

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Cedar Waxwing caught on fishing line – Birds are frequently injured or killed because of man-made structures. There are numerous reports of birds, particularly waterfowl, colliding with telephone and power lines, barbed wire fences and other structures (Cornwell, G. and H. A. Hochbaum. 1971. Collisions with Wires - a Source of Anatid Mortality. *Wilson Bull.* 83: 305-306. Edeburn, R. M. 1973. Great Horned Owl Impaled on Barbed Wire. *Wilson Bull.* 85: 478.) These reports generally involve the accidental striking of obstacles in the path of the bird's flight. I recently discovered a Cedar Waxwing (*Bombicilla cedrorum*) that had encountered a somewhat different hazard.

On 7 July 1984 I was fishing along Nine Mile Creek between the Village of Camillus and Marcellus in Onondaga County, New York. This small stream is heavily wooded along its edges. From an overhanging limb about four feet above the water's surface, a fisherman's dry fly and accompanying hook was dangling from a snagged monofilament line, apparently the result of an errant cast. Attached to the hook was a Cedar Waxwing. The bird was apparently catching insects flying over the stream and had mistaken the fly for a live insect. Perhaps a light wind had given the fly the appearance of a moving insect and attracted the Cedar Waxwing. This species occasionally feeds on flying insects and is often seen feeding in open areas above water bodies with forested edges. The hook was impaled in the roof of the bird's mouth. It was alive when found and upon removal of the hook it was released.

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