

with museum specimens the outline of the feathers at the base of the upper mandible, as pointed out by Todd (*Auk*, 53: 440, 1936) proved to be the best distinguishing character between these birds and Red-heads.

One of the specimens was presented to the Portland Society of Natural History, and bears Catalogue No. 506 of that collection. The other remains in the University of Maine collections. Mr. Arthur H. Norton, of the Portland Society, reports that the only records of this species breeding in Maine are those of Boardman who reported the species as breeding in the region of Calais, Washington County, over seventy years ago.—GUSTAV SWANSON, *University of Maine, Orono, Maine*.

King Eider in South Carolina.—On December 26, 1936, E. M. Burton saw two immature eiders near the North Jetty, at the mouth of Charleston Harbor. One bird was collected on this date and on December 29, another was taken. On this latter date, two other ducks seen may have been of the same species. Both specimens prove to be King Eiders (*Somateria spectabilis*) and constitute an addition to the birds of this State. Formerly this eider was carried on the hypothetical list by the late A. T. Wayne on the basis of Georgia records.

Although the sexual organs of these immature birds are undeveloped, both are believed to be females in the first-winter plumage. The iris is dark brown, legs and feet olive green, webs blackish. The bills are very dark olive green, almost black. Examination of stomach contents indicated that the birds had been feeding entirely on a small mussel, *Modiolus plicatulus*. The specimens bear Nos. 36.240 and 36.241.1 in the Charleston Museum Collection. I am indebted to Mr. Burton for the privilege of recording these birds.—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

Tapeworm in young Red-breasted Merganser.—A downy young Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), which I estimated to be ten days of age, collected about two miles above tide water in the Etamamu River on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, was found to be heavily infested with the tapeworm, *Schistocephalus solidus*. Forty parasites were taken from the intestine of this small young bird. Some of these were already sexually mature while others (larvae of the same size) would not mature for a period of two or three days.

Sculpins, and I believe other forms of fish, are known to be hosts to this parasite. The sculpin is very common in the salt-water regions about the mouth of the Etamamu River as are invertebrate forms which form a link in the life history of this parasite. These waters are an important breeding ground for the American Eider and other diving birds. To what extent these birds may be parasitized by this tapeworm would be interesting to know.

I am indebted to Dr. Justus F. Mueller of the New York State College of Forestry for identification and information about this parasite.—ROBERT A. JOHNSON, *State Normal School, Oneonta, N. Y.*

Turkey Vultures killed by Automobiles.—In 'The Auk,' 53: 76, 1936, Mr. Charles J. Spiker advances the theory that Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) may sometimes be killed by automobiles. He gives as his reasons, the finding of two specimens on a highway, with the carcass of a rabbit between them, and seems impressed by the fact that this is a rather unusual and uncommonly observed occurrence. Those of us who live in the land of the "buzzard," however, know that this is not only a common occurrence, but one which has actually to be avoided. Throughout much of the South, the feeding of vultures in highways has greatly increased, due to the numbers of small mammals, birds and reptiles which are killed

by passing cars. Indeed, this has been advanced by some observers as a reason for the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus atratus*) extending its range northward in recent years.

Along the coastal highways of the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida and the Gulf States, one has to watch the buzzards. Frequently, they delay their rising from the highways to the point of being either just missed by a car, or actually collided with. The writer knows of several instances where they have come through the windshields of cars to the detriment of themselves and the occupants of the vehicle! Along the Tamiami Trail this all but constitutes one of the hazards of the road. Much prey is strewn along this stretch, and it is not too much to say that, if the driver tried to do it, he could kill a dozen vultures between Miami and Everglades, providing he did not wreck himself doing it. The writer has only just avoided killing many by a narrow margin. It seems a safe plan, when buzzards are in the road ahead, to slow down, sound the horn frequently, and this usually puts the birds in the air at a sufficient distance to allow a fair margin of safety.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

A hybrid between Turkey Vulture and Black Vulture.—On Friday, February 5, I baited the trap in which I catch Black Vultures for banding. This is a large wire enclosure with a receiving pen on one side connected with the main trap by a 'V'. The entrance to the trap is through a square hole in the center of the top, which is depressed from the four sides toward the center, leaving a three-foot square hole open. Part of the carcass of a freshly killed cow was put into the trap. Black Vultures go readily into the trap to get the food, but do not find their way out. Turkey Vultures will not go into the trap. In this trap I frequently capture as many as one hundred and fifty vultures at one time. These birds are banded and liberated. I usually do not visit the trap until twenty-four to forty-eight hours after it has been set, as this enables the birds to digest the food that they have eaten, and makes the banding not quite so unpleasant, as there is then no regurgitation in handling them.

Late in the afternoon of the 6th, I visited the trap with four assistants and found both the trap and the receiving pen packed with Black Vultures. In the sea of black heads, I noticed one red head, and remarked that there seemed to be a young Turkey Vulture in the catch. When, on handling the birds, this red-headed 'buzzard' was brought to me, I saw at once that it was a hybrid between the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus atratus*) and the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*). The predominating color and shape were those of the Black Vulture, but the beak, eyes, eyelids and fore part of the head were like those of the Turkey Vulture, as were also rear part of the head and neck, and all of the body plumage. The shape of the tail was as in the Black Vulture. The legs and feet were more Turkey Vulture than Black Vulture, both in coloring and in shape. The primaries were definitely Turkey Vulture. The remainder of the wing plumage was Black Vulture.

This is the first time I have ever seen a hybrid between these two birds, though I have banded thousands of them.

This bird was sent by express Saturday afternoon, February 6, to the U. S. Biological Survey for the attention of Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln, to whom I make my banding reports. On checking my bands after emptying the trap, I found that the trap had made the largest catch I have ever recorded for one time, 279 of freshly banded birds and 77 returns; a total of 356 Black Vultures, and one hybrid.—E. A. McILHENNY, *Avery Island, La.*

Mississippi Kite in South Carolina in Winter.—Through the courtesy of Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, the writer is privileged to record the first winter occur-