

Hybrid Flickers: *Colaptes auratus* x *C. cafer* in New York State: The Red shafted Flicker, *Colaptes cafer* ranges from the Pacific coast eastwards to the western portion of the Great Plains (western Dakotas, western Nebraska, western Kansas). Our Yellow-shafted Flicker *Colaptes auratus* ranges westward to the eastern edge of the Rockies. Hybrids are fairly common where the ranges of the two species overlap and are progressively less common westwards and eastwards. On April 29, 1961, Mr. John Heller, the staff-photographer of the New York State Museum, brought me a Flicker which he found dead at the north end of the Education Building here in Albany. This specimen, now N.Y.S. Museum #19783, was an adult male. The outermost and two innermost rectrices were almost completely normal for a Yellow-shafted Flicker but the three in-between rectrices on each side range from almost true Red-shafted coloration of the innermost to a somewhat lighter red. The reddish in both wings is confined to the 4th to 8th primaries. The small outermost (10th) and next (9th) are normal for a Yellow-shafted Flicker, the 8th and 4th have a slight reddish tinge on the lower (entad) vane. The 6th and 8th primaries have both vanes and shafts a rather light, but typical, Red-shafted Flicker coloration. The 7th primary is a typical "Red-shafted" feather.: In all other observable respects, the bird is a normal Yellow-shafted-Flicker.

Mr. Henry Thurston, now on the staff of the N. Y. S. Museum, reported a Flicker from the Claverack area of Columbia County first seen on April 29th, as having nearly similar coloration. He has been unable to collect this bird.

Dr. Allen Benton, Albany State Teacher's College sent me the following data about a specimen in the College collection:

"Killed by car at Utica, N. Y., September 1955. Adult female, so of course it has no mustache marks. Shafts and vanes of most rectrices reddish at base, shading off to normal yellow near tip. First two primaries likewise normal toward tip but quite reddish near base, other primaries appear quite normal. There is some evidence of molt in primaries, so the ones I mention as first two may actually be farther back. Most of the wing feathers, however, are relatively normal to quite normal."

There have been other records and reports of such hybrids in the east. I recall a specimen, similar to the two here recorded, in the Cornell University collection and there are probably others elsewhere. It would be interesting to plot such occurrences on a map to see the real extent of such "hybridization". A rather hasty perusal of the literature available disclosed no data on dominance of red over yellow or *vice versa*. Careful sight observations should be made of Flickers to note the appearance of any "reddish" individuals. Birdwatchers finding any dead Flickers with such characteristics could save, at least, the wings and tails and notes on the rest of the plumage. If no other institution desires such specimens the New York State Museum would be happy to accept all those sent.
—E. M. Reilly, Jr. Curator, Zoology, N. Y. S. Museum, Albany 1, N. Y.

Lark Sparrow in Onondaga County: On Sunday, May 14, 1961, as we turned from Munro Road into Lyons, south of Camillus, we noticed a bird fly from the road to an adjoining piece of plough-land. The bird was a large sparrow with white prominent on the outer tail feathers. I stopped the car and the bird returned to feed on the road in front of us, where it was observed from a distance of about 12 feet for 4 minutes before it flew up into a tree.

The bird was unfamiliar to us. We noticed particularly well the black moustaches, the cream stripes on the head, the white spectacles, the distinct chestnut cheeks and the breast spot. As the bird moved about, the white corners of the spot. As the bird moved about, the white corners of the tail were quite distinct. It was larger than a Vesper and somewhat more heavily built than a Horned Lark (one of which fed with it during the subsequent observation.) The breast, except for the spot was clear and unstreaked.