MST on 7 July when a male meadowlark approached a nest that contained three 2-day-old young. Neither Lark Bunting was in attendance at the nest at the time, although as the meadowlark neared the nest the female bunting returned to within 3 m of the nest and gave a series of alarm calls. The meadowlark was seen to probe into the nest several times before the female bunting dived at it and succeeded in chasing it away. The nest was inspected and a nestling, which was partially out of the nest cup, had several deep puncture wounds in the back and neck. The other young were not injured. Later we saw the female bunting drag the injured nestling away from the nest. The remaining young fledged successfully 7 days later.

This meadowlark behavior may be more widespread than earlier suspected. Of approximately 240 Lark Bunting and Horned Lark nests found in the last 3 years, five additional nest failures were definitely related to avian predation, i.e. eggs were pecked open or shells crushed, although the specific causes of these instances were not observed or known. Little has been reported on the opportunistic feeding patterns of meadowlarks, although Terres (1956, Auk 71: 289) and Hubbard and Hubbard (1969, Wilson Bull. 81: 107) reported meadowlarks feeding on fresh roadkills. These meadowlark behaviors reported here also may represent a response to an immediate food opportunity. However, the adaptive significance of interference behavior on interspecific competition should not be underestimated. Our study has shown (unpublished data) that various species adjust to interspecific competitive pressures through temporal and spatial segregation of demands. D. L. Beaver and P. H. Baldwin (unpublished manuscript, 1973, "Ecological overlap and the problem of competition and sympathy in the Western and Hammond's Flycatchers") indicated that the Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondii*) vacated areas of overlap with the Western Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*) to avoid competitive interactions. It would seem to be highly adaptive if a species, in this case the Western Meadowlark, could pressure a second species into vacating overlap areas by active nest interference. The immediate result of this interference would be spatial segregation if the disturbed pair renested elsewhere, and/or temporal segregation if their nesting sequence were forced back to an initial stage.

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Orange-breasted Bunting in southern Texas.—The Orange-breasted Bunting (*Passerina leclancherii*) is a not uncommon resident of the rather arid habitat of southwest Mexico from Chiapas north to Jalisco. I know of no previous records of its occurrence north of Jalisco. At approximately 09:00 on 2 December 1972 we netted an adult male on the World Wildlife Refuge 7 miles south of Mission, Texas, 900 miles from Jalisco. We were working in typical brush country of prickly pear, mesquite, retama, hackberry, huisache, and heavy underbrush with much willow near the river, and interspersed with small grassy openings.

The bird's plumage was so brilliant and in such perfect condition that it seemed unlikely to be an escape from captivity. This belief was further confirmed when we turned the bird over to Pauline James, head of the Biology Department at Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas. She reported that, on placing the bird in a cage, it fought its captivity and gave every indication of being a wild specimen. The bird remains in captivity.—FRANK O. NOVY, *Saginaw, Michigan 48601*, and ALBERT D. MCGREW, *McAllen, Texas 78501*. Accepted 13 Apr. 73.

A reappraisal of the fossil heron *Palaeophoyx columbiana* McCoy.— In a study of a collection of Upper Pleistocene bird fossils from the Itchtucknee River, Columbia County, Florida, McCoy (1963, Auk 80:335) described and named a new genus and species of heron, *Palaeophoyx columbiana.* This was based on a nearly complete type coracoid, a less complete paratype coracoid, and a referred complete left ulna (the type is from the left side and the paratype from the right—not *vice versa* as stated by McCoy in the description and the figure caption). The genus was said to be "referable to the subfamily Ardeinae due to greater rounding and internal projection of the internal surface of the coraco-humeral area than found in the Botaurinae" (p. 337). The alleged differences in the coraco-humeral areas of the two subfamilies are not apparent to me, and the type and paratype of *Palaeophoyx* exhibit several distinctive features that are characteristic of *Botaurus.*

The long and quite slender shaft of the coracoid separates *Palaeophoyx* from all the Ardeinae except the night herons (*Nycticorax* and *Nyctanassa*), to which McCoy felt *Palaeophoyx* most similar. This slenderness is characteristic also of *Botaurus.* In the following characters, the type and paratype of *Palaeophoyx* differ from the Ardeinae, including the night herons, and agree exactly with *Botaurus*: the distinctive bulging of the shaft below the head, the presence of a groove along the ventral external edge of the shaft immediately above the sterno-coracoidal process, the lip of the sternal facet placed higher on the shaft and extending only a little over halfway across the distal expansion. All of these characters are well shown in McCoy's illustration of the type of *Palaeophoyx* (p. 338).

The referred ulna was said to differ from modern herons "because of the external cotyla being more narrow and projected" (p. 339). It differs in several other respects as well, and I found on comparison that this specimen is from a Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*, a species not reported by McCoy from the Itchtucknee. The error is not quite as egregious as at first might seem. Several skeletal elements

TABLE 1
CORACOID MEASUREMENTS OF "*PALAEOPHOYX COLUMBIANA*" COMPARED TO NEW WORLD BITTERNS

	Head to internal distal angle (mm)	Anterior margin of glenoid facet to internal distal angle (mm)
"*Palaeophoyx columbiana*" type	47.0	44.9
"*Palaeophoyx columbiana*" paratype	—	46.2
Botaurus lentiginosus (n = 27)	47.7–59.6 (54.3)	45.4–56.6 (51.9)
Botaurus pinnatus (n = 1)	52.8	50.4