

**Feeding of Mallards prevented by Crows.**—On January 28, 1952, I was observing approximately 250 Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) on a slough one mile north and one and one half miles east of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas. Some of the ducks were standing on ice on the slough; others were circling overhead. The ducks on the ice suddenly took flight. The flock then began to alight and forage in a corn field adjacent to one end of the slough. In a few seconds several crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) appeared and circled approximately four feet over the ducks. Almost immediately a crow swooped at a duck, flushed it, and chased it about 20 yards. The other crows also began to chase ducks. The few crows were soon joined by others until there were 20 of them, all chasing the ducks. After five minutes the entire flock of ducks took flight with all of the crows in close pursuit. After following the ducks for perhaps 25 yards, the crows returned and perched on broken corn stalks where they engaged in a short period of preening. They then flew off without feeding. The ducks had disappeared to the south toward the Kansas River.—DENNIS RAINEY, *University of Kansas Natural History Reservation, Lawrence, Kansas, June 15, 1952.*

**Subspecific status of the Common Loon in Florida.**—Howell (1932. "Florida Bird Life," p. 73) gives *Gavia immer immer* (Brünnich) as the only race of the Common Loon occurring in Florida. He cites numerous observations but records no specimens preserved nor any reasons for the subspecific identification. His determination of race has been followed by other workers on Florida birds without substantiating data.

I have examined nine specimens from Alachua, Brevard, Citrus, Levy, Marion, and St. Johns counties, Florida, collected between November 13 and June 9. The measurements of four males are: wing 348–364 mm., tarsus 82.5–96 mm. Five females measure: wing 312–328, tarsus 82.5–89.5. These nine birds agree in size with ten breeding United States specimens of the Lesser Loon, *Gavia immer elasson* Bishop. They are decidedly smaller than six skins of the Common Loon, *Gavia immer immer*, from Iceland, Greenland, Labrador, and northern British Columbia. Accordingly I suggest that *elasson* be added to the Florida list and *immer* be removed from lack of evidence as to its occurrence in the state.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, July 11, 1952.*

**Possible commensalism between Myrtle Warbler and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.**—On January 6, 1952, I observed a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) feeding on hackberries (*Celtis occidentalis*) in a swamp at Seneca, Maryland. The bird would perch on a limb, then launch into the air and neatly pick off a berry as though catching a flying insect. Once the sapsucker flew with the berry to a nearby tree and spent some time searching up and down the bark. Finally locating a suitable crevice into which it wedged the berry, the bird hammered on the stone, of which the berry largely consists, to extract the seed. A Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) was attracted by the sapsucker as the latter left the tree and followed the sapsucker about closely—within two feet and once within six inches—during the whole time the larger bird hunted for a crevice and worked on the berry. As soon as the sapsucker had flown away, the Myrtle Warbler went directly to the crevice and apparently searched for leftovers. The sapsucker meanwhile picked another berry and flew with it to a tree 50 feet away. The Myrtle Warbler subsequently followed it, coming within six feet, but at this time both birds flew away.—LAWRENCE KILHAM, *8302 Garfield Street, Bethesda, Maryland, July 11, 1952.*