

general confusion concerning the status of the gyrfalcons, the skin was sent to Dr. Alexander Wetmore for possible identification. Drs. Wetmore and Friedmann determined the bird to be *Falco rusticolus obsoletus*.—O. J. GROMME, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*.

Greater Prairie Chicken in western Pennsylvania?—In the last edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list' the Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido americanus*) is stated to have formerly reached western Pennsylvania. The only basis for this ascription, as I am advised by Mr. F. C. Lincoln, is the record cited by Wilson ('American Ornithology,' 3: p. 117, 1811), that refers to a nest found "between the Pilot Knobs and Bairdstown." It has been assumed that "Bairdstown" in this case referred to the place still known by that name just west of Blairsville, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. In his account of the "Snow Owl," however, Wilson distinctly specifies "Bairdstown, in Kentucky," and a careful reading of his text on the "Pinnated Grouse" is perfectly consistent with this understanding. I submit, therefore, that there is no valid reason for accrediting the Greater Prairie Chicken to western Pennsylvania. It is highly improbable that it has ever occurred there at any time, for the primitive areas of open country were comparatively small and completely isolated from the prairie region farther west. The range of the Heath Hen must have been completely cut off from its western relative by this forest barrier of the Appalachian divide. Newspaper reports to the contrary notwithstanding, there appears to be no acceptable evidence for the occurrence of the Heath Hen anywhere in the western half of Pennsylvania.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*.

Purple Gallinule in central Illinois.—On April 30, 1937, a Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) flew through an open window in the main library of the University of Illinois at Urbana. It was captured and brought to the Illinois Natural History Survey, where entomologists inspected it for Mallophaga. Placed in the writer's hands it was taken to Dr. S. C. Kendeigh, banded, and released. This is, so far as known, the seventh record for the State of Illinois and the first for Champaign County.—FRANK BELLROSE AND LYNN HUTCHENS, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois*.

Hudsonian Curlew, White-faced Glossy Ibis and Black-bellied Plover in Oklahoma.—On May 18 and 19, 1937, considerable numbers of transient Hudsonian Curlews (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*) fed and rested along the Beaver River, and at a broad, shallow lake close by, three miles south of Gate, Beaver County, Oklahoma. On May 18, we counted a flock of twenty-one birds. From this flock two specimens, a female (Semple) and male (Sutton) were collected. Early in the morning on May 19, the same flock (nineteen birds) was seen again. But at nine o'clock a larger flock appeared high in air; the two flocks joined and we counted between fifty and sixty birds. Our two specimens are apparently the first for the State, since Mrs. Nice does not list the Hudsonian Curlew in her admirable 'Birds of Oklahoma' (Publ. Univ. of Oklahoma Biol. Surv., vol. 3, no. 1, 1931).

In the same region (at the lake, not along the river) we took also two male White-faced Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis guaravana*), the first an exceptionally handsome and fat individual (gonads measuring 23 by 11 mm.) on May 18 (Semple); the second, a slightly less colorful bird, also fat and with much enlarged gonads, on May 25 (Sutton). This species Mrs. Nice (loc. cit., p. 58) calls 'accidental,' listing a single specimen taken 'about 1897' near Dover, Kingfisher County.

On May 18 and 19, again in the same general region, but along the river and not