

The bird could give the typical call of a young meadowlark and had all of the mannerisms of a normal individual.

The bird is now mounted at the University Museum in Lincoln, Nebr.—H. ELLIOTT McCLURE, *Ord, Nebraska*.

Red-shouldered Hawk caught in mink trap.—On November 24, 1941, I examined a live adult male specimen of a Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) that had been caught in a mink trap in Avon, Connecticut. The details of the incident were given to me by a local trapper. In the dark of early morning while he was 'working his trap line' along the bank of a small stream he found a hawk desperately trying to lift a mink trap, in which it was caught, off the ground. The bird had been caught directly above the base of the toes on the tarsus. The trap used was an Oneida Victor two-jaw spring trap, size 2, which was set in three inches of water, unbaited. Over the center trigger there was a piece of sod to aid in the concealment of the trap.

Since the bird was caught on the tarsus it might well have been pursuing (by wading) some form of aquatic life, possibly batrachians.¹ It seems unlikely that the bird was hovering over its prey when it was caught. The trap was entirely inconspicuous, even to men, when seen in the daylight. The bird was not exhausted but was vivacious and alert. This might lead to a supposition that it was caught in the early hours of morning and had not been in the trap all night. It was released later as it was practically unharmed.—DAVIS W. PRATT, *The Avon School, Avon, Connecticut*.

Berberis bealei as a spring food of songbirds.—The probable great value of *Berberis bealei* as an ornamental plant attractive to birds in the eastern United States was forcibly brought to my attention while walking through the Capitol grounds in Washington, D. C., on May 27, 1942. Passing within ten feet of a clump of this Chinese species, most of whose relatives in the western United States are known as hollygrapes, I was surprised to observe a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*), several Olive-backed Thrushes (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*), and a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) so intent upon securing the fleshy, blue, grape-like fruits that they did not flush upon my close approach. During the period from 1:30 to 2:00 p. m., at least five Robins, eight Olive-backed Thrushes, one Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), one Rose-breasted Grosbeak and six House Sparrows (*Passer d. domesticus*) were seen avidly eating the fruits. Excepting the grosbeak, which chewed the fruits and discarded the skins, and the House Sparrows, which took bites, all species swallowed the berries whole.

When first seen, about 50% of the original crop of fruits was present. When again visited on May 29, only about 30% remained. Between 10:00 and 10:15 a. m. on the latter date, three adult and two fully-grown juvenile Robins and a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) were seen taking *Berberis* fruits. One adult Robin carried two away, apparently to its nest. A female Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) nibbled at a berry and a male Black-poll, a female (or immature male) Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), and a Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), flitted about in the spiny foliage. The grosbeak and Olive-backed Thrushes seen previously had evidently continued their northward migration as they were not observed during the second visit. On both occasions, many Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were seen nearby but they did not appear to be attracted to the

¹ The bird may possibly have been bathing.—Ed.