



Male Yellow-shafted Flicker with bill held shut by pierced seed. Photo taken November 30, 1950, by William Williams.

Virginia. The bird was a male, with a wing measurement of 155 mm. It had driven its bill into a hole in a small seed, probably that of a dogwood (*Cornus* sp.), and could not extricate itself. The mandibles were much scored by the bird's efforts to dislodge the seed.—J. J. MURRAY, 6 White Street, Lexington, Virginia.

Red-headed Woodpecker with malformed bill.—On August 23, 1950, two miles northwest of Beltrami, Polk County, Minnesota, we observed a fully adult Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) which appeared to be entirely normal except that its bill was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and strongly decurved. We could not be certain that both mandibles were of equal length. The bird visited only the tops of telephone poles and used its bill solely in probing cavities there. At no time during the 20-minute period of our observation (with two pairs of 6X binoculars at distances of 30 to 200 feet) did it pound, gouge, or rap with its bill, nor did it alight, in usual woodpecker-fashion, on the side of a pole. Its habitat in general was a hundred-acre poplar tract and a thinly wooded pasture, surrounded by grain fields. We visited this area frequently earlier in the summer and once in September but saw the odd woodpecker only on August 23. Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) were common in the region, but Red-headed Woodpeckers were rare.

The above-reported observation is of interest as an indication of the degree of adaptability of the species. Apparently this particular individual's bill, though too fragile or too much curved for wood-chopping, served admirably for reaching into deep cracks and crevices. The bird was active and in good feather. Its head was wholly red, so it must have been more than one year old (cf. Roberts, 1932. "The Birds of Minnesota," Vol. 2, p. 674). We have no idea, of course, how long its bill had been malformed, but surmise that once injury made vigorous pecking and pounding impossible, wear stopped and abnormal growth started. The abnormally long lower mandible of a reared-in-captivity Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*) has been reported by Beebe (1906. "The Bird," pp. 232 and 248).—SCOTT SEARLES AND EMMA U. SEARLES, Chemistry Department, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

Vermilion Flycatcher in Arkansas rice district.—In the heart of the rice district near Stuttgart, Arkansas, I saw three Vermilion Flycatchers (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) in the fall of 1950. Two of these were adult males which I saw in a haw tree (*Crataegus*) along a rice field irrigation ditch on November 6. I collected one of them that day. The third, an immature male, I collected along a farm road near a large reservoir, November 28. The two specimens are in the U. S. National Museum.

There are, apparently, three other records for the State. In the vicinity of Magnolia, in southwestern Arkansas, in the fall of 1941, J. R. Forbes saw two birds, an immature male from October 18 to November 1, and an adult male from October 28 to November 3. The former, collected on November 1, is now in the Cornell University collection (Forbes, 1942. *Auk*, 59: 579). At Mena, near the Oklahoma border in west central Arkansas, a Vermilion Flycatcher was seen on October 21, 1945. Details of the record, as reported to Dr. W. J. Baerg, will appear in the current revision of his "Birds of Arkansas," now in press.—BROOKE MEANLEY, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Stuttgart, Arkansas.*

Vermilion Flycatcher on east coast of Florida.—On March 25, 1951, Roger N. Early, of Lakeland, Florida, and I observed a male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) near the United States Coast Guard Station, New Smyrna, Volusia County, Florida. We first saw it as it flew from a telephone wire along the highway to the top of a small tree. We spent an hour observing it at close range with and without the aid of a binocular. It continued perching in the tops of small trees, feeding with the characteristic technique of its clan. When approached too closely, it merely flew to the next bush or tree and continued feeding. Often it wagged its tail in the manner of a phoebe (*Sayornis*) just after alighting.

During the course of our observations Mr. Early obtained 40 feet of motion pictures in color from a distance of about 35 feet, using a six-inch lens. In my attempts to photograph the bird, I several times approached to within 20 feet before putting it to flight. It appeared to be established in one particular area. By persistent following I induced it to fly in short "hops" to a tree about 200 yards from the spot at which we had first seen it. From this place it circled back to its original perch. Mr. Early attempted to photograph it at close range, causing it to move about 150 yards, but again it returned to its 'base,' as before.

Although the Vermilion Flycatcher has been seen many times in winter in northwestern Florida, there are few published records for the peninsula proper, and this one may be the first for the east coast. We made no attempt to collect the specimen. Our photographs turned out well.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, *812 East Hendrix Street, Brazil, Indiana.*

Wing-flashing by male Mockingbirds.—My observations on a few marked Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) run counter to Tomkins' belief that wing-flashing by males is rare (1950. *Wilson Bulletin*, 62: 41-42). This species is scattered through Baltimore's suburban sections as a permanent resident. On the grounds about my home, however, I have seen it only in winter, spring and fall. Six birds that I have color-banded have proved, by spring singing, to be males. I have seen wing-flashing by three of the six: on three occasions (March 21, April 18, April 27) by an individual present from October 1, 1947, to May 2, 1948; on seven occasions—March 6, 17, 21, 24 and 31 (twice), and April 1—by a bird present 43 days (March 4 to April 15, 1946); and on one occasion (April 16) by a bird present from April 9 to 22, 1950. I have seen wing-flashing by a silent (and therefore probably a female) color-banded bird on four occasions during a 7-day stay in April. Wing-flashing by unbanded Mockingbirds (sex ?) elsewhere I have witnessed in January (once), May, July and September.

Like Tomkins, I have seen the gesture made above the ground as well as on it. On the 22 occasions that I have seen adult birds perform, the place has been: lawn, 12 times; concrete paving, 1; my second-floor window feeding shelf, 8; on the bird's nest-bush, 1. I have also once seen a large fledgling flash its wings in a tree (wing-flashing by young birds on the ground appears to be common, but I have had no opportunity to study it systematically). Like Wampole (1949. *Wilson Bulletin*, 61: 113), I find that the extent to which the wings are lifted and spread varies greatly: sometimes they are moved only a little away from the sides and spread only slightly. I have included the less conspicuous instances in my tabulations.

On all but one occasion, as the above summary suggests, wing-flashing by adults has