

Orange-shafted Flicker in Lyon County--In early December, 1980, my wife and I realized one of the three Common Flickers (Colaptes auratus) regularly visiting our suet feeder at Larchwood, in northwestern Lyon County, was very obviously a hybrid of the red-shafted and yellow-shafted races. The first characteristic we recognized was a prominent orange color on undersurfaces of wings and tail and in the feather shafts. Closer observation revealed that this male's mustache graded from mostly red at the base of the bill to mostly black on the cheek. Pure races of the Common Flicker exhibit an all-black mustache on the yellow-shafted males and an all-red mustache on the red-shafted males. Our particular specimen did have a red nape, normally seen only on the yellow-shafted birds.

On January 3, 1981, I found this same flicker suffering an apparent minor wing injury and unable to fly. We captured him and found his wing unbroken, but the body was somewhat emaciated. We attempted rehabilitation, but after about eight days the bird finally died. I then photographed the hybrid characteristics of the body and sent it on to Jim Dinsmore for use in the Iowa State University study collection. DOUGLAS HARR, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Conservation Commission, Box 65, Larchwood.