Description.—From *chlorophaea,* this race differs by larger size. The type measures: wing, 123.25 mm.; tail, 182; culmen, 29; tarsus, 28.5. A female collected August 24, 1896, by J. Z. Kannegieter on the same island measures: wing, 124; tail, 179.5 (worn); culmen, 30.5; tarsus, 28.5. A series of twenty males and females from Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula measure: wing, ♂, 110.5–119 (115.3); ♀, 110–119 (115.96); tail, ♂, 159.5–178.5 (167.8); ♀, 162.5–177.5 (169.8); culmen. ♂, 27–31 (28.97); ♀, 27.75–29.5 (29.07); tarsus, ♂, 26–27.5 (26.62); ♀, 26–27.2 (26.7).

Discussion.—The female from Tana Massa seems to differ slightly in color from any other female in the National Museum's series in that the gray on the abdomen looks purer with less of the buffy wash characteristic of the female plumage of this species. Probably, however, this is a case of individual variation. In this connection, I concur with Chasen and Kloss (Bull. Raffles Museum, No. 4: 32, 1930) in feeling that *fuscigularis* Baker, from Borneo, cannot be upheld. This race was founded on variations in the buffy wash in the female and the tone of rufous in the male, characters that tend to disappear in large series.

Centropus sinensis bubutus Horsfield

Chasen and Kloss (Ibis, 1926: 284) note that a specimen of the coucal from Siberut I., west Sumatra, is indistinguishable from Javanese specimens of *bubutus.* They remark on the gloss on the nape and neck which seems to be bluish rather than violet when compared with Sumatran and Malay Peninsula birds. I submit that this condition is due to wear and the state of plumage. Javan, Sumatran, Bornean, and Nias Island birds in the collection of the U. S. National Museum are indistinguishable in size or color. It seems best, therefore, to make *eurycercus* Hay a synonym of *bubutus* and include in the range of the latter, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Nias, Siberut, Borneo, North Natuna Ids., Palawan, Balabac, and Cagayan Sulu.—S. Dillon Ripley, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

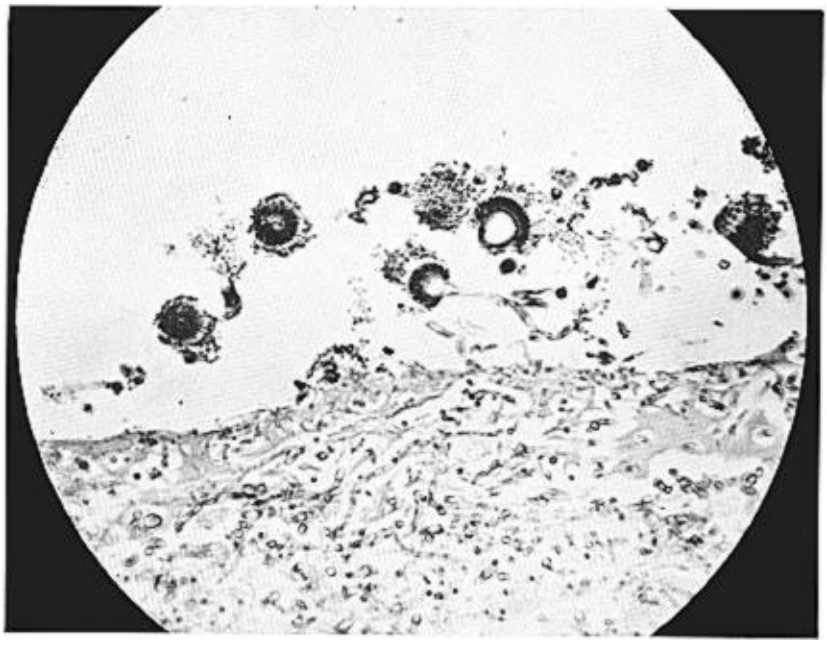
Ticks affecting birds' eyesight.—In 'The Auk' for October, 1941, Ruth Harris Thomas gives some interesting observations on the apparent blinding of small passerine birds by large ticks affixed to their heads in the eye-region. These ticks "flopped and swung with every turn of the head," it being concluded that unless the birds were consumed by predators, they eventually became totally blind and died of starvation.

In this connection it is of interest to record the case of a Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) that was found dead by Richard G. Kuerzi at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on January 8, 1940. A live tick of the *Ixodes* group was affixed to the head at the base of the upper mandible. It was well-engorged, measuring 5 mm. long and 4 mm. wide.

Post mortem examination of the bird revealed no signs of external injury. Subcutaneous dissection showed that the superficial tissues of the affected side of the head were the seat of profound extravasation of blood, this condition extending in a posterior direction for half the length of the body on that side. The blood was not fully clotted, but had a consistency such as slime.

Muscular development and general nutrition were normal. There were intra-abdominal hemorrhages, and the lungs showed partial consolidation. The heart was grossly normal. Other viscera showed advanced decomposition. The bird had been feeding on bayberries.

Gross diagnosis of ectoparasitism, debilitating pneumonitis, and terminal fatal trauma was made. This was the first case in my post mortem series in which



Meade and Stoner: ASPERGILLOSIS IN A SNOWY OWL.
(Upper) STOMACH, HEART, AND SECTION OF LUNG. (Lower) PHOTOMICROGRAPH OF LUNG TISSUE.

I regarded ectoparasitism as a primary cause of death. Thomas's cases, in which blood welled from the point of removal of ticks, would tend to substantiate my conclusion. It seems clear in combining my findings with hers, that the ticks secrete an anticoagulant, probably to facilitate their feeding. But in my opinion death results not so much from blindness and starvation as from the severe subcutaneous disturbances induced by the ticks.

It is an interesting observation that these large ticks have a predilection for the head region of small birds. Mr. Kuerzi subsequently sent me specimens as follows: a tick removed from the auricular region of a White-throated Sparrow; a Mockingbird bearing one tick between the eye and the base of the bill and another in the auricular region; a tick removed from an adult male Purple Finch in the auricular area just below and back of the eye; a tick from the auricular region of another adult male Purple Finch; and a tick from the auricular region of another White-throated Sparrow. All these specimens were obtained at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.—C. BROOKE WORTH, *Swarthmore College, Swarthmore. Pennsylvania.*

Aspergillosis in a Snowy Owl (*Plate* 18).—During the incursion of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) into the United States in the winter of 1941–42, a specimen was secured near Albany, New York, which proved to be heavily infected with the fungus *Aspergillus*. Following is a brief history of the bird.

The owl was captured alive on November 15, 1941, on the Carl Wilson farm near South Cambridge, New York, about thirty miles northeast of Albany. It was taken by hand by Mr. William Ibbott and two companions. They stated that the bird was on the ground, that they simply "closed in on him" and that he was "dangerous." These details suggest that the owl may not have been in a healthy condition at the time of capture.

Within a few days the owl was placed on exhibit in the window of a public market in Troy, New York. According to the proprietor of the store, the bird at first was fairly active and alert. However, it refused to eat meat or other food during the period of captivity and died on December 5, 1941, twenty days after it was taken in the field. It was received and examined grossly by Stoner on December 9.

This examination revealed that the subject was an emaciated male weighing 35 ounces (normal weight 48-72 ounces). The measurements, in inches, are as follows: length 21.5; wing 16.4; tail 9.4; tarsus 1.2. This bird is preserved as a study skin in the zoological collections of the New York State Museum, Catalogue No. 6274.

On opening the body cavities all the serosal surfaces were found to be profusely studded with small, round, whitish nodules. The parietal and visceral pleural surfaces of both lungs were heavily involved as were the epicardium and peritoneum. One or two discrete lesions were present in the capsule on the under surface of the liver. Discrete nodules were present in the mediastinum lying along the trachea and the great vessels of the neck. One of the largest discrete nodules was a flattened one lying adherent to the upper third of the left clavicle—it appeared to be in the periosteum.

The individual lesions were generally round, whitish-yellow in color, from 1–5 mm. in size, and fairly firm in consistency; some seemed almost calcareous and tended to shell out. Sectioning of the lungs revealed that both were extensively invaded. The parenchymal tissue was filled throughout with a myriad of discrete,