

from the boat some sea-lions lying on some rocks off shore, an Auklet swam around me some time, busily fishing for shrimps. For some it simply dipped its head under water, for others it dove a few inches. The fishermen spoke of this and the other small species of Auks and Guillemots as 'Farallones,' not seeming to distinguish between the various small species.—F. STEPHENS, *Witch Creek, Cala.*

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Behavior of a Sandhill Crane.—While shooting near Madelia, Minnesota, one autumn day some years ago (Oct. 1 or 2, 1873), my companion, Mr. Horace Thompson of St. Paul, slightly wounded with a rifle ball at long range an immature Sandhill Crane (*Grus mexicana*) which with several others was resting on the prairie. At the report they all flew away except the wounded bird and one other which apparently was its parent. The wounded bird, after a number of unsuccessful attempts to fly (assisting itself by first running, accompanied by the parent which kept beside it), finally succeeded in rising some ten or fifteen feet from the ground, but it evidently could not long sustain itself in the air. The parent bird, perceiving this, deliberately placed itself *underneath* the wounded one, allowing it to rest its feet on her back, both birds flapping away all the while. In this position she actually succeeded in bearing it off before our eyes for quite a distance to a place of safety, where we would not follow it. It was one of the most touching examples of parental affection in a bird that has ever come under my observation.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Ionornis martinica in Kansas—A fine specimen of the Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) was captured near Manhattan, Kansas, on April 14, 1893. The bird was killed by a farmer who struck it with a sunflower stalk. It is now in the possession of Dr. C. P. Blachly of this place. This is the first record of the occurrence of the Purple Gallinule in Kansas.—D. E. LANTZ, *Manhattan, Kansas.*

Pseudogryphus californianus.—Mr. Thomas Shooter, a well-known taxidermist of Los Angeles, has in his possession the mounted skin of a California Vulture shot near Rincon, California, about August 13, 1892. The specimen, though over four feet in length, appears to be an immature bird. Down fairly well covers the head and neck, excepting wide tracts below and back of the eyes and on the chin and lower throat. The greater coverts are narrowly bordered with rusty, as are a good many of the feathers on the back. The plumage generally is dull black. The horny part of upper mandible is horn-brown. The cere has dried a dull blackish brown.

About June, 1892, an adult California Vulture was brought to Mr. Shooter alive. It was captured by two men, one named Harris, about twenty-seven miles north of Santa Monica, and in the foothills near the line separating Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Mr. Shooter says the

men saw this bird on the ground devouring the body of a wildcat which, when frightened away, it carried off in its claws. Shortly afterwards the bird was seen in a tree in the vicinity. A rope snare was rigged in the tree's top, and the bird captured, and brought alive to Mr. Shooter. It seemed at times to be troubled with a kind of asthma; which trouble seemed to increase, for it appeared to be a local complaint. A month later Mr. Shooter's assistant in trying, alone, to move this powerful bird from one cage to another, was severely bitten, and in trying to save a finger from being bitten off, broke the bird's neck. This bird's skin was mounted and is now at the Chicago exhibition.

In or about 1889, a bird of this species was captured near Puente, Los Angeles County, and was brought to Mr. Shooter. It was emaciated and dying when found.

During his thirteen years' residence in Los Angeles, Mr. Shooter remembers having seen but two other California Vultures. He considers them very rare; though recently a hunter has informed him that he knows of the whereabouts of two that keep in the mountains.—R. H. LAWRENCE, *Duarte, Cal.*

Cathartes aura in Chenango County, New York.—In the latter part of the summer of 1891 a Turkey Vulture was shot in the town of McDonough, New York, and was mounted by a young taxidermist of that place. At the time it was killed it was feeding on the carcass of a woodchuck.—HENRY C. HIGGINS, *Cincinnati, New York.*

Strix pratincola in New York.—A fine female Barn Owl, now in my collection of mounted birds, was shot September 13, 1891, in the town of Pitcher, about three miles from this place.—HENRY C. HIGGINS, *Cincinnati, New York.*

Short-eared Owl Nesting on Plum Island, New York.—While on a visit to Plum Island, on May 7, 1891, I noticed a Short-eared Owl circling over the beach grass on the southwest plain and, on my approach, showing unmistakable signs of anxiety. With the aid of my setter 'Jack' I soon flushed the female, and discovered the nest, which consisted of a slight hollow in the bare sand in a rather scattering growth of beach grass, with no attempt at concealment. It contained one young bird which, as near as I could judge, was about two weeks old, one rotten egg, and three meadow mice (*Arvicola*), minus their heads.

The old male circled around about fifty yards off, uttering cries which sounded very much like the squealing of young pigs. The female came much closer, and her cries reminded me of the barking of a young puppy. I searched the vicinity for more young, but failed to find any.—W. W. WORTHINGTON, *Shelter Island Heights, New York.*