

Emberiza leucophrys next appears in Wilson (Amer. Orn., vol. 4, 1811, p. 49, pl. 31, fig. 4) where it is clearly the eastern subspecies, the plate being taken from a bird "shot in the Great Pine swamp, in the month of May." Usage in subsequent writings was fixed clearly on the eastern race of the bird, and has there remained. The check-list committee after a full discussion has accepted Forster's name *leucophrys* as applying to the eastern subspecies.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Fishing by the Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).—Thousands of Common Crows were present on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge during the winter of 1950–51. This refuge is located in the Tennessee valley of northern Alabama, and includes a part of the backwaters of Wheeler reservoir, one of the multiple purpose impoundments of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The winter was severe, with backwaters alternately freezing and thawing. Food in upland fields became scarce about January 1.

Crows were noted fishing on and near the refuge in company with Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*). On January 1, the senior author watched these birds taking live fish. The fish were usually small shad or toothed herrings, two to three inches long, and were present in large schools near the surface. Excessive cold may have made them comparatively inactive. Crows would fish by hovering a few feet above these schools, dropping to the surface, and submerging their feet deep enough to seize the fish. Wings or bodies were not allowed to touch the water. The crows appeared to average a catch for each three attempts of this type. Reluctance to come in contact with the water made fishing by the Crows far less successful than by the gulls.

This fishing was common throughout the remainder of January, and the month of February. Observation at close range, with binoculars, left no doubt that crows were actually taking live fish, since these could be observed wriggling in the birds' claws as they flew to the shore to feet on these catches.—DAVID C. HULSE AND THOMAS Z. ATKESON, *P. O. Box 1643, Decatur, Alabama.*

Wing Claws in the White-necked Crow (*Corvus leucognaphalus*).—While preparing the skeletons of five White-necked Crows, kindly collected for me by Mr. W. H. Bussey near Mirebelais, Haiti, I noted the presence of a well developed ungual phalanx on each pollex of an adult female specimen. Mr. Bussey had "roughed-out" and dried the specimen in the field. The horny sheaths of the claws were lacking; only the osseous cores remained. That of the right side measured 6.2 mm. in length, the left one, 3.2 mm. Each showed definite curvature, being concave in palmar aspect.

The occurrence of vestigial claws on the wings of birds has been summarized by Fisher (Amer. Midl. Nat., 23: 234–243, 1940). As far as I am aware, the occurrence of wing claws in the family Corvidae has not been previously reported. In fact, records for the entire order Passeriformes are rare. Mention should be made of Friedmann's paper (Auk, 69: 200, 1952), in which he reported claws on the wings of the Kiskadee Flycatcher (*Pitangus sulphuratus caucensis*).—JULIAN J. BAUMEL, *Biology Dept., University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*