

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

waters of the bay. The industry has long since been abandoned but the derrick stands and on top of it year after year the Ospreys have a nest which is occupied every season. This year I was so situated that I could watch their movements on the nest through the glasses. They reared two young ones who by the middle of July were in flight and later on were able to take care of themselves. I mention this because after the incident I am about to relate, one of these young birds disappeared and I am of the opinion that it was the victim whose tragic end I saw.

About the middle of August, the exact date I cannot fix now, my wife, my daughter and myself were coming across the bridge at Blue Hill Falls. The Falls are created by the tides going in and out through a narrow neck into a large salt water pond extending some miles back from the bay. Just as we crossed the bridge we saw the Osprey struggling with a large fish, about sixty feet above the water; suddenly fish and bird plunged down and fell into the water like a stone. We watched and saw the bird struggling, apparently to get away from the fish, flapping its wings in the water but it disappeared and we waited to see if it would come up, but it did not. It was down too long not to have been drowned. Evidently it could not get released from the fish, its talons being too deeply imbedded in the body of the latter.

About two weeks after on the other side of this bay, my daughter and I were attracted by the wings of a comparatively large bird sticking up through the seaweed, having been rolled up there by the tide. The tides rise and fall at Blue Hill about fifteen feet. We disclosed the remains and found it was an Osprey and about the size, I would judge to have been the bird that I knew in connection with the nest on the derrick. At any rate it was an Osprey and after two weeks in the water was somewhat decomposed. I should say, from circumstantial evidence that this was the bird that we saw being drowned.

Some years ago sitting on the verandah of the house of a friend, we saw an Osprey struggling with a fairly large bluefish which had been taken from the waters in front of the house which was situated on the Jersey coast. It evidently was having difficulty in holding the struggling fish and finally was compelled to let it go and the fish dropped right onto the lawn in front of the house. From the noises made by the bird I am sure it was swearing.

Through a mutual friend, Dr. Maxon of the National Herbarium in Washington, I got in communication with Dr. Thomas Barbour of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who has written me that he also once saw an Osprey drawn down under water while at Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, about 1903 or 1904. The Ospreys had been feeding regularly on weakfish but just at the time of this occurrence some very large bluefish were running.—WILLIAM McADOO, *New York City, N. Y.*

Duck Hawk and the Evening Incoming of the Starlings at Washington, D. C.—I have been much interested in the behavior of the Duck