

Malay Banded Crane off the island of Mindanao in the Philippines.—At 4 o'clock on the afternoon of October 3, 1945, while the U. S. S. *Jamestown* was steaming through the Sulu Sea seven miles due west of Dohinoc, Mindanao, a rail—subsequently identified as a Malay Banded Crane, *Rallina fasciata*—collided with the ship's superstructure, stunned itself, and fell to the deck. A crew member brought the bird to me. Its legs, feet and eyes were red, the latter of a very bright shade. Wondering whence it could have come, I noticed dark storm clouds and heavy lightning over the island in the vicinity of Dohinoc. On skinning it I found it to be a male. Its testes were not enlarged.

The specimen is now No. 113,947 in the collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. It is one of 46 specimens known to be in museums of the United States at this time. The American Museum of Natural History has 24 specimens, the U. S. National Museum 11, the Chicago Natural History Museum 4, the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard 3, and the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia 3.

Rallina fasciata has not previously been reported from Mindanao, although it has been found on Palawan (Lowe, *Ibis*, 1916, p. 611), Balabac (Everett, *Ibis*, 1895, p. 32), and Mindoro (McGregor, *Philippine Journ. Sci.*, 1906, p. 698) in the Philippines. It is known to inhabit India, Burma (Sharpe, *Cat. Birds Brit. Mus.*, 1894, 23: 75), Siam (Gyldenstolpe, *Ibis*, 1920, p. 763) and "the Malay Peninsula; Sumatra; Java; Borneo; Lesser Sunda Islands; . . . Pelew Islands; Moluccas (Halmahera, Batjan, and Buru)" (Peters, 1934. Check-list of Birds of the World, 2: 171). The Mindanao record does not extend the periphery of range, but it does fill the gap which has existed between Mindoro to the north and the Moluccas to the south and Palawan to the west and the Pelew Islands to the east, strongly suggesting that this little known rail may inhabit the central Philippine Islands.—KENNETH W. PRESCOTT, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor*.

Death of a Horned Lark in territorial combat.—On March 4, 1950, my husband and I, in company with Robert A. Whiting and Kenneth Bunting of Jackson and George M. Sutton of Ann Arbor, visited various parts of Jackson County, Michigan, checking early duck arrivals. The morning was bright, the wind brisk and from the northwest, the snow several inches deep, and the temperature about 20° F. In the vicinity of Clark Lake we continued to see pairs or small flocks of Prairie Horned Larks, *Eremophila alpestris praticela*, many of them in snowless places at the very edge of the highway. Near a slough just north of Jefferson Road and west of South Woodlands Road we stopped to look at some Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*) and a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*).

Having climbed the embankment near the highway and started through a young cherry orchard toward the slough, we happened to see and hear ahead of us two Horned Larks. That these birds were neither a pair nor part of a flock was soon apparent. They were males in bright plumage. As they walked and ran about on the snow they continued to twitter excitedly, occasionally singing a full song. Often they stood high, with 'horns' lifted, or crouched, 12-15 inches apart, facing each other defiantly. Occasionally they sang in duet. We soon realized that we were witnessing a territorial conflict, for the birds, despite the sweetness of their singing, were obviously opposing each other determinedly. They did not run at each other, but flew instead; and when they met, midair, they rose fluttering straight up to a height of 30 or 40 feet, pecking and clawing at each other the whole way. Their twittering never ceased, but they resumed their singing only after descending to the ground and taking positions a few yards apart. Not once, during the 15 minutes or more that we watched them, did one drive the other about. One flew at the other, the other seemed to accept the challenge without giving ground, and up they went, fighting hard. Usually they rose quite rapidly and directly, but the wind carried them away from the area in which they continued to show interest and to which they invariably returned. For a time we thought