

It is amusing to note that the Virginia-Maryland boundary line is high water mark on the south bank of the Potomac so that the nest missed being in Maryland by only about twenty-five feet. Mr. E. J. Court it is true, has recorded the breeding of this Vulture in Maryland (Auk, 1924, p. 275) but this was in St. Mary County in the extreme southern point of the state and far south of Washington.—C. BROOKE WORTH, *St. Davids, Pa.*

The Black Vulture Breeding in the Mountains of Virginia.—The Black Vulture (*Coragyps urubu*) is now a common permanent resident in Rockbridge County in the central part of the Valley of Virginia, and breeds here. On May 23, 1929, I had the opportunity of seeing a nest with young on the top of House Mountain, at an altitude of about 3000 feet. House Mountain is an isolated off-shoot of the Alleghany range. Mr. Chas. O. Handley, who has recently been with the Georgia Quail Investigation, tells me of finding nests on this same mountain as early as 1919, but I know of no published breeding record for such an altitude.

This nest was discovered by Dr. W. D. Hoyt and Mr. Hill of Washington and Lee University after I had searched for it unsuccessfully. Dr. Hoyt's son, Southgate Hoyt, accompanied me on the trip on May 23d. The nest cavity was under a pile of huge boulders. The cave had an opening above large enough for a man to crawl into, and tunnels from two sides at the ground level. There was no nest, unless the few sticks in a loose pile had been scratched together for that purpose. One of the parent birds flew out of the upper opening as we approached. There were two young birds, one somewhat larger than the other. They appeared to be three or four weeks old and to weigh about three pounds. They had no feathers, and were covered with a thick down of cream buff color, almost reddish above. As we went into the hole they began to vomit large pieces of meat, almost choking in the effort, and continued to do so at intervals as long as we were there. They constantly made a loud blowing noise through slightly opened mouths. It was not a hiss but more like the noise of a bellows. At every effort to get them out into the open they scrambled back into the darkness, jamming themselves under the overhanging rocks and burying their heads in the cracks. When we finally pulled them out to the end of the tunnel in a vain effort to get a good picture in the dim light, they fought each other fiercely and pecked at our hands. I feared that the larger one would peck out the eyes of the smaller. All this time the parent birds were flying about and alighting on the rocks near us at frequent intervals, showing little fear but careful not to get within reach. They made the same blowing noise when on the rocks. Another pair of Black Vultures and a pair of Turkey Vultures were in sight most of the time, and once three Ravens appeared.—JAMES J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia.*

The Turkey Vulture in Westchester County, N. Y.—On June 1, 1929, I saw a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) at Chappaqua, in Westchester County, N. Y. The occurrence of the Turkey

Vulture in Westchester is, of course, exceedingly unusual. There have, however, been several of these birds reported in the county at various times during the past two or three years, and it may be that the species is extending its range east of the Hudson as, of course, it is a common bird on the west side of the Hudson much farther north than Westchester.—C. H. PANGBURN, *Chappaqua, N. Y.*

Field Identification of Vultures.—Perhaps a few additional remarks might be made on the subject discussed by Mr. William Howard Ball in the issue of April, 1929, namely, 'The Field Marks of the Black Vulture (*Coragyps urubu*).' My acquaintance with the Black Vulture was formed in the vicinity of Panama City, where this species, together with the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), is almost constantly overhead. As Mr. Ball states, the Black Vulture soars just as does the Turkey Vulture, and their actions are very similar, but one soon learns to recognize the former species at a glance by its different shape, as well as by the quicker beats of its much shorter but very broad wings. In fact, to one accustomed to the supremely graceful flight of the Turkey Vulture, the Black Vulture's rapid flapping and bobtailed form appear almost ludicrous. The longer or more fully extended neck of the Black Vulture is also noticeable, whether in flight or at rest.

The light areas on the under surface of the Turkey Vulture's wings should no doubt have been referred to as gray rather than white. The pure white under wing coverts of the California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) furnish the readiest means of distinguishing it from the Turkey Vulture, when seen from below. Some years ago, however, while observing three Condors in company with Turkey Vultures, I noticed a difference in the form of the wing which served to set apart the two species nearly as far away as they could be seen. The Turkey Vulture's wing curves smoothly upward toward the tip, the inner half being quite straight when looked at edgewise, or possibly slightly concave on the top. The Condor's wing also curves upward at the tip, but the inner half is decidedly arched, so that the wing, when viewed from front or rear, forms a very symmetrical sigmoid curve. The difference in the size of these two Vultures should ordinarily be apparent, but distances are often hard to estimate in the case of a soaring bird.—ROBERT S. WOODS, *Azusa, California.*

The Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*) Breeding in Colorado.—In the month of June of the years 1922 and 1923 the Barn Owl was found nesting in the attic of an old house a few miles east of Granada, Prowers County, Colorado, by Mr. Leonard White of that city. In each instance, the young taken were nearly full grown. One of these, which I saw and positively identified, was unusually dark, having much dusky and grayish in the upper parts and the underparts entirely buff. In so far as I can learn there are no previous records of the Barn Owl breeding in Colorado.—LEON KELSEO, *Aurora, Colorado.*