

with interest, I felt that his statements were accurate. I also gathered from his remarks that Ivory Gulls ("ice partridges"; *Pagophila eburnea*) are seen at Hawke Harbour with the appearance of sea-ice in December.

The difference in habitat of the various alcids was rather sharply marked. Black Guillemots (*Cepphus grylle*) were seen in the sheltered harbors and close to shore, Dovekies (*Plautus alle*) in deeper and less sheltered waters and the Murres (*Uria aalge* and *U. lomvia*) and Razor-billed Auks (*Alca torda*) in still deeper water and further from shore. Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*) were either uncommon in Labrador at the time or else prefer regions further from shore than the Kyle ordinarily sailed, for I saw very few of these birds. Austin (*op. cit.*: 140) remarks that Puffins stay among the outer islands and almost never come into the bays, at least during summer, the time of his observations.

The migration of Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) from Labrador was apparently complete after the fourth week in October, since I saw none of these birds after Oct. 20. According to Austin (*op. cit.*: 200), they are rarely found in Labrador during the winter. —JOHN G. ERICKSON, 611 North Lilac Drive, Minneapolis 22, Minnesota, September 18, 1951.

Closely associated nests of Bronzed Grackle and English Sparrow.—The Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) has been considered to be an enemy of nesting birds, destroying both the eggs and the young. Specifically, it has been recorded as killing and partly eating English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) (Forbush, 1929, "Birds of Mass. etc., Part 2," pp. 458-459). The English Sparrow is said to rob and kill many native birds, and destroy their nests, eggs, and young. Allegedly, sparrows have driven all the smaller hole-nesting birds from cities and villages, and many that nested among the branches of trees. Supposedly sparrows kill birds as large as the Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) or Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) by attacking in numbers or follow native birds about until the latter leave the neighborhood (Forbush, *op. cit.*, Part 3:42).

This reported mutual antipathy makes it advisable to record an example of extreme tolerance. In a trumpet vine on our garage in Chesterton, Indiana, in 1948, an English Sparrow had its bulky, untidy, domed nest but a short distance below the eaves. In April, a grackle used this nest for the foundation of its own nest. When the nests were examined on May 8, each contained young. On May 16, when still poorly fledged, the first young grackle climbed out of the nest, along interlacing twigs and branches, and away into the trees. The last one left the nest on May 19. The young sparrows left the nest on May 20 and climbed and fluttered into the neighboring trees.

While the adult grackles appeared oblivious to the sparrows, the sparrows sometimes appeared perturbed when a grackle visited its nest, and waited until the grackle had left before going to their nest. Sometimes when a grackle flew to its nest when the sparrow was at its nest directly below, the sparrow flew out. But this was not always true, and sometimes the sparrow, at its nest entrance, would simply look up at the grackle arriving just above it.

Often on their way to or from their nests, both adult sparrows and grackles perched close together in a nearby elm tree and completely ignored each other.

This is a case of two species, each ordinarily thought of as antagonistic to other nesting birds, raising their young in nests in close proximity. The grackles apparently built on top of the sparrows' nest because it offered a suitable, solid foundation. The total lack of interest of each species in the young of the other was striking and surprising.

The close nesting of two aggressive predatory species, however, or of a predator and a

weaker or a prey species is not uncommon, indicating that about nests there is sometimes a change in interspecific intolerance. Bent (1938. *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 170:22) quotes Decker and Bowles as reporting Ravens (*Corvus corax*) and Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) nesting on the same cliff without discord. Murphy (1936. "Oceanic Birds of South America, Vol. 2, p. 933) notes that boobies (*Sula*) and man-o-war-birds (*Fregata*) nesting a meter or two apart pay less attention to each other than either does to members of its own species. The change in behavior when the boobies are returning to the nesting grounds well laden with fish is most extraordinary, for then apparently the man-o-war-birds rob the boobies. Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) have been recorded nesting undisturbed close to a Gyrfalcon's (*Falco rusticolus*) nest (Bent, *op. cit.*:4).

Nests of English Sparrows, Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), or grackles are commonly built in convenient niches among the sticks of Osprey's (*Pandion haliaetus*) bulky nests, and even House Wrens (*Troglodytes aëdon*) and the possibly competing Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) have been admitted by Ospreys as "basement tenants" (Bent, 1937. *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 167:370-371).

Other examples of a less aggressive species nesting near a more aggressive species, in India, have been given by Major General Hutson (1947. *Ibis*, 89:569-576). Durango (1949. *Ibis*, 91:140-143) has reviewed at some length the nesting associations of birds of different species with many additional examples, especially from Europe. In his opinion several factors which often reinforce one another may be involved as follows: (1) Similar or identical habitat preferences; (2) The nest of one species is a suitable nesting site for another; (3) Food available in nests or territories of certain species encourages other specialized feeders to nest there; (4) Sociability; (5) Protection afforded by the more aggressive species. Factor 2 seems to have been the important one in the grackle-sparrow instance. Durango also points out that some birds of prey appear to avoid disturbances in the vicinity of their own nest, a point that Brewster (1937. "Concord River," p. 177) after noting a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), and Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) in fairly close proximity, wrote as follows: "I begin to believe that there is some truth in the statement (made originally by I know not whom) that predaceous animals seek their victims at some distance from their own homes."—A. L. AND R. M. RAND, *Chicago Natural History Museum, February 17, 1950.*

Songs of the Western Meadowlark.—To those fortunate folk who have lived in almost daily association with the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) there are several matters regarding its song that become pretty well established. In addition to its incomparable joyousness one will soon recognize a certain format to each performance, *i.e.*, it is a form song. Unlike the song of many birds, the Meadowlark's station song (but not its soaring song) is one that is commonly repeated as exactly as though it were a phonographic recording (unhappy simile). To be sure there may be quite an album of discs and I have closely watched a single performer change to a new disc without clatter or prolonged delay, still each recording seems to be pretty sharply cut upon the wax of his psychic complex. Individual birds certainly have their favorite "arias" which are rendered often enough to characterize the singer and his territorial stage setting. Furthermore, I have not actually traced more than three discs to a single performer though color banding might extend this number appreciably. Within the combined territories of a number of individuals, however, the variety becomes quite extensive.

Another fact that soon becomes evident to the "bird listener" is the impossibility of