

von Fuehrer and Mrs. Ruby Taylor Ruettinger, of the Carnegie Museum (where the egg now is) for their assistance in measuring, photographing, and describing the specimen.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON AND JOHN B. SEMPLE, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

**Possible homosexual mating of the Rock Dove.**—Although it is known that captive Domestic Pigeons sometimes mate homosexually, a search of available literature yields no record of feral ones doing so. One phenomenon of some such unions, however, is the assumption by each bird of both rôles in copulation ('The Posthumous Works of C. O. Whitman,' Carnegie Institution of Washington, 3: 34-35, 1919). The following two instances of reciprocal treading by feral birds may indicate, therefore, that these matings do occur in the Rock Dove state; it was impossible to collect the birds for positive interpretation of their behavior. The pigeons were members of a small flock that has lived wild, in a city neighborhood of detached homes, for seven years to the writer's knowledge; whether the individuals were the same on each occasion is not known.

April 21, 1938: Bird A walked around bird B for a turn or two, crouched, and was trod. That was repeated. Then B crouched and was mounted by A; however, A stepped right down again and itself crouched and was trod for a third time. B then crouched again, and A mounted and now performed, to every appearance, normal copulation.

August 24, 1940: A was treading B when the birds were first noticed. Upon dismounting, A walked a few steps and crouched, and B walked to it, mounted, and trod. B, after dismounting, in turn moved several steps away and crouched, and A again mounted and trod. There was no billing or wheeling between-times; the birds walked directly to each other. The second and third treadings seen appeared to be somewhat briefer than normal.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 3201 *Carlisle Ave., Baltimore, Maryland.*

**Chimney Swift having benign lymphangioma.**—On May 15, 1939, while trapping Chimney Swifts, *Chaetura pelagica*, with Mr. John B. Calhoun in Charlottesville, Virginia, I removed a bird from the gathering cage, that had a large prominence evident under the left side of its neck. The bird was taken to the laboratory, etherized and the tissue removed. The mass was approximately  $2 \times 1.5$  cm. in diameter, attached to the skin at one small point, and moved about quite freely under the skin when manipulated. The specimen was preserved in Bouin's fixative and sent to Herbert R. Mills, M.D., Clinical Pathologist, in Tampa, Florida, for gross and microscopical examination. His report follows: "The tissue which we received from you a few days ago from the neck of a Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*, is an ovoid solid encapsulated nodule, measuring  $2 \times 1.5$  cm. Microscopical sections show no evidence of malignancy. The sections are characterized by many small vascular-like spaces separated by a loose fibrous stroma. These spaces are lined with endothelial cells and are practically empty. Opinion: Benign lymphangioma."—J. C. DICKINSON, JR., *University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*

**Boreal Flicker in Kansas.**—The author became interested in the Boreal Flicker, *Colaptes auratus borealis* Ridgway (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 24: 31, 1911; type locality, Nulato, lower Yukon River, Alaska), after reading a note by Alexander Wetmore (Auk, 57: 113, 1940), in which he states, "Recent studies have indicated to me that this race of flicker, though not recognized in the fourth edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list,' is valid, with a breeding range extending from Labrador to

Alaska, south to northern Minnesota and eastern Montana, and in migration to the States to the south." The purpose of the study indicated in this paper was to determine whether or not that subspecies comes as far south as Kansas in its winter migration. Heretofore, only the Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus luteus*, and the Southern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus auratus*, have been recorded as occurring in Kansas, the former ranging over the entire State, and the latter being found only in the extreme southeastern part.

In this study, 139 flickers in the collection of the Museum of Birds and Mammals at the University of Kansas were examined. Among these were specimens taken at all seasons of the year. The measurements used are: length (where possible), wing, tail, culmen, and tarsus. All measurements except the length were taken personally by the author. The basis for the differentiation of the two subspecies, *Colaptes auratus luteus* Bangs and *Colaptes auratus borealis* Ridgway, is taken from Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America' (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 50: 18-20, 1914).

I am indebted to Mr. C. D. Bunker, Curator of Birds and Mammals, Museum of Birds and Mammals, University of Kansas, for allowing me free use of specimens under his care, and to Dr. Alexander Wetmore, for his helpful criticism of this work.

In Ridgway's (op. cit.) comparison of the two subspecies, *C. a. luteus* and *C. a. borealis*, he states that they are "similar in coloration." He gives the following measurements for *C. a. luteus*: adult males, length (skins), 250-293 (265) mm.; wing, 154-165 (156.3); tail, 96.5-112 (105.9); culmen, 31-40 (34.6); tarsus, 26.5-31 (28.1). Adult females, length (skins), 248-292 (259) mm.; wing, 149.5-159.5 (155); tail, 97-115 (103.9); culmen, 31-38.5 (33.8); tarsus, 26.5-29.5 (27.8). For *C. a. borealis*: adult males, length (skins), 270-314 (292) mm.; wing, 156-170 (162.9); tail, 102.5-115 (107); culmen, 34.5-40 (36.4); tarsus, 27-31.5 (29). Adult females, length (skins), 270-310 (287) mm.; wing, 156-171 (162.3); tail, 99-115 (105.5); culmen, 32.5-38.5 (35.6); tarsus, 27.5-30.5 (28.8).

With the progress of the examination of the specimens, all of which were cataloged as *C. a. luteus*, it became evident that certain individuals were too large to be considered as belonging to that subspecies, and that they came well within the limits of *C. a. borealis*. It is my opinion that these specimens are members of the latter subspecies. This is further indicated by the fact that all the specimens whose characters appear to be those of the Boreal Flicker were taken in the northern part of Kansas during the months from September to April, and should, therefore, be considered as migrants or as winter residents.

Twenty specimens were found that may be considered Boreal Flickers. The range of measurements of these is as follows: length, 290-315 mm.; wing, 160-166; tail, 108-124; culmen, 37-42; tarsus, 26-31. For comparison, the measurement range of twenty specimens of *C. a. luteus*, taken in the winter, and of twenty taken in the summer, is given: winter specimens, length, 285-303 mm.; wing, 149-159; tail, 107-117; culmen, 35-40; tarsus, 25-28. Summer specimens, length, 280-305 mm.; wing, 146-156; tail, 92-111; culmen, 33-39; tarsus, 26-29.—GEORGE C. RINKER, *Museum of Birds and Mammals, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.*

**The passing of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.**—One of the mysteries of Nature that has puzzled me for many years is the passing of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*), a bird once resident in most of the forests south of the Ohio River to the Gulf, and east of the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean. This bird, although naturally shy of man, was endowed with a strong,