

of Vancouver I noted a Black Pigeon Hawk carrying something in its feet that I judged to be nesting material. Twice at least in June and July, on Vancouver Island, I have heard the shrill cry of the little male—in one case I saw him also—and judged the bird close to its nest site. In both cases these birds were in heavy timber inland, the most difficult country in which to locate a nest. This plainly accounts for its scarcity in mid-summer and relative abundance in late July and August when the young come out of hiding. At nesting time (June and July) when it is relatively seldom seen, it evidently retires to its original natural habitat—the dense forest, and emerges in July and August when the burns and slashings and cultivated fields provide abundant small bird prey.

The life story of the Black Merlin would seem to offer in small edition a wondrously exact parallel to that of the Black Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus pealei*)—a similarity that holds good not only in plumage but in habits of life, range, manner of taking prey, migration, wintering and nesting. From the above I think it can be seen that the Black Merlin would seem to be a good enough race and that its home range is the “humid coastal strip” from which not even a few outpost records will remove it.—HAMILTON M. LAING, *Comox, British Columbia.*

Albinism Among New Hampshire Ring-necked Pheasants.—On October 3, 1934, Mr. Luman R. Nelson collected in Winchester, N. H., a full-sized albino male Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*) from a flock of seven albino birds. All seven birds were young-of-the-year from normal colored parents; the brood was hatched near, and lived about the Country Club grounds, where they lingered at least part of the winter, with the adults often accompanying them.

While their color was white throughout, the legs and feet, and bill were colored a light shade of buff; the eyes were the normal brown color, I was given to understand, and such eyes were used in the mounted specimen. The wattles and bare places of the head were an intense red.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

Does the Female Woodcock Ever Sky Dance?—Some years ago I recorded (Auk, Vol. XLVII, No. 2, p. 248) observations on the American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) in West Virginia. Since that time we have had rather exceptional opportunities for studying the habits of this bird, and have been very much puzzled by one observation.

Several times observers near French Creek, Upshur County, W. Va., have noted that more Woodcocks seemed to be in the air than were giving the usual “peents” from the ground. It appeared that two distinct series of whistling notes could be heard during the sky dances, where, apparently, only one male was calling on the ground.

On the evening of April 19, 1935, Mrs. Brooks and the writer were looking for Woodcocks near French Creek just at dusk. In a nearby ravine we had already heard a number of “peents.” Suddenly quite close at hand we heard the whistle of wings at the take-off for a sky dance, and we both saw very distinctly *two* birds rising together, starting their circles, and then we caught glimpses of them again, still together, as they circled over our heads during the flight. When the musical notes which precede descent were given we could not tell that more than one bird was giving them, but the descent was too far away for us to be sure that both birds came down in unison. Of course it is quite possible that these were two males which happened to fly at the same time, but there were no evidences on the ground to this effect. It naturally occurred to us that we had perhaps seen a female going through the sky dance procedure.