Sun brings out birds' best



When the male was perched in the open and exposed to the direct sunlight, his orange body feathers appeared so bright they almost looked artificial.

By Timothy Nowicki

With students from my Bird Study class at Schoolcraft College, I spent a June morning birding at Kensing-ton Metropark.

ton Metropark. We arrived about 9 a.m. and were greated by a pair of northern orioles (formerly Baltimore orioles) nesting in a sycamore tree at the nature center parking Iol. The male was near the top of the tree presenting in the warm morning and, while the female brought food

sun, while the female brought food to the nestlings. When the male was perched in the open and exposed to the direct sun-light, his orange body feathers appeared as bright they almost looked artificial. Direct sunlight al-looke plagment and feather structure to most together to create the most intense color.

AS WE CONTINUED along the trail, we found another bird that demonstrated this principle. An in-digo bunting, a small finch, was spotted in some low bushes near the trail. Looking at the bird in the shadows did not reveal why this species is called "indigo". But as soon as the male was exposed to sunlight, the rich, royal blue color of bis feathers became evident.

Though most mammals do not perceive color the way man does, birds have excellent color percep-tion. Some of the most colorful liv-ing creatures are birds or animals that birds cat. The boldy colored to alert birds and other predators to stay away because they are di-tasteful. These bold patterns and brilliant colors are easily remem-bered by a bird after it encounters a noxious insect.

IN ADDITION to observing sever-IN ADDITION to observing sever-al species of birds, we saw a number of white-tailed deer. Two young bucks with their early antier growth in thick velvet ran across an open field right in front of us. Their redd-ish summer coats glowed in the sun-light just like the feathers of the birds we saw.

hight just like the feathers of the birds we saw. In order to see and appreciate the variety and patterns of color in wibilite, it is best to see them in open sunlight. Our last example of this phenom-enon was the male eastern bluebird we saw by its nest box. Only when he flew indo the open did we see the blue that makes him so attractive.

Timothy Nowicki has a mas-ter's degree in biology and is ac-tive in local environmental groups.

Thursday, June 27, 1985 O&E



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Local colleges play key training role becavity involved in new. Intensitien coordinated efforts to retrain Miching tives and state efficials said last week. The community college leaders met

they and state difficults sub task week. The community college leaders much with Dr. Phillip E. Runkel, state super-intendent of public instruction, and other state job development leaders. The occasion was the annual planning conference of the Community Colleges Network for Economic Development and Job Training.

and Job Training. "I commit to you a stronger partner-ship than we have ever had," said Runkel. "We think you are the most im-portant new ingredient in education in the state — we need to work together. There needs to be a partnership." Runkel said efforts in the state to coordinate education in partnership will be increased, and that the role of

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BOTH RUNKEL and Philip H. Pow-er, chairman of the Michigan Job Coor-dinating Council and member of the Coverno's Commission on Higher Edu-cation, said that the state will be help-ing to coordinate all job development agencies.

Power, owner of Observer & Eccen-trie Newspapers, said an Inventory by the Governor's Office of Job Training bas shown that there are nine state de-partments operating 36 different train-ing programs at a cost of \$650 million annually.

annually. In response to a question about the new programs, Runkel suggested: "We could even borrow money, look at bonding for equipment and pay it off with long term debt. I support that if

state's new technology deployment service, "The technology deployment service will work with medium-sized and small Michigan manufacturers that are modernizing their production technolo-gy", he said. gy," he said. He explained that the technology de-

we could be assured that the outcome was there. that people would be pro-ductive in jobs, that productivity would be increased. "We've got to find ways to bring to-gether members of the comunoity col-together members of the comunoity of the share ideas." Runkel said. "We should be bringing all these peo-ple together in a series of meetings. If we can develop a record of placement, matching people with Jobs, we can make a big difference."

Power said the state must target training money on the type of jobs which are anticipated in this state five to 10 years in the juture.

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ne explainte that the technology de-ployment service will qualify selected manufacturers for employee training required by the new technologies. "Community colleges will play astrong role in providing such training," Rus-roll cold sell said

sell said. The community college network, headed by Barbara Eidersveld, agreed to intensify efforts in marketing the in-dustrial training services of communi-ty colleges and to step up development of staff. State corporations will be con-training services of community col-leges.

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DR. JACK Russell of the Governor's Cabinet Council on Jobs and Economic Development said the community col-leges will be asked to participate in the