

be typical of the northern race *medianus*. Fourteen males and thirteen females taken for the Cleveland Museum and the Ohio State Museum in various localities of southeastern Ohio, were also referable to *medianus*, though averaging definitely smaller than those from northern Ohio. Northern Ohio birds were also somewhat heavier in average weight.

In the spring of 1936 a check was made on an area much farther south—bottom-land along the Ohio River in the extreme southern tip of the State, Lawrence County. This locality is opposite the mouth of the Big Sandy River, a stream with a valley extending a hundred miles to the southward deep into Kentucky and West Virginia. It seemed conceivable that individuals representing the southern form might have followed this valley highway north to the Ohio border, especially during the height of the spring migration. Examples are numerous in other species of occasional individuals migrating in spring far beyond the usual northern limits of the breeding range. On May 2, 1936, two female Downy Woodpeckers were taken in Lawrence County, Ohio, along the Ohio River, one near Proctorville, the other near South Point. These birds (now 7075 and 7076 in the Ohio State Museum collection) have recently been determined by Dr. H. C. Oberholser of the U. S. Biological Survey as *D. p. pubescens*. Neither is wholly typical but both must be referred to this race. In addition to their small size (wing length less than 90 mm.) both birds show the dark coloration (or soiling) of the under parts characteristic of most *pubescens* specimens. Other specimens similar to the two described above have since been taken by the writer in the lowlands of eastern and southeastern Kentucky. Wetmore ('Observations on the birds of West Virginia,' Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 84: 412, 1937) referred all specimens examined from West Virginia to *medianus*, but stated that those from lowlands along the Ohio River were smaller. All birds examined by the writer from Ohio which were definitely breeding individuals, can likewise be referred to *medianus*. The *pubescens* individuals recorded above may represent migrants or wanderers rather than breeders, as their gonadal development was not that of breeding birds.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.*

#### **American and Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers in the Adirondacks.**—

While on a multi-day camping trip in the northern Adirondack Mountains (Essex County, New York), my brother, Ronald Shainin, and I observed a male American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus bacatus*) on July 20, 1937. We were on the Johns Brook trail and had just crossed the junction of Hogback Brook and Johns Brook, headed in a southwesterly direction toward Mount Marcy, when we heard a woodpecker drilling. In a short time we located the bird on the trunk of a huge balsam, and instantly recognized it by the yellow crown and the transversely barred white patch extending down its back. After we had studied the bird with eight-power binoculars for more than half a minute, it flew across Johns Brook into the dense virgin timber on the south side.

This species is one of the rarest birds in the Adirondacks, where it is at the southernmost limit of its range in the East. Less than half a century ago it was fairly common in the higher mountains of the northern Adirondacks. E. H. Eaton, in his paper, 'Birds of the Mount Marcy region of the Adirondacks' (1909, p. 44), reporting on a survey in 1905, writes, "The American Three-toed Woodpecker was nearly as common as the Black-backed species [Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)], but only two families of young were found, one of these being on the slope of Mt. Marcy at an elevation of 4000 ft." Since that time, however, this far-northern species has markedly declined in numbers. Charles H. Rogers saw two individuals

at Raquette Lake, Hamilton County, in the summer of 1921, but Aretas A. Saunders (Roosevelt Wild Life Bull., vol. 5, no. 3, 1920) during two summers of intensive field work (1925 and 1926) in Essex County, found no trace of it. Geoffrey Carleton, of New York City, an authority on Adirondack bird-life, knows of no records since C. H. Rogers's until 1931. Between that year and my observation in 1937, the American Three-toed Woodpecker has been recorded three times in summer as follows: July 17, 1931, Mount Ampersand, Franklin County (Geoffrey Carleton); July 23, 1933, Mount Marcy, Essex County (Dr. R. W. Darrow); August 4, 1936, Whiteface Mountain, Essex County (Dr. R. W. Darrow). Each of these observations was made within twenty-five miles of Mount Marcy, highest mountain in New York State.

The American Three-toed Woodpecker is usually found in belts of balsam, spruce or tamarack and according to Carleton, is likely to be found in the fairly well-defined coniferous belt extending from Essex County through Franklin and Hamilton Counties to St. Lawrence County. Until Dr. Robert W. Darrow undertook active field work in the Adirondacks six years ago, very little was known of the winter status of the species. He writes me, "In addition [to Essex County records] in Hamilton County, near 'The Plains,' on the Moose River and up Otter Brook, I have seen this species regularly in fall (November) and winter (January, February and March) during the past six years, whenever I have had occasion to travel in this area. Although I have not had the opportunity to visit the above region in summer, I believe there would be little difficulty in locating breeding birds." (The last recorded nests in the State were found by Eaton in 1905.) From Essex County he has recorded the species in winter on four occasions: January 17, 1932, South Meadows (town of North Elba); February 23, 1932, Mount Fay (near Lewis); January 11, 1933, Jay Mountain (near Lewis); March 25, 1935, Chapel Pond.

The Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*), is more common in the Adirondacks, although it follows closely the American Three-toed in environment, habits and range. To a certain extent, both are Canadian Zone species, but the Arctic exhibits more of a migratory instinct. It, too, has decreased greatly in abundance, although today it may be found by the alert observer in most localities above 2000 feet in growth consisting chiefly of conifers. It is fairly numerous throughout Hamilton County, according to Dr. Darrow, and in Essex County it is most common in the southwestern part, drained by the headwaters of the Au Sable, Boquet and Hudson Rivers, where it is more noticeable in the winter. In my own observation of this species, I found it to show signs of almost absurd tameness; two individuals allowed me to study them at very close range.—VINCENT SHAININ, 255 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, New York.

**Cassin's Kingbird in Colorado and Oklahoma.**—My first contact with Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) was in the latter part of May, 1921, in western Baca County, Colorado, west of Springfield and northwest of Graft, in the foot-hills. Three nests were found by my companion, Tom Pate, and myself. One nest was in the course of construction, one nest contained one egg and the third two eggs. All nests were placed in cottonwood trees.

On June 19, 1935, I visited the Powelson Ranch, some 10 or 11 miles northwest of Boise City, Cimarron County, Oklahoma, among the brakes on the south side of the Cimarron River. Several pairs of Cassin's Kingbirds were observed. One pair in particular had a nest in a cottonwood tree close to the ranch house. It was situated on a horizontal outer branch seven feet up and was of typical construction. The