

minutes and was repeated again after 4 or 5 minutes of less active bowing or walking, and took place in a rather small area of perhaps 25 feet in diameter. After five dances, all of which were of the type described, the birds resumed feeding.—
JOHN L. GEORGE, *Department of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

The Starling in Jackson, Wyoming.—On the morning of April 5, 1941, at my home at Jackson, Wyoming, I saw a bird fly off in a characteristic fluttering manner that instantly marked it as a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). It was snowing lightly at the time. The bird alighted for a moment on a neighbor's lawn, then went into a row of willows. With field glasses I pursued it for a time but finally lost it among a lot of English Sparrows in the thick brush. A Sharp-shinned Hawk had dashed through the neighborhood and all the birds about me had taken to cover. Upon my return to my own yard, there was the Starling, and this time I had an opportunity to observe it closely, to note the yellow beak and characteristic plumage before it flew away.

McCreary ("Wyoming Bird Life") records the Starling in southern Wyoming in 1937 and 1938. This is apparently the first occurrence in Jackson Hole.—
OLAUS J. MURIE, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson, Wyoming.*

The Strange Death of a Young Grackle.—In a small swamp just south of Ithaca, New York, on the morning of May 18, 1941, we found a dead fledgling Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) dangling by a string from a willow twig. Instead of the usual string mortality caused by entanglement of the head, wings, or feet, this bird died through *swallowing* the string. Death occurred after a loop of the string hanging from the mouth caught around a leaf. Death must have occurred, at the very earliest, during the prior evening, since the bird was quite fresh.

Dissection of the digestive tract revealed the following: One corner of the mouth was grossly irritated, probably as a result of rubbing of the string during the bird's struggles. A double length of string passed through the esophagus terminating in a tightly packed wad of string in the proventriculus and ventriculus, thus making an exit through the pylorus impossible. The wad of originally white cotton string was sticky and stained yellow from the action of gastric juices. The total length of the string, including some three or four inches which protruded from the mouth, was eleven feet, ten inches, although the bird had probably swallowed a much shorter tangled mass rather than the entire length of string inch by inch. The condition of the bird was otherwise apparently normal.

How this young grackle, perhaps two weeks old, and still dependent upon the parents for food, happened to get this unusual item in its digestive tract is purely conjectural.—KARL W. KENYON and LEONARD J. UTTAL, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Unusual Behavior of a Banded Cardinal.—On April 24, 1941, three small boys in my neighborhood brought me, alive, an adult male Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*), which I had previously banded. They stated that they had found this bird flopping about the grass, his beak tightly clamped about his band. When handed to me he was still grasping his band. His tail feathers were gone and he was quite thin but otherwise appeared in good health. The history and behavior of this bird is so unusual that I would like to relate it chronologically.

On December 27, 1939, this bird was banded No. 39-223571. At that time he was a fully matured male and there was nothing unusual about his behavior,

except that he was a squealer and quite vicious, but this is not uncommon among Cardinals.

On New Year's Day, 1940, he repeated, and he had so worked on his band that the numbers were badly worn and the band was mashed tightly around the tarsus. I removed the band and substituted No. 39-266001.

He repeated again on March 10, 1940, and although his band was in good order, his behavior was such that I made a special note of it on my daily banding sheet. Upon removing him from the house trap, he grasped his band in his beak, and I used considerable effort in forcing him to release it. In the gathering cage he grasped the wires, and I was again put to considerable effort in getting him loose. After ascertaining his band number, I released him by placing him on the ground. Instead of flying away, he reached down and grasped his band again. My notation reads, "Even when released this bird continued to bite his band, and would not turn loose until rolled over several times and shaken. Squealing all the time."

On April 24, 1941, I found his band so worn as to be barely discernible and again it was mashed tightly against the tarsus. I again removed the band (after considerable difficulty, for he was exceedingly vicious) and fitted a new band. I placed him on a low branch of an apple tree. He seemed too weak to fly and fluttered to the ground. After taking a few steps, he saw the band and immediately clamped down on it and rolled over. He made no effort to move when I picked him up. Twice again I gave him a fresh start, but each time he no more than perceived the band than all thoughts of his own safety were forgotten in his hatred of it. It was thus obvious that if the band was not removed he would not survive the local predators. There was nothing to do but release him, unbanded. This I did, and although he could not fly, he hopped away with vigor and lost himself in the underbrush.—JAMES B. YOUNG, 2516 Talbott Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky.

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