

sylvania and paused to observe a lone male cowbird about twenty feet above the ground singing from the branch of a sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). Another male suddenly approached the singing bird and, without pausing, attacked it. The two birds fell to the ground together and proceeded to roll over and over for a period of three minutes and fifteen seconds. They were not separated from each other at any time during this period, although they did occasionally lie still (resting?) for periods of five to ten seconds. When they finally broke apart, one flew to a nearby tree, and was immediately attacked by the other. A chase ensued and the combatants flew out of sight to the south.

The motives which may have caused this altercation are not immediately apparent. The early date and the fact that territorial defence, if present, is restricted to an intimidation display (Friedmann, op. cit.) suggests that the conflict was due to some factor other than territoriality. Competition for nest sites is unlikely, since it is the female of the species that selects the nest in which her eggs are deposited (Bent, Life histories of North American blackbirds, orioles, tanagers and allies, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 211, 1958). However, competition for, or protection of a female is possible, since some cowbirds do have apparent monogamous relationships (Friedmann, op. cit.).

The uncommon tendency towards actual physical fighting is likely due to the fact that the cowbird has evolved a complex series of displays and postures (Laskey, Wilson Bull., 62:157-174, 1950) which would ordinarily serve to fulfill the function of actual combat. Thus, when fighting does occur, it may be because the individual has either not correctly interpreted an opponent's display, or its sexual (aggressive) drives are too strong to be fulfilled by a display. If this is in fact so, then an encounter of the duration and intensity described above becomes all the more unusual.

I wish to thank Dr. Jon C. Barlow for reading the manuscript.—PETER L. McLAREN, Royal Ontario Museum and Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, 23 October 1972.

Bronzed Cowbird extends range into the Texas Big Bend country.—The Bronzed Cowbird (*Tangavius aeneus*) has been a local summer resident in Big Bend National Park, Brewster County, Texas, only since 1969 when David Easterla (pers. comm.) observed four males and two females (one male was courting two females) in the Rio Grande Village Campground (1850 ft elev.) on 9 June 1969. I had not recorded the species on weekly visits there since August 1966. No further evidence of breeding was detected and birds were last seen on 4 July.

The Bronzed Cowbird next was recorded in the park, at Rio Grande Village, on 8 June 1970. At least six males and four females frequented the campground area until 3 July. On 12 July I found a Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) nest, hanging on a tamarisk, containing two juvenile Bronzed Cowbirds. One nestling was collected, and on 18 July the nest was empty and a juvenile Bronzed Cowbird was found 55 feet away being fed by both adult Hooded Orioles. And on 28 July I discovered another juvenile Bronzed Cowbird at an Orchard Oriole (*I. spurius*) nest, and watched a juvenile cowbird being fed by an adult female Orchard Oriole there on 30 July. In 1970, Pansy Espy (pers. comm.) recorded the Bronzed Cowbird in the Davis Mountains, Jeff Davis County on 23 June.

In 1971 an adult male Bronzed Cowbird appeared at Panther Junction (3800 ft elev.) on 22 May and remained until 29 May when it was banded and released. I found four male and four female Bronzed Cowbirds at Rio Grande Village Campground on 29 May, and at least a few of these individuals remained through 13 July. Also in 1971, at least

one male cowbird was present from 5 June through 10 July at Cottonwood Campground, 80 miles up river from Rio Grande Village. On 27 June I found a juvenile Bronzed Cowbird begging from a female Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), and on 4 August a juvenile cowbird begging from an Orchard Oriole at Rio Grande Village Campground.

These data suggest the Bronzed Cowbird is increasing its range westward in Texas. Wolfe (Check-list of the birds of Texas, 1956) considered it as resident only within the lower Rio Grande Valley, and "rarely north as far as Bexar County." However, Webster (Audubon Field Notes, 16:493, 1962) reported that the Bronzed Cowbird is "now regular in small numbers" in San Antonio, Bexar County.

Webster (Audubon Field Notes, 14:466-467, 1960) also reported that "A Bronzed Cowbird in juvenal plumage, fully grown, was collected by Selander southeast of the Austin city limits (Travis County) in July, climaxing several recent reported observations from that area. This marks a northward range extension of this species in central Texas. Expansion is occurring also in the west. Kincaid, who has observed birds in Uvalde County since 1927 (mostly between 1937 and 1939), saw his first Bronzed Cowbird there on May 17, 1960. They appeared well distributed in Uvalde County, on May 25, and were present at Fort Clark (Kinney County) on June 8 (EBK)."

Francis Williams (pers. comm.) reported that C. C. Wiedenfeld found Bronzed Cowbirds at San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas in May and June 1972; Wiedenfeld observed a juvenal cowbird being fed by a male Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) there on 18 May.—ROLAND H. WAUER, *Natural Science, National Park Service, Southwest Region, Box 728, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501, 9 October 1972.*

Further notes on Rosy Finches wintering in Utah.—Three kinds of Rosy Finches occur in winter in northern Utah, namely two races of the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, *Leucosticte tephrocotis tephrocotis* and *L. t. littoralis*, which are distinguishable in the field on the basis of the color of the cheek patch, and the Black Rosy Finch (*L. atrata*). Probably some representatives of the black species are altitudinal migrants since the species breeds in the nearby Wasatch Mountains east of Salt Lake City as well as in the Uinta Mountains of northeastern Utah (French, Condor, 61:18-29, 1959). The Gray-crowned representatives are all migrants from the north or northwest. King and Wales (Condor, 66:24, 1964) state that the three kinds appear to arrive and depart concurrently, most arriving within a span of three weeks in late October and early November and leaving during the last two weeks of March. Their evidence suggested a relatively precise annual regularity of migration, particularly in spring. However, dates of observation of Rosy Finches in Salt Lake Valley extend beyond these intervals. The earliest date on which they have been observed is 20 September while the latest date of occurrence is 20 April.

In the middle of winter, during daytime hours, Rosy Finches commonly frequent areas of sagebrush or scrub oak, on the benchlands and foothills foraging in snow-free sites where ground litter and food items are exposed. Flocks observed by the writer consist either of *L. atrata* exclusively or of *L. tephrocotis*. When the latter is the case, representatives of both races occur side by side. Whether some diurnal flocks are made up of both species and hence all three kinds, has not been ascertained, but all three kinds definitely intermingle at their roosting sites. For these they commonly seek warmer areas sheltered from the wind such as cave entrances, strings of standing railroad cars, sheds, and buildings (French, Auk, 76:173-175, 1959 and U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 237, pt. 1: