

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,

the muscles of the follicle seem to become relaxed so that the quill is set free. Fully formed feathers alone are discarded; regenerating feathers are not lost. Although Dathe ascribes most of his cases to fear, he records an individual cockatoo that "fright-molted" with rage.

My household in Beltsville, Maryland, has for many years scattered feed on the terrace upon which a large glass door opens and which affords a good view from the dining table. Visitors are hence under frequent surveillance. In the late spring or early summer of 1950, a male Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*), flying toward this spot, struck heavily against a casement that had been opened further than usual. The bird fell stunned to the lawn where it was picked up. It had shed the major tail feathers, which lay close by, save the two left lateral-most ones. The Cardinal recovered from his shock and continued as a constant visitor during the entire later season, not replacing the tail plumage. He was easily recognized by the two standing feathers; the absence of the major portion of his flight rudder made little apparent difference to his landings.

The incident discussed above clearly falls into the class discussed by Dathe, and shows also that feather loss is not necessarily a stimulus to regeneration. Probably, however, regeneration would occur at periods closer to the normal molt where, of course, the antecedent activation of the feather papilla is the mover. The entire complex of "frightmolt" is an interesting question which may involve both nervous and humoral participation; the latter is especially suggested in the rage reactions described for the cockatoo.—MARY JUHN, *Jull Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, April 25, 1956.*

**New bird records for Barbuda, British West Indies.**—To my knowledge the last ornithologist to visit Barbuda was Stuart T. Danforth, who spent three days collecting on that island in August, 1933. His activity (1935. *Jour. Agric. Univ. Puerto Rico*, 19 (4):473-482) added seven species to the avifauna known from the island, bringing the total to 54 species. In addition, seven species were listed as doubtfully occurring.

I visited Barbuda from October 29 to November 4, 1955. In spite of the heavy rains which fell at this time, eight species were added to the list recorded from the island, bringing the total to 62 species with seven still carried hypothetically. The additional species are the following:

*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. Black-billed Cuckoo.—On November 1, 1955, an immature male was collected about one mile south of Codrington Village. This bird was in the company of Mangrove Cuckoos (*C. minor*) which were fairly common. In a letter to me dated November 21, 1955, Mr. James Bond says: "The former [Black-billed Cuckoo] is an interesting record and it is only the second specimen of the species from the West Indies that I have examined."

*Anas crecca carolinensis*. Green-winged Teal.—This duck was taken from a flock of 20 small ducks in a rain water pond in the south of the island on October 31.

*Porzana carolina*. Sora Rail.—I observed one at close range while hunting ducks in a small rain water pond about three miles south of Codrington Village on October 31.

*Squatarola squatarola*. Black-bellied Plover.—About half a dozen of these plover were observed feeding on the green bordering the lagoon at Codrington Village. They were seen every day during my stay.

*Charadrius vociferus*. Killdeer.—Two pairs of these birds were observed on several occasions on the green bordering the lagoon at Codrington Village.

*Hirundo rustica*. Barn Swallow.—A small flock of these swallows could be seen daily coursing over the green at Codrington Village.