

**First Vermilion Flycatcher specimen from Missouri.**—Six sight reports exist for the Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) in Missouri. A. E. Shirling (The Bluebird, Audubon Soc. Missouri, 12: 60) reported the first (a male) at a lake at Pleasant Hill, Cass County, on 27 October 1945. On 11 November 1952 Arthur Bennett found an immature male at a lake at the August A. Busch Wildlife Area near St. Louis, St. Charles County. The bird stayed 12 days and was seen by some 30 individuals (op. cit., 20: no. 2). On 13 March 1955 Harold and Margaret Hedges and Oscar Hawksley saw a male on the Gasconade River near Hartville, Wright County (pers. comm.). Clara M. Moody reported a Vermilion Flycatcher during September 1958 at Portageville, New Madrid County (op. cit., 25: no. 8). On 5 May 1958, Tatum saw one at Forest Hill Cemetery, Jackson County (pers. comm.).

On 30 September 1967 at the August A. Busch Wildlife Area, Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer discovered one male (red on head and underparts) and three females (no red) perched in dead trees over a lake. The females stayed only a few days, but the male remained until 13 November when it was found dead. Over 50 (including the authors) had opportunity to view these birds. The dead bird was preserved as a study skin (partially ossified skull, juvenal plumage, little fat) and represents the first specimen for Missouri. Wesley Lanyon and Eugene Eisenmann, American Museum of Natural History, determined the subspecies to be *P. r. mexicanus*. The wing measured 83 (chord) and the tail 61.5 mm. Apparently the Vermilion Flycatcher is a casual stray to Missouri during migration. It is of interest to note that to the west in Kansas, Johnston (Directory to the bird-life of Kansas, Lawrence, Mus. Nat. Hist., Univ. Kansas, 1960) mentions no records for this species, but Sutton (Oklahoma birds, Norman, Univ. Oklahoma Press, 1967, p. 350) mentions several recent Oklahoma breeding records.—DAVID A. EASTERLA, *Department of Biology, Northwest Missouri State College, Maryville, Missouri 64468*, and RICHARD A. ANDERSON, *1147 Grenshaw Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63137*.

**Notes on the Long-billed Curlew.**—At one time the Long-billed Curlew (*Numerius americanus*) occurred in large numbers over most of the prairie regions of the United States and southern Canada. By the early 1900s the species had already declined markedly. Today it is rarely encountered east of the Mississippi River and occurs mainly in scattered populations in the western United States and Canada. Published information on its distribution and ecology is sparse; almost all its known biology is based on works written at the turn of the century, most of them purely observational and rather subjective in nature.

This bird is rare over most of its former range, but some still breed in western South Dakota. On 25 June 1967 Raymond Daugherty and I noted between 25 and 30 Long-billed Curlews in northern Butte and western Harding Counties, one group of 9 or 10 individuals, another of 11 or 12 birds, and a number of singles and pairs. As these were casual sightings made while driving through these counties, the breeding populations in that region are apparently large enough to offer good possibilities for future study of the species' biology.

At present most of the land in Butte and Harding Counties is used as pasture for cattle and sheep. All the curlews seen on 25 June 1967 were either in pasturelands with cattle or in unoccupied fields. This suggests, as Sugden (Condor, 35: 3, 1933) points out, that sheep limit curlew nesting whereas cattle do not.

We collected two Long-billed Curlews in western Harding County 25 June 1967 for the University of South Dakota research and teaching collection. When the first