

Feeding Note on Wintering Purple Sandpiper at Dunkirk: A Purple Sandpiper successfully wintered at the Dunkirk Harbor, being reported from 26 Dec 1966 to 23 April 1967 [*Kingbird* 17(2):91, 17(3):154]. The bird was probably one of three that were reported as a group as late as 10 and 11 Feb. A single bird had successfully spent the winter at the same site in 1963-64 [*Kingbird* 14(2):95].

On 22 and 23 April 1967 the authors studied and photographed a Purple Sandpiper feeding on earthworms for a period of 4 hours at Dunkirk. The bird remained on the lee side of an eight inch wall for most of this time while a steady 35-40 m.p.h. wind was blowing from the west. The bird frequented shallow rain pools and soft muddy areas, probing stilt-like for worms which it secured with great dexterity. The authors were semi-hidden in a standing vehicle, which the Sandpiper approached as close as four feet. Although many small worms (2-4 inches) were taken, a particularly large one (later measured at 5 inches) proved to be too large, and after many attempts the bird abandoned the mangled remains.

Purple Sandpipers normally forage on rocky shores, feeding on insects and small crustaceans (Bent. 1927, Bull. 142, Smithsonian Inst.). Feeding behavior as described above would normally occur only in the summer on the breeding grounds. The bird was almost completely in the brown nuptial plumage.

Joanna Burger, Biology Department, State University College, Buffalo, New York.
Richard Brownstein, 530 Walbridge Bldg., Buffalo, New York.

Ed. Note. There are a number of records of Purple Sandpipers feeding in muddy pools and even on turf at high tide (Darling, *A Naturalist on Rona*, 1939; Waters, *British Birds* 59:346, 1966; Feare, *British Birds* 59:347, 1966). It seems likely that the unusual feeding behavior described above was caused by its normal feeding grounds being covered with water due to the high winds.

More Hybrid Flicker Notes from Watertown. Since writing a previous note (*Kingbird* 17(1):18, 1967) more information has been developed on this subject. Three hybrid flickers collected by D. Blais 1964-65 have been preserved as specimens in the collection of Jefferson Community College. Their descriptions are as follows:

1. Female—wings combination of yellow and salmon-red color; tail yellow.
2. Female—wings same as #1; tail mostly salmon-red.
3. Male—wings same as #1 and 2; tail combination of both colors.

A hybrid collected by P. Gaskin near Watertown May 1966 is as follows.

4. Male—wing feathers mostly yellow, except that two on each wing are salmon; tail—outer two feathers on each side salmon, other six yellow.

A male I found Burrville July 25, 1967 is as follows:

5. Male—wing feathers about half yellow and half salmon; tail—outer two feathers on each side mostly salmon, the central two salmon, the rest yellow.

All birds examined were symmetrical in color.

No. 2 specimen and another bird banded and released were reported in the earlier note. All birds have a red nape, gray crown, brown throat and cheeks, and the males have black moustaches, which makes the Yellow-shafted heredity seem dominant to that of the Red-Shafted Flicker. From descriptions and dates it appears that the known total is six hybrid flickers seen in the Watertown area in four years. Is this unusual so far east of the overlapping ranges of these two?

David C. Gordon, 1347 Sherman Street, Watertown, N.Y. 13601

Ed. Note: See note on hybrid flickers in New York State by E. M. Reilly, *Kingbird* 11(2):89, July 1961. Dr. Reilly recently suggested that helpful additional knowledge of the proportion of hybrid flickers in the state could be gained if a few bird-watchers would look carefully at every flicker they see and keep accurate notes on