

Maria Koepke to a paper dealing with the same question: Ruben Plótnik, "Afinidad entre los géneros *Elanus* and *Gampsonyx*" (Revista de Investigaciones Agrícolas, 10, no. 3, pp. 313-315, Buenos Aires, 1956). After comparing various morphological characters, chiefly the bill, nostrils, and scutellation of tarsus and toes, this author concluded the correct place of *Gampsonyx* was not among the falcons, but near *Elanus*. This view had also been taken by Friedmann (U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 50, pt. 11: 68, 1950). We are thus in complete agreement, though approaching the subject from different sides.—VESTA STRESEMANN, *Wandalenalle 38, Berlin-Charlottenburg, Germany.*

Reverse Mounting in Red-bellied Woodpeckers.—A report on pair formation of Red-bellied Woodpeckers (*Centurus carolinus*) (Killham, Auk, 75: 318-329, 1958) discussed reverse mounting observed in this species. In June 1958 I observed the female of a nesting pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers mount the male on four occasions. The first three incidents occurred during the incubation of the eggs, the fourth after the young had hatched. A second successful brood was brought off the nest in September by this pair, the male of which was marked by a large head scar. Starlings harassed the pair at the nest hole all through the summer, but the male parent brought young of both broods to my feeders.

Each incident of reverse mounting followed the return of the male to the nest area after an absence of from thirty to sixty minutes. The male shared, almost equally during the day, the incubation duties, although he was apparently much more restless than the female during these attentive periods. The male usually returned to a stub at the top of the broken decaying tree and called "churr", at which the female would come out of the nest hole and inch up the tree stump to join him. The return of the female to the nest was never accompanied by any kind of greeting ceremony. The female usually flew right to the nest hole and waited by it for the male to emerge. Only after the young had hatched did the male fly directly to the nest hole, bringing food.

The first incident of reverse mounting was followed immediately by a brief attempt at coition, after which the female flew away. The other three incidents in which the female "covered" the male appeared to have no sexual significance, but gave the impression that they were an expression of "affection," or perhaps a greeting by the female on her mate's return to relieve her at the nest. Rather than inviting coition, reverse mounting might, on some occasions, be a gesture playing a part in keeping active the family tie.—DORIS C. HAUSER, 309 *Sylvan Road, Fayetteville, N. C.*

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in central Pennsylvania.—An adult male Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides arcticus*, was collected December 2, 1958 in Centre County, about 22 miles north of University Park, Pennsylvania, and now is study skin MW1249 in the ornithology collection of The Pennsylvania State University. This specimen was discovered by and secured through Mr. Henry A. Fraser, Mr. Carl Holt and Mr. Russell Fisher of Bellefonte, Pa. Dr. Earl L. Poole of the Reading Public Museum has called to my attention that while this species has been seen before in Pennsylvania, 1928 and 1956 (Cassinia, 42: 22-23, 1957) and 1957 (Redstart, 24: 82, 1957), this seems to be the first one collected.—MERRILL WOOD, *The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.*