GENERAL NOTES

Discovery of an Unrecorded, Mounted, Male Specimen of the Labrador Duck, *Camptorhynchus labradorius*.—About 1947–1948 it was reported that another specimen of the Labrador Duck had been discovered in England. Mr. R. L. E. Ford of Messrs. Watkins and Doncaster, London, who discovered and purchased the bird, informs me that it was mounted and a perfect drake. The specimen was found in a case of various mounted birds of North America in a country house where it had been about 100 years, but nothing was known of its history. The wooden base supporting the bird was screwed to the floor of the case by a pre-nettle-fold screw, *i. e.* not tapered. Mr. Ford sold the bird to a private collector in Britain, but he is not at liberty to disclose his name or the price, which was substantial. Information has reached me from other sources that the specimen was found in Kent and was sold to Capt. Vivian Hewitt for 500 pounds, after having been offered to the British Museum. Phillips ('A Natural History of the Ducks,' 4: 57–63, 1926) gave a list of 50 specimens which were then in existence; if no more have been added since that date, the total now reaches 51. The Labrador Duck did not become extinct until at least 1878, in which year one was obtained on December 12, near Elmira, New York (Amer. Nat., 13: 128, 1879). I thank Mr. R. L. E. Ford and Sir Norman B. Kinnear for assistance.—WILLIAM E. GLEGG, *Zoological Museum, Tring, England.*

A Peculiar Pigmentation.—The throat feathers of adult males of a South American Cotinga or Fruit Crow, *Querula purpurata*, have a peculiar pigmentation which was called to my attention about 48 years ago by the late Dr. C. W. Richmond. I made as much of a study of the phenomenon as was possible at that time, but I have delayed publication, hoping that a microchemical method might be devised for analysis of the pigments involved. No such technic, however, has as yet come to my attention, and I do not feel warranted in waiting longer for it.

When a lighted match or cigarette is held close to, but not touching the feathers mentioned above, their color changes quickly from a dark crimson red to a light orange. This change takes place in the distal exposed portion of the feather, *i. e.* the part not covered by other overlapping feathers, and here the feather structure consists of highly-modified, barbuleless barbs.

These barbs are flattened and twisted so as to present a maximum surface area for color reflection. Cross-sections reveal features which are unique in my experience.

The feather barbs of many species of birds have been studied by myself and by others. In all descriptions that have come to my attention and in all other cases which I have examined, the feather barb has a cortex surrounding a medulla and both may be highly modified. The medulla, however, always has relatively large air- or gas-filled cells. This arrangement does not occur in the structures described in this article. There is an outer layer that is almost too thin to be called a cortex. It is only two to four microns thick, and it has a pale, yellow color when viewed by transmitted light. Black pigment occurs more or less discontinuously at the outer surface and in granules occurring sparsely and irregularly in the interior of this layer (Fig. 1).

This cortex or cuticle covers a homogeneous, pigmented, central core which has a maximum thickness of about 20 microns, and in which no trace of medullary cells could be found. This pigmented central core when viewed by transmitted light in paraffin sections, ten microns thick, is orange-red in color. Similar sections of barbs,