

Seebohm and Brown,¹ speaking of observations made on breeding birds in northern Europe, say that "The males appeared darker to the eye, black-breasted, and whiter over the eye; but some females are much darker than others, and are *nearly*² as dark as some males." Trevor-Battye,³ speaking of breeding birds in northern Russia, states that "The breasts of the males we shot were all equally black, but those of females varied a great deal."

There is one other point of difference in the sexes of this species which I have found to be but rarely referred to in descriptive accounts. This is in regard to the degree of blackness, in other words, the actual local color of the dark feathers. In the males the feathers are intensely black with a metallic luster, while the dark feathers of females are brownish black. This difference is best exhibited in fresh skins.

It would appear that the species is in a primary stage of sex differentiation—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Ont.*

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*) near Dover, Delaware.—On the afternoon of August 4, 1929, I saw a flock of five Golden Plover from the beach near Kittshammock, Del. The flock, all of which appeared to be adults, was flying north along the beach. Since the tide was near flood and it was late in the afternoon they were probably seeking a resting place for the night. A good view of the birds was obtained as they flared overhead, the black axillars and dark tail being the most conspicuous characters aside from the dark blotches on the bellies of the two males. No note was heard.

Kittshammock is a summer resort on the Delaware Bay about eight miles southeast of Dover.—R. O. BENDER, *Ridley Park, Pa.*

A Bobwhite × California Quail Hybrid.—These two partridges were introduced into Utah, many years ago and at the time of my sojourn at Salt Lake City, in 1895, both were plentiful in that vicinity. About December 14 of that year, while shooting at a valley farm south of the city, I killed a fine plumaged male bird that was undoubtedly a cross between the two species. My pointer had made game in a little island of rocks and wild rose bushes, fifty yards out in plowed ground and I followed. A full covey, apparently of Bobwhites, whirred up from the close cover and I dropped one with my right barrel. At the shot a second covey arose from close to where the first had been and I caught one of these with my other barrel. This bird was a normal Bobwhite but the other was the hybrid. The general color effect was similar to a Bobwhite but the pattern was modified and there were two straight plumes two inches long on the head. These recalled the Plumed Quail but I saw at

¹ Seebohm, Henry and Brown, John A. Harvie, Notes on the Birds of the Lower Petchora. 'The Ibis,' Third Series, No. XXII, April, 1876, p. 228.

² Italics mine.

³ Trevor-Battye, Aubyn. Notes on the Birds of Kolguev (In "Ice-bound on Kolguev"), p. 432.

once that they were the soft crest feathers of the Bobwhite much extended in length. Another trip to the same spot resulted in securing two female California Quail which were normal except that the throats were black like the male. With hybridism known to exist in the flock this discrepancy might have been due to the same cause.

All three birds were sent to a taxidermist but upon returning for them several months later I found that he had gone out of business and no trace of my birds could be found.—C. E. H. AIKEN, *Colorado Springs, Colo.*

The Turkey Vulture in Western New York.—On September 10, 1929, I had a clear view of a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) soaring over the slopes of Pine Hill between Naples and North Cohocton, New York. The bird was observed close at hand as it turned and circled in the wind. Mr. E. H. Wetmore of Naples, N. Y., who was with me said that he had heard several reports of this species during the last two years in this general region where it was attracting the attention of farmers as an unusual bird. This observation brought to mind an earlier record for this same area of a single bird that I saw on July 12, 1908, on West River about a mile above its mouth at the southern end of Canandaigua Lake. This individual flew up from a pile of drift and flapped heavily around a bend in the stream. Following cautiously I found it perched in a dead tree where I watched it for several minutes. The identification in both instances was certain.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

The Black Vulture in South-west Virginia.—In view of the many reports that indicate a recent extension of the range of the Black Vulture (*Coragyps urubu*), I was interested, on September 4, 1929, to note four individuals of that species with some Turkey Vultures at a point about ten miles east of Abingdon, Washington Co., Va. This spot is in a valley with an elevation of something over 2000 feet, well in the interior of the Appalachian mountain region. I had not noted the Black Vulture on former automobile trips through that region. While I was watching them a Turkey Vulture was perched on a fence post spreading its wings to dry after a rain. A Black Vulture, with the usual labored wing flaps, flew to the post and, crowding the other off, took the perch. An hour later I saw a flock of some twenty Black Vultures near Wytheville, Wythe Co., Va., at a still higher altitude and just about where the Carolinian and Alleghanian zones meet in that part of the state. It seems that this bird, typical of the Floridian and Austroriparian faunas, is becoming acclimated in the Carolinian and even, to some extent, in the Alleghanian zone.—JAMES J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

An Osprey Tragedy.—At Blue Hill, Maine, there was formerly a great number of granite quarries and to place these huge blocks of stone on board of outgoing vessels, an immense derrick was erected down by the