

know where the birds had come from and whether or not this was their normal migration route. The incident indicates that they may migrate in flocks as a species not in company with related species.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Serrations on the Bill of the American Merganser.—While examining the bill of an American Merganser (*Mergus m. americanus*) I noticed that the serrations of the upper mandible were fewer than on the lower 28 to 45 respectively. Further examination brought out the fact that the seven serrations nearest the base of the lower mandible pointed forward instead of backward as in the case of the others, a fact that I have not found noticed in the literature.—WILLIAM H. MOORE, *Scotch Lake, N. B.*

An Aerial Nest of the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*).—We have recently had occasion to examine a Turkey Vulture's nest located some forty feet up in a cavity of a live beech tree. All the others that we have found have been on the ground, in, or in the near proximity of hollow logs. This particular beech, growing in Union Twp., Clermont Co., Ohio, has attracted the attention of the writer for the past two years. During this interval, it has provided a home for an interesting succession of inhabitants. When first investigated the hollow in its top, in early March, 1932, held a Barred Owl (*Syrnium v. varium*) incubating four eggs. These eggs were collected. and three additional ones were laid, of which two hatched.

Several months after the young Owls had been raised to maturity and left their home, three Gray Squirrels (*Sciurus c. carolinensis*) had altered this former nursery into a storehouse for walnuts, as well as a place for concealment and rest on sunny afternoons. They were taken for museum specimens.

It was with a good deal of anticipation, therefore, that we clambered up this beech in early spring to find several cast up Owl pellets and a freshly killed White-Footed Mouse (*Peromyscus l. noveboracensis*). Things appeared as though the first boarders in this beech for 1933, would again be Barred Owls. However, though we carefully examined the nest each week, nothing more of interest was noted until April 22, when Woodrow Goodpaster reported to me that he had found a Turkey Vulture incubating a single egg in this tree. Somewhat doubtful, we examined the nest the following day and found that it was a Turkey Vulture and that it was now incubating two eggs. The bird was exceedingly tame and permitted itself to be stroked and lifted from the eggs in much the same fashion as an old hen. On later visits this procedure was repeated except that the Vulture began to protest over our excessive handling by its usual method of defense—vomiting. Only on one occasion did the bird leave the nest without our first removing it. This, although by no means positive evidence, would lead me to believe that both sexes incubated the eggs.

Realizing that some interesting facts might be revealed by this unique