

migration, although no such phenomenon in blackbirds has ever been reported to our knowledge. The birds were headed in the proper direction, and blackbird movements north occur regularly at this time (vanguards of the Red-winged Blackbird migration normally reach northern Ohio about 1 March). Stoddard and Norris (Bird Casualties at a Leon County, Florida TV Tower: An Eleven-year Study, Bull. Tall Timbers Res. Stn. No. 8:90, 1967) report many dead Redwings in the early morning at a TV tower in northern Florida. However, they believe that these birds likely struck the tower and attendant guy wires under crepuscular rather than nocturnal conditions.

We thank Judge Erwin Sibley for allowing our use of the roost on his property for studies and J. S. Webb and W. J. Francis for reviewing this note.—ALLEN R. STICKLEY, JR., *U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Division of Wildlife Research, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Ohio Field Station, P. O. Box 2097, Sandusky, Ohio 44870* and DAVID E. STEFFEN, *129 Collamer Road, Hilton, New York 14468. Accepted 7 September 1973.*

Common Grackles preying on fish.—In June 1973, I observed Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) preying on small fish at the spillway of Bluff Lake, Noxubee Wildlife Refuge, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. Up to 15 birds engaged in the behavior, feeding sporadically and with neither great agility nor awkwardness on small minnows of unidentified species. I observed the activity for two hours on 23 June and four and one half hours on 24 June, while sitting 50 to 150 feet away and using 7× binoculars. On 25 and 27 June I also noted that the birds were feeding at the spillway, which empties from the lake into Oktoc Creek. On these dates water running over the spillway was one to two inches deep, but on 29 June the spillway was dry and no grackles were in it.

When feeding in the spillway, birds would alight on a nearby perch or land directly in the water. Perching birds flew down to the water and caught fish, while those in the water walked around and caught fish that happened to be swept near them. A captured fish was frequently eaten immediately after being caught, either as the bird stood in the water or after it flew to a tree branch or the concrete wall of the spillway. Most of the time the grackles ate fish whole, head first. On some occasions a grackle held a fish with its feet and tore out small pieces to eat.

Some grackles did not eat the fish at the spillway, but left with them in their bills and may have taken them to nests or young. Such birds carried away up to three fish at a time. In one incident, such a bird held the first fish that it caught under its foot while it caught a second one. It then flew away with both fish in its bill.

A young grackle also came to the spillway and was repeatedly fed whole fish by an adult. The young bird made no attempt to catch fish and was very vocal until it was fed. It was quite clumsy with the fish, usually dropping them two or three times before swallowing them.

Common Grackles have previously been reported to eat small fish and feed them to their young. Beal (U.S. Dept. Agri. Biological Survey, Bull. 13, 1900) and Snelling (Auk, 85:560, 1968) report occurrences of fish in gullet and stomach analyses, but it was not known if the fish were taken alive. Beal states that fish were infrequent in nearly 2,500 stomachs.

Snyder (Canadian Field-Naturalist, 42:44, 1928) describes Common Grackles fishing for small minnows in a garden pool in Canada. He presumed the adults were carrying the fish to the young, although he saw no actual feeding taking place. Pellett (Wilson Bull., 38:235, 1926) describes similar behavior by Common Grackles below a dam near

Hamilton, Illinois. He did not see fish eaten but presumed also that the birds were feeding them to young. In contrast to my observations, he observed the grackles "beating the minnows to death," before carrying them away.

I wish to thank Dr. Jerome A. Jackson for his suggestions and encouragement concerning this manuscript. This note is a result of a project for an ornithology course in the Zoology Department at Mississippi State University.—TOM DARDEN, *546 Moss Hill Drive, New Albany, Mississippi 38652. Accepted 12 November 1973.*

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

We saddened to note the passing of Albert F. Ganier in Nashville, Tennessee, on 20 December 1973. Mr. Ganier was the Society's oldest living president, having served from 1924 to 1926, and he joined the Society in 1915. We also note the passing in recent months of Amelia Laskey and the Rev. Joseph James Murray, both of whom were contributors to the Bulletin and the Society.

Limited funds are available through the National Academy of Sciences for travel to the International Ornithological Congress in Canberra, Australia in August, 1974. Selection will be made by a panel of the U.S. National Committee of the International Union of Biological Sciences. Direct inquiries about application for the funds to Mr. Harvey Sheppard, Division of Biological Sciences, National Research Council, Washington, D. C. 20418. Application should be submitted by May 1, 1974.

The International Council for Bird Preservation has funds for research and conservation of endangered or vulnerable species. Proposals may be submitted to the Office of the President, I.C.B.P., Room 336, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560, U.S.A.

I.C.B.P. is currently revising the Red Data Book, Vol. II, Aves, on agreement with I.U.C.N. Published or unpublished reports on the status of endangered or vulnerable bird species are urgently requested at the above address.