

the National Museum of Canada, who identified all three birds as the race *v. nigra*. These are the first specimens of the Common Eider taken in Minnesota. An earlier sight record of Common Eider by William Pieper at Grand Marais, Cook County, 7 November 1955 is considered valid.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *University of Minnesota, Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minnesota*, and FORREST B. LEE, *Minnesota Division of Game and Fish, St. Paul, Minnesota*.

Aggressiveness of Migrant Myrtle Warblers toward Woodpeckers and Other Birds.—In making observations on woodpeckers over the course of eight years in the vicinity of Seneca, Maryland, I have noted repeated instances of attacks made on them, as well as on other birds, by migrant Myrtle Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*). These attacks have taken place in October and November. On 9 November 1957, for example, a Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*) with something yellow in its bill, possibly a piece of acorn, was swooped at and closely pursued by a Myrtle Warbler as it flew across a canal. I have witnessed similar attacks on Red-headed (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Hairy (*Dendrocopos villosus*), and Downy (*D. pubescens*) woodpeckers, as well as on Bluebirds (*Siala sialis*), all occurring in mid-air. The frequency of such episodes may be indicated by observations made in 1960. Thus, on 20 November I saw a Myrtle Warbler attack a Downy Woodpecker that was feeding on poison ivy berries (*Rhus radicans*). The Downy flew across the canal with the warbler in pursuit, both rested in a tree within a short distance of each other, and the warbler resumed the attacks when the woodpecker took wing again. This sequence happened three times. While standing at the same spot a few minutes later, I observed a similar series of attacks on a Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*), which had a poison ivy berry in its bill; on a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), which was driven from an oak; and on a Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*). On 27 November I observed Myrtle Warbler attacks on a Downy and a Hairy Woodpecker and finally on a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). This last episode was unusual. The Robin refused to leave the limb on which it was perching except to fly at the Myrtle Warbler three times.

Factors common to many episodes, such as those described above, were that the birds either had food in their bills or were close to a poison ivy vine covered with berries. The warblers develop a territorial possessiveness about these vines, for they feed on the berries regularly. This type of behavior is not unique. I have (1958, *Wilson Bull.*, 70: 347–358), for example, observed a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*) that drove several species of woodpeckers away from a group of persimmon trees, where they were feeding on persimmons. Another aspect of the warblers' behavior is that they appear to be quick to take advantage of what other birds may be feeding upon. As described elsewhere (Kilham, 1953, *Wilson Bull.*, 65: 41), I observed an example of this behavior on 6 January 1953, when a Myrtle Warbler stayed close to and followed a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) that was feeding on hackberries. Such habits may have survival value for a warbler that may migrate late or even winter in the north.—LAWRENCE KILHAM, 7815 Aberdeen Road, Bethesda, Maryland.

A Note on the Pectoral Muscles of Birds.—It is well known that the fundamental force of wing movements is produced by pectoral muscles. The *M. pectoralis major*, attaching ventrally on the head of humerus, pulls the wing bones down, and *M. supracoracoideus* (*M. pect. minor*), with its tendon passing through