Alaska, south to northern Minnesota and eastern Montana, and in migration to the States to the south." The purpose of the study indicated in this paper was to determine whether or not that subspecies comes as far south as Kansas in its winter migration. Heretofore, only the Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus luteus,* and the Southern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus auratus,* have been recorded as occurring in Kansas, the former ranging over the entire State, and the latter being found only in the extreme southeastern part.

In this study, 139 flickers in the collection of the Museum of Birds and Mammals at the University of Kansas were examined. Among these were specimens taken at all seasons of the year. The measurements used are: length (where possible), wing, tail, culmen, and tarsus. All measurements except the length were taken personally by the author. The basis for the differentiation of the two subspecies, *Colaptes auratus luteus* Bangs and *Colaptes auratus borealis* Ridgway, is taken from Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America' (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 50: 18–20, 1914).

I am indebted to Mr. C. D. Bunker, Curator of Birds and Mammals, Museum of Birds and Mammals, University of Kansas, for allowing me free use of specimens under his care, and to Dr. Alexander Wetmore, for his helpful criticism of this work.

In Ridgway's (op. cit.) comparison of the two subspecies, *C. a. luteus* and *C. a. borealis,* he states that they are "similar in coloration." He gives the following measurements for *C. a. luteus:* adult males, length (skins), 250–293 (265) mm.; wing, 154–165 (156.3); tail, 96.5–112 (105.9); culmen, 31–40 (34.6); tarsus, 26.5–31 (28.1). Adult females, length (skins), 248–292 (259) mm.; wing, 149.5–159.5 (155); tail, 97–115 (103.9); culmen, 31–38.5 (33.8); tarsus, 26.5–29.5 (27.8). For *C. a. borealis:* adult males, length (skins), 270–314 (292) mm.; wing, 156–170 (162.9); tail, 102.5–115 (107); culmen, 34.5–40 (36.4); tarsus, 27–31.5 (29). Adult females, length (skins), 270–310 (287) mm.; wing, 156–171 (162.3); tail, 99–115 (105.5); culmen, 32.5–38.5 (35.6); tarsus, 27.5–30.5 (28.8).

With the progress of the examination of the specimens, all of which were catalogued as *C. a. luteus,* it became evident that certain individuals were too large to be considered as belonging to that subspecies, and that they came well within the limits of *C. a. borealis.* It is my opinion that these specimens are members of the latter subspecies. This is further indicated by the fact that all the specimens whose characters appear to be those of the Boreal Flicker were taken in the northern part of Kansas during the months from September to April, and should, therefore, be considered as migrants or as winter residents.

Twenty specimens were found that may be considered Boreal Flickers. The range of measurements of these is as follows: length, 290–315 mm.; wing, 160–166; tail, 108–124; culmen, 37–42; tarsus, 26–31. For comparison, the measurement range of twenty specimens of *C. a. luteus,* taken in the winter, and of twenty taken in the summer, is given: winter specimens, length, 285–303 mm.; wing, 149–159; tail, 107–117; culmen, 35–40; tarsus, 25–28. Summer specimens, length, 280–305 mm.; wing, 146–156; tail, 92–111; culmen, 33–39; tarsus, 26–29.—GEORGE C. RINKER, *Museum of Birds and Mammals, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.*

The passing of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.—One of the mysteries of Nature that has puzzled me for many years is the passing of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*), a bird once resident in most of the forests south of the Ohio River to the Gulf, and east of the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean. This bird, although naturally shy of man, was endowed with a strong,

vigorous personality—far better able to cope with the advance of civilization than its lesser companion, the Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophleus pileatus*); yet, the Pileated Woodpecker has survived in numbers, extended its range, and is in no danger of extermination, while the Ivory-bill has gradually disappeared, until now it is practically exterminated.

Two occurrences during my lifetime lead me to believe the passing of the Ivory-bill coincides with the cutting of the hardwood forests within its range. From my earliest childhood Ivory-bills were resident in the hardwood timber of Avery Island, and the great forest extending east from its hills to the Atchafalaya River. There is no forest west of Avery Island. The bird was well known to the French-speaking natives, who called it *Pique-bois grande* in differentiating it from the Pileated Woodpecker known as *Pique-bois noir.*

While Ivory-bills were never common at Avery Island, they were resident, and from three to seven pairs nested yearly in the hardwood areas where gray oak, white oak, magnolia, elm, red gum, and hickory were the principal trees. The lower lands between the ridges were timbered with cypress, tupelo gum, black gum, and maple. Timber-cutting began in the area along the lower Atchafalaya south of the Southern Pacific Railroad about 1900, and gradually worked west. All trees of commercial size and quality were cut. As the cutting of the forests progressed, ever moving from east to west, the shyer birds and mammals kept ahead of the cutters, moving west in the primeval forests.

By 1918, black bear and Ivory-bills were unusually plentiful in the forests of Avery Island, and in the twelve square miles of virgin forest east of the Island in which no cutting had been done up to that time. In 1918, the standing timber on this property was sold to one of the large saw-mills operating in southern Louisiana, and cutting began that year. In order to get the great logs out of the woods, to streams in which they could be rafted and floated to the mill, dredge-boats were sent into the woods to cut canals parallel to one another, 2,000 feet apart. The trees were then cut down, logged, and large floating flat-boats were used as pull-boats to pull the logs with long wire cables out to the newly cut canals. The destruction of this forest and the noise of getting out the timber drove the bear, Ivory-bills and other shy forest-dwellers completely away from this section. In 1920, a careful search located only three of these birds; one pair nested in a large deadened cypress that had not been cut. In 1921, the same pair nested in the same cypress a little lower than the nest of the year previous. A single bird was seen in 1923,—none since.

The Ivory-bills passed from the Avery Island territory with the cutting of the forest. Those of us in Louisiana, who care for and take interest in wildlife, have known for many years of a small number of Ivory-bills inhabiting a tract of some 80,000 acres of virgin timber known as the Singer tract in Madison Parish in the northeast part of the State, and in 1925 induced the Department of Conservation of the State to secure a protective right over the wildlife of this last great primeval forest within the State's borders, and to police it properly against wildlife destruction. The owners, however, reserved the right to develop their property whenever they wished, or to sell it. The colony of Ivory-bills remained undisturbed, except for occasional poachers, who killed them for their skins. In 1937, the owners sold the timber standing on 40,000 acres of their land, and cutting began at once. The timber on the rest of the land is for sale, and will probably be cut within a few years.

During this past spring (1940), a careful check of this tract, now being cut over, failed to locate a single Ivory-bill, and only seven were seen in the remaining forest in which no cutting has yet started, and some of these were probably duplications. When cutting begins on this last stand of virgin timber in Louisiana, Ivory-billed Woodpeckers will disappear, and the demands of civilization will have exterminated one more famous creature through environmental changes. —E. A. McILHENNY, *Avery Island, Louisiana.*

Tree Swallows and highways.—Apropos of Mr. Toner's note with this title in 'The Auk' (58: 98, 1941) I can record a similar occurrence at Preston, Connecticut, on August 20, 1940. While driving through the outskirts of the town I noted many Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) on the road. They rose reluctantly in front of the car. About ten (all young of the year) were found killed. A large flock was feeding on the ground in an adjacent harrowed field. About a mile farther on a similar concentration of dead birds was found.—CHARLES H. BLAKE, *Lincoln, Massachusetts.*

Brown Thrasher wintering in northern Illinois.—From the windows of our home in Winnetka, we, or one of us, saw a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), in good weather and bad, on the following days: December 23, 25, 29, 1940; January 1, 12, 20 (other members of our family reported it on other days in January), February 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16, 20, 21, 23, 28, March 2, 8, 12, 17, 22, 23, 26, 28, 31, April 3, 8, 11, 14, 19 (several thrashers seen), 1941. On many of these days the bird was seen at our feeding station. Nutmeats and sunflower seed are all that were ever in the feeder. The bird was seen at the feeder when it contained only sunflower seed. One of our near neighbors informs us that he saw a thrasher several times during the winter where his cook fed the birds.

Ford, Sanborn and Coursen, in their 'Birds of the Chicago Region,' 1934, give a few winter records, but no evidence of winter residence.—WALTER T. FISHER, FRANCIS D. FISHER, *949 Fisher Lane, Winnetka, Illinois.*

***Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola* in Tamaulipas: a correction.**—In Mr. Burleigh's and my 'Birds observed on the 1938 Semple Expedition to Northeastern Mexico' (Louisiana State University Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool., no. 3: 38, 1931) the Willow Thrush is listed on the basis of a male specimen taken near Gomez Farias, Tamaulipas, on February 28. This is a mistake. The bird is a Russet-backed Thrush, *Hylocichla ustulata ustulata.* It is identifiable by its distinct, buffy eye-ring and *brownish* rather than gray sides and flanks. I am at a loss to account for the error, regret that it has occurred, and am grateful to my student, Mr. Allan R. Phillips, for calling it to my attention.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Starlings at a blackbird roost.—A very large blackbird roost was discovered several years ago and it seemed unusual enough to warrant description and comment. If the Starling continues to increase in numbers, perhaps such large roosts will become fairly common. McAtee (Auk, 43: 373, 1926) has already called attention to a number of blackbird roosts in the eastern United States.

About fifteen miles southeast of Lexington, Kentucky, U. S. Highway 25 crosses the Kentucky River at Clay's Ferry. At this scenic spot between Fayette and Madison Counties the river has cut through solid rock making a very narrow valley hedged in by rocky walls and slopes which mark the channel of long