

the point at which that road leaves route 402. The bird was collected, and proved to be an adult male with testes measuring 9×6 millimeters. It was fat, and had been feeding on insects, mostly grasshoppers. This apparently constitutes a new northernmost locality record for this species, which is purely casual in Florida away from the southern Lake Okeechobee area.

Hirundo rustica. Barn Swallow.—On September 10 we were watching a large flock of Barn Swallows hawking insects over an extensive cane field on the Glades-Hendry county line at route 720. Among them, but impossible to collect, was a beautiful albino. As is so often the case in such abnormally-colored birds, the loss of pigment was differential. Although the upper parts were pure white, the areas of the underparts which are pinkish buff in a normal Barn Swallow were a creamy yellow in this bird.

Vermivora ruficapilla. Nashville Warbler.—On September 14 I was attempting to collect one of a small flock of Prairie Warblers (*Dendroica discolor*) at the west end of Bahia Honda Key. It was a particularly windy day, and I found it difficult to keep track of individual birds as they moved about in a small clump of trees. When I finally did fire, the bird which fell proved to be a Nashville Warbler, a species which I had not realized was present among the Prairie Warbler flock. A trick of the wind had conspired to distribute my shot pattern so that the bird was completely mangled. Being unaware at the time of the extreme rarity of this warbler in Florida, I discarded the specimen. I have since learned from Mrs. Margaret H. Hundley of Key West that there are no previous records of this species from the outer Keys. I have also learned never to discard specimens!—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania, March 29, 1956.*

Golden Eagle attacks decoy duck.—While concealed in a sand-pit duck blind on November 20, 1955, I watched a mature Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) display unusual interest in some decoy ducks. It was a clear, cold day on the South Platte River near Sedgwick, Colorado, and my 20 decoys (11 mallards fronted by nine pintails) fringing the far side of a 15-foot channel were strung out for 30 feet upstream from my willow-bordered blind. The eagle, soaring into the light wind, came in low over the river bottom and alighted at the water's edge directly across the stream and about 20 feet from me. After a few minutes of critical inspection, head cocked first to one side and then the other, the big bird gingerly waded toward the decoy mallard drake, only five feet away, that brought up the rear of the spread. This first advance into the shallow water abruptly changed to a much faster and ungainly backward retreat as the eagle got its "pants" wet. A second entry into the water and hurried exit to land failed to discourage this hungry bird, for, with two quick beats of spread wings, it was in the air three feet above the water and, passing slowly over the decoys, it landed close to the lead decoy—a bright black and white male pintail.

Here the first half-hearted wading effort was quickly followed by a bold approach to the rear of that pintail decoy, which was slowly tacking with the current. Now the eagle spread its wings, reared back and thrust its feet forward to strike the decoy's back with distended talons. That first vicious strike was repeated as soon as the decoy righted from its half-submerged roll and the scrape of talons on the hard surface of the decoy could have been clearly heard much farther away than my 40 feet. Now, standing in six inches of water and just downstream from the tacking decoy, the eagle gave a sudden wing flap, reached out and grasped the decoy's head with its right foot, and both eagle and decoy were in the air.

Hurriedly, I raised up in the blind as the eagle took wing but I stood motionless when

it dropped the decoy on the shore and alighted nearby. Then, although I was exposed head and shoulders above the blind, the eagle's full attention was on its "prey" for, turning toward me, it walked back to the decoy, now lying on its side, and putting one foot on the "duck," made three sharp pecks at its belly. The noise of the big predator's beak striking the board bottom of that hollow decoy sounded like a slow-motion tattoo of a flicker (*Colaptes*) pounding a house. Finally, apparently convinced that the decoy duck it had "captured" was not edible, the eagle gave up its futile feeding efforts and took to the air, flying leisurely downstream to pass me at eye level and within 10 feet of my face.—CHARLES C. SPERRY, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado, April 3, 1956.*

***Telmatodytes palustris plesius* wintering in southwestern Kansas.**—On January 28, 1956, while in Kearny County, Kansas, with four members of a field party from the University of Kansas, I heard an estimated five Long-billed Marsh Wrens (*Telmatodytes palustris*) in a marshy area below the earthen dam of Lake McKinney. Although the water along the perimeter of the marsh was frozen, open areas existed near the center. I collected two specimens, a fat male (K.U. 32991) having minute testes, and a female (K.U. 32992), in which the ovary was four by three millimeters, that had little fat.

The collection at the University of Kansas contains another winter specimen (K.U. 28939), a male, taken one and a half miles north of Fowler, Meade County, Kansas, on December 31, 1948, by Henry Hildebrand. This specimen, previously identified as *T. p. dissaëptus*, and the two birds from Kearny County are assignable to *T. p. plesius* on the basis of the over-all pale coloration, distinctly barred tail coverts, and large size. All three specimens came from the valley of the Arkansas River.

T. p. plesius is known to breed east to central Colorado (A. O. U. check-list of North American birds, 4th ed., 1931:249). Therefore it is not surprising to find it wintering in the valley of the Arkansas River. Many species which breed in the Rocky Mountains occur in that valley in migration or in winter. Western Kansas should be investigated in the breeding season; it would be interesting to know if Long-billed Marsh Wrens breed there and, if they do, to what subspecies they belong.

Tordoff, in his recent check-list of the birds of Kansas (1956. *Univ. Kansas Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 8 (5):338), lists only *T. p. dissaëptus* as occurring in the state. It is considered an uncommon transient throughout Kansas, known as a breeding bird only from Doniphan County, in the extreme northeastern part of the state. This note records the occurrence, and at least occasional wintering, of *T. p. plesius* in Kansas.—GLEN E. WOOLFENDEN, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, March 28, 1956.*

"Frightmolt" in a male Cardinal.—The description of the occurrence recorded here has been stimulated by the recent publication of an extensive paper on frightmolt, "Schreckmauser" (Heinrich Dathe. 1955. *Jour. f. Ornith.* 96:5-14). Dathe defines this process as a partial molt which takes place out of the normal molt period and which is set in motion through fright or fear and without any application of force. He gives a long list of birds in which this event has been recorded, stating that it does not seem to have been found among waterfowl or birds of prey. The rectrices are shed most frequently, and next, the smaller feathers of the breast and the dorsal tracts; the wing feathers are seldom, and the feathers of the head, never affected. For the most part, the feathers seem either to be expelled, so to speak, shot away, or, alternatively,