

Bull's Island, a part of the Cape Romain Federal Bird Refuge. We were investigating wildfowl on Summerhouse Pond, and the Goose was noted among them.

Initial approach was made to within fifty feet, as the bird sat on the water and it was studied at length with and without glasses, then flushed. Early on the morning of the 8th, we were again in the pond and saw the Goose first at no more than twenty-five foot range and surprised it among some cat-tails at hardly more than ten feet. At this time the pinkish legs were plainly visible. On the afternoon of the 9th, the writer saw it again from some distance.

On November 13, with Mr. Clarence Cottam, of the Biological Survey, the bird was seen again and allowed approach to within fifty feet before flying. It always called a single time as it rose.

In 'The Auk' (vol. LII, p. 439) Mr. Cottam lists the occurrence of *Chen caerulescens* in South Carolina in his compilation of records for that species on the Atlantic seaboard during the winter of 1934. It is interesting to note that the birds listed by him occurred at exactly the same time of year as the above specimen, i.e., November 3 to 13. The Bull's Island bird gave every indication of being perfectly at home and only flew a short distance before alighting. The pond is well supplied with a growth of widgeon grass, sago pond-weed and banana water-lily. The Goose has now been there for a full week.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

Turkey Vulture Carrying Food.—The letter of Mr. Gordon W. Jones in the General Notes department of 'The Auk', of October 1935 (page 444), brought to mind two instances of food carrying by this species that have been observed by the writer. In both cases the food was carried in the beak instead of the feet.

Many years ago I saw a Turkey Vulture, when frightened away from a carcass, carry in its bill what appeared to be a piece of intestine about a half yard long. I have no written record of this occurrence.

I quote the following from my field notes written at the time the observation was made, dated June 16, 1930. While driving on route 38 in the east end of the county (Amelia County, Va.) I saw a Turkey Vulture pecking at a small object in the road ahead. As I approached it seized the object in its bill and flew down the road about fifty yards before dropping it. The object proved to be a fully grown box turtle (*Terrapene carolina* Merrem) that had been crushed by an automobile.—JOHN B. LEWIS, *Amelia, Va.*

The Turkey Vulture's Ability to Carry Food in its Beak.—Mr. Gordon W. Jones's "Note on the Turkey Vulture" which appeared in the October, 1935, issue of 'The Auk' (p. 444) prompts me to state that during my boyhood residence at Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas (1911-1914), I several times saw Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura teter* Friedmann) flying about carrying large-sized objects in their beaks—in one instance a snake; again what I took to be a spermophile; and again a considerable part of the carcass of a young jack rabbit. The bird that was carrying the rabbit appeared to be doing its best to elude several other Vultures. It eventually dropped its burden and the hungry birds descended to tear the rabbit to pieces.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Curator of Birds, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Turkey Vultures Possible Victims of an Automobile.—The note by Gordon W. Jones in 'The Auk,' for October, 1935, in which he recounted his observation of a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) feeding on a snake which had been

killed by a passing motorist, brings to my mind the observation of two of these birds which I believe had been struck and killed by a passing automobile. I found the two Vultures lying beside the paved road near the top of a little knoll about two miles east of Warrenton, Va., on October 27, 1934. One bird was on one side of the road and the other was opposite; between them lay the carcass of a rabbit. It is my belief that these birds, intent on devouring the rabbit, had been struck by a speeding auto which came up over the knoll so suddenly and unexpectedly that they could not escape.—CHAS. J. SPIKER, *Branchport, N. Y.*

The Rough-legged Hawk in the North Carolina Mountains.—In Pearson and Brimleys' *Birds of North Carolina*, *Buteo lagopus sanctijohannis* is included as follows: "Recorded by Cairns as occasionally seen in winter and spring in Buncombe County. Besides this, our only record is from Blowing Rock, Watauga County, near which place one was seen on September 10, 1908 . . . by Z. P. Metcalf."

On August 14, 1935, the writers saw, and watched for nearly two hours, two of these birds on Flat-top Mountain, at Blowing Rock. They were first noted in a wide meadow, some half mile from the summit of the mountain which reaches an altitude of 4550 ft. From that point on to the observation tower at the summit, the birds were in sight from time to time, and once one of them passed over a break in the trees at no more than fifty feet above us. From the tower, views of both birds were obtained from above and below and all sides. They were hunting a long ridge, which is topped by the summit of Flat-top.

Every characteristic of the species was noted except the flapping while hovering. Both of them hovered many times, but because of the uprush of air above the peak, did so on motionless wings. The plummet like drops perpendicularly from the point of hovering were frequently indulged in. Both birds kept up an almost constant high-pitched "kree-e-e-e" call. So close did they approach the tower that several times the beak was seen to open when the call was uttered. The white patch at the base of the tail was much lighter in one of the birds than in the other, and in both, the blackish belly band was broken with streaks of whitish. No finer views could have been obtained. The birds remained for the whole of our stay at the top, and we saw them going down. Dr. Murray saw one of them two days later in the same spot.

August 14 is an exceptionally early date, nearly a month prior to the Metcalf record mentioned above, the locality being the same. The writers have worked the Blowing Rock region in summer for many years past, but this is their first observation of the species though Sprunt is familiar with it in other localities.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, S. C.*; JAMES J. MURRAY, D.D., *Lexington, Va.*

The Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), in Indiana.—A Prairie Falcon was captured in Sullivan County, Indiana, about thirty miles south of Terre Haute, January 9, 1932, by a student of State Teacher's College. It was brought alive to Prof. William P. Allyn of the Zoology department of Indiana State Teachers' College in that city. He kept it about a month when it died, after a treatment of sodium fluoride for lice. He gave it to Mr. Sidney R. Esten, then of the Indiana State Department of conservation, Indianapolis. Mr. Esten made a skin of it and preserved the specimen. I know of no other record of this species for Indiana. At Prof. Allyn's request I am making this record.—AMOS W. BUTLER.

Eggs of *Megapodius pritchardi* from Ninafou Island, Tongan Group.—The recent acquisition by the California Academy of Sciences of three eggs of *Megapodius pritchardi* from Ninafou Island (more popularly known as Tin Can Island), Tonga