



**FIGURE 21.23.** Begging by chicks stimulates the parents to provide more food. (A) A cowbird, *Molothrus ater*, begging in a nest containing chicks of its host, the yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*). (B) The cowbird does not eject all the host's offspring: A survey of 18 species shows that several host chicks usually fledge and that the growth rate of the cowbird is higher when an intermediate number of host chicks fledge. (C) Cowbirds grow faster when reared with two phoebe chicks (red) than when reared alone (blue).

21.23B, redrawn from Kilner R.M. et al., *Science* **305**: 877–879, © 2004 American Association for the Advancement of Science