

Now after seven years of protection for this bird, the 1922 Ohio Christmas census as published in the 1923 Jan.-Feb. 'Bird-Lore' ought to reveal something one way or the other. It does. It shows that twelve of the seventeen Ohio observers from widely separated and representative parts of the State report seeing Bob-Whites to the total of eight hundred and fifty birds. That is an average of fifty birds to each observer.

These outstanding facts are accessible to anyone who cares to look them up. The point is—this is good material for those protectionists of any State, who are endeavoring to rescue the game birds from slow extermination by gun and dog. Likewise these are stubborn and pertinent facts to be faced and weighed in the dark, by advocates of "shoot 'em" to prevent inter-breeding, thereby maintaining a strong stock capable of raising large covies.—EUGENE SWOPE, *Cincinnati, Ohio*.

An Additional Record for the Extinct Porto Rican Quail-Dove.—In a small collection of animal bones taken by Mr. Rafael Vidal from a kitchen midden site at what is called the "Mesa" hill near Mayagüez, Porto Rico, is a left metatarsus of *Oreopeleia larva* Wetmore, a Quail-dove described originally (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 33, Dec. 30, 1920, p. 79) from cavern deposits near Morovís and Utuado. The present specimen is in a perfect state of preservation, better in fact than the metatarsus used as the type of the species, and agrees with other specimens in form. It has the following measurements: Total length 37.3 mm., smallest transverse diameter of shaft 2.7 mm., breadth of head 11.6 mm., breadth across trochlea 6.7 mm., depth through talon 6.2 mm. It is slightly shorter than four others from cave deposits which in length range 38.0 to 39.5 mm.

As Utuado and Morovís are both near the central part of the island the present find at Mayagüez near the west coast records the species at an entirely new locality. Other bird bones associated with *O. larva* at the new site represent the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) and Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas squamosa*). Further material from these deposits will be awaited with interest.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Turkey Vultures in Alberta.—With two friends I made a trip on July 2, 1922, to Ministick Lake, which lies about 28 miles by road southeast of Edmonton. It is a bird sanctuary, and one of the interesting points is Heron Island, in the southern lake. Here for years a colony of the Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias herodias*) and the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax dilophus dilophus*) have been nesting together, and the cackle of the young can be heard for almost a mile, in calm weather. We were very interested on this occasion in observing five Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) on the island. For the couple of hours we were watching they remained perching on the tops of the trees, and so far as we could judge, lived on terms of perfect amity with their neighbors. There is no doubt in my mind of the identification, as it is vouched for

by two other ornithologists of greater experience than mine, including the Secretary of the Game Protective League, who lives in an island in the lake. I took two pictures at that time, one showing three, the other four of the Turkey Buzzards¹.—JAMES E. HORNING M. D., *Luscar, Alberta.*

The Gyrfalcon in Wisconsin.—The Milwaukee Public Museum recently obtained a fine specimen of the Gyrfalcon, *Falco rusticolus gyrfalco* from Mr. E. D. Ochsner of Prairie du Sac, Wis. The bird was shot by a farmer in Sauk County on October 22, 1916. Unfortunately it was not sexed but measurements indicate that it is a male. The specimen which has been mounted, is No. 13261 of the Museum's collection.

This form has not been previously recorded from Wisconsin, although the closely allied Gray Gyrfalcon has been taken once (Snyder, W. E., *Auk*, Vol. 22, 1905, p. 413).—H. L. STODDARD, *Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis.*

What is *Buteo rufescens* Salvin and Godman?—In *The Auk* for January, 1922 (page 107) Mr. Ludlow Griscom asks the above question, and probably others have been more or less curious to know what the alleged species really is.

Although I have never seen the type, nor any other specimen labeled with that name, I have never had the least doubt that the specimens so called by Messrs. Salvin and Godman represent merely more richly colored examples of *Buteo borealis calurus*; that is to say, examples that are more or less intermediate between the lighter colored phase and the melanistic phase, and the name had been synonymized by me with the common western form of *B. borealis* in my manuscript of Part IX, 'Birds of North and Middle America.' Specimens agreeing with the characters assigned to *B. rufescens* occur in practically every collection containing a large series of specimens from the general range ascribed to the supposed new species. As Mr. Griscom suggests, however, it may include examples of *B. borealis alascensis*.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Olney, Illinois.*

Richardson's Owl (*Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*) In Cohasset, Mass.—It is a custom at our house to have breakfast before daylight on January mornings, near a row of windows outside of which, level with the sills, is a food shelf for birds. At one end of the shelf is a group of ever-green shrubbery; on the opposite end of the shelf stands an ordinary wire bird cage, which we use in our trapping and banding operations. Over the cage end of the shelf is a roof, with a clearance of nine inches between the top of the cage and the roof. Every morning we stock the shelf with a variety of bird food, and scatter more on the ground below and in front of the shelf. The birds begin to come before it is fully daylight, hence our habit is to reduce the electric light within the room to a minimum, and to keep it as far removed from the windows as possible.

¹ Photographs unmistakable.—Ed.