

condition of the ovary in the female indicated that the first egg would have been laid within a week, so this may be taken as a breeding record.

Archibuteo ferrugineus. FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG.—An adult of the ordinary light colored type was seen at Osoyoos twice on April 28 under circumstances that left no doubt whatever in my mind as to its identity, the bird being within one hundred yards and carefully scrutinized in a good light with an eight power glass; all its very distinctive markings were noted. Another in the melanistic phase was seen several times on May 22. It is highly probable this hawk breeds in the vicinity. This is the first record of its occurrence in British Columbia.

Falco columbarius suckleyi. BLACK MERLIN.—A fine adult male Black Merlin was taken in the foothills east of Oliver, some fifteen miles north of Osoyoos Lake, by P. A. Taverner, June 10. Although the condition of the organs showed that this was a non-breeding bird its occurrence in the breeding season in the territory occupied by the pale subspecies of the Pigeon Hawk, *Falco columbarius bendirei*, recently described by Kirke Swann, is notable. The specimen, now in the collection of the Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa, is a typical *suckleyi* with the markings on the inner webs of the primaries reduced to small isolated spots.

Spiza americana. DICKCISSEL.—A singing male was taken by P. A. Taverner at an alfalfa field on the eastern shore of Vaseaux Lake, in the southern Okanagan Valley, on June 12, 1922; the sexual organs were extremely large. A bird which was obviously its mate came out of some brush within a few yards and peered at Mr. Taverner as he was putting up the specimen; this points to a breeding station. The record is some eight hundred miles further west than the previous western record in northeastern Wyoming, and is the first instance of the occurrence of the species west of the mountains.

I am indebted to Mr. Taverner for the privilege of publishing these last two records.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*.

Winter Visitors at Lawrence, Kansas.—On March 18, 1923, Lawrence, Kansas, experienced a rather severe storm. The temperature dropped to near zero and a fine snow was driven about by a strong north wind, proving a great hardship to the birds. Some 450 Robins (*Planesticus migratorius migratorius*) and 35 or 40 Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) congregated about the buildings at Haskell Institute. As would be expected the Waxwings seemed much more able to withstand the storm than did the Robins, for they remained in the hackberry trees directly in the teeth of the storm. The Robins on the other hand sought the shelter of the buildings, clinging to the Virginia creeper (*Ampelopsis quinquefolia*), aligning themselves along the base of the wall on the south and along a cement walk which served as a cover for a steam tunnel. They seemed very thirsty; as many as could crowded about the little puddles of snow water on the warm cement, drank greedily and remained to enjoy

the warmth. A few of the Waxwings also took advantage of the chance to drink but did not tarry long after quenching their thirst.

The most interesting differences between the two birds were to be noted in their manner of feeding. Hackberries (*Celtis occidentalis*) being the only available food and then only on the tips of the smallest twigs, having been eaten long before within reach of the twigs large enough to serve as perches, it was necessary for the birds to take the food on the wing and the Robins seemed to be at a great disadvantage. With head to the wind the Robins would flutter up until the bill almost touched the berry, meanwhile holding the head motionless, and finally after several attempts securing the berry. The Waxwing would hover about the twig tips with apparent ease, and from one position twist the head and extend the neck reaching several berries. Both the numbing effect of the cold and the unnatural manner of taking food undoubtedly handicapped the Robins. At any rate they had more difficulty in maintaining their position about the twig tips by hovering and poorer use of the head and neck in grasping the berries while on the wing than did the Waxwings. Also when perched in a windy situation the Robins maintained their positions only with many wing-beats and wide spread tail while the Waxwings sat in the face of the wind with closed tail and scarcely a wing-beat.

Last fall's hackberry crop was an unusually heavy one and served as the principal food of the large flocks of Cedar Waxwings which spent the winter with us. Large flocks of Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) also remained throughout the winter feeding on the berries. Never before in the past four winters spent at Lawrence have I found the Red-headed Woodpecker remaining throughout the winter and I believe that their stay in such large numbers the past winter was due mainly to the abundant food supply. The winter was less severe than usual, too.

—E. R. HALL, *University Museum, Lawrence, Kansas.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl.'¹—The first part of Mr. Bent's 'Life Histories' of the Ducks, Geese, etc., is well up to the standard established in the preceding 'Life Histories' and, as in those volumes, the reader is amazed at the vast amount of material that the author has assembled and the extent of the research required to bring it together.

The species covered in the present volume are the Mergansers and the Ducks from *Anas* to *Marila* inclusive, in the order of the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' which has been followed, even though the nomenclature has not.

¹ Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl. Order Anseres (Part). By Arthur Cleveland Bent, of Taunton, Massachusetts. U. S. Nat. Mus. Bulletin 126. Washington, 1923, pp. i-ix + 1-250, pls. 1-46.