

offer this as a suggestion, without proof, since I am not in a position to make the experiment.

The behavior of the crow is similar to that of Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). They also sit in the treetops, watching for small birds to carry nesting material to their nests, so that the cowbird knows where the nest is before the first egg is laid. Sometimes she lays the first egg herself (Norris, 1947. *Wilson Bull.*, 59:92).

The effectiveness of this elevated look-out perch is clear from the behavior of the Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*, (Preston, 1948. *Wilson Bull.*, 60: 120) of the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) and other species.

We have seen that the crows are ineffective against the Wood Duck. They are also ineffective against our Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) or our Egyptian Geese (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*). This is probably because both parents keep a tight control over their young, and are very bellicose in their defense. The young come ashore freely, but the crows get few or none. It would probably be a very rash crow that attempted it.

In England as a boy I often found Mallard nests in hollow trees, and hence in wooded areas, but the game keepers had cleared out the Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*) in those sections.

It would seem possible that one reason the great nesting grounds of many species of our North American ducks are in the prairies is because originally the prairie was treeless, thereby putting the crow at a disadvantage. Potholes, kettles, ponds and lakes exist in forested regions, and in partly wooded regions, and probably food is plentiful there, but the nesting ducks in such places are few, and largely those that nest in hollow trees.

Perhaps the predators' look-out perch is the clue to the situation, and the prairies could be depopulated of ducks by a modest amount of tree planting supplemented with lines of telephone poles. At any rate the crow has increased in the prairies with the coming of settlement, and is now an important factor in waterfowl predation there.

Perhaps as a sort of appendix I may be permitted to add an account of the behavior of the Carrion Crow as a predator on the Red Grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*) on the Scottish moors. This is secondhand information given to me by a gamekeeper in northern Scotland in 1949, when I spent some time with him after the main nesting season.

"When the hen grouse is incubating, the cock frequently sits conspicuously upon a rock or other perch at a little distance. The crow, observing him, alights on another neighboring rock and waits to see if he is attacked. If he isn't, he moves to another perch and repeats this till he is attacked. He then knows the hidden female is near, and looks around till he finds her. He then fights with the female. In the melee the eggs are scattered, which is the crow's objective. He can then gather them at his leisure, while the grouse must abandon the site. This goes on as long as the crow has young in the nest, and so effective are the tactics that no grouse can hatch its eggs in the crow's territory. However, when the young crows have left the nest, the crows seem much less interested in eggs. The grouse then reneest and may have a fair measure of success." This complete suppression of the early nestings of the grouse and the incomplete suppression of the late renestings agrees exactly with what we observe with the Mallards on our Laboratory grounds.—F. W. PRESTON, *Box 149, Butler, Pennsylvania, June 13, 1957.*

Broad-winged Hawk in Coahuila.—On July 6, 1955, I obtained a Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus platypterus*) 13 miles east of San Antonio de las Alazanas, Coahuila, in a Douglas fir-pine-aspen association. The specimen (KU 32628), an adult male, lacked the right foot and distal one-third of the tarsus. Despite this abnormality the animal was not emaciated. Pertinent measurements, in millimeters, were: right testis,

6 × 3; left testis, 7 × 2; wing, 274; culmen from cere, 18.1; middle toe without claw, 26.5. Because of the migratory habit of this species, its occurrence in Coahuila and other northern states of Mexico would be expected. Previously, however, the Broad-winged Hawk has been recorded in the Republic of Mexico only from the more southern states of Sinaloa, Jalisco, Colima, Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Veracruz (Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore, 1950, *Pacific Coast Avifauna* no. 29: 56). This species is known to breed as far south as Texas, the Gulf States and Florida. The condition of the testes of the Coahuilan bird suggests that it was not in breeding condition. This hawk, if a migrant, may have been retarded from moving northward by the loss of its foot.—ROBERT L. PACKARD, *University of Kansas, Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas, May 17, 1957.*

A pallid-eyed individual of *Dumetella carolinensis*.—From April 25 thru May 31, 1957, I banded 55 Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*) at my station in Addison Township, Oakland County, Michigan. On May 13, I caught and banded (55-147402) one which, instead of the normal dark purplish-brown, had extremely light-colored eyes. The outer margins of both irises were very pale gray, even lighter than platinum gray. Every detail of plumage was normal. I regret to report that the bird escaped while I was carrying it to the house where I intended to photograph it.—ALICE D. MILLER, *1150 Brewer Road, Leonard, Michigan, July 21, 1957.*