

it should make so serious a mistake. The bird, no doubt, had been without food for sometime as the body was very much emaciated and many of the quills had penetrated deep into the flesh causing puss to form. It would have been an interesting study specimen if the skin could have been preserved without removing any of the quills but that was impossible as most of them had to be extracted with a pair of pinchers in order to skin it. The specimen is now in the collection of the late Mr. R. D. Hoyt, Seven Oaks, Florida.—ALBERT LANO, *Fayetteville, Arkansas.*

The Whistled Call of the Hairy Woodpecker.—On January 9, 1922, at 4:15 p. m. I visited my bird trapping station, and discovered that I had captured a male Hairy Woodpecker. For some reason, or other, all species of woodpeckers, that I have caught, seem to be unable to find the exit into the back part of the trap, unless assisted. This individual seemed to be no exception, as he was rushing back and forth, vainly seeking a means of escape, and as I approached he climbed upon the sides of the trap and hung there.

I immediately knelt down beside the trap and began rapping on the sides, this was the only way I could make him loosen his hold, and go into the other part so I could release him. It was of no avail, and finally becoming tired of my position, I arose to my feet. At the same time I was somewhat startled by a loud, piercing, *quavering* whistle. At first I thought it was a whistle blown by some child; I looked out toward the street, but there were no children in sight. Then it came again, loud, clear and decidedly unfamiliar. This time however, I realized that it was a bird call, and examined the surrounding trees. Chickadees were the only birds in sight and I knew that they were quite incapable of making such a sound. The thought that the Hairy Woodpecker was the whistler, never, for a moment entered my mind. For, strangely enough, the sound did not seem to come from the trap, there was an odd ventriloqual quality about it that I cannot describe.

I finally gave up trying to solve the problem, and again turned my attention to my captive, he was still energetically seeking a means of escape. I knelt beside the trap again, and began tapping on it. Again came the odd *quavering* whistle, and it was with a real thrill that I made the discovery that it was the Hairy Woodpecker, after all, that had been calling in this strange manner. He continued to whistle until I succeeded in driving him into the other compartment.

While I was adjusting the band he struggled violently, pecking savagely at my hands and at the band, and every few moments whistling shrilly. Taking the bird's actions into consideration, one might be led to the supposition that this was a cry of anger, for there is no doubt about it, the bird seemed very resentful from the time I discovered him until he was released.

I examined all the bird books in my possession to find an account of

this particular cry, but was unable to find any record of it, I then wrote to the Biological Survey, Washington, and Mr Henderson replied, saying that it was a call known to a very few ornithologists.

All of the male Hairy Woodpeckers that I have banded or have observed, answer Dr. Chapman's description, in that they have the scarlet band on the nape. This individual was an exception, the band was *white*, and in the center of the back of the head were two oval red spots, so accurately and perfectly proportioned, that they seemed to have been painted there. These were separated by a fine black line.—KATHLEEN M. HEMPEL, *Elkader, Iowa.*

Two Interesting Occurrences of the Alder Flycatcher in Erie County, N. Y.—The Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli alnorum*) has always been considered a rare, or at least uncommon, breeder in this general locality. During the ten years prior to 1921, I failed to meet with a single pair, and I can not believe that the peculiar "song" of this bird would pass unnoticed. And yet, during the nesting season of 1921, I found two singing Flycatchers, both in characteristic locations, near Hamburg. Presumably, two pairs were breeding but, although a careful search was made in each case, neither nest was discovered.

The first bird was seen May 30, in a small swamp at the very edge of the uplands south of the village, within a mile or two of nesting Juncos (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) and Blackburnian Warblers (*Dendroica fusca*). The "song," as I heard it, was the dissyllabic "grea'-deal," as written by De Witt Miller, and quoted by Eaton in his 'Birds of New York.' The accent was on the "deal." The bird sang frequently, each utterance being accompanied by a noticeable swelling of the throat and a sudden upward jerk of the head.

A second visit was paid to this locality on June 5. The bird was found in the same place and was still singing at frequent intervals. However, on June 12, the date of my final observation, the Alder appeared to be much more quiet and was located only with considerable difficulty.

On June 18, while passing through a somewhat larger swamp on the lowlands north of Hamburg, I was surprised to hear a familiar "grea'-deal," and lost no time in locating another Flycatcher. This bird did not sing at all frequently, however, and might easily have been overlooked. The swamp also proved to be the home of a pair of Virginia Rails (*Rallus virginianus*), two pairs of Swamp Sparrows (*Melospiza georgiana*) and at least two pairs of Veeries (*Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*). Unfortunately, I was unable to revisit the locality until July 10, at which time the Alder Flycatcher could not be found.

My experience this year leads me to think that the Alder Flycatcher may be a more common summer resident in this general area than our present records would indicate. If suitable locations are carefully watched during May and early June, the bird may be found to be a regular breeder, although the pairs will be few in number and very locally distributed by reason of the choice of habitat.