispute as to which might eat. With the Mockingbird matters were reversed. A Mockingbird might drive a Brown Thrasher away but yielded to a Blue Jay.

Neither the Cardinal nor the Towhee, except in the height of mating, would allow another of its kind on the tray with it. The males usually appeared to have first rights. One bird would feed for a while, then leave and another would take its place. Four or five might be waiting turns to eat but two never ate together. Once, in the midst of the mating season, I saw a pair of Towhees eat together. Several times I have seen a pair of Cardinals together, the male now and then caressing the female with his beak, or feeding her. At other seasons they drive one another away. The Towhee could not eat long without scratching and knocking food onto the ground and its mate while waiting her turn found more or less to eat on the ground.—BERYL T. MOUNTS, *Ballard Normal School, Macon, Ga.*