

Mourning Doves trapped from April 2 to August 1 averaged 11.7% of their weights, while the daily food consumption of 9 trapped from September 6 to October 6 averaged 20.4%." With "F" the loss was somewhat less in December than November, with "D" the opposite was true.

As to the food eaten, six days' consumption by one bird of a mixed diet (59.9 gr. of seeds and grain, 27.6 gr. of bread and milk) amounted to 87.5 gr., while the 24 hour loss during that period came to 111 gr.—a difference of 23.5 gr. Six days' consumption of seeds and grain alone amounted to 69.3 gr., while the loss was 106.8 gr., giving a difference of 37.5 gr. This difference I suppose was made up by water; when some liquid was provided in the shape of milk, the discrepancy between food and total loss was 21.2% of the latter; with only dry provender, it was 35.1%. The daily consumption of seeds and grain varied between 10.3 and 12.9 gr., averaging 11.6 gr. for one bird; the assumed consumption of water varied between 5.4 and 6.7 gr., averaging 6.2 gr.—MARGARET MORSE NICE, Columbus, Ohio.

The Field Marks of the Black Vulture (*Coragyps urubu*).—While in Charleston, S. C., during the A. O. U. meeting, I made an effort to work out a definite field identification mark for the Black Vulture. In former years they gathered round the market, but today they are to be found on a dump on the eastern edge of the city along the Cooper River. There were about 400 of this species present together with some of the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*). Coues, in the fifth edition of his 'Key to North American Birds,' makes several statements that are not concurrent with my personal experiences. In contrasting the two in flight, he has this to say, "Catharista [Black Vulture] never sails for any distance without interrupting that easy motion by flapping the wings." On the contrary, I have seen these birds soar for hours without once moving their wings. However, when they are apparently headed for some distant point, they fly in close formation with much flapping. Frequently they soar in the high winds as easily as *Cathartes*. Coues, in further describing the Black Vulture in flight, remarks, "The ends of the quills are neither spread apart nor bent upward." In every instance I have found the opposite of this to be true. While the tips of the wings are bent up in both species the wings of the Turkey Vulture gradually taper upward, the quills being spread but in the Black Vulture only the quills turn up. At the end of each wing in the Black Vulture there is a white patch, visible from above and below, caused by the white shafts of the primaries. The undersurface of the wings of Turkey Vulture on the other hand is white for three fourths of its inner area, seen only from below.

In distinguishing the tail of the Black Vulture from that of the Turkey Vulture, Coues says, "Shorter and more rounded tail." Its tail is shorter but it is distinctly squared, whereas the Turkey Vulture's tail is quite rounded. The wrist joint of the Black Vulture, too, is held quite straight in flight while in the Turkey Vulture it is held at a distinct angle but this

does not always hold true. The only absolute distinction between them in the field seems to be the difference in the position of the white patches on the wings. Young Turkey Vultures have dark heads, so the color of the head will not always identify them. I believe most writers have placed too much emphasis upon the flapping and soaring flight of the Black Vulture as a field character, because the Turkey Vulture also indulges at times in this manner of flight.

While the Black as already stated does not always do so, I found that the Black Vultures near Washington had the same appearance and traits as those at Charleston, so they probably hold good throughout their range.—WILLIAM HOWARD BALL, 1233 Irving St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

A Duck Hawk Views the Inaugural Ceremonies.—The ceremonies attendant on the inauguration of our new President on March 4 last, an event of nation wide interest calling patriotic Americans to Washington by the thousands, was viewed by one noble visitor whose presence though overlooked by the reporters of the daily press intent with pencil and camera on recording the events of that notable day, may well be recorded in the pages of 'The Auk.' High above Pennsylvania Avenue in a seat of vantage on an ornament of the central tower of the Post Office building, a seat beyond the purview of the ticket speculator in the street below, rested a fine Peregrine Falcon, watching calmly but intently the great crowds that thronged the line of march, crowded the windows of buildings, and even spread to adjacent roofs along the avenue.

There passed the newly installed chief of the nation, governors of states, and other persons permanently or temporarily famous, groups of marching cavalry, soldiers, bands giving vent to bursts of martial music, all moving along the historic avenue beneath the eye of the watchful bird. Air-planes bearing radio announcers following a measured course up and down, passing with other planes on several occasions within two hundred yards were given no more attention than the Pigeons that from time to time darted in rapid flight into the towers and cornices near at hand. In fact toward the latter there was evinced a more active interest as they were followed with intent glance and craning neck as a possible source of the next meal. Nine service planes flying in formation not more than five hundred feet overhead followed closely by nine more in like alignment likewise received scant attention, and not until the great dirigible "Los Angeles" with an attendant guard of four lesser lighter-than-air ships hove slowly in view, nosing along like great, aerial whales, did the Duck Hawk lose his composure and fly off toward the Potomac, probably excusing his final lack of poise by remarking like many of the foot passengers turning homeward through the downpour on the streets below: "Oh, well, I've seen the main part of the show; it's raining, and I guess I'll be along toward home!"—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Can the Cooper's Hawk Kill a Crow?—A female Cooper's Hawk