

On January 28 a flock of about ten Black Vultures were carefully observed below Sugar Grove, 37 miles southeast of Columbus, and for some time we had an opportunity to note their distinctive characteristics.

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NOTES ON THE FLORIDA BURROWING OWL

In looking over some Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto*) from Florida, I noticed those taken at Miami Beach were much darker than those from the interior of the state. This owl is rather rare in the coastal area, and does not at the present time occur on the large prairies adjoining Cape Sable. No doubt the large filled-in area around Miami Beach, and the three golf courses, has attracted these birds to this point, though I have noted them further north, along the Ocean Boulevard,* where no clearing other than the right-of-way has been. A comparison of my interior state specimens (Okeechobee), with specimen kindly loaned me by the National Museum (Kissimmee River), compare favorably, though mine were taken in the breeding season, May, while theirs were in February. In comparing the Bahama form of *Speotyto*, kindly loaned by the National Museum, with those of Florida, I find the breeding bird (June 28) worn and in the same plumage as the Okeechobee breeding birds, while the winter plumage, December 20th, Bahama birds correspond equally as well with the February birds from the interior of Florida.

Personally, I find little, if any, difference to have made the Bahaman form from. As a rule, all males in the *Speotyto* run lighter in color than the females, though I have one female from the Beach that corresponds favorably with a male. I have always been opposed to the hair splitting subspecies game, unless the specimen can show some great and easily distinguished difference in color or size (such as *Falco S. paulus*). While the coastal birds are easily distinguishable by their darker coat and heavier white markings in wings and back, and finer markings of white on head, I am refraining at the present time at least from becoming a real hair splitter.

H. H. BAILEY,

Miami, Beach., Fla., March 5, 1923.

* See Oologist. Nov., 1922, Page 164.

A BABY HUMMER

One day last spring, 1922, while I was taking my Nature Study class on a field trip, we saw a full-grown female Hummingbird rise from a tree and fly across an open space. What seemed to be a large Bumblebee followed her. Purely by accident I looked closely at the supposed Bumblebee, only to find that it was a baby Hummingbird, not one-fourth the size of its mother. Since I was within a few feet of the birds I could not possibly be mistaken, especially when three dozen students