

Black Vulture in Steuben County, N. Y.—A Correction.—In 'The Auk,' Volume XXVII, page 208, will be found a note by me on the taking of a Turkey Vulture in northern Steuben Co., N. Y., on July 11, 1909. Mr. Cowan, in whose possession the specimen was, told me about it and I had faith in his judgment as he had Chapman's 'Handbook' and I had cautioned him to be sure of the identification. I have since had the pleasure of examining the specimen and find it to be without a doubt a Black Vulture (*Catharista urubu*). I regret that the error was made and my note written but am glad to be able to make the correction and record the specimen, as it seems to be the first record of the Black Vulture for Steuben County and the fourth for western New York.—VERDI BURTON, *Branchport, N. Y.*

Black Vulture in Virginia.—In looking over some back numbers of 'The Auk,' I came across Mr. John W. Daniels, Jr.'s 'Notes on the Black Vulture (*Catharista uruba*) in Virginia' (Vol. XIX, p. 397), extending the range of this bird northward to Norfolk and Princess Anne Counties. Within the last four or five years these birds have been regular summer visitors to York, Elizabeth City and Warwick Counties, on the north side of James River, a few pairs breeding in the last named county.—H. H. BAILEY, *Newport News, Va.*

A Fourth South Carolina Record for the Saw-Whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*).—I am indebted to my friend, Mr. James P. Garick, Jr., of Weston, Richland County, for the gift of an adult female of this species, which was captured alive by him in his yard on November 11, 1909. Mr. Garick writes me that it was taken from a hollow of a tree about 100 yards from his house. It was first observed by his cook, who reported it to him, and he immediately secured it. The early date on which the bird was taken seems to warrant the belief that this species is a regular although rare winter visitor, and not of mere casual occurrence, its nocturnal habits making it difficult of detection.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Breeding of the Barn Owl.—Mr. Arthur T. Wayne has published an account¹ of the finding of a set of eggs of the Barn Owl (*Aluco pratincola*) on this coast during the month of September. He also refers to Audubon's discovery of a nest containing young birds which he (Audubon) concluded were hatched in September. Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson² records this bird as breeding on the coast of South Carolina in April. In view of this a recent record (confirmatory of Mr. Wayne's account) may be of interest.

On September 24, 1910, after rowing across the Ashley River from Charleston, I landed at the Wappoo Fertilizer Mills, an abandoned and much

¹ Auk, XXV, 1908, pp. 21-24.

² Auk, XXV, 1908, pp. 316, 317.

dilapidated group of buildings. In the top of one of these buildings I found a set of four eggs placed in a large box which was supported by huge beams. As I approached the box an old Barn Owl jumped out and flew through a broken window. On examining the interior of the box I found that its contents were mostly old bones and feathers, while around the box and below some of the rafters I saw only disgorged hair and bones, indicating that the old owls tear the flesh from the bones to feed their young, while they themselves swallow bones, feathers, and all. The building has probably been abandoned for about fifteen years and I suppose that the owls have been breeding in it ever since. This would account for the great accumulation of bones and feathers. I also found in this box parts of the Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), and the Marsh Hen (*Rallus crepitans* or *R. c. waynei*). Below the box I saw the skin of a black rat, and found the skull of a sparrow. Of the eggs taken, two were fresh, the third nearly so, while the fourth contained a small embryo.—RHETT CHAMBERLAIN, *Charlestown, S. C.*

White Pelican in South Carolina.—On October 26, 1910, a White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) was shot in the Santee swamp by a farmer, from whom it was obtained by Mr. William C. Smith of Charleston, in whose possession it now is. The bird measures approximately sixty-four inches in length as mounted, and the bill thirteen inches. The primaries are black, and the bill, pouch, and feet are yellow. These characters prove conclusively that the bird is not an albino Brown Pelican (*P. occidentalis*), and a record is thus established for a species which has apparently not been taken in South Carolina for nearly a hundred years. Mr. Wayne states¹ that he has never seen the White Pelican on our coast, and quotes Bachman's account as given by Audubon. Dr. Bachman procured two specimens on July 1, 1814, from a flock which he believed had laid eggs on the banks off Bull's Island.

The specimen in Mr. Smith's possession was apparently blown here by a West Indian hurricane which passed up the coast immediately before it was taken.—PAUL M. REA, *The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

The Evening Grosbeak at Boston, Mass.—On December 5, 1910, two Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) were seen in Olmsted Park beside Leverett Pond in a birch tree. It was at this precise point in the park that the Orange-crowned Warbler and the Blue-grey Gnatcatcher had been seen two days previous, of which another general note furnishes the record. Neither bird was in the plumage of the adult male. One showed but a bit of yellowish color on the nape of the neck. The other was somewhat more yellowish. Both birds had a black tail tipped with white and the black upper tail-coverts also tipped

¹ Birds of South Carolina. Contr. Charleston Mus., I, 1910, p. 12.