

has occurred to me for this unusual plumage in *Agriocharis ocellata* other than perhaps it may possibly be due to the prehistoric peoples that at one time densely populated this part of Mexico having domesticated these turkeys, and that some of these aborigines, through artificial selection, produced a variety of the species which, in the long years since those times, has again become mixed with the normal birds in nature, and is now reverting to their plumage.

As a rule, the species assumes and passes through its several plumage states with marked regularity and uniformity; and, as a matter of fact, aside from the three specimens above described and a few instances of partial albinism, no other abnormalities, with respect to this species, have come under my observation.

Apart from such a solution, to my mind it would seem that there is either some cause now operative — or in times past has been operative — which, were it discovered, would explain the necessity for this species to assume a less conspicuous plumage than the strikingly brilliant one which at present characterizes it.— PERCY W. SHUFELDT, *Campeche, Mexico*.

The Passenger Pigeon at the Cincinnati Zoölogical Gardens still living.— Many readers of Mr. Wells W. Cooke's very interesting and instructive paper, "Saving the Ducks and Geese" (The National Geographic Magazine, Vol. xxiv — Mch. 1913) have read with deep regret the announcement which he makes in reference to the Passenger Pigeon. He writes — "Today this bird is entirely extinct, the last survivor dying in the Zoo at Cincinnati a few days ago." After reading this sad news, I at once wrote Mr. S. A. Stephan, General Manager of the Cincinnati Zoölogical Co., asking for details and was delighted to receive the following reply under date of May 17. "I have your letter of May 16th, and beg to say that our one remaining Passenger Pigeon is still alive and in as good condition as when I wrote you on Oct. 3rd, 1912." — RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Nesting of the Barn Owl in Illinois.— The first authentic set of Barn Owl's eggs for Illinois was taken May 20, 1909, in Champaign County by Guy Day of Sidney. This consisted of nine eggs and was collected in my ten-mile radius.

On April 20, 1913, I collected a second set of six eggs in the same Salt Fork creek bottoms nine miles from Philo. Both Owls were flushed from the cavity of an enormous Sycamore overhanging the creek.— ISAAC E. HESS, *Philo, Ill.*

An Unusual Malady and Probable Cause of Death in a Toucan (*Ramphastos carinatus*).— An adult female of this toucan died April 24, 1913, at the establishment of Mr. Edw. S. Schmid of Washington, D. C., who kindly presented me with the specimen the same day. Upon examining its anatomy — an invariable practice of mine with such material before roughing out the skeleton — I found it in fair condition with most