

commonly molt the outer primaries during the postjuvinal and postnuptial molts, respectively, was recently observed by the writers. While employed by the Montana Fish and Game Department on Federal Aid Project 1-R, we had an opportunity to examine 1526 Ring-necked Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*) killed on September 26, 1942, near Billings, Montana, during a special season in which birds of both sexes were bagged. In the great majority of the birds, adults and juvenile cocks and hens, the outer remiges were undergoing a molt. Only a small minority of the juvenile birds had retained the outer one or two pairs of primaries. Most of the juvenile birds were readily distinguished from the adults by a weight difference or by traces of unmolted juvenal plumage. Because of the large number of birds to be examined in a brief period of time it was not possible to search each for the duct of the bursa of Fabricius.

We are anxious to record our findings in order that other investigators may not be misled by the statements of Wight and Bent that pheasants retain the outer primaries during the postjuvinal molt.—PHILIP L. WRIGHT, *Montana State University, Missoula*, and ROBERT W. HIATT, *Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana*.

**Two oddly-plumaged Ruffed Grouse** (Plate 7, lower figure).—While examining Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) skins at the American Museum of Natural History, the writer encountered two extremely atypical specimens. Because these mutations are apparently undescribed and are so far outside the usual limits of variation in this extremely variable species, an account of them seems to be in order.

One of the birds, a male, (A. M. N. H. no. 45,176) was taken on Long Island, New York, in November, 1862, and originally belonged to George N. Lawrence. The other (A. M. N. H. no. 36,667) is from the collection of J. G. Bell, and bears no date, locality, nor sex. Its plumage is apparently that of a female. The diversity of this bird is recognized on its label by the word "variety"; that of no. 45,176, by the phrase "melanistic variety." Both birds have a distinctly abnormal brown cast. Most of this is probably basic, though some is perhaps due to the age of the specimens.

Dorsally, both birds are fairly normally patterned except for a reduction of whitish or ochraceous-buff (*B. u. umbellus* in mind). The ruff and subterminal tail-band of no. 45,176 are of a coppery-fuscous shade. The tail-band of no. 36,667 is more of a sepia color, while its ruff (only the right ruff is present), rather poorly developed, is made up of chocolate-brown feathers distally blotched with fuscous, with a subterminal, dark tan bar and a terminal, dark brown bar. Comparable areas in normal birds are usually of a gun-metal shade, though they will occasionally be brown. Such patterning in the ruff of the Ruffed Grouse is distinctly abnormal.

Ventrally, both birds present a decidedly atypical aspect, as is evident on the accompanying Plate 7, lower figure. The general color of the under parts is clay-brown. The pattern of the contour feathers is very different from the normal one, especially in no. 45,176 (Plate 7, lower left). Instead of the feathers being more or less basically whitish with brown-fuscous and buffy bars, as in the normal coloration, each feather of no. 45,176 has a subterminal, inwardly-pointing wedge of pale gray-buff. The rest of the feather is gray-brown in shade, and is crossed from its lateral edges to the gray-buff wedge with fuscous vermiculations. The total effect of these feathers gives the bird a streaked appearance ventrally, as is quite evident on the plate. Indeed, the belly of this bird superficially resembles the rump of a normal grouse. White is everywhere almost totally reduced, especially

on the abdomen and under tail-coverts. The under tail-coverts are basically olive-gray, terminally speckled with fuscous. The throat and face of this bird are reddish-brown where the area would be normally dirty white or buffy.

The cross-barring of the normal contour feather is partially preserved on the flanks of no. 36,667 (Plate 7, lower right), but the bars are considerably washed out in appearance. The lower breast feathers of this bird tend to be uniformly brown. A tannish longitudinal stripe runs with the midrib on each feather, much narrower than the comparably-located gray-buff wedges of no. 45,176. These stripes are bordered with fuscous areas. The abdomen, under tail-coverts, leg feathers, face, and throat are all lighter in shade than similar areas of no. 45,176.

These mutations illustrate extremes of variation that this highly variable species, and the *Tetraonidae* in general, can obtain. They can only be recorded, not explained, as the genetics of wild birds is still imperfectly understood.

Acknowledgement is due the American Museum of Natural History for permission to publish on these specimens.—LEONARD J. UTTAL, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

**A peculiar Goshawk from Labrador.**—The University of Michigan Museum of Zoology received from Ernest Doane a female Goshawk collected by him at Red Bay, Labrador, on November 11, 1925. I identified the specimen tentatively as *Accipiter gentilis gentilis* and recently sent it to Dr. Ernst Mayr for a more authoritative opinion and comparison with the good series of the European form in the American Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Mayr studied the specimen and wrote: "Your Goshawk is a curious bird. The feathers of the back show clearly that it is just completing its molt into the first adult plumage. This may explain the broad white margins on the lesser upper wing-coverts and the relatively heavy shaftstreaks on the under parts. Both these features are absent from nearly all our specimens of *gentilis*. Your bird is, as far as the underparts are concerned, fairly well matched by one Swedish bird. If we did not have this specimen, I might have written you that your bird is not *gentilis*. The bird is certainly not one of the eastern Asiatic races which are much more finely barred, and have very inconspicuous shaftstreaks. In many respects your bird looks almost like an intermediate between *gentilis* and *atricapillus*. I would very much like to see additional Goshawks from Labrador. The adults of *gentilis* are reported to be completely sedentary. Furthermore, the species does not occur on any of the North Atlantic islands. In fact, it is even a rarity on the British Islands, and does not nest there. Altogether you will agree with me that the situation is very puzzling. The date (November 11) agrees, of course, with the normal migratory period of the species. Concluding, I would say that the specimen can be recorded as a second year female of *Accipiter gentilis gentilis*, unless some day a subspecies is discovered in Labrador which is intermediate in character between the American and the European races."

In reply to Dr. Mayr's inquiry about additional specimens, I replied that we have in this museum another adult Goshawk, a male, taken at the same place six days earlier. However, this second bird is a perfectly normal example of *atricapillus*. This would seem to strengthen the case for considering the first specimen to be *A. g. gentilis*.

It is noteworthy that there are at least six records, mostly winter ones, of the American Goshawk being taken in England. On the other hand, the European