

at Elkhart Lake, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, from January through March 1986. The birds were kept in captivity as part of a study on agonistic communication (Popp, in prep.). During January the group consisted of two males (L and R) and two females. The birds were captured, as a group (near a feeding station), in late December 1985. The birds had probably been members of the same flock. All birds were hatching-year individuals at the time of capture. Dominance relationships were determined by observing aggressive encounters that occurred over access to a feeder. A bird was considered dominant to another bird if it won (displaced its opponent) in most of the encounters between them. Dominance relationships were clear-cut between all individuals. Both males were dominant to the females, and L was dominant to R. At the end of January two additional birds (one male, one female) were introduced to the group as part of the main study. At this time there was a change in the dominance hierarchy, with R becoming dominant to L. L and R remained dominant to all other birds. Interactions among the finches at a feeder were videotaped as part of the study of agonistic communication. Additional haphazard observations were made of the goldfinches while they were elsewhere in the enclosure.

Allofeeding was seen 13 times during January (during 20 h of observations). Food was passed in a manner similar to that reported for Eurasian Siskins (Senar 1984). The male giving the food was in an upright posture and made regurgitation movements, while the bird receiving the food was in a more crouched posture. In all cases the subordinate bird (R) passed food to the dominant (L). In each case, L solicited from R (by pecking at his beak) before the food was passed. Following the reversal in dominance L was seen soliciting food from R seven times during February (15 h of observation). In all cases R refused to pass food to the now subordinate L, and in four of the cases R directed an agonistic display (head forward display; see Coutlee, *Wilson Bull.* 79:89–109, 1967) towards L. L stopped soliciting food from R in March.

As both individuals were males, the observed behavior was not courtship feeding. Also, it was not parent-offspring feeding as both individuals were caught as juveniles. That food passing always occurred from the subordinate bird to the dominant bird and that it ceased when dominance was reversed confirms that allofeeding is related to dominance status (cf. Senar 1984).

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Brewer's Blackbird feeding on a Barn Swallow.—At 19:40 on 10 June 1985 we observed an adult male Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) feeding on a dead Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, Butte County, Idaho. Our attention was drawn to the blackbird, which was on the ground 70 m off at the edge of a parking lot, because of its conspicuous pecking and plucking movements. We moved to within 50 m and continued observations with 16× binoculars. The blackbird vigorously pecked at the dead bird and ate for ca 5 min, then flew with some flesh in its beak to a nest in low shrubs 150 m from the feeding site. It then flew ca 100 m to a lawn and drank from a small puddle of water. We examined the nest and found 4 approximately 7-day-old blackbird nestlings. Inspection of the partially consumed Barn Swallow revealed that portions of its head, neck, pectoral, and femoral regions had been consumed. Much of the swallow had been plucked. While we were inspecting the Barn Swallow remains, a male Brewer's Blackbird flew briefly into the area and then left.

The cause of the swallow's death is unknown. We assume that the blackbird was opportunistically scavenging. Although invertebrate animal matter comprises a high portion of the blackbird's diet (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 211, 1938; Horn, *Ecology* 49:682-694, 1968; Orians and Horn, *Ecology* 50:930-938, 1969), we know of no other records of Brewer's Blackbirds feeding on a bird.

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