

correct as they now stand in the 1931 A.O.U. Check-List and in Peters' "Check-list of Birds of the World."—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor.*

Forehead Color of the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*).—Once an error has appeared in a description of a bird or a particular plumage of a bird, it tends to be repeated in succeeding publications. A writer well informed about a particular species may have corrected the error in his own publication, and students looking for detailed information about a species are often bewildered by these apparent contradictions. Such a situation prevails in the published descriptions of the forehead color of Pileated Woodpeckers.

Among woodpeckers in general, several situations are to be found as regards the resemblance of juveniles to adults. In many genera, the young resemble the male more than they do the female; or at least, both sexes of the young have the bright markings, red or yellow, of the male parent, though not always in the same location. Young Red-headed Woodpeckers differ from their parents in the color of the entire head. The situation in the Pileated Woodpecker seems to be unique in the family. Not only can juvenile Pileateds be recognized as to sex by their forehead and moustache color, but this difference is apparent as early as nine or ten days after hatching, when the color of the developing feathers can be seen through the skin. Even before the eyes have opened, it is possible to recognize the red forehead and moustache of the male, the dark forehead and black moustache of the female. Juvenile male Pileateds do *not* resemble the female parent, in spite of numerous published descriptions stating that they do. This point was made by my late husband (Auk, 61: 380, 1944), but the error is still being made in print.

There is another point in regard to the forehead color of Pileated Woodpeckers which needs clarification—the actual color of the forehead in juvenile and adult females. For while the juvenile female resembles the adult female in general appearance as stated above, the color of the forehead undergoes a distinct change in the post-juvinal molt and continues to change somewhat with succeeding post-nuptial molts. It is this fact, apparently, which has led to some of the conflicting descriptions in literature. Let us examine several of these descriptions:

Ridgway (U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 50: 156, 1914) describes the adult female thus: "Forehead and anterior half (more or less) of crown grayish brown or olive." Of the young female he says (p. 158): "Forehead and most of crown grayish brown, the latter with a paler terminal spot on each feather."

A. C. Bent's description of the young female (U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 174: 168, 1939) is similar: "the forehead and most of the crown are grayish brown, which invades the red posterior portion of the crown."

However, E. H. Eaton (N. Y. State Mus. Mem., 12: 152, 1914) says: "Female and young have only the rear portion of the head red, the frontlet and the moustaches being blackish." I point out in passing that this is in error in regard to the young male.

T. S. Roberts ('Birds of Minnesota,' Minneapolis, Univ. Minn. Press, 1932: 620) agrees with this, at least as to the description of the female. In his key to woodpeckers, he lists the Pileated Woodpecker female as having "Anterior half of crown black or blackish."

W. E. Clyde Todd ('Birds of Western Pennsylvania,' Pittsburgh, Univ. Pittsburgh Press, 1940: 321) describes the female as having the top of the head scarlet, "with the forepart brown."

E. H. Forbush ('Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States,' Massachusetts Dept. Agric., 1927, pt. 2: 281) describes the adult female as similar to male, but "whole forehead and forepart of crown olive-brown or grayish brown." And "Young female similar to young male, but forehead and forepart of crown and jaw more like those of adult female; forecrown with paler edging at end of each feather."

Just in these few examples we have found the forehead of the adult female described as black, blackish, brown, olive-brown, and grayish-brown. The forehead of the juvenile female has been similarly described, and by some writers the young are said to be identical with the adult female, by others slightly different.

My husband and I took particular notice of this point in our observations of female woodpeckers, and I believe that the following is the true situation. Some of our observations were on a bird raised in captivity.

The juvenile female Pileated Woodpecker, in the nest and for several months after leaving the nest, has a very dark gray or blackish forehead. The individual blackish feathers are uniform throughout and the paler edging described by some is hardly perceptible. These feathers do invade the anterior portion of the red crown, and most of the red feathers are red only at the tips.

With the post-juvenal molt of the head, which occurs in September, these blackish feathers are replaced by grayish-brown feathers which do have a noticeably paler edging, and with succeeding post-nuptial molts the forehead becomes more olive-brown and eventually yellowish-brown. In our captive bird, the yellowish color was pronounced when she was six years old, and changed little after that.

It is suggested that careful observations be made on specimens taken in the future and notes made of forehead color, so that if this color distinction is valid, it may be incorporated in future descriptions.—SARAH F. HOYT (MRS. SOUTHGATE Y. HOYT), "Aviana," Box 54, Etna, New York.

Notes on Two Rare Tyrannids of Mexico.—*Aechmolophus mexicanus* Zimmer heretofore has been known from only three specimens: the type, an adult male in the American Museum of Natural History, taken at "Cuernavaca, Mexico" at an altitude of 5000 ft. April 9, 1908, by Austin Paul Smith; a second specimen in the United States National Museum, taken at the same locality on the same day; and the third, a specimen in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, secured at Chilpancingo, Guerrero, October 26, 1940. I acquired a special interest in this extraordinary genus, because I had the second specimen in my hands, noting its conspicuous crest, when Dr. Zimmer came into the room at the United States National Museum and identified it as the second known individual. It seemed likely that the continuous collecting by Chester C. Lamb, always alert for new forms, would eventually discover other individuals. He did and noted the crest in his field journals, designating his birds as the "Crested Long-tailed *Empidonax*." Then several months ago, my assistant, Dr. John Davis, while engaged in the long process of transferring to the main collection the specimens which had come from Mr. Lamb during the war years, brought to me eight individuals, which he suspected to be and I identified as *Aechmolophus*. This was confirmed by Dr. Zimmer, to whom I mailed an adult February specimen from Tequisistlán, Oaxaca. He wrote: "Aside from the fact that your bird is in fresher condition with the light colors clearer (yellow on the under parts and more tinged with buff on the wings) and with the olive margins of the crest feathers less worn and hence slightly reducing the acuteness of these plumes, there are no appreciable differences in plumage."

These eight hitherto unreported specimens were all secured at two localities in Oaxaca on five different dates between July 4, 1943, and February 18, 1947. The