

Vernon Bailey, Harry C. Oberholser, and Louis Agassiz Fuertes comprised the field party of 1901 under the auspices of the United States Bureau of Biological Survey (now Fish and Wildlife Service), all of the foregoing references for Texas were based on their investigations.

In addition to the two specimens which Fuertes obtained in 1901, Van Tyne and Sutton (Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool., Misc. Pubs., 1937, No. 37:43) recorded two more from the Chisos Mountains: male, Juniper Canyon, 5500 feet, May 17, 1933, John B. Semple; and male, banks of Rio Grande, 3 miles west of Boquillas, May 17, 1935, by George M. Sutton.

The latest record of the species for the United States is an immature male (U. S. Nat. Mus. 417862) taken by Walter P. Taylor on June 27, 1944, at the Basin, Chisos Mountains, 5500 feet, in course of a biological investigation (in company with W. B. Davis and W. B. McDougall) of the Big Bend National Park. The hummer was feeding among the brilliant flowers of a tall agave (*Agave scabra*) apparently inserting its bill down into each bloom.

The Lucifer Hummer is one of the rare species within our borders, and of the eight specimens known from the United States, six have been secured in the Chisos Mountains. Although the two specimens by Semple and Sutton had the gonads "much enlarged," and although Ridgway listed the species as "breeding," no nest has yet been found in Texas or in any other area in the United States. Thus, it cannot be stated with certainty that the Lucifer Hummingbird breeds within our borders.—WALTER P. TAYLOR, *Oklahoma Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Stillwater, Oklahoma*, and ALLAN J. DUVAL, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., February 20, 1951.*

A Summer Record of the Great Gray Owl in Oregon.—While driving north on the highway a few miles south of Chemult, Klamath County, Oregon, in bright sunlight in mid-morning of June 4, 1950, I had a very brief sight of a large owl perched on a limb about ten feet above the ground in a lodgepole pine tree. As we passed the bird, at a speed of about 45 miles per hour, I realized from its general shape that it did not appear to be a Horned Owl, the common large owl in this general region. On return to the place a few moments later, I found the bird perched on the same limb. The bird was collected and proved to be an adult female Great Gray Owl, *Strix nebulosa nebulosa*. Examination of the gonads showed no activity whatever. The bird was very fat and its stomach was empty at the time of collecting.

The only other summer record of this species for Oregon, of which I have knowledge, is an adult male skin in my collection, taken in the yellow pine forest near Hardman, Morrow County, Oregon, on August 14, 1932 (Gabrielson and Jewett, *Birds of Oregon*, 1940:349).—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, January 8, 1951.*

A Quail from the Oligocene of Colorado.—The most ancient record of any American quail (subfamily Odontophorinae) heretofore reported is of *Miortyx teres* Miller, from the Lower Miocene (Flint Hill local fauna, late Arikareean) of South Dakota (A. H. Miller, Univ. Calif. Publ. Geol. Sci., 27, 1944:93-95). In addition to this fossil genus, two extinct species of quail belonging to surviving genera have been described by Wetmore: *Cyrtonyx cooki*, from the Upper Miocene ("upper Sheep Creek beds") of Nebraska (Condor, 36, 1934:30), and *Colinus hibbardi*, from the Upper Pliocene (Rexford formation, Blancan age) of Kansas (Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull., 30, pt. 1, 1944:96-98). The several Recent species of quail recorded from the Pleistocene complete the known fossil history of the Odontophorinae.

It is a matter of interest in regard to the antiquity of the Odontophorinae, therefore, to report here the remains of a quail from the Middle Oligocene of northeastern Colorado. The specimen, Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist. no. 9393, consisting of the distal end of a left tarsometatarsus, was obtained in the summer of 1948 by Edwin C. Galbreath, of the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. The geological age and locality of the specimen are as follows: silts of Orellan age in the Cedar Creek facies of the White River formation, SW. $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 12, T. 11 N., R. 54 W., Logan County, Colorado.

The tarsal fragment represented by the fossil is well preserved, with the shaft broken approximately 2.5 mm. proximal to the distal foramen. The middle trochlea is intact and little worn. The inner trochlea is missing, as is most of the lateral flange of the outer trochlea. The fragment is 8.1 mm. long. It is creamy-white in color and is heavily mineralized.

Study of this bone has made it necessary for me to examine modern skeletons of *Cyrtonyx*,

Oreortyx, *Callipepla*, *Lophortyx*, and *Colinus*, as well as four comparable elements of the extinct *Colinus hibbaridi*. *Cyrtonyx* has a proportionately much stockier shaft in relation to the trochlea than has the fossil. In *Callipepla* and *Oreortyx*, the small foramen leading distad from the anterodistal margin of the distal foramen has a different appearance than in *Lophortyx*, *Colinus*, and the fossil. In *Callipepla* and *Oreortyx*, the small foramen does not appear to open directly into the distal foramen, as in the other quail named, but opens on a small lip or shelf which separates the two foramina. I have encountered great difficulty in finding definitive characters to separate the distal portion of the tarsometatarsus of *Lophortyx* from that of *Colinus*. In discussing *Colinus hibbaridi* (cited above), Wetmore says (p. 97) "*Lophortyx* differs [from *Colinus*] in the more angular development of the posterior side of the middle trochlea." This seems to me to be only an average difference, being quite unreliable in the identification of a majority of individual bones.

Confronted, therefore, with my own inability to separate *Lophortyx* from *Colinus* on the basis of the tarsometatarsus, I have been unsuccessful in allocating the fossil to either genus, or in finding definitive characters by which a new genus might be named. Upon direct comparison, the fossil appears to be smaller than the comparable elements of *Colinus* (*virginianus*) and *Lophortyx* (*gambelii* and *californica*) and to have the distal foramen somewhat farther from the external intertrochlear notch. However, eight measurements taken of the fossil and of a series of modern *Colinus* and *Lophortyx* show that although the fossil is definitely smaller in all dimensions than the averages of the modern specimens, in each measurement some overlap occurs. The width of the intact middle trochlea of the fossil is 2.2 mm.; the depth 2.9 mm. The breadth of the shaft of the fossil at the proximal end of the distal foramen is 4.2 mm.

If the Oligocene quail here discussed were represented by more diagnostic skeletal elements than the tarsometatarsus, it would doubtless prove to be a new species, and perhaps a new genus. However, until such elements are discovered, the only course seems to be to put this ancient odontophorine on record, to point out that the bone preserved most closely resembles the corresponding element of *Colinus* and *Lophortyx*, but to leave it unnamed.

I am indebted to Mr. Galbreath for the privilege of examining this fossil, and to Josselyn Van Tyne and Robert W. Storer, of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, for the loan of comparative material.—HARRISON B. TORDOFF, *University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas, December 18, 1950.*

Least Tern in Southeastern New Mexico.—A study of the bird life in southeastern New Mexico during the summer of 1950 included several trips to the Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, near Roswell, Chaves County. On June 21, a single Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) was observed flying over the water. Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) were present at the refuge, usually 3 to 5 in number, and farther south along the Pecos River near Artesia, but this was the only occasion on which the Least Tern was observed. This observation is mentioned since Bailey (*Birds of New Mexico*, 1928) does not report the Least Tern nor have I been able to locate any reference to its occurrence within the state in the available literature. Its presence in eastern New Mexico is not surprising in view of the fact that Nice (*The Birds of Oklahoma*, 1931) records it as a summer resident in Cimarron County, Oklahoma, and Stevenson (*Condor*, 44, 1942:111) reported it as a rare migrant in the Texas Panhandle. I have no doubt that more records of this tern will be forthcoming as more water becomes impounded at the refuge or as more ornithologists visit the area. Since no specimen was collected, it should be pointed out that I am very familiar with the two species of tern in all their plumages and that the observation was made under favorable conditions with glasses. I am indebted to the authorities of the New Mexico Military Institute at Roswell, in particular to Major James H. Sikes, who made possible my stay in that region.—HENRI C. SEIBERT, *Department of Zoology, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, January 15, 1951.*

The Clark Nutcracker in San Diego County, California.—On February 5, 1951, a dead Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) was discovered by Bayard H. Brattstrom, hanging by its bill on an incense cedar, *Libocedrus decurrens*, at 6100 feet elevation on South Cuyamaca Peak, San Diego County, California. The bird was found with its bill imbedded one and one-half inches between the cracks in the bark of the tree. One-half inch of the hole was made by the impression of the bill