

The possibility of the Green Jay and the Blue Jay occurring naturally together during the breeding season is remote, so that hybrids are not to be expected in the wild. In Texas, the Green Jay occurs locally throughout the Rio Grande Valley to Laredo, Webb Co., and to Falfurrias, Brooks Co., and occasionally north to Alice, Jim Wells Co., and sporadically north to San Antonio, Bexar Co. In winter, the Blue Jay is found as a straggler on Edwards Plateau just north of San Antonio and rarely in the Rio Grande Valley.

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**Dusky Seaside Sparrow feeds Red-winged Blackbird fledglings.**—The endangered Dusky Seaside Sparrow (*Ammospiza maritima nigrescens*), restricted to small tracts of salt and brackish marsh near Titusville, Brevard Co., Florida, is rapidly nearing extinction. While censusing the population on St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge on 9 August 1976, we noted an unmated, color-banded male sparrow had abandoned a territory defended since 10 June to feed two recently fledged Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) about 50 m away. The mother of the brood was completely tolerant of the sparrow's activity, despite the sparrow's strenuous efforts to keep her away. Both birds fed the young until 12 August. Among 13 food items brought by the sparrow were five grasshoppers and three spiders (cf. Howell, *Florida Bird Life*, Coward-McCann, New York, New York, 1932). Based on 736 min of observation during these 4 days, foraging accounted for 36% of the sparrow's activity, food delivery for 17%, singing for 18% and aggression toward the female red-wing for 8%; the remaining time was spent on perch or in unknown activity. Mean duration of the red-wing's foraging absences was longer than the sparrow's (8 min vs 14 min,  $t = 2.40$ ,  $df = 36$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ,  $N = 22$  and 16, respectively), and she spent a greater proportion of her time foraging (75%).

Most instances of interspecific helping have involved adults actively or recently engaged in reproduction (Skutch, *Condor* 63:198–226, 1961). While the color-banded sparrow was seen with a female and young in 1973 and presumably had ample additional breeding experience, we are convinced, based on 5 months of observation, that he was unmated and had neither nest nor young in 1976. Factors which may have contributed to his abnormal behavior are unclear. Between 1970 and 1976, wildfires reduced the population of Dusky Seaside Sparrows on St. Johns NWR from 110 to 12 (11 ♂♂, 1 ♀). During spring 1976, local variation in the rate of vegetative recovery, coupled with rapid flooding due to heavy rains, resulted in considerable shifting of sparrow territories. Prior to feeding the red-wings the sparrow was occupying his second territory of the year, the first (occupied 4 May–7 June) having been flooded. We believe that the low level of the population, the shortage of females and perhaps the instability of sparrow territories may have acted individually or in concert to prompt this male's unusual behavior.

These data were collected while JLR was conducting research for an M.S. degree at the University of Georgia. Support for this study was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.—JAMES L. RAKESTRAW, *School of Forest Resources, Univ. Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602* AND JAMES L. BAKER, *Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Titusville, Florida 32780.* (Present addresses: JLR: *Museum of Natural History, Univ. Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045* AND JLB: *Jacksonville Area Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 15 N. Laura St., Jacksonville, Florida 32202.*) *Accepted 24 June 1980.*