

macroura carolinensis). The facts, which, together with a photograph of the mounted male bird, have been transmitted to me in correspondence by Mr. Slater, are as follows:

A pair of Mourning Doves, male and female, were found together among the hills near Trepassey, Newfoundland, about October 1, 1920, and were shot by William Pennel, of Trepassey. They were received in the flesh by Mr. Slater about October 10, 1920. The female was too badly torn by shot to make a presentable specimen, but Mr. Slater had the male bird mounted and placed in the private museum of Mr. Frank Brehems, No. 1 Circular Road, St. John's, Newfoundland. It is probable that the arrival of these birds in Newfoundland was due to the very severe storm which passed northward along the Atlantic coast of North America on September 30 and October 1, 1920.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, 92 Argyle Ave., Ottawa, Ont.

What is *Buteo rufescens* Salvin and Godman?—In the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana,' Vol. III, p. 61-64, there is a considerable discussion of the Red-tailed Hawk, and the authors recognize all the races described at that time by American ornithologists. The following paragraph is of special interest. "In Western North America there is a large form which has been variously called by writers *B. montanus* and *B. calurus*. This bird has not apparently received a specific designation and we propose calling it *Buteo rufescens*. It is slightly larger than true *B. borealis*, with much more rufous thighs, but has the blackish throat of that species, differing from it in having a reddish patch across the lower breast and abdomen, on which the black spots are conspicuous. This form extends from Sitka and British Columbia to California, and in the Henshaw Collection there are examples from Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Our collection also contains specimens from Zacatecas, San Luis Potosi, Colima, Jalisco, the Valley of Mexico, Vera Cruz, Guatemala, and Nicaragua." The true *B. calurus* of Cassin is further on, said to be very large and dark in color.

This is undoubtedly a valid description, but seems to have been completely overlooked, and Dr. Stone has kindly informed me that he does not know it. So now that a new A. O. U. 'Check-List' is in course of preparation, it seems advisable to bring this name to the attention of the Committee. The writer has no personal opinion about *Buteo rufescens*, never having seen a specimen so named. From the range given it might apply in part to *alascensis* of Grinnell over which it has priority. Or it might well be one of the many puzzling phases of *calurus*.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) in Minnesota in Mid-summer.—On August 4, 1891, a young farmer caught a live female Snowy Owl in his field near the town of Madison. I kept it in captivity until August 7, when it died. Meat was offered every day during its captivity but it refused to

eat. Its body was very much emaciated and in dissecting and making up the skin into a specimen, I found a No. 4 shot in one of its legs and the radius of one wing broken but healed again; also one of its eyes was injured.

Its plumage had a very strong skunk odor, but whether this skunk or the owl was the aggressor was the mystery.

It seems strange that so large and conspicuous an object should escape observation all summer on an open and well settled prairie, for it had been seen but once by another farmer the day before and near the place of its capture. No doubt it was a winter visitant of the winter before, wounded by an ignorant and thoughtless hunter, for it could not have traveled very far in its helpless condition.—ALBERT LANO, *Fayetteville, Ark.*

Notes on the Food of the Guacharo (*Steatornis caripensis*).—Some material illustrating the food habits of the Guacharo, collected in a cave in Huevos Island, May 5, 1893 by Dr. F. M. Chapman¹, was turned over to the writer who has attempted to identify its components. It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the abode and mode of life of this most interesting bird which have claimed the attention of several noted explorers and writers. But the best of the previous accounts of the Oil-bird's food may well be cited for the sake of comparison and in order to point out uncertainties due to changes in nomenclature of the plants concerned.

The Guacharo is vegetarian "quite in contradistinction" as Dr. L. Stejneger remarks,² "to the other Caprimulgoid birds, which are exclusively insectivorous, an interesting analogy to the two groups of frugivorous and insectivorous bats." The most detailed of the earlier statements relative to the food of this species is that of N. Funck published in 1845. He says³:

"Their food consists of various fruits in their seasons; I found in their stomachs palm fruits as large as the egg of a pigeon⁴; the fruits of *Aiphanas praga* (of Humboldt, Syn. Plant.); of the arboreal *Psychotria* of Caripé, as well as the seeds of *Laurus* and of *Achras*. After having digested the fleshy portion of these fruits, the birds regurgitate the stones." (pp. 373-4.)

It was chiefly these fruit pits that composed the material collected by Dr. Chapman, whose brief visit to the guacharo cave unfortunately was in total darkness due to drowning of his light, but Hornaday is quoted⁵ as saying that at the time of his exploration of the same cave, the "rocks were covered with guano to a depth of several inches" and that the nests of the

¹ See Bul. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. VI, 1894, p. 60.

² Standard Nat. Hist. IV, 1885, pp. 386-7.

³ Bull. Acad. Bruxelles, XI, Nos. 11-12, 1844 (1845), pp. 371-7.

⁴ Authors comment on the capacious nature of the entire alimentary tract of *Steatornis*.

⁵ Stand. Nat. Hist. IV, 1885, p. 386.