

of these frequently nest in places readily accessible to herons.—F. W. PRESTON, *Box 149, Butler, Pennsylvania, July 18, 1951.*

**Homing ability of female Cowbirds.**—Eastern Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) possess a marked ability to return to their place of banding. Summaries of the homing ability of Cowbirds banded by William I. Lyon appeared in *Inland Bird Banding News*, Vol. 7, No. 1, p. 7, and Vol. 9, No. 2, p. 10. Fox (1940. *Bird-Banding*, 11:23) recorded a female Cowbird which returned a distance of 107 miles in less than two days, and, on another occasion, the same bird returned 184 miles in one week.

Females seem to return and to repeat in traps more frequently than do males. Nice (1935. *Inland Bird Banding News*, 7, No. 2: 2) noted that of four males and nine females banded, no males returned but she had "two females for two seasons each, and two other females for three seasons."

My records of banded Cowbirds show the tendency of female Cowbirds to remain in a locality throughout the breeding season, and also shows their ability to return quickly to the banding station after being transported distances. These Cowbirds were trapped in a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch chickenwire trap, with open ground funnels, all painted black. Bread and a pan of water were used as bait. All birds recorded here had their band numbers checked in the hand, although some birds were also color-banded.

An adult female Cowbird, banded No. 39-255053 at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on May 10, 1948, repeated May 11, 18, June 2, 16, 19, 24 (twice), 25, 27, and 28. On the latter day she was taken 6 miles southwest and released at 7:40 a.m. On July 1 she was back in the trap and continued repeating on July 2 (twice), 4, 5, 6, 7, and 12. In 1949, this female and a male entered the trap on April 5. The male was banded No. 39-255078. This pair was taken that same day to the Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, 22 miles northeast, and released at 12:55 p.m. In flight they kept together until out of sight. The male was not seen again. The female entered the same trap at 7:30 a.m. on April 7, two days later. She then repeated April 27 and 30 and was taken that last day 10 miles east and released at 11:40 a.m. Three days later she was back again, repeating May 3, 10, 14, 17, 18, 20, and 24 on which day she was apparently carrying a large egg. I did not weigh any of the Cowbirds, but I could feel a hard lump the size of a marble in the lower abdomen. Since I could not feel this object when I examined the bird again on May 25, I think that she had laid the egg before entering the trap. On May 25, I released the bird 16 miles from my trap and never saw her again.

Another pair of Cowbirds, Nos. 39-255006 and 7, trapped together May 10, 1947, was used experimentally. The male repeated May 16, was taken 3 miles to the State Capitol, released and not seen again until June 18 and 31. He was shot at Leland, North Carolina, the week of January 19, 1948.

The female, No. 39-255006, color-banded but recorded by handling, displayed her homing abilities through two seasons. Banded May 10, 1947, she repeated May 17, 31 (twice), June 17, 18, 24, 28 (twice), July 1, 3, 5, and 11. Returning on April 15, 1948, she repeated April 30, May 2, 8, and 9. On the last date she was carried 56 miles southwest to Chambersburg and released at 6:30 p.m. On May 14 she entered the trap at 5:30 p.m. On her next repeat, May 24, she apparently carried a large egg which was laid before her next visit, May 26. Then she repeated May 28 (twice), 29 (four times), and 30. Then taken 6 miles south through Harrisburg and released at 4:03 p.m., she was back at 6 a.m. the next morning. She repeated on June 1, 3, 5 (four times), 7 (twice), 9, and 10 (again apparently with a large egg which was laid before she entered the trap at 7:00 a.m., June 11). I took her by train to Philadelphia, 100 miles east, and released her

at the University of Pennsylvania at 10:30 a.m. on June 12. Just four days later, on June 16, she had found her way back and I saw her enter the trap at 10:15 a.m. This female then repeated again on June 18 (twice), 19, 20, 21, and 22. There are no further records of her.—HAROLD B. WOOD, 3016 N. Second Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, January 28, 1951.

**Flight-speed of the Mourning Dove.**—While driving toward Ridgetown, Ontario, on June 6, 1951, I had an opportunity to “clock” the speed in flight of a Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura macroura*.

The bird flushed from a hedgerow on the left side of the road and flew, in typical, direct flight, parallel with the vehicle, a distance of more than three-tenths of a mile. It was about twenty-five feet from my car, and flew approximately five feet above the ground. Adjusting the speed of the automobile to that of the bird, I discovered that the dove was moving at 55 miles per hour, as indicated by the speedometer of the vehicle. The flight, which was along a straight highway and “cross-wind,” ended when the dove entered a roadside thicket.—ERIC WALTER BASTIN, 43, Inglewood Drive, Hamilton, Ontario, August 27, 1951.



**Female Cowbird hung in an old nest of Baltimore Oriole.**—While inspecting nesting territories of the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) eight miles northwest of Ann Arbor, Michigan, I found the results of an interesting bird catastrophe. On May 6, 1951, I discovered the remains of four old oriole nests in a row of trees along a small stream in an open pasture. From one oriole nest dangled a female Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), obviously dead for no more than a few weeks. On May 8, returning with climbing irons and ropes, I succeeded in cutting down the nest and found that the Cowbird hung by a single loop of horsehair. The body was somewhat desiccated but was fairly intact. Dissection of the body cavity showed no signs of the hard parts of an egg, yet it is hard to believe that the Cowbird was doing anything other than looking into old nests

when caught and strangled. This furnishes evidence additional to that already in the literature that the Cowbird does not always find nests solely by watching the activity of other birds.

Two of the old oriole nests mentioned above were unusual in the great amount of horsehair used in their construction; the remains of the one pictured contained well over eighty percent horsehair.—K. T. ROGERS, Dept. of Anatomy, E. Medical Bldg., Ann Arbor, Michigan, June 8, 1951.

**Sutton's Warbler (*Dendroica potomac*) again observed in West Virginia.**—In late May, 1950, eight members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society visited the eastern