

Intraspecific relationship in Red-shafted Flickers.—On the afternoon of 14 November 1964, a Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer*) was observed apparently attempting to rescue another Red-shafted Flicker that had been caught in a mist net.

I was attracted to the scene in the backyard of my home in Oak Creek Canyon, Zion National Park, Utah, by the loud and insistent calls of both birds. Upon observing the birds through $9\times$ binoculars at a distance of about 55 feet, I found that a female flicker had been caught in the lowest strand of the net and was hanging only a few inches above the ground. The male flicker, standing on the ground directly beneath the female, was able to reach the female's bill with its own. They clasped each other's bill and both birds appeared to tug. After seven or eight tugs, the male jumped onto the body of the female and began pecking at the net strands, all the time calling in a loud manner typical of an annoyed flicker. He then jumped back onto the ground and again clasped the female's bill with his and began backing away, with the help of wing beats, apparently trying to pull the female free of the net. He suddenly released his hold and flew at the net. He again jumped upon her body and began a vigorous pecking at the net strands. Just as suddenly he jumped back onto the ground and began the tugging process again.

I watched these actions for about 6 minutes. Then, noticing that there was blood from an apparent cut on the female's loreal region, I approached the net to release the bird. The male then flew only a short distance away to a scrub oak where he began a "churr-ing" call and bobbed up and down in a manner I have seen woodpeckers do when they are excited. I banded and released the female, who flew to a rock about 40 feet up the slope from the male. She began a constant calling which was immediately answered by the male, and within 30 seconds he flew to her and they disappeared up canyon together.—ROLAND H. WAUER, *Zion National Park, Utah, 21 January 1965.*

A melanistic Pileated Woodpecker specimen from Georgia.—While arranging specimens of Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) in the U.S. National Museum, I found an almost entirely black female that immediately reminded me of the Old World Black Woodpecker (*D. martius*). This specimen (USNM No. 268901) was collected 2 November 1917 in the Okefinokee Swamp of Georgia by Harrison Lee, and is in good condition except for some feathers missing from portions of its head and neck. The bird was completing its annual molt (the central rectrices and eighth primaries were coming in and the other rectrices and inner seven primaries were new). It is an adult individual as indicated by its relatively short and narrow tenth primaries (until their first prebasic molt is nearly completed, woodpecker young of the year are usually distinguishable from adults by their longer and broader tenth primaries).

The specimen's underparts lack any indication of the white feather edges often noted in Pileated Woodpeckers. The white wing patches, characteristic of that species, are entirely lacking, and white is visible only on the underside of the wings, as a fine mottling on a few covert feathers and the inner bases of primaries 5-7. The shafts of the remiges (but not the rectrices) exhibit some dusky white near their bases, and not the sharply setoff black and white stripes normally found in *D. pileatus*. The head and neck lack the striking white marks so characteristic of the Pileated Woodpecker. The only white visible on the head and neck is that normally found beneath the red of the crest feathers, and a few vague traces on the edges of some malar feathers.

The remainder of its plumage, including the mottled brown and black forehead, is like that of a normal female Pileated Woodpecker. There is one other apparent abnormality—its extremely long and narrow bill. Its bill length (culmen = 54.2 mm)

is greater than measurements listed for females of all races of *D. pileatus* by Ridgway (1914. Birds of North and Middle America. Part VI. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* No. 50). Compared with females in the U.S. National Museum, this specimen's bill is longer than: that of every southeastern specimen (*D. p. pileatus*, *D. p. floridanus*), those of most northeastern (*abieticola*) females, and those of some northwestern (*picinus*) specimens. Not only is the bill extraordinarily long in this melanistic bird, but it is also narrower (12.2 mm wide at center of nostrils) and less massive than those of all the adult female specimens of *D. pileatus* that I examined.

This unusual specimen approaches *D. martius* in the virtual absence of white in its plumage, although it does not tend toward that species in other features, such as *martius*' larger size and restricted crest. Nevertheless, there is a striking resemblance between this abnormal specimen of *D. pileatus* and *D. martius*. The plumage pattern of the Pileated Woodpecker is intermediate between the generally barred and more patterned, tropical, New World species of *Dryocopus*, and the less patterned and larger Old World species, *D. martius* and *D. javensis*. The melanistic Pileated Woodpecker described above suggests that genetically simple, melanic tendencies may have played a role in evolution of *pileatus*, *martius*, and *javensis* from ancestral (tropical American?) forms.—LESTER L. SHORT, JR., *Bird and Mammal Laboratories, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., 11 February 1965.*

Duet Singing in the Carolina Wren.—Based on observations I have made in South Carolina and Florida I have concluded that the male and female of mated pairs of Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) regularly sing duets.

The duet consists of the male's three- or four-note phrases repeated four or five times. The female joins in, usually toward the last notes of the first phrase with a buzzy, rather high-pitched trill which lasts well into the second phrase of the male's song. The trill of the female has not been heard by me except when the male was singing, though a somewhat similar lower pitched trill is sometimes used by Carolina Wrens. The female does not always join the song of the male, but in the pairs that I have observed she usually sings once or twice in a series of songs by the male, most often toward the start of a singing session. I have seen a female join in with a male in singing when a third bird appeared in the vicinity. In this case she came from a short distance away and hopped to a position just below and about a yard away from the male.

A recent observation, 19 November 1964, at Greenville, South Carolina, involved two pairs of Carolina Wrens. A male in my yard started to sing and was joined by his mate. Across the street a second male answered along with its mate.

I have heard Carolina Wrens singing duets in McClellanville, South Carolina and Sebring, Florida, as well as in Greenville, South Carolina. I have heard duets sung in all seasons of the year.—JAMES B. SHULER, 43 Kirkwood Lane, Greenville, South Carolina, 30 November 1964.

Bluebirds feeding Mockingbird nestlings.—On 14 May 1964, we observed a pair of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) feeding Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) nestlings. Feeding of nestlings of one species by adults of another species has been reported for other species pairs but seems not to have been recorded for bluebirds and Mockingbirds.

The observation was made at Dr. Archie Carr's residence in Micanopy, Alachua County, Florida. The Mockingbird nest was on a low-hanging limb of a slash pine, approximately 4 feet above ground. Eighteen feet up the trunk of the same tree was a bird box; in a