

American Brant, *Branta b. hrota*, in Georgia.—On a short collecting trip to the coastal islands of Glynn County, Georgia, an American Brant, *Branta bernicla hrota*, was collected. The specimen was shot by the writer on December 29, 1948, from a flock of six which flew low along the beach at the northern end of Sea Island, Georgia, near the mouth of the Hampton River.

The skin was prepared by William W. Griffin, and its identification has been confirmed by Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the Smithsonian Institution. The bird, upon dissection, was found to be a female with a granular ovary and with marked absence of fat in all areas. The skin is in the collection of Mr. Griffin and bears his original number 584.

This is the first published record of the occurrence of this species in the state of Georgia.—GEORGE W. SCIPLE, 100 Terrace Dr., N. E., Atlanta, Georgia.

Food of Young Pintail Duck, *Anas acuta*, in Alaska.—On July 13, 1948, I collected a downy young American Pintail at Kiana, on the Kobuk River, Alaska. The stomach of the bird proved to be packed full of mosquito larvae. Kortright (Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America, 1943: 194) remarks that while the diet of the Pintail is nearly nine-tenths vegetable, it will make its meal of whatever food is most handy or plentiful at the moment. At the season in which the bird was taken, mosquito larvae are one of the most abundant forms of food available in the arctic, to animals which can utilize them.

Many attempts have been made at various times to discover mosquito predators which might be able to keep down the summer hordes of the Far North. The Alaska Railroad, according to information received from Dr. Adolph Murie, once went so far as to import frogs for this purpose. As the Pintail is one of the commonest nesting birds of the north, it may be considered an important check on the mosquito, if all birds, adults and young, eat mosquito larvae (or adults). Further studies of the extent to which the Pintail utilizes this food are desirable.

Dr. Robert Storer and Mr. Harrison B. Tordoff of the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, where the bird is now deposited, kindly identified it for me. The bird was collected on an expedition supported by the Arctic Institute of North America, with funds provided by the Office of Naval Research.—RODGERS D. HAMILTON, Arctic Research Laboratory, Box 1310, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Tularemia in the Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis calurus*.—Tularemia is primarily a diseased condition of rabbits and rodents. In any wildlife area tularemia is prevalent due to numerous ticks and deerflies. Recently, tularemia has been described in birds. Kursban and Foshay (Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc., 131: 1493-1494, 1946) have reported tularemia in the Pheasant, Grouse, Sage Hen, Horned Owl, Quail and the Chicken Hawk.

On July 29, 1949, a juvenile female Western Red-tailed Hawk, *B. j. calurus*, was shot at the foot of Uhl Hill, Moran, Wyoming, in the Jackson Hole Region. Since, at the time, the author was engaged in field research to determine the prevalence of tularemia in rodents in the Jackson Hole Region, equipment was available for bacteriological examinations. An autopsy was performed on the hawk. There were no internal lesions of the liver, spleen, or kidney. Blood was drawn from the heart using sterile technique and inoculated onto glucose-blood-cystein agar (Difco). At the same time a blood smear was made and stained by the Gram staining method. The inoculated media was incubated at 37° C. for four days. On the fourth day the media was examined and a colony characteristic of *Pasteurella tularensis*, the causative agent for tularemia, was observed. A Gram stain of the single, pure, colony

showed Gram-negative, capsulated, pleomorphic rods. A physiologic saline suspension of this growth was made and injected intraperitoneally into a mouse. This mouse was kept in a cage and observed periodically. On the eighth day the mouse died. Upon performing an autopsy on the mouse, typical necrotic foci of the liver were observed. A glucose-blood-cystein agar (Difco) was inoculated with material taken from the liver. This was incubated at 37° C. for four days. After four days a Gram stain was made of the growth and Gram-negative tularemia rods were seen under the microscope. A positive reaction for tularemia was obtained. This would seem to be the first record of tularemia occurring in the Red-tailed Hawk. Further work is being carried on to detect tularemia in other birds in this area.—MITSURU NAKAMURA, *Dept. of Bacteriology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.*

A Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus*, that did not Abandon her Nest.—On May 17, 1941, four men on a road maintenance crew were breaking granite boulders that obstructed a road which paralleled Ampersand Brook in Harrietstown, Franklin County, New York. One particular rock was so big it had to be tapped and blasted. After the rock was drilled, two sticks of 40 per cent dynamite were placed in the hole. The charge when exploded blew big and little pieces of granite all over the place.

Seven feet from where the men had been working with the drill stood a hardwood tree about eight inches in diameter. As the men moved rock fragments off the road, a larger than average piece was pushed to within two feet of the hardwood tree. At this point a grouse flew up from a nest situated at the base of the tree and so exposed as to be in a line between the tree and the rock. She had stayed on her nest for about four hours while men drilled and blasted, but a three-foot high fragment of rock rolled to within a foot and a half of her nest was too much. Nevertheless, she came back and nine of the ten eggs hatched about two weeks later.—C. W. SEVERINGHAUS, *Wildlife Research Laboratory, Delmar, New York.*

On the Name *Francolinus sephaena spilogaster* Salvadori.—In 1934 when Grant and Mackworth-Praed revised the races of *Francolinus sephaena* (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 54: 170-173, 1934) they remarked that “. . . existing names have been used without taking into consideration the essential points in the original descriptions.”

Then they synonymize the name *F. s. spilogaster* Salvadori, that was currently in use for the “stripe-bellied” bird from eastern Abyssinia and British Somaliland, with *F. s. grantii* which ordinarily lacks these stripes. They then propose the new name *F. s. somaliensis* for the form with ventral chestnut-brown stripes from British Somaliland.

They say that in the original description they found no reference to ventral chocolate stripes and are surprised to find the description applies to a “plain-bellied” form. However, in looking up the original description of *spilogaster* (Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, 26: 541, 1888) I find two different mentions, both on page 541, of ventral streaking as follows:

“. . . pectore maculis scapalibus castaneis . . .” (breast marked with chestnut) and “. . . e che somigli specialmente al *F. kirki*, avendo come questo le macchie longitudinali castagne sul mezzo delle piume delle parti inferiori . . .” (it may look similar to *F. kirki* in having like it the longitudinal chestnut spots upon the middle of the feathers of the underparts).

And if this were not enough to establish the fact of ventral striping, Ogilvie Grant (*Ibis*, 1890: 347) borrowed the type of *F. spilogaster* and compared it with *F. kirki*