

liver weights in the Bonin Island Petrel, which is nocturnal and marine, and which subsists largely on squids. In this petrel the cycle of liver weights follows the pattern of change of the body weights, but percentagewise the liver variations are three times as great. The greater fluctuation in liver weight in the female petrels, as contrasted with greater fluctuation in the male of other species, may be related to the prebreeding condition of the petrels and the wintering status of the Redwings and Starlings.—HARVEY I. FISHER, *Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.*

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola limicola* Vieillot) Breeding at Vermilion, Alberta.—On 6 July 1958 an adult male Virginia Rail was collected from a partially flooded *Carex* meadow in Grizzly Bear Coulee, five miles south and three miles east of the town of Vermilion, Alberta. The specimen was deposited in the National Museum of Canada (Catalogue Number 41559), on behalf of the Canadian Wildlife Service, by which the author was temporarily employed to assist in waterfowl studies.

At the time the bird was collected, there was one other adult present. Both birds were exhibiting a distraction behavior as though there was a nest or a brood present. Three days later, an adult was seen feeding two downy young approximately three feet from the site where the specimen had been collected. At this time, two more adult Virginia Rails were observed. One was seen one-half mile west, and the other, one mile west of the collection site. These birds also exhibited distraction behavior.

The A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (1957, Fifth Edition) defines the northern limit of the breeding range of the Virginia Rail in Alberta as Brooks, 200 miles south of Vermilion. Prior to the collection of the specimen reported herein, the only other specimen collected north of Brooks was an adult male taken near Fort Chipewyan by T. M. Shortt on 30 June 1945 (Specimen Number 72295, Royal Ontario Museum). Although the Virginia Rail has been recorded from this more northerly point, the author believes that the collection of the adult Virginia Rail at Vermilion and the subsequent observation of an adult feeding two downy young at the same site would serve to constitute a new northern record for the breeding range of this species in Alberta.—JAMES K. LOWTHER, *Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, Toronto 5, Ontario, Canada.*

Plumage Peculiarity in Cedar Waxwing.—A specimen of Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) was collected from a flock of 18 to 20 birds at Stoneham, 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Quebec City, on 7 July 1957. Examination of the specimen showed a peculiar coloration of the terminal appendages of the secondaries, the usual bright red being replaced by a bright yellow.

The bird was an adult female whose ovary was well developed. The color of other external parts did not prove different upon comparison with a series of females in the Quebec Provincial Museum. The mean lengths of the wing and culmen of 10 females were: wing 92.6 mm. and culmen 9.5 mm., while for the abnormally colored specimen these measurements were 93.6 mm. and 9.5 mm., respectively. The specimen is preserved in the author's collection as Number 147.—HENRI OUELLET, *341 Fourth St., Quebec City, P.Q. Canada, or The University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B., Canada.*

Behavior of a California Gull Devouring a Juvenile Coot.—On 3 June 1960, while driving along the west side of Unit 2 of the Bear River Migratory Bird