



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA

Ottawa, Canada,

Jan. 2 1936

Mr. Philip A. DuMont,
2700, 49th. St.,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Mr. DuMont;-

Note, Will. Bull. your remarks re' Red-Shafted Flicker in Iowa. It recalled to mind, a mind lately refreshed by going over our Flicker specimens, that we have a specimen, ¹⁷⁴⁵⁹ ♂, Winnebago Co., Iowa, 1890-91, R.M. Anderson.

This specimen is distinctly hybrid. The throat is good gray and the moustache marks solid red but there is a broken red nuchal bar and the flight and tail feathers are orange about half way between the yellow of auratus and the red of cafer.

I think if you examine them carefully you will find others of your Iowa cafers showing some influence of auratus blood. The fact is that I have found no locality at least north of the international boundary where I can find a cafer population that can be regarded as pure. Birds from even Vancouver and the Queen Charlotte Islands that should be pure cafer show fawn tints in the throat, black specks in the malar streak and suggestions of red

nuchal bar, all of which are indications of auratus influence. These marks of hybridity occur in a small proportion of these far western birds but enough to indicate that the strain is not pure. Have also an interesting family collected ^(Saskatchewan) in toto which shows what should be genetically expected that strongly characterized hybrid parents can throw apparently pure offspring of one or the other strains.

I am trying to induce people properly situated to study mixed breedings of these species, also in reporting specimens to be more detailed and exact in their descriptions of them. I should expect that if you examined a fairly large series of Flickers from your State you would find a number of nearly pure auratus showing cafer influence in graying of throat, red specks in malar stripe or suppression of red nuchal bar. Intermediacy in under wing and tail coloring is less frequent than in the above details, - in fact it is comparatively rare and usually these parts throw strongly one way or the other even in specimens otherwise well marked hybrids.

Sincerely,-

