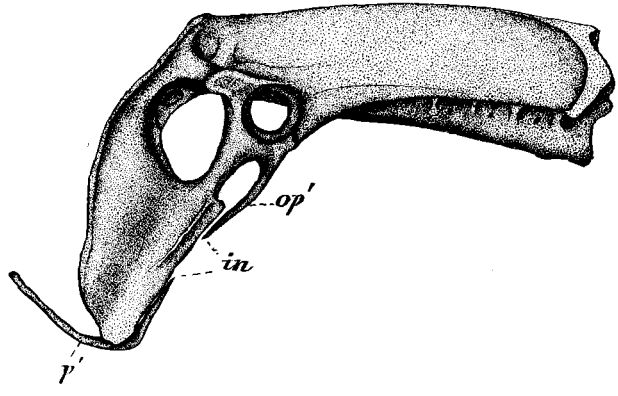
tion is that of *Cupidonia americana* Reich. Syst. Av. 1850, p. xxix, based on figures 1896-98 of his 'Icones Avium' (Vollständ. Naturg. Huhnerv. Aves Gallinaceæ). The two smaller of these three figures unquestionably represent the western Prairie Hen; the other, and principal figure, is a reduced copy from Wilson (American Ornithology, pl. 27, fig. 1), which, that author tells us, is "A figure of the male .... as large as life, drawn with great care from the most perfect of several elegant specimens shot in the *Barrens of Kentucky*." (Italics my own.)

It is thus plain that the western Pinnated Grouse, or Prairie Hen, must be called *Tympanuchus americanus* (Reich.).— ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

On the Free Post-pubis in certain of the Falconidæ.—Being engaged upon the osteology of the North American Falconidæ, and at present not very fortunately situated so far as the literature of my subject is concerned, I would like to ask some one of the many readers of 'The Auk,' to whom the larger anatomical works are more accessible, and who may be, at the same time, interested in the structure of birds, for the authority I must refer to, if, indeed, it has ever been described, for an account of the peculiar condition in which we find the post-pubic element of certain Hawks.



Right lateral view of the pelvis of *Buteo borealis calurus*, showing the free hinder portion of the post-pubic element (*p'*); *in*, the interval which occurs between it and the obturator portion (*op'*). Life size from the specimen.

As an example, we meet with the peculiarity in question, well displayed in the pelvis of the common Marsh Harrier, where we observe the hinder two-thirds of the post-pubis to be a separate piece of bone held in its usual position, as found in birds, by being freely suspended to the lower margin of the ischium by ligament. Between this free portion of the element, and that part which closes in the obturator foramen, quite an inter-

val exists. This latter is spanned over in the living bird by a delicate band of fibrous tissue. In the genus *Buteo* a similar state of affairs obtains, and I present above a drawing of the pelvis of a specimen of *B. borealis calurus*, offering an aspect from which the point I refer to, may be seen. This figure happens to be taken from a skeleton of this bird, which I have recently forwarded to the Museum of the University of Edinburgh. Some of the representatives of the genus *Falco* have the post-pubis all in one piece, as we find it in the vast majority of the class, though a thinning of its middle portion may usually be detected.

In the figure of a skeleton of an Eagle presented by Mr. F. Jeffrey Bell (after Milne-Edwards), in his 'Comparative Anatomy and Physiology,' only that portion of the post-pubis is shown which closes the obturator foramen. This is equally true of Sir Richard Owen's figure of the pelvis of one of these birds in his 'Anatomy of Vertebrates' (Vol. II, p. 33, fig. 23).

Quite often it happens that the obturator foramen is closed in by the ligamentous band which connects the free extremity of this anterior portion of the post-pubic element (*op'*) with the ischium. Indeed, the last named author alludes to this, and says that "the shortest pubis is seen in certain Eagles, in which it terminates after forming the lower boundary of the obturator foramen; its extremity there projecting freely, as in fig. 23, *d*, or being joined by ligament to the ischium, as in the Harpy Eagle, in which it is an inch in length, whilst the ilium is six inches long" (*op. cit.*, p. 36).

Unfortunately, I happen not to have the skeleton of an Eagle at hand, but it seems to me, in view of the fact that the genera of Buzzards and Eagles are quite closely affined, the latter birds should possess this free portion of the post-pubic element of the pelvis also. As it is often detached during maceration, it is quite possible that in the course of the preparation of the specimens from which M. Milne-Edwards and Sir Richard Owen's figures were taken, it may have been lost.

As Eagles are quite common in this vicinity, I hope to be able to decide this point, on some future occasion, by dissection of a fresh specimen.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Fort Wingate, New Mexico*, 8th Nov. 1885.

Capture of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Milvulus forficatus*) on the Southeast Coast of Florida.—On the 2d of March, 1885, I shot one of these birds, a male, at Cape Sable—the only one noticed. I think its occurrence so far east worthy of note.—N. S. GOSS, *Topeka, Kansas.*

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Milvulus forficatus*) at Key West.—In a collection of alcoholic specimens of birds made at Key West, Florida, January 15, 1885, by the naturalists of the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer 'Albatross' is a specimen of this species (U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 102,444). The record should have been made before this, but I had quite forgotten the matter until reminded of it by the above note by Col. Goss.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*