

used in this report is that resulting from studies of flickers (see Short, *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 129:307-428, 1965) and is to be used in my forthcoming monograph of the genus *Colaptes*.—LESTER L. SHORT, JR., *American Museum of Natural History, New York 10024, 8 January 1969.*

**Red-bellied Woodpecker feeds Tufted Titmouse.**—On 24 June, 1968, while watching the activities of a pair of adult Tufted Titmice (*Parus bicolor*) and their 3 recently fledged young in the Oliver's Woods Wildlife Preserve, located ½ mile south of the University of Oklahoma campus, I observed the following encounter between one of the fledglings and an adult Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*).

At 20:05, 53 minutes after the young birds had fledged, the family group was perched in a large elm tree 20 yards from the abandoned nest. An adult Red-bellied Woodpecker was foraging nearby and carrying food to a single fledgling of its own species which was perched in a tree adjoining the elm. On one trip back to its fledgling, and carrying what appeared to be a larval insect, the woodpecker landed about 18 inches from one of the fledgling tits. The tit immediately began to beg (wing flutter and call) and ran along the limb toward the woodpecker with his bill opened wide and his head and neck stretched forward. The woodpecker quickly moved backward several steps but the fledgling continued in pursuit, whereupon the woodpecker leaned forward and fed the tit.

The tit family group and the woodpecker were both active in the immediate area for the remainder of the day but no further encounters between the two were observed.—JAMES R. CURRY, *Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 26 September 1968.*

**A Carolina Wren shadow-boxing.**—On 21 August 1968 a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) came to my window feeding-shelf, and soon seemed to notice its image in the pane. It stared toward that for some seconds, then, still staring, gave three bursts of song. Then it moved closer and after singing several more times gave the glass a number of sharp pecks. It flew away, in six minutes returned, stared again at the pane and gave it one peck, then left for good. On 18 October the same wren, presumably, came again and, before I accidentally frightened it away, sang four phrases while gazing at the pane. A few other times in 1968, between 22 June and 24 December, I saw a Carolina Wren on the feeder but it ignored the window. Likewise, the species has visited this feeder in other years, some color-banded birds over periods as long as three months, without ever being seen to shadow-box.

Possibly these comparatively unusual late-summer and fall instances of the behavior are related to the Carolina Wren's occupation of territory throughout the year (Laskey, *Bird-Banding*, 19:101, 1948), just as I have a number of August to January dates for the Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) and Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), which maintain year-round or winter territories—although I also have December dates for the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). No literature available to me records this behavior by any species of wren.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, *2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore, Maryland, 8 January 1969.*

**Robin kills snake.**—On the afternoon of 20 June 1968, at a distance of about 25 yards, I saw an adult Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) kill a snake. The encounter took place in the bare wheel-track of a farm lane, which had grass in the center and at both

sides. The Robin had apparently caught the snake crossing or sunning itself on the bare area. The snake was about as long as the Robin and was most likely a garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), which is the common species in the area.

When first seen, the snake was violently and erratically writhing on the ground and several times it abruptly raised the front third or half of its body off the ground. It was apparently having convulsions secondary to brain damage.

The Robin repeatedly pecked at the snake and several times jumped up and back as the snake's forceful movements carried it toward the bird or off the ground. The snake's movements finally ceased completely in response to the persistent attacks, whereupon the Robin gathered the snake up in two coils in its bill and flew away.

Bent, (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 196:30, 1949) cites three reports of Robins killing snakes, and Netting (Wilson Bull., 81:470, 1969) lists three others.—WILLIAM F. DAVIS, 423 West 46th Street, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004, 7 November 1968.

**Does the Robin Eat DeKay's snake?**—The Robin is a common bird locally and DeKay's snake vies with the garter snake for the credit of being the most common snake within the city limits of Pittsburgh, Pa. It might be expected, therefore, that the interrelations of Robins and DeKay's snakes would be thoroughly known, yet such is far from the case. On 16 March 1935, Allan D. Kirk, of Forest Hills, collected, and subsequently donated to Carnegie Museum, a DeKay's snake (*Storeria d. dekayi*) (CM 8293) which had been seized by a Robin and then dropped after a few shakes. Shortly thereafter, in the hope of adding a new species to the Robin's menu, I caught a small DeKay's snake (as we called it in those days; its official common name now is northern brown snake) and endeavored to feed it to the Robins in my yard. This attempt was unsuccessful, but it bears repetition by persons with more patience, for the Robin is known to carry other small snakes to the nest and it is unlikely that the bird is able to distinguish species of small inoffensive snakes. Guthrie (Wilson Bull., 44:97, 1932) cites two references to Robins killing garter snakes, of 10 and 13 inches, but in one case the young were unable to eat the snake, and in the second instance feeding was not actually witnessed. Friedmann (The cowbirds:259-60, 1929) reports that a Robin fed a very young garter snake to a Cowbird, about 7 days old, which he had previously placed in the nest.—M. GRAHAM NETTING, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213, 30 December 1968.

**Recurrent use of territories by individual American Redstarts.**—Previous studies of the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) (cited in Yarrow, MS) have not dealt with banded populations. As a result, little is known about whether this species returns to the same territory in successive years. Using the predator-decoy method (R. Root and R. Yarrow, Auk, 84:423-424, 1967) I banded five adult redstarts during two seasons of field work in Renwick Bird Sanctuary, Ithaca, New York. Both adult males banded in 1965, each with a government band and two color bands, returned to the study area the following spring. They both defended territories adjacent to and somewhat overlapping the territories they had held the previous year. In 1967 and again in 1968, one of these males returned and appeared to defend the same area as in 1965. Redstarts may thus return at least four years in succession to virtually the same territory.—RUTH M. YARROW, Section on Ecology and Systematics, Division of Biological Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 14 August 1968.