

**First Record of Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) in Kentucky.**—W. Scott Glore, Jr., and I were duly surprised to find a Vermilion Flycatcher on a farm about one mile northwest of Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky, on October 8, 1955. For half an hour, during this calm, sunny, moderately warm afternoon, we watched the flycatcher actively pursuing a variety of insects near a small willow-bordered pond, 950 feet above sea level.

Realizing that the vagrant should be collected, we made a hurried trip to Danville for the necessary tools, refound the flycatcher, and secured it without difficulty. It proved to be an immature male (testes minute, but skull completely granulated) with chin and throat still mostly white. Vermilion feathers were coming in on the crown and predominated on breast and belly. The bird was apparently in perfect condition, showed no signs of having been in captivity, and was moderately fat (weight 15.2 grams). Its skin was presented to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (No. 151,824). Dr. Alexander Wetmore has kindly identified it as *P. r. mexicanus*.

So far as I have been able to find out, the Vermilion Flycatcher has not previously been recorded from Kentucky. Moreover, it seems to be unreported from any of the seven adjacent states, though once taken at Toronto, Ontario (Swift, Auk, 67: 517-518, 1950), fully 500 miles northeast of Danville, which, in turn, is about the same distance from parts of Louisiana and Florida where it is now of regular occurrence.

As a possible explanation of this bird's presence in central Kentucky, Mr. O. K. Anderson, meteorologist in charge of the United States Weather Bureau Airport Station at Louisville, Kentucky, very kindly sent me the following information: "On October 2nd, a southerly flow of air developed over the southwest and the Southern Plain States. This flow increased in velocity and gradually shifted to the southwest during the next several days, and on the 4th, 5th, and 6th averaged about 30 to 35 knots from the southwest as a cold mass of air, associated with a high pressure area, approached the Kentucky area on the 5th and 6th. The cold front along the leading edge of the cold high pressure area moved across Kentucky on the 7th, preceded and accompanied by showers. The wind shifted to the northwest 25 to 30 knots behind the front and persisted for about 24 hours. It would have been easy for the bird to have flown in from the southwest during the several days preceding the 8th, since winds were rather strong from the southwest and the weather was warm and mostly fair. It may have been grounded on the 7th by the precipitation that accompanied the cold frontal passage. It is quite possible that the bird was in the area 50 to 100 miles northwest of Kentucky when the front passed through early on the 7th, and it may have flown in from the northwest under the overcast behind the front on the 7th and 8th along with northwesterly 25 to 30 knot winds that prevailed for about 24 hours after the frontal passage."

While the weather conditions so well described by Mr. Anderson are likely to have been a potent factor in bringing this bird to Kentucky, another possibility suggests itself. May not the recent multiplication of records in Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, and Georgia indicate a significant eastward, or even northeastward, extension of the Vermilion Flycatcher's fall and winter range? In this view, the young male here reported might have been an adventurous individual by no means so far beyond the northeastern periphery of the species' range as would have been the case 25 years ago. It may be recalled that as lately as 1931, the A.O.U. Check-List (4th ed., 211) mentioned only one occurrence east of Texas.—FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER, JR., *Centre College, Danville, Kentucky.*