

FIELD NOTES

Bluebird Nest Box Project in Dutchess County: In 1962 a Bluebird housing project was started by the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, one member putting up 20 houses in March. One pair of Bluebirds nested and brought off two broods.

In 1963, 13 more houses were put out, this time farther from human habitation, and in more carefully selected localities. Bluebirds used 6 boxes, with approximately 20 young fledged.

In 1964, 16 new boxes were placed in those locations which had been most successful in 1963. Of 42 houses now available, 20 were used by Bluebirds. Five pairs raised second broods, and the young totalled 112, of which 47 were banded by Thelma Haight. Of the 22 remaining boxes, 16 were occupied by Tree Swallows, 3 by House Wrens, 1 by House Sparrows, 1 was unoccupied, and 2 contained dead Tree Swallows.

Mrs. Homer Germond, Shunpike, Clinton Corners

Cedar Waxwing with a Red Tail-band: On 1 November 1964, I observed a flock of six Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) feeding on the berries of a Mountain Ash, which is about twenty feet from my window. While watching them, I noted one bird had a bright red or scarlet band on the tip of the tail feathers instead of the usual yellow or orange. The time was near noon on a bright sunny day, so there was no mistaking this unusual color. The bird with the red band was the same size and had the other markings similar to the rest of the flock and did not resemble the Bohemian Waxwing (*B. garrula*).

Margaret Cornwell, 8 Henfling Road, Scarsdale

Note: This observation is of interest as *B. japonicus*, the waxwing found in Japan, northern China, and Siberia, has a bright red tailband.

An examination of approximately 480 Cedar Waxwing specimens in the American Museum of Natural History shows that, occasionally, the shafts of the tail feathers will be red, terminating in a "drop of wax" as on the wing. None of the specimens exhibit red instead of the usual yellow on the tail feathers. The closest approximation to this condition was one individual which had the yellow of two of the tail feathers replaced by an orange wash.

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Fall Feeding of Pileated Woodpecker: On October 19, 1964, at 4:00 P.M. EDT, I watched a Pileated Woodpecker feeding on the fruits of the Frost Grape (*Vitis vulpina*). The interval was over a twenty-minute period, during which the bird hopped about over the vines which grew over the shrubs and herb growth in an open woodland in Central Park, Schenectady. While feeding and climbing surrounding saplings, the bird cackled constantly.

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Ed. Note: In the fall, the Pileated Woodpecker frequently adds fruits and mast to its diet. Several species of wild grapes, chokecherries, fruits of Virginia Creeper and Poison Ivy all seem to be relished, but there are not many published accounts of observations of this type of feeding.

Notes on Winter Owls in Northern New York: On December 24, 1964 Frank Clinch and I were called to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Gorgen in Black River village to identify a Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) in their backyard. While we were there we watched it catch a field mouse, return to a low tree limb and consume it head first. Some pictures were taken. I saw it again on January 2, 1965 perched on a roof antenna of Pine Lodge in Black River.