

The contents of the proventriculus (food, grit, etc.) weighed 359 grams; of the gizzard, 10-9 grams. There were sixteen shot of various sizes, seven in the proventriculus (6 grams) and nine in the gizzard (6.5 grams).

The size of some of the shots may be inaccurate because of grinding.

Dr. Miles D. Pirnie of the W. K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, Augusta, Michigan, reports an examination of five Canada Geese found dead by Game Warden Summer April 13, 1933 on Indian Lake, Barry County, Michigan. The number of shots found in these birds is an interesting contrast to the number found in the one above described. They were as follows: two females weighing 2275 and 2750 grams contained 5 and 2 shots; three males weighing 2825, 4125 and 3560 grams, contained 3, 4 and 7 pellets. Each bird was carefully examined for other contributing causes of death, but none was found.

Two other Canada Geese, which were evidently victims of lead poisoning have been found and examined by Dr. Pirnie. A male weighing 3000 grams was found dead on the Sanctuary grounds April 4, 1934. The gizzard contained four lead shots. Another bird, weighing 2575 grams and containing 20 lead shot was found April 29, 1934 on Sherman Lake, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. This one had evidently been dead some time when found.

In making examinations of sick or dead birds the fact that the bird is emaciated and has a packed gizzard does not necessarily mean that it is a victim of lead poisoning. Birds have been found with what are known as "typical lead poisoning symptoms" and no lead had been found either in the gizzard or the tissue. The only sure method of determining whether or not a bird has lead poisoning is by the actual presence of lead shot or presence of lead in the intestines or tissue. And then we can not be sure that lead poisoning was the cause of death, as there are Mallard Ducks at Michigan State College, apparently healthy, which were fed lead shot experimentally two years ago by Drs. Stafseth and Thompson.—WILLIAM JOHNSTON HOWARD, *W. K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, Augusta, Mich.*

Voice of the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*).—Aside from a low hiss, the voice of the Turkey Vulture or Buzzard is so rarely heard that it has been considered almost a voiceless creature, and very few instances of its emitting sounds have been recorded.

J. R. Pemberton in 'The Condor,' Vol. 27, Jan. 1925, p. 38, under the title "Voice of the Turkey Vulture" has noted the voice of the species as he heard it in California. He says, "It distinctly gave voice to a low pitched nasal whine, slowly repeated at intervals of about three seconds and greatly resembled the whine of a small puppy." He states that the beak was not opened.

On July 15, 1934, I made a trip to the top of Lairds Knob in the Massanutts, near Harrisonburg, Va., altitude about 3,300 feet. At the top of the peak I came upon two Buzzards. Before flying one emitted several peculiar notes, beginning with a short, staccato *tschuck, tschuck*, repeated

several times and followed by a whining note repeated two or three times. The birds finally left the peak and circled over my head at no great distance. On several occasions while wheeling over my head, one delivered the low whine, a note with a slight rising inflection.

My own observations thus agree very closely with Pemberton's as to the whine.—H. A. ALLARD, *Washington, D. C.*

Notes on the Kites of South Carolina.—The writer was interested to read, in the July number of 'The Auk,' of Mr. J. Willcox Brown's observation of a Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus forficatus*) in South Carolina.

I have seen this bird in South Carolina on three occasions, all in Berkeley County, as follows:

1929. Date lost, one bird, one bird was circling high in the air over Witherbee Station, on the S. A. L. Railroad.

1932. June 17, one bird, in company with three Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), soaring over our dwelling, Middleburg Plantation house.

1933. June 10. One bird, circling low over the house.

The Mississippi Kite is still fairly common in suitable localities in coastal South Carolina. During the summer of 1924, birds were seen within eight miles of Mount Pleasant; in the last few years, it was been constantly observed during the months of May, June and July. As many as five or six may often be seen together. Both of the Kites still undoubtedly breed in this state.

Only once have I been near enough to a Mississippi Kite to hear its note, which quite closely resembles the song of the Wood Pewee (*Myiochanes virens*), but is weaker. The Kites feed entirely in the air, usually high up, and rarely come near the ground; they are often seen over the old rice fields, as insect life is abundant there.—E. VON S. DINGLE, *Middleburg Plantation, Huger, S. C.*

The Western Pigeon Hawk in Yucatan and Kansas.—Recently, while examining a small series of Pigeon Hawks in the collection of the Museum of Birds and Mammals, I noticed two specimens labeled *Falco columbarius columbarius*, which belong to the race *Falco columbarius bendirei*. These two birds, which are undated and unsexed, were collected by George F. Gaumer on Cozumel Island, Yucatan.

According to a biographical sketch of Gaumer in the files of the Alumni Association of the University of Kansas, he spent four months collecting on Cozumel Island in the year 1886. There seems to be little doubt, therefore, that the locality as written on the original labels is correct. Unless there are other specimens in the collections that Gaumer sent to England, this is the only record of *Falco columbarius bendirei* from Cozumel Island.

In the same collection of Pigeon Hawks, there is another specimen of