

**Belted Kingfisher—Fishing or Bathing?**—While observing a male Belted Kingfisher at the lake in Glen Helen, Antioch College campus, Yellow Springs, Ohio, on October 19, 1931, the writer witnessed the following behavior. The bird splashed back and forth over the water several times near the shore. Twice immediately afterward it plunged into the water and returned to its perch. These plunges were so “flattened-out” over the water as to suggest that the bird was bathing rather than fishing. The next maneuver was more complex: the Kingfisher made a “shallow” dive from its perch, apparently striking the water only with its breast and belly; then it flew a few inches above the surface toward the shore and made a second belly-wetting splash; reversing its direction it again flew low over the water and made a third and final “belly-splash,” after which it returned to its perch. Each maneuver was accompanied by its rattling call. After its first “triple” plunge the bird perched for a minute or more without preening its wet plumage. Was the bird fishing, bathing or “playing”?—LOUIS B. KALTER, 535 Belmont Park N., Dayton, Ohio.

**A Red-headed Woodpecker with Incompletely Ossified Skeleton.**—On August 30, 1931, while driving along a country road near Lincoln, Nebraska, I saw a bird fluttering in a shallow ditch. It proved to be an immature male Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), fully feathered and with considerable red on the head. It appeared to be in perfect health but, although it flapped its wings vigorously, could not fly. Knowing that a bird in such a predicament could not long escape its enemies, I decided to make a study skin of it.

Prior to skinning this bird, about an hour later, I proceeded to stretch out the wings and legs before making the incision. Upon doing so both humeri broke as did the left leg at the heel. The mouth was opened and the mandibles bent well forward of the glenoid fossae. It soon became apparent that the entire skeleton of this bird was very incompletely ossified. When manipulated the skeleton behaved much like bones that have been decalcified for microscopical sectioning. When broken the brittle snap characteristic of normal bones was not evident.

Although I have skinned hundreds of birds, including two other immature Red-headed Woodpeckers, this summer, I have never before observed such a condition, except in the case of very young fledglings. It should be emphasized, however, that this bird was not a fledgling but one that would normally have been actively on the wing for at least a month.—GEORGE E. HUDSON, Dept. of Zoology and Anatomy, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

**The Gray Kingbird in Massachusetts.**—On Nov. 22, 1931 a party of observers was working in West Newbury, Essex County. We had barely recovered from the excitement of seeing a European Teal (see page 79) and were motoring rapidly along a country road bound for another locality, when Allen spied a bird on the telegraph wires, which Griscom thought a large flycatcher. Jamming on the brakes and tumbling hastily