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## BIRDS OF THE PLEISTOCENE AMERICAN FALLS LOCAL FAUNA, IDAHO

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The Pleistocene American Falls local fauna originates from the sandy lower member of the American Falls Formation (Ridenour 1969), exposed along the shores of the American Falls Reservoir in Power and Bingham counties, Idaho. This local fauna was formerly dated as Illinoian (Hopkins et al. 1969), but it has been more recently viewed as Sangamonian in age, based on the presence of the American lion (*Panthera leo atrox*; Kurten and Anderson 1980). I have examined all avian specimens known from this local fauna. This note corrects previously published reports and adds support for the interglacial age assignment of this local fauna.

Howard (1942) recorded *Ciconia maltha* (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, USNM 11684) from an unknown locality in this formation and Hopkins et al. (1969) and Steadman (1980) listed the Turkey, (*Meleagris gallopavo*; Idaho Museum of Natural History, IMNH 1736) from this local fauna. Brodkorb (1963) and McDonald and Anderson (1975) reported on the fossil birds from the overlying Wisconsinan Rainbow Beach local fauna.

The fossil localities are widely scattered along the shores of the American Falls Reservoir and data on specific sites are kept on file at the Idaho Museum of Natural History. All fossil specimens reported here are in the Vertebrate Paleontology collections of the IMNH and are identified by locality number/specimen number. Those marked with an asterisk were incorrectly listed by Brodkorb (1963) and McDonald and Anderson (1975) as being from the Rainbow Beach local fauna. Examination of the original field notes shows that these specimens were actually collected from the beach sands of the American Falls local fauna.

\**Ardea herodias*. Great Blue Heron. 47701/2969 Tarsometatarsus, juv.

?*Ciconia maltha*. 35020/16183 Right shaft tarsometatarsus. Badly abraded, but compares well with *C. maltha* from the Itchtucknee River, Florida (Florida State Museum, UF/FSM 15708) in overall size, shape and position of the metatarsal facet and distal foramen.

*Branta canadensis*. Canada Goose. 71003/28004 Proximal right humerus; 65001/16681 Proximal right ulna; 65001/18321 Left shaft tibiotarsus.

\**Anas platyrhynchos*. Mallard. 50001/2775 Left coracoid.

*Anas* sp. 65001/16464 Partial left synsacrum.

Cathartidae, gen. et sp. indet. 65001/18315 Worn right coracoid. Similar in size to that of Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*).

*Meleagris gallopavo*. Turkey. 48001/1736 Right tarsometatarsus with spur core; 65001/23525 Proximal left tibiotarsus.

The Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard and Turkey Vulture all occur in this area today. Historically, the Turkey has not occurred closer than central Colorado (Rea 1980). This northern record of the "southern" forms ?*Ciconia maltha* and *Meleagris gallopavo*, suggest an interglacial age for this local fauna, probably the Sangamonian when correlated with the mammalian fauna.

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