

to be definitely associated with only the Orange Period, which terminates around 200 B.C. A resampling of the Ormond midden by Griffin and Smith in 1947 (Florida State Univ. Studies, 16) revealed that although the bulk of the occupation dates from near the end of the Orange Period there is a short interval of reoccupation during the St. Johns II Period. This makes the association of these humeri with the Orange Period questionable, and they may even be coeval with the auk humeri of Vo 112.

The archeological evidence from Vo 112 gives us a definite period for the presence of the Great Auk in Florida and substantiates its extension of winter range as indicated by the Vo 83 record. I am greatly indebted to Dr. Pierce Brodkorb of the University of Florida for use of his data on Great Auk skeletal measurements and for confirmation of the identification.—PENELOPE HERMES WEIGEL, 245 North Street, Buffalo 1, New York.

First Ancient Murrelet Collected in Colorado.—While driving on November 28, 1957 on U. S. 287 just south of Lafayette, Boulder County, Colorado, we noticed a dead bird beside the highway and stopped to examine it. The bird proved to be an Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)—the first of its kind recorded in Colorado. Though it had apparently been killed by a car, except for a broken wing the specimen was in good condition. We showed the bird to Dr. A. M. Bailey, Denver Museum of Natural History, and Dr. Gordon Alexander, University of Colorado, who verified our identification. The specimen was then given to the University of Colorado Museum (Mus. No. 6282 in the bird series). Upon dissection it was impossible to determine the sex with certainty from the gonads; however the bird (an adult in winter plumage) was probably a male, the testes presumably being very small. The bird measured: wing 140 mm., culmen 14 mm., tarsus 26 mm.

Just previous to November 28 we had a period of very strong westerly winds across the northwestern states. Air velocities reached 170 miles per hour at high altitudes. Perhaps the murrelet traveled from his normal range on these air currents. Analysis of wind conditions indicates that the flight could have been made in about twenty-four hours. Though the Ancient Murrelet breeds only on boreal islands in the Pacific and winters somewhat farther south in the north Pacific, according to the A.O.U. Check-list (1957) there are a number of accidental records from the interior of the United States and Canada, one as far east as Montreal.—JOHN R. AND MARGARET M. DOUGLASS, *Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.*

A Releaser Mechanism in the Feeding of Nestling Chimney Swifts.—Much has been written in recent years about the phenomena known as "releaser mechanisms," and their controlling roles in animal behavior. These releasers are now known to be fixed, specific events which generally must occur before an animal is enabled to perform some series of habitual acts. Many of the most outstanding examples of such behavior chains have been observed among the birds, where some are so widely operative as to have been observed among members of different genera. Other chains are highly specialized and are known to appertain only to a single form.

In 1953, three unfledged Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) were acquired by Mr. Dennis Puleston of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York, as a result of storm destruction. He made efforts to rear these through manual feeding, but the nestlings remained totally uncooperative. The familiar artifice of tapping the nesting box to imitate the parent's arrival failed to elicit the slightest response, and Mr. Puleston fearfully resorted to forcible means. Then, quite by accident, a sudden draft of air chanced to blow across the birds. Immediately the whole feeding syndrome ap-