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Dr. Eliot Porter
c/o E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc.
201 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10003

Dear Dr. Porter:

After reading your book "Birds of North America" I thought you might have the answer to my questions.

For the first time in five years we had blue birds in one of our two blue bird houses. Our neighbor's cat was continually after the adult birds. After not seeing the adult birds for a few days I looked in the bird house. All that remained were some feathers and small bones plus a great number of large black ants.

My one question is: Do the black ants go after the birds in the nest while they are still alive or only after they are dead? The cat could have killed the adult bird or birds or scared them away.

I have three "have-a-hart traps" and have tried to trap this darn cat for months, but to no avail. Another question: How best to catch a cat?

If you can answer either one or both of my questions I will indeed be grateful.

Truly yours,

Einar Greenwall

ECG/g