

sidered upon geographic grounds to be the western form, *Z. m. marginella*) was given band No. B342726, on June 7, 1932, at Fairmount, North Dakota, by G. C. Bierens. It was killed by Valentin Hernandez at Cortazar, State of Guanajuato, Mexico, on October 19, 1932. The locality of recovery is in the central part of the country.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Testicular Asymmetry in the Madagascar Coucal.**—In a paper entitled "Testicular Asymmetry and Sex Ratio in Birds," published in 1927,<sup>1</sup> Friedmann recalls the work of Riddle<sup>2</sup> with pigeons, in which the sex ratio was found to be interrelated apparently with discrepancy in the size of testes; excess of males was always correlated with a proportionately larger left testis, while in birds with the two testes equal in size, the sex ratio was approximately one to one.

Friedmann found that in general there seemed to be no correlation between relative size of testes and the sex ratio in wild birds, but in some small groups of species this correlation seemed to exist. In the cowbirds, this was true, and also it was correlated with sexual dimorphism, the species with larger left testes showing sexual dimorphism as well as a preponderance of males, while those with equal testes did not.

In the 169 species examined by Friedmann, none had the right testis larger than the left. The condition in the Madagascar Coucal (*Centropus t. toulou*), however, differs from any condition that Friedmann reports. In 43 males of this species examined during my collecting in Madagascar, the right testis was always larger than the left, which was atrophied, never being firm and oval, and never showing any enlargement in the breeding season, even when the right was at its maximum size.

The sex ratio of these birds, judging from the specimens collected, for I could not tell the sexes apart in life, was approximately one (43 males and 40 females were collected). The sexes are similar in plumage, the only evident sexual dimorphism being the larger size of the female. (Average wing: 41 males, 149 mm.; of 38 females, 165.8 mm.).

The thought arises that perhaps the smaller size of the left testis may be correlated with the smaller size of the male but in many hawks, in which the female is larger, this was not noted as being the case.

A similar condition of the right testis being larger than the left also exists in some of the African coucals, according to the data on the labels of specimens of the following species, collected by Dr. J. P. Chapin in Africa, and now in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History: *Centropus monachus*, *C. senegalensis*, and *C. grillii*.

One of the examples of *Centropus grillii* had the right testis enlarged while the left testis was wanting.

<sup>1</sup> Biological Bulletin, LII, 1927, pp. 197-199.

<sup>2</sup> "Further Observations on the Relative Size of the Right and Left Testes of Pigeons in Health and Disease and as Influenced by Hybridity," *The Anatomical Record*, XIV, 1918, p. 334.

Friedmann (l. c., p. 204), strangely enough, records that in *Centropus superciliosus* the left testis is the larger.

My present evidence goes to support Friedmann's statement that in general no correlation seems to exist between the size of testes and the sex ratio in birds; nor can a general statement be made regarding the relative size of the testes and sexual dimorphism.—A. L. RAND, *Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York*.

**The Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*) in Maine.**—Though reports of the Barn Owl at Falmouth, Maine, crept into print several decades ago, Mr. Nathan C. Brown<sup>1</sup> showed that these were based upon unreliable data.

We now have three reliable records of the occurrence of the bird in this state. A male, now in the collection of Dr. Henry H. Brock (to whom I am indebted for the privilege of reporting this occurrence), was shot in the limits of Biddeford, October 4, 1923.

Another was caught alive in a garage in Portland, October 26, 1927, and died the following day.<sup>2</sup> I saw both of these birds a few days after they were mounted.

The third, a male, now in my collection, was taken on Mosher's Island, town of Cumberland, a day or two before December 12, 1927, on which day I received it in the flesh. It was very lean and the stomach was empty.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum Natural History, Portland, Maine*.

**Early Nesting of the Great Horned Owl.**—On January 27 I was taking one of my accustomed hikes in a woods near my home in Andover, Alleghany Co., N. Y., when I saw a pair of Great Horned Owls flying low among the trees. Nearby, in a beech tree, I observed a nest which I knew was a last year's domicile of a Red-tailed Hawk. Twigs, littering the ground under the nest, indicated a renovation above and climbing the sixty feet of straight tree trunk, I found the nest enlarged and reconditioned. It was lined neatly with owl feathers and dry green beech leaves. I wondered where the owls could have secured the sage green leaves, as all the leaves which I could find were brown.

On January 29, with temperature near zero, I again climbed the tree. Mother owl stayed on the nest until I was about to peer over the great rim. I was rewarded by finding one nearly round chalky white egg, partially hidden in the soft feathers of the lining. On February 5, there were two eggs, with incubation apparently well started. From this fact, I feel confident that both were laid in January.

A week of snow and severe winter weather then passed, with four sub-zero nights. Wondering if these might have caused the owl to forsake her nest I visited the woods on February 12. From a rise of ground above the nest-tree, with binoculars, I could look down on the snow-covered nest. Protruding above the snow the owl's head was plainly seen with the dis-

<sup>1</sup> 1882, Brown, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl. VII, 58.

<sup>2</sup> 1927, Haven, Maine Nat. VII, 157-158.