

express our thanks to G. T. Allen and S. V. Sherrod for their comments on an earlier draft. The research is a cooperative effort between Idaho Power Company, the Bureau of Land Management, Boise District's Snake River Birds of Prey Research Project, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.—ANTHONIE M. A. HOLTHUIZEN, *Idaho Power Company, Environmental Affairs Dept., Box 70, Boise, Idaho 83707*, PETER A. DULEY, JOAN C. HAGAR, SCOTT A. SMITH, AND KRISTIN N. WOOD, *Snake River Birds of Prey Research Project, Bureau of Land Management, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, Idaho 83705. Received 22 Apr. 1986, accepted 14 July 1986.*

Wilson Bull., 99(1), 1987, p. 136

An incident of brood parasitism by the Verdin.—While in south Texas during May and June, 1980–1982, I recorded an incident of interspecific brood parasitism of a Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) by the Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*), a species thought only to build its own nests.

On 22 May 1980, at the Val Verde Trailer Park, Donna, Hidalgo County, Texas, I found a Northern Mockingbird nest that contained two Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) eggs and a single Verdin egg, all of which were being incubated. The nest was located in a citrus tree, about 2 m above ground level. The eggs were taken by a predator about 24 hours after my discovery, before any hatched. To my knowledge, this is the first reported case of interspecific parasitism by the Verdin.

Acknowledgments.—For financial support I thank the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund (American Museum of Natural History); Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society; the University of Minnesota's Computer Center, Graduate School, Sigerfoos Fund, Department of Ecology and Behavioral Biology; and the Dayton Natural History and Wilkie Funds of the Bell Museum of Natural History. For their comments, I thank F. McKinney and A. R. Weisbrod.—MICHAEL D. CARTER, *Bell Museum of Natural History, Univ. Minnesota, 10 Church St., S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455. Received 11 Apr. 1986, accepted 7 Aug. 1986.*

Wilson Bull., 99(1), 1987, pp. 136–137

Downy Woodpecker caches food.—Caching of food is rare in woodpeckers. Two species, the Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) (MacRoberts and MacRoberts, Ornithol. Monogr. 21, 1976) and the Lewis Woodpecker (*M. lewisi*) (Bock, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool. 92, 1970) are known to store large numbers of acorns for future use. Food caching is also noted for the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*M. carolinus*), Gila Woodpecker (*M. uropygialis*), Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*M. aurifrons*), Red-headed Woodpecker (*M. erythrocephalus*), Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), and Red-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), (Conner and Knoll, Auk 96:195, 1970, and references within). On 6 November 1985, I observed a female Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) feeding on poison ivy (*Rhus toxicodendron*) berries. The bird was about 3 m from me when first seen and moved to within 1.3 m as it foraged in a dying apple (*Pyrus malus*) tree. The bird sat crosswise on the twigs of both the poison ivy and apple, and often turned upside down in the manner of a Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) or Black-capped Chickadee (*P. atricapillus*) to reach the ivy berries. Six times the bird flew, with one to several berries in its beak, to a second apple tree about 20 m away. On one occasion the bird was seen to place the berries in a crack in the bark

of this second tree. Although I could not determine whether caching occurred more than once, that this bird repeatedly carried ivy berries to the second tree and returned with an empty bill indicates that caching was the purpose of these trips.—ALBERT E. BURCHSTED, *Dept. Biological Science, College of Staten Island, 715 Ocean Terr., Staten Island, New York 10301. Received 21 Mar. 1986, accepted 18 June 1986.*