

to fifteen minutes following feeding. Grasshoppers (Acrididae) and Coleoptera larvae were among items fed to the young.

In the same area bob-tailed young were still being fed by parents during the first week of August.—BROOKE MEANLEY, *Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland*.

Whooping Crane in the Mid-West.—On October 18, 1958, we were informed by Mr. Charles Dunker, Jr., a farmer living in Pike County, Illinois, of the presence of a Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) on a farm operated by him in the Mississippi River bottoms near the town of Hull. We made an airplane flight to the area to verify his identification. The bird was photographed from the air, and, as it paid little attention to the plane, we were able to get sufficiently close to see its bare, carmine crown.

We visited the area by car on October 19, and observed the crane for several hours. Mr. Dunker informed us that he first noticed the bird on October 16, and reported it to Mr. Arch Mehrhoff, manager of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, who saw the crane. Later it was observed by a number of biologists, including William C. Starrett and Richard R. Graber of the Illinois Natural History Survey; Milton Thompson and Paul Parmalee of the Illinois State Museum; and William Greene, Duane Norman, Marshall Stinnett, and Victor Blazevec of the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. (See Plate 9 *Below*.)

The Whooping Crane was an adult, as determined from the absence of rust spots in the white plumage and the bare, carmine crown. It spent a large part of each day resting on a mud flat which jutted into a narrow, shallow pond which was about one-half mile in length. When interested in feeding, the crane flew from its resting place to a harvested corn field at the upper end of the pond. It would feed upon waste corn in the field and then walk along the margin of the pond, apparently thrusting its bill into crayfish burrows. The crane completed such feeding excursions in from two to four hours, traversing the length of the pond to its customary resting place.

The bird remained at this same pond until November 5; it was last seen late in the afternoon some four miles to the south. An aerial reconnaissance of the Mississippi River valley above St. Louis on November 6, failed to disclose its whereabouts, and no further report was received of this bird in the Mississippi River basin. However, an adult Whooping Crane, observed by Dick Droll, U. S. Game Agent, at Eagle Lake, near Houston, Texas, on November 9 and 10, 1958, is believed by Claude F. Lard, refuge manager of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, to be the same individual which was last seen near Hull, Illinois, on November 5. A short time later this crane joined the other 31 Whooping Cranes which had been on the Aransas Refuge for several weeks.

It is also highly probable that this Whooping Crane, which appeared on October 16, near Hull, Illinois, is the same individual which was observed from October 12–15 in the northwestern corner of Missouri, near Bigelow. That crane was last seen on October 15, flying to the southeast, according to Mr. Richard Vaught of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Since the bird near Hull was observed a day later, and that town lies 250 miles in an east-southeast direction from Bigelow, Missouri, it is probable that the same bird was involved in both observations.

Another Whooping Crane, a juvenile, appeared in the mid-West on December 1, 1958. On that date Lyle J. Schoonover, refuge manager, observed it on the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge near Puxico, in southeastern Missouri. This bird had rust patches on its head and wings, and hence could not have been

the bird observed in northwestern Missouri or west-central Illinois. The juvenile crane was last seen on the Mingo Refuge on December 17. Although game biologists, refuge managers, and game agents were alerted in the lower Mississippi and Central flyways, this crane was still unreported a month later.

Thus at least two Whooping Cranes, one an adult and the other a juvenile, appeared in or near Illinois in the fall of 1958, after an absence of nearly 70 years. The most recent records of this crane in Illinois, according to Allen ('The Whooping Crane,' Research Rep. No. 3, Natl. Audubon Soc., 1952), were of a specimen taken in Champaign County on March 27, 1871, and two specimens taken in April of 1891 in Jo Davies County. In Missouri there are later records; the last cited by Allen (*loc. cit.*) were in 1913. Early records indicate that these cranes were not uncommon migrants in the Mississippi Valley in the early 1800's.

From the standpoint of orientation in migration it would be important to discover the factor or factors responsible for the displacement of two Whooping Cranes some five hundred miles to the east of their normal flight line through western Nebraska. Moreover, the adult crane in its probable flight from northwest Missouri to west-central Illinois moved in the opposite direction from that which would have returned it to its regular migration route. Nevertheless, this crane apparently became aware of its eastern displacement during its three week stay in Illinois, for it evidently migrated southwestward to Eagle Lake, Texas, and thence farther southwestward to the Aransas Refuge.—HARLOW B. MILLS AND FRANK C. BELLROSE, *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois.*

Mutual Tapping of the Red-headed Woodpecker.—Tapping is a distinctive mode of communication common to a variety of woodpeckers. Excellent descriptions of tapping by various European woodpeckers have been published (Pynnönen, 1939; Sielmann, 1958; Blume, 1958). Mutual tapping has hitherto been described only of the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*) (Kilham, 1958). Similar mutual tapping by the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) is here described of a single pair observed at the Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Highlands County, Florida, during a stay from April 27 to May 3, 1958.

Mutual tapping at dawn.—I walked toward the roost hole of the male, which was 10 feet up in a short stub entirely in the open, at daybreak on May 1. The male Red-headed Woodpecker put his head out of his roost hole at 5:20 A.M. He remained within the entrance for the next 10 minutes, calling "queeark" every 2-4 seconds with exception of a few longer pauses. The female flew by my head at 5:30 A.M. Her mate stopped calling as soon as he saw her approaching, dropped from sight into his hole and was tapping inside by the time she had arrived at the entrance. The pair now joined in mutual tapping. She gave one burst of 5 taps, then moved a few inches along the outside and tapped as before. The male continued tapping in a rather exhaustive fashion for several minutes, still hidden within the hole, while his mate calmly preened herself at the top of the stub. I witnessed this ceremony on 3 consecutive mornings. On the morning of May 2 the male called "queeark" 47 times in 5 minutes before his mate arrived. An interesting aspect of this ceremony at daybreak was that I had witnessed an almost identical pattern of behavior among pairs of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, as described elsewhere (Kilham, 1958). Both species tap at the same countable rate of 2 to 3 taps per second, usually in bursts of 5 to 15 taps each. The vocalization "queeark" of the Red-headed Woodpecker is, I believe, equivalent to the "kwirr" of the Red-bellied Woodpecker, these vocalizations for either species representing the breeding call of the male.