

The answers to inquiries made to several combustion engineers and to bio-chemistry professors in several universities were in accord, that death to the swifts was most probably caused by carbon monoxide gas which is more likely to be formed as a component of flue gases when the heating plant is cold. Gas, coal, or oil burning against cold surfaces may be incompletely oxidized, with the production of considerable quantities of carbon monoxide.

Local bird enthusiasts hope to cover such chimneys with galvanized chicken wire to prevent further destruction of swifts.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois*.

Breeding Record of Red-headed Woodpecker in Southern Quebec.—Mr. E. M. Putnam of Hudson Heights, Province of Quebec, on the southerly shore of the Lac des Deux Montagnes, informed me that, when passing through Belle Plage on July 10, 1948, he had seen from his car a Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Linnaeus). Belle Plage is some six miles east of Hudson Heights along the lake-shore road to Dorian-Vaudreuil.

On July 14, I visited Belle Plage with Mr. Putnam. On arrival at the property of Mr. Eugene Vinet at the junction of the above lake-shore road and the road from Isle Cadieux to the Canadian Pacific Railway station of that name, we immediately located the bird in a maple tree on Mr. Vinet's lawn, from which it flew into a tall ash tree. We then saw the same individual, or its mate, on a small elm tree across the main road, sitting on a stub branch some 40 feet above the ground. It was clear that this branch had broken at the place where woodpeckers had made a nest-hole.

Mr. and Mrs. Vinet informed us that they had watched with interest a pair of these birds for some weeks, that they had observed them at the nest-hole and, shortly before the branch was broken off in a violent storm that occurred on July 11, they had seen the adult bird (or birds) feeding fledglings on the tree outside the nest-hole. They could not give the exact number of fledglings seen, but said there were three or four. Later on the same day, Mr. Putnam and I had further excellent views of the adult male on some willow trees.

On July 18, with Mr. C. H. Sullivan, I again visited Mr. Vinet's property when he told us he had seen both adults together that morning. On this occasion we had excellent views of the adult female, watching her during a severe thunderstorm with heavy rain, going up the trunk of a maple tree and flying down from its branches to the lawn below several times, apparently to capture insects of some kind. We saw nothing of the fledglings.

Ernest D. Wintle in 'The Birds of Montreal' (1890) refers to *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* as a "scarce summer resident" and to two observations of individuals of the species on the island of Montreal on May 24, 1882, and June 24, 1883. He also refers to a nest with eggs found by G. A. Dunlop at Lachine.

C. E. Dionne in 'Les Oiseaux du Canada' (1883) merely states, "should be met in our woods." In 'Les Oiseaux de la Province de Quebec' (1906), he terms the species "accidental" in Quebec and states that he has only seen two specimens, one killed near Quebec City and another at St. Augustin, Portneuf.

In 'Catalogue of Canadian Birds,' Part II, by John Macoun, the species is referred to as "a rather rare resident at Ottawa." E. D. Wintle is reported to have found it breeding in a hole in a dead tree along a fence between two woods at Longue Pointe on May 24, 1889.

Bent, 'Life Histories of North American Woodpeckers' (1939), includes southern Quebec in the distribution of this species (Three Rivers, Hatley and Quebec City). He gives, "spring migration date Montreal May 7"; fall migration is not mentioned.

Mr. L. M. Terrill of Montreal states (*in litt.*) "it is undoubtedly a rather scarce bird in the district. When a boy I first saw this woodpecker in a clump of trees near Dominion station (Lachine District) and found its nest there."

In 1907 and 1909, Terrill saw it between Iroquois and Morrisburg, "where it appeared to be fairly well distributed." At different times he has seen it at St. Andrews East, St. Rose, Nominingue (his most northerly record), Longueuil, Dorval Island, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Senneville and Chambly Canton.

Terrill states the Bird Society has records of the nesting of this species in 1936 and 1937, for Mount Royal, on Outremont Mountain in 1942, and for a pair for several years on Dorval Island.

Mr. Hoyes Lloyd published (Can. Field-Nat., 58 (5), 1944) a record for the species in the Ottawa district, saying, "During the summer of 1922 . . . while others were seen by me at Rivermead, five miles west of Hull (Quebec)." He gives me the following dates for occurrence in the Quebec portion of the Ottawa district—Rivermead Golf Club: July 16, 1922, one; August 5, 1922, one or two; August 26, 1922, two.

I am indebted to Mr. Hoyes Lloyd, Mr. L. McI. Terrill, and the Librarian, Redpath Library, McGill University, for assistance in compiling this information.—GEOFFREY G. OMMANNEY, P. O. Box 14, Hudson Heights, Province of Quebec, Canada.

A New Woodhewer, *Xiphocolaptes*, from Peru.—A critical study of the Peruvian forms of the family Dendrocolaptidae represented in the collections of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has resulted in the detection of a new race of the widespread species *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*, for which I propose the name:

***Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus solivagus*, new subspecies**

TYPE: Adult male, A. N. S. P. no. 92,543, collected March 16, 1930, at Eneñas, Pichis Trail, Department of Junín, Perú, by M. A. Carriker, Jr.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS: Nearest to *X. p. obsoletus* Todd, but smaller; under parts paler, more grayish brown (about as in *sanctae-martae* Hellmayr), with but a slight rufescent tinge, chiefly on the abdomen; upper parts less rufous, the mantle inclining to olive-brown; streaks on pileum paler, whitish rather than buffy. In comparison with *berlepschi* Sneath and *orenocensis* Berlepsch and Hartert, *solivagus* is much less rufous both above and below, and the bill is much smaller (slenderer) and is darker (in life "dusky horn, paler below").

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE: Wing (maximum) 133.5 mm.; tail, 108; bill (exposed culmen) 46.5; and tarsus, 34.5 mm. A female measures: wing, 130.5 mm.; tail, 100; bill (exposed culmen) 44.5; and tarsus, 33 mm.

RANGE: Eastern slope of the Eastern Cordillera in the Department of Junín, Perú (Chanchamayo region), probably ranging north to the Department of Huánuco (Pozuzo).

COMPARATIVE MATERIAL EXAMINED: *X. p. obsoletus*.—BOLIVIA: Río Japacani, 1 male,* 1 female* (type); Cerro Hosáne, 1 male,* 1 female* (Dept. Santa Cruz); Palmar, 1 male (Dept. Cochabamba); Teoponte (Río Kaka), 1 male; Santa Ana (Río Coroico), 3 females, 1 (sex ?) (Dept. La Paz). PERU: Río Tavara, 1 male** (Dept. Puno).

X. p. solivagus.—PERU: Eneñas, 1 male (type); San Juan, 1 female (Dept. Junín).

X. p. orenocensis.—VENEZUELA: El Meré (left bank of Río Cassiquiare), 1 male,** Munduapo (Río Orinoco), 1 female,** 1 (sex ?).** ECUADOR: Below San José de Sumarco, 1 male.** PERU: Sarayacu (lower Río Ucayali), 1 male.**

X. p. berlepschi.—BRAZIL: Rosarinho (Río Madeira), 4 males.**