tarsometatarsus, 2.6 mm. These measurements compare favorably with those of the specimen reported by Pitelka and Bryant.

We are also fortunate in having three mounted skins of the Passenger Pigeon, entered as U.N.D. nos. 734, 735, and 7204, all of which are males. —EDWARD O. DODSON, *Department of Biology, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, May 4, 1949.*

Gnatcatchers in Oregon.—On the morning of April 26, 1949, in the McKenzie River bottoms near Thurston, Lane County, Oregon, while out checking warbler migrations, I was attracted by some unfamiliar notes coming from a group of small birds in the tree tops. On closer inspection these proved to be Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (*Polioptila caerulea*). These birds, four in number, were feeding on insects around the blossoms and freshly opened leaf-buds of a clump of low, spreading, big leaf maples (*Acer macrophylla*) in open woodlands of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees. They were in almost constant motion, for the most part keeping well up in the trees, although one individual came down to the lower branches to within about twelve feet of me. These gnatcatchers were under close observation for fully fifteen minutes until they finally disappeared toward the north. They were followed soon by two others which entered the trees from the south and left as had the previous four.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Ray Wiseman recently reported to the local natural history society that a gnatcatcher spent the period from May 26 to June 2, 1949, in the trees and shrubbery at their home in Eugene, Oregon.

So far as I know there are no previously published records of gnatcatchers for the state of Oregon.—BEN H. PRUITT, *Springfield, Oregon, June 13, 1949.*

Notes on Flights of the Nighthawk.—Some observers have thought that migrations of Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) occur in July. To me July seems rather early in the year for true migration, especially after I have observed large numbers of these birds feeding in flocks. If these flocks had been observed at just the right time of day, they most certainly would give the impression of migrating birds.

In the period from June to September, 1947, I was working at Hovenweep National Monument, Colorado, which is situated about forty miles west of Mesa Verde National Park. This section of country is made up of rolling mesa lands, transected by numerous dry canyons and covered with sagebrush (*Artemisia*) and a few scattered juniper trees (*Juniperus utahensis*). When we arrived there in June, not more than two pairs of nighthawks were present in the area and these were the only ones observed until near the end of July. On July 23 in the late afternoon a thunder storm rolled in across the desert and the darkening of the sky seemed to bring out the nighthawks. Throughout the storm we watched several of these birds going about their business of feeding, very much undisturbed by the lightning, noise, and downpour. Soon after the storm had passed over, we became aware of about twenty nighthawks flying westward about forty or fifty feet in the air, feeding and calling as they went. About an hour later we again saw these birds coming back, only now they were flying in and out among the low stunted junipers, feeding within ten feet of the ground. The whole group was now moving away from the failing light of the setting sun.

These evening flights to and from the west continued every evening. The number of birds increased until more than seventy-five could be seen feeding in an irregular line extending to the north and south. Then one morning after a heavy rain storm we woke to the sounds of the nighthawks and looked out to see a large flock flying to the west. With this early morning westward movement as number one, we counted five other definite mass movements at nearly equal intervals throughout the day. The birds always flew high on their way to the west and low to the ground coming back. Then on subsequent afternoons, especially after a rain storm, nighthawks would make as many as three west-east flights before it was too dark to see them. These flights were still taking place when we left the Monument on September 15.—CHARLES G. HANSEN, *Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon, July 15, 1949.*

Great Blue Heron Killed by a Carp.—Evidence of an unusual death of a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) was found on October 3, 1947, at the north end of Reservoir No. 3, about 2 miles northeast of Waverly, Larimer County, Colorado. The dried head of the heron, with the remains

of a carp lodged within the mandibles, was picked up by W. L. Holmes and T. E. Kruse. This fish, approximately 12 inches in length, was apparently too large for the heron to swallow, and presumably when the bird attempted to regurgitate it, the anterior spine of the dorsal fin pierced the heron's gullet, making regurgitation impossible. The photograph (fig. 12) shows the serrated spine of the fish's anal fin in a position which permits swallowing of the fish head first; the spine of the dorsal fin is in the erected position after perforating the gullet wall. The photograph also shows that the heron attempted to swallow the carp with its ventral surface uppermost. It seems likely that

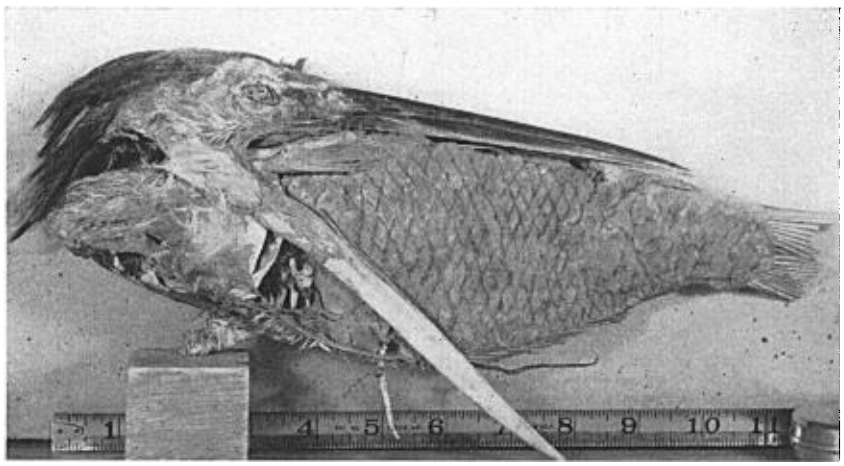

Fig. 12. Head of Great Blue Heron with carp lodged in gullet.

the heron, being unable to feed, slowly starved to death, or possibly died more quickly of suffocation. The object resting against the wooden block is the bird's trachea. I am indebted to Dr. D. F. Costello for the photograph.—RONALD A. RYDER, *Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Fort Collins, Colorado, July 26, 1949.*

Temperatures of Poor-wills in the Summer Season.—Knowledge of the significant observations on torpidity in the Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) made by Jaeger (Condor, 51, 1949: 105-109) led me to take such temperature records of this species as possible in the course of a summer's field work in northern Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1948. Jaeger recorded the startlingly low temperatures of a Poor-will while in winter dormancy. These varied from 18.0° to 19.8° (64.4-67.6° F.) when daytime temperatures ranged from 17.5° to 24.1° C. Presumably through day and night for approximately three months this bird existed at temperatures no higher than these. As basis for comparison, the normal temperatures of active Poor-wills should be known and evidence of daily temperature reduction during the sleeping periods of the summer season should be sought. To my knowledge only one other record of the temperature of a Poor-will has been reported. A reading of 107.2° F. was taken by Wetmore (Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 72, 1921:1-52) in the interclavicular area via the oesophagus in a male bird; the date and circumstances were not mentioned.

At Ramos, 4800 feet, an oasis 18 miles north and 8 miles west of Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, four male Poor-wills (*P. n. nuttallii*) were taken at dusk on September 2, 3, 5 and 8. Temperatures were obtained by thrusting a fast-registering thermometer, of the same type used by Jaeger, deeply into the oesophagus as far as the proventriculus. The temperatures were recorded quickly and maximum readings were registered within a minute of shooting, except in the last two birds which were carried wounded to camp a hundred yards distant where the record was soon taken. The readings were 41.0°, 41.8°, 41.0°, and 41.0° C. (105.8-107.2° F.), respectively. The air temperatures on the first two nights at the points of collecting were 20° C. The Poor-wills had been extremely active in foraging and calling in the period following sundown and before complete darkness set in. These temperatures of active birds accord well with Wetmore's single record and with a few figures for other caprimulgids which he gives.