

A third Flicker carcass, eviscerated by small mammals, was discovered on April 6 at the bottom of the cavity of a large tree and in the position in which it doubtless had died. Its breast contour was about the same as that of the Flicker found starved on January 25, and it had the appearance of having died at about the same time. The hollow tree was more than half a mile from the coniferous planting, so I am not sure that this bird was one I had been watching.

Droppings were to be found scattered in the cornfields and in quantities at the base of certain trees. Approximately a quart of winter fecal material (271 grams, dry wt.) was gathered from beneath one tree, and of this a 75.2 g. random sample was examined. This upon analysis was found to be made up of: seeds and debris of sumac fruits, 64 g.; seed coats and partially digested kernels of corn, 7 g.; hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) seeds, 2.4 g.; Virginia creeper (*Psedera quinquefolia*) seeds, 0.4 g.; insect exoskeleton fragments, 1.4 g. Dr. H. H. Knight kindly checked over the insect remains, which proved to be almost entirely of the carpenter ant (*Camponotus herculeanus pennsylvanicus*) with single examples of Elateridae, Cucujidae (*Catagenus rufus*), and an undetermined bark-inhabiting beetle.

Insofar as sumac fruits are composed for the most part of hard seeds and other indigestible substances, the proportion of this item to corn and insects is considerably higher in the fecal contents than it was in the actual diets of the Flickers, but it is apparent that sumac was eaten in far larger amounts than anything else. The majority of the fecal passages, indeed, were made up exclusively of sumac debris, and these were commonly much more bulky than those representing chiefly the debris from the more completely digestible corn and insects.

While some individual fecal samples contained a mixture of items, the majority contained only the debris from a single food, indicating, as did observations in the field, that the birds tended to fill up rather exclusively upon what was convenient and swallowable where they happened to be feeding. Even the rarer items, such as *Psedera* seeds and insect chitin, were for the most part concentrated in relatively few fecal samples.

All in all, I would say that these wintering Flickers displayed a singular lack of adaptiveness in their feeding habits. Despite the fact that they experienced no evident difficulty in finding corn ears in the cornfields, nor in excavating considerable snow to get at them, this obviously superior food (seldom would corn debris other than seed coats pass through in the feces) would be wholly neglected, days in succession, for sumac fruits which happened to be more conveniently accessible and conspicuous. The freshest droppings for the week previous to the death of the one Flicker on January 25, and the sighting of another in miserable condition on the day before, consisted of practically nothing but sumac debris; the latter bird, according to the "sign," apparently had maintained itself on corn for the next few days, but at the time of its death had gone back to a sumac diet again.

W. L. McAtee (personal letter, April 8, 1936) suggests that, as 60 percent of the Flicker's normal food is animal, inability to obtain this sort of food might in itself place the bird under a serious handicap, regardless of the quantity of vegetable subsistence available.

So far as I know, Flickers were absent from this vicinity during the blizzard-ridden month of February, and the first evidence of their return was recorded on March 4. I have no information as to the northernmost points at which this species found the vicissitudes of the winter within its limits of tolerance.—PAUL L. ERRINGTON, *Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.*

Southern Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Georgia and South Carolina.—So far

as I have been able to determine, the Southern Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza c. diversa*) (Auk, 1901, p. 269; not recognized in A. O. U. Check List), has not previously been reported from Georgia or South Carolina. In a small series taken along the lower Savannah river, Arthur H. Howell has found six of this form. Two of these were taken in April and four in October, and there are specimens from both states.

Since then I have taken several others, and plus some sight records which should be correct within reasonable limits, believe that this subspecies winters regularly in moderate numbers in a particular type of low salt marsh, and perhaps over a much wider salt marsh range.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. dredge "Morgan," Savannah, Ga.*

A Hybrid Flicker at Ottawa, Ontario.—On May 12, 1936, while sketching Ducks and Geese in the Experimental Farm wildfowl enclosure I noticed two Flickers going through their courting antics in a clump of low bushes near-by. As I approached nearer to them I observed with the aid of binoculars that one was a male Hybrid Flicker.

When it turned towards me I saw that it had the pure red under tail surface of the western red-shafted form. In every other way it was the same as the eastern yellow-shafted form as far as I could see.

This is the most easterly record of the Hybrid Flicker in Canada. Two others were taken at Toronto Ontario, one is in the collection of Mr. E. T. Seton, the other is in the collection of Mr. G. E. Atkinson.—ARTHUR D. NELLES, *Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.*

Nesting of *Oncostoma* in the Canal Zone.—The genus *Oncostoma* Sclater is made up of but two species: the Bent-billed Flycatcher, *O. cinereigulare* (Sclater), which ranges from Mexico to western Panama, and the Lawrence's Bent-billed Flycatcher, *O. olivaceum* (Lawrence), which is found from the vicinity of the Panama Canal Zone southward to northern Colombia. These two are so closely allied as to be doubtfully specifically distinct, and Hellmayr (Catalogue of Birds of the Americas) considers *olivaceum* to be merely a subspecies of *cinereigulare*. It would seem therefore a fair presumption that there should be little difference in the nesting habits of the two birds.

A nest purporting to belong to *O. cinereigulare* is described by Carriker (An Annotated List of the Birds of Costa Rica, Annals of the Carnegie Museum, vi, 1909-1910, p. 733). It was found near Guapiles, Costa Rica, in a lime tree growing at the edge of a pasture. A pair of Bent-billed Flycatchers were around the nest when it was discovered, but no eggs had been laid. Several days later the site was again visited and the nest found abandoned and partially destroyed. Carriker describes this as "a tiny flattened cup-shaped structure, made of fine grasses and weed-fibers, and lined with vegetable down and a few hairs, and placed in a cluster of small branches on the top of a limb." It should be noted that the identification of this nest was based solely upon the fact that "the birds were around the nest" when he first discovered it. On the other hand, C. H. Lankester, of Cachi, Costa Rica, writes me that the structure is a "slender hang-nest of bottle shape."

As to *O. olivaceum*, I found a nest of this species along the Rio Indio trail, near Gatun, Canal Zone, on August 7, 1933. This was placed at a height of about three feet above the ground in a small bush in dense, scrubby jungle. It was near the trail and at the edge of a partial, tangled clearing which permitted plenty of light to enter the vicinity of the nest. It was a small, flask-shaped structure, about three inches in maximum diameter and a little over four inches in vertical length, hung from slender twigs. The entrance was a small round hole in one side near the top, with a "roof" projecting out and serving to shelter it. The nest was delicately yet very firmly