

it dropped the decoy on the shore and alighted nearby. Then, although I was exposed head and shoulders above the blind, the eagle's full attention was on its "prey" for, turning toward me, it walked back to the decoy, now lying on its side, and putting one foot on the "duck," made three sharp pecks at its belly. The noise of the big predator's beak striking the board bottom of that hollow decoy sounded like a slow-motion tattoo of a flicker (*Colaptes*) pounding a house. Finally, apparently convinced that the decoy duck it had "captured" was not edible, the eagle gave up its futile feeding efforts and took to the air, flying leisurely downstream to pass me at eye level and within 10 feet of my face.—CHARLES C. SPERRY, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado, April 3, 1956.*

***Telmatodytes palustris plesius* wintering in southwestern Kansas.**—On January 28, 1956, while in Kearny County, Kansas, with four members of a field party from the University of Kansas, I heard an estimated five Long-billed Marsh Wrens (*Telmatodytes palustris*) in a marshy area below the earthen dam of Lake McKinney. Although the water along the perimeter of the marsh was frozen, open areas existed near the center. I collected two specimens, a fat male (K.U. 32991) having minute testes, and a female (K.U. 32992), in which the ovary was four by three millimeters, that had little fat.

The collection at the University of Kansas contains another winter specimen (K.U. 28939), a male, taken one and a half miles north of Fowler, Meade County, Kansas, on December 31, 1948, by Henry Hildebrand. This specimen, previously identified as *T. p. dissaëptus*, and the two birds from Kearny County are assignable to *T. p. plesius* on the basis of the over-all pale coloration, distinctly barred tail coverts, and large size. All three specimens came from the valley of the Arkansas River.

T. p. plesius is known to breed east to central Colorado (A. O. U. check-list of North American birds, 4th ed., 1931:249). Therefore it is not surprising to find it wintering in the valley of the Arkansas River. Many species which breed in the Rocky Mountains occur in that valley in migration or in winter. Western Kansas should be investigated in the breeding season; it would be interesting to know if Long-billed Marsh Wrens breed there and, if they do, to what subspecies they belong.

Tordoff, in his recent check-list of the birds of Kansas (1956. *Univ. Kansas Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 8 (5):338), lists only *T. p. dissaëptus* as occurring in the state. It is considered an uncommon transient throughout Kansas, known as a breeding bird only from Doniphan County, in the extreme northeastern part of the state. This note records the occurrence, and at least occasional wintering, of *T. p. plesius* in Kansas.—GLEN E. WOOLFENDEN, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, March 28, 1956.*

"Frightmolt" in a male Cardinal.—The description of the occurrence recorded here has been stimulated by the recent publication of an extensive paper on frightmolt, "Schreckmauser" (Heinrich Dathe. 1955. *Jour. f. Ornith.* 96:5-14). Dathe defines this process as a partial molt which takes place out of the normal molt period and which is set in motion through fright or fear and without any application of force. He gives a long list of birds in which this event has been recorded, stating that it does not seem to have been found among waterfowl or birds of prey. The rectrices are shed most frequently, and next, the smaller feathers of the breast and the dorsal tracts; the wing feathers are seldom, and the feathers of the head, never affected. For the most part, the feathers seem either to be expelled, so to speak, shot away, or, alternatively,