

caught the reflection of sunlight on its upper-parts, which shone bronzily. Righting itself, it passed us, westward, very near, and we all noticed its unnaturally small head and unusually long tail with very rounded end; so, despite the tricks the sun had played with it, there could be no question that it was a Turkey Vulture—immature, since the head showed no red—that had strayed or been blown a long way from home. It seems, this is the second record for the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts—the first being a specimen in the Springfield Museum of Natural History that was shot at Becket (40 miles farther west) on June 8, 1905.—S. A. ELIOT, JR., Northampton, Mass.

**A Second Specimen of the Fossil Bird *Bathornis veredus*.**<sup>1</sup>—In fossil material collected in the summer of 1932 under direction of Mr. C. W. Gilmore, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology in the U. S. National Museum, there is included the distal end of a left metatarsus of a bird of considerable interest since it develops on careful study that it is a second specimen of *Bathornis veredus* Wetmore.<sup>2</sup>

The specimen in question (Cat. No. 12,705 U. S. Nat. Mus. Div. Vert. Pal.) was obtained in the Titanotherium beds of the Oligocene on the ranch of Geo. Everson, eleven miles northwest of Crawford, Nebraska, on July 13, 1932, by M. V. Walker. It includes the distal portion of the bone, with the fourth trochlea missing, and the shaft more or less crushed and flattened so that the original form is obscured.

This specimen when compared with the type of *Bathornis veredus* agrees closely in size and details with the single exception that the second trochlea viewed from its posterior surface is somewhat broader and heavier on its lower, free end. Other characters appear identical in the two specimens, the type being from the right side. The difference noted is considered an individual variation, particularly in view of the fact that the deposits in the Oligocene from which these two specimens have come are not widely separated in point of time.

Following is a detailed description of the new specimen: A groove indicated leading into the inferior foramen, only the upper margin of which is present; middle trochlea strong and robust with well marked excavations on either side, and a pronounced groove extending around articular surface, which on the anterior surface terminates at the upper end in a slight depression; outer flange of groove on posterior surface projecting slightly beyond inner; lower margin of inner trochlea not reaching to center of middle trochlea; inner trochlea flattened laterally, with deep excavations on inner and outer faces, square and blocklike in form, posteriorly nearly as wide as anteriorly; a slight groove on posterior surface; margin produced posteriorly as a compressed plate that, viewed laterally, is rounded in outline; inner trochlea decidedly small when compared with middle

<sup>1</sup> Published with permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

<sup>2</sup> *Bathornis veredus* Wetmore, Proc. Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 7, no. 2, 1927, p. 11, figs. 19–23. Chadron, Oligocene, Weld County, Colorado.

trochlea. Specimen heavily fossilized, light grayish white in color. Breadth of middle trochlea 7.6 mm., breadth of inner trochlea 6.9 mm. Other pertinent measurements cannot be made due to crushing.

The supposition that *Bathornis* might possibly have a first toe or hallux is not borne out in this second specimen and on examination of the two specimens of *veredus* now available it appears to be definitely established that the first toe was missing.

Re-examination of the characters of *Bathornis* in light of this second specimen, with certain additional comparative material in modern birds not previously available, leads me to the conclusion that I was in error in placing the subfamily *Bathornithinae* in the *Oediconemidae* since it appears that it should be grouped in the *Cariamidae*. The superficial resemblance in the lower end of the metatarsus in *Cariama* and the different genera of *Oediconemidae* is remarkably close due to convergence in development from similarities in habits and mode of life. In the relative position of the trochlea *Bathornis* is closest to the thick-knees, and it was this that led me formerly to allocate it in that family. The form and structure of separate trochlea and of the inferior foramen as well as of the shaft are distinctly those of *Cariama*.

The genus *Bathornis* has the inner trochlea projecting less posteriorly than the outer, while *Cariama* has the two on about the same level. *Bathornis veredus* was slightly larger than the modern *Cariama cristata*. Its allocation with that group introduces a new element into the avifauna of North America, as *Cariama* and *Chunga* the two living genera of the *Cariamidae* are confined to the central portions of South America.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Sight Records of the Eskimo Curlew.**—There is one certain way to identify the Eskimo Curlew in the field and that is not mentioned in Dr. Murphy's careful note in the January 'Auk.' All the points he gives are, it seems to me, too indefinite for a positive identification, or even for "a probable record" of a bird that many consider extinct. Young male Hudsonian Curlews may have shorter bills than some Eskimo Curlews. One in my collection has a bill 2.25 inches long, and the bills of the Eskimo Curlew are stated to vary between 2.00 and 2.58 inches. Tameness is suggestive of the Eskimo Curlew, but young Hudsonian Curlews may be very tame. I entirely agree with Forbush in his 'Birds of Massachusetts,' when he states under "Field Marks" of the Eskimo Curlew, "None that can be depended upon to distinguish the bird from the Hudsonian Curlew, unless the unbarred primaries can be seen distinctly when spread." I have seen the barred underside of the primaries of the Hudsonian Curlew in flight and as they occasionally raise their wings on alighting. It is not a difficult field mark to make out if one looks for it, and in the same way the plain buffy underside of the primaries in the Eskimo Curlew is a means of positive identification.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*