

on both the behavior and relatedness of helpers to the breeding pair it is not possible to speculate why mature individuals help at the nest in this species.

At present the importance of helping at the nest in Bridled Titmice lies in its relative taxonomic isolation. The fact that this behavior is rare among other members of the family makes this taxonomic group a fertile ground for comparative testing of theories of cooperative breeding.

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Swainson's Thrush Caught in Enchanter's Nightshade

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ABSTRACT.—On 10 September 1993, I was tending the banding nets for the Rouge River Bird Observatory (RRBO) at the University of Michigan–Dearborn, Wayne Co., Michigan. On my way down the net lanes, I noticed a bird struggling in the weeds. It was

a Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustalatus*) thoroughly caught by the wings in the seed pods of a clump of enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea quadrisulcata* syn. *lutetiana*). Despite the bird flapping even more vigorously as I approached, it could not free itself. I disengaged the bird from the plant and returned to the banding lab. The bird was an apparently healthy hatchling-year individual that weighed 32.1 grams. (The mean weight of 472 Swainson's Thrushes banded at

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RRBO is 32.7 g.) Received 23 Aug. 1997, accepted 2 June 1998.

There are numerous accounts of small birds being entangled in burdock (*Arctium minus*). They include four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*), three Black-capped Chickadees (*Poecile atricapillus*), one Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), well over a dozen Golden-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus satrapa*), two Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*), one each Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*), Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*), Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) and Pine Siskin (*Cardulis pinus*), two unidentified warblers, and several American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) (McNicholl 1988, 1994; Wright 1984). Hampson (1970) provides the only report of birds trapped in a plant other than burdock: a House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet entangled in beggar's lice (*Hackelia virginiana*).

The seed heads of burdock are fairly large

(1.5–3 cm), and the plant itself is robust. The fruits of beggar's lice are also bur-like, approximately 8 mm wide. With the exception of the Solitary Vireo, all of the victims are small birds; for example, the mean weight of Golden-crowned Kinglets (the most frequent victims) is just over 6 g (Dunning 1993). In contrast, enchanter's nightshade is a relatively weak plant, with very small (<3 mm) nut-like seeds covered with minute barbed hairs, giving a Velcro®-like effect. This is the first reported instance of a bird being caught in enchanter's nightshade, and the Swainson's Thrush is the largest bird reported entangled in seed heads.

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Comparisons of Wintering Bird Communities in Mature Pine Stands Managed by Prescribed Burning

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ABSTRACT.—We compared the effects of growing season and dormant season prescribed fire on the winter bird communities in mature pine stands on Fort Benning Military Reservation, Georgia. We surveyed the avian community using fixed-radius point counts from 1 December 1995 to 28 February 1996, one year after burning. We detected no differences in mean bird abundance or species richness between burn treatments. No species was observed more or less frequently in either burn treatment. Season of burn had little

apparent effect on the composition of wintering bird communities in managed mature pine forests. Received 31 March 1998, accepted 30 July 1998.

Winter mortality may be a limiting factor for many resident birds in North America (Arcese et al. 1992), and the alteration or loss of winter habitats could contribute to avian population declines (Terborgh 1989, Morton 1992). Consequently, conditions on the wintering ground can influence breeding populations in following years (Baillie and Peach 1992) through competition for winter habitats

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