

early in 1928. To the eye, it is indistinguishable from *Gallicolumba kubaryi* from the Caroline Islands.—E. W. GIFFORD, *University of California*.

The Passenger Pigeon in 'Encyclopedia Americana.'—In the recent edition of 'Encyclopedia Americana,' published in 1927, I find the following statements that seem to me to require some widespread denial—or authoritative confirmation.

On page 369, Volume 21, under the caption of Passenger Pigeon, the following statement occurs: "Under the protection of the game laws the bird seems gradually becoming more numerous in its old haunts, and may revive in considerable numbers, since food remains abundant for it, and natural enemies are diminished."

From Volume 22, page 80, I quote the following from the item Passenger Pigeon under the caption of Pigeons: "Formerly it ranged throughout North America east of the Rocky Mountains, and occasionally pushed even to the shores of the Pacific. It was most abundant, however, east of the Great Plains and in temperate regions. At the present time it has practically disappeared from most of this region and is now found in any numbers only in the upper Mississippi Valley and the borderland between the United States and Canada."

The most recent publication on American birds that includes the Passenger Pigeon is Volume 2 of the 'Birds of Massachusetts,' 1927, by Edward Howe Forbush. On page 55 the author writes regarding this species: "It is now generally regarded as extinct, and it would not be included in this volume were it not that several recent observations by responsible persons have led some people to *hope* [italics mine] that, as in the case of the Eskimo Curlew, some few individuals may have continued to exist until the present day."

On the same page, under the notes on the former range of the species, Mr. Forbush says: "Now generally believed to be extinct."

Mr. Forbush's article on the Passenger Pigeon is most exhaustive. In the thirty-eight pages devoted to the species he indicates a most thorough search for information of all kinds relating to the habits, range and abundance of this pigeon up to the time when all such records ceased, somewhere about 1909.

And when, with all available information on the subject at hand, he admits only the bare possibility of the species still existing as "some few individuals," and with other ornithologists generally in agreement with him, it would seem that 'Americana's' statements require quite a lot of confirmation before being accepted by students of ornithology. And what of the general public that is accustomed to consider any standard encyclopedia as a court of last resort!—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

Swallow-tailed Kite in Ohio.—On April 29, 1928, near Camp Creek, on the west bank of the Scioto River, 25 miles south of Chillicothe, Ohio, a Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) was identified by Mr. Conrad

Roth, of Portsmouth, and myself. Others in the party were Mrs. Roth and Miss Helen M. Gordon. The bird had alighted on the top of a dead sycamore, and presented a side view to the observers. The white head and underparts, the jet-black pointed wings, and large size, were most conspicuous characters. In fact, when seen from a distance, on account of its length, the bird was first taken for an Osprey—one had been seen the same day several miles further south, along the river.

There have been no records of the Swallow-tailed Kite in Ohio for the past thirty years. Rev. W. F. Henninger noted a specimen shot in Ross Country, near Chillicothe, in August, 1898. This report is therefore submitted for the benefit of other students of Ohio bird-life.—ROBERT B. GORDON, 2281 Indianola Ave., Columbus, Ohio.

Goshawk on Tampa Bay, Florida.—On January 25, 1928, while visiting Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Bennett at their home at Maximo Point, in the outskirts of St. Petersburg, Florida, Mr. Bennett, who is the warden in charge of the nearby federal bird refuges of Tampa Bay, told me of a Hawk, strange to him which he had shot while it was devouring one of his fowls, on November 15, 1927. The description of the size of the bird and its plumage as given me both by Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, indicated an adult Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus atricapillus*). Being shown where the Hawk had been buried I disinterred the remains and sent all the large bones found to the Biological Survey for identification. The skull and upper vertebrae were missing, the burial place having been found by some scavenging mammal.

The Biological Survey wrote me on February 9, 1928, as follows: "The bones which you sent have been compared with skeletons in the National Museum collection and prove to be unquestionably those of a Goshawk. This furnishes the third Florida record and the most southerly one known."—WM. G. FARGO, Jackson, Michigan.

Notes on the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in Colorado.—The first example of melanism in a Golden Eagle to come to my notice, is a mounted specimen in the Colorado College Museum in Colorado Springs. At first sight the appearance is that of an all black bird, but the golden or rather chestnut-brown head and neck feathers are discernible beneath the black tips and the under-tail coverts are normal at the base. The plumage is unique in having a chestnut-colored patch on the breast about three by five inches which is concealed by the black tips of the feathers.

The specimen came from Cripple Creek and is presumed to have been killed near there.

Early one morning in March, 1926, when trees were white with frost and frozen sleet, two men left Colorado Springs for a coyote hunt. Some distance out, they began to see Golden Eagles sitting scattered over the plains and some on fence posts. They counted twenty-three. As they