

Black Vulture breeding in Pennsylvania.—Black Vultures, *Coragyps atratus*, have been seen occasionally in various parts of Pennsylvania for many years. Warren (1888. "Report on the birds of Pennsylvania," Harrisburg, p. 237) listed the species as a rare straggler in the state. Beck (1924. "A chapter on the ornithology of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania," New York, p. 18) reported sight records in Lancaster County and listed this vulture as a "summer visitant." Townsend (*in* Bent, 1937. *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 167:43-44) cited numerous records of the species farther north, and Hope (1949. *Auk*, 66:81-82) reported the first Black Vulture collected in Ontario. There are, however, no published breeding records for Pennsylvania.

Since the fall of 1949, I have observed from time to time as many as 12 Black Vultures among a large flock of Turkey Vultures, *Cathartes aura*, which roost at Big Round Top on the Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania. Most sightings have been in late fall, winter, and early spring. Few Black Vultures have been seen later than March 25. At approximately that date the vulture population at the Big Round Top roost is noticeably reduced and I assume that the birds, at least some of them, spend their nights at or near their breeding territories. The summer disappearance of the Black Vultures at the roost and the rare observations at scattered points about Adams County, led me to suspect that the species had become a permanent and breeding resident of this area.

Accordingly, I attempted to find a nest of a Black Vulture. In the spring of 1951 the search was unsuccessful. On April 20, 1952, I flushed a Black Vulture from a small cave on a rocky mound approximately six miles south-southwest of Gettysburg. There was a small depression in some dried leaves in the cave but no other evidence of nesting. I returned on April 22 and again flushed the vulture from the cave. This time the depression contained one egg.

Four weeks later the nest was again empty. Fox scats were abundant in the vicinity and the vulture egg may have fallen prey to foxes.

Stewart and Robbins (1947. *Auk*, 64:268) list a nest found near Bowie, Maryland, as "probably near the northern limit of the breeding range of the species." The nest near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, would extend the known breeding range of the Black Vulture some 60 miles farther north and establishes a first breeding record for the state.—G. E. GRUBE, *Biology Department, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Penn., August 23, 1952.*

An extended incubation period of the Ruffed Grouse.—On June 6, 1952, at the Cusino Experimental Deer Enclosure at Shingleton, Michigan, a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) was flushed from a nest containing eleven eggs. The following day a foot-high fence of half-inch poultry screen was placed to enclose an area 20 feet in diameter around the nest in order to detain the chicks after hatching. The nest was inspected daily previous to the supposed hatching period, twice daily during the possible hatching period, and once daily thereafter. On June 23 and June 27, the bird was not observed on the nest, but the eggs were still warm. On July 20, one Ruffed Grouse was flushed from within the enclosure and another was flushed from the nest. On some occasions the hen was flushed from the nest so that the eggs could be examined, but usually the bird was not molested. On August 14, the grouse was not observed on the nest, and the eggs were cold. The eggs remained cold on the two following days. If we assume June 6 as the beginning of incubation (no eggs were laid after that date) and August 14 as the last date of active incubation, they incubated for 70 days. Normal incubation is about 24 days. The eggs were examined and found to be infertile.—TONY J. PETERLE, *Cusino Wildlife Experiment Station, Michigan Department of Conservation, Shingleton, Michigan, August 26, 1952.*