

burden over the brushwood, but did not then in the brief and surprised view, distinctly make out the object carried. A few minutes later a second flight occurred close by, which I plainly observed and noted in its full particulars. After a time I indistinctly remembered having seen years before, an engraving of a like scene, which I later found in Chapman's Farm Encyclopedia. The print is very lifelike, except that the young which I saw was relatively larger than here shown.—C. C. McDERMID, *Battle Creek, Mich.*

A Feeding Habit of the Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*).—September 7, 1913, at Lincoln Park, Chicago, Ill., I saw about a dozen of these birds busily engaged in feeding about a large flat-topped pile of fertilizer to be used on newly-made land. Most of them were digging in the pile near the edges, a few were perched on the top, while one or two others were turning over sticks in the usual fashion on the barren ground a few feet away. Those on top were alert and not feeding; the others seemed much more oblivious to possible dangers. The feeding birds reminded one very much of chickens, minus the scratching. When they were scared away a few alighted on the beach, but the rest, after circling, came back to the pile. They were unusually numerous compared to the numbers seen in previous years. They were associated with numerous small sandpipers, and two or three small plovers. The pile stood some distance from the beach, so that the birds could not have reached it in running about their usual habitat, and it seems reasonable that this new habit was formed through imitation of the other shore birds, which are not so much restricted to beaches.—EDWIN D. HULL, *Chicago, Ill.*

Willow Ptarmigan in Montana.—I recently mounted three Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus lagopus*) received February 21, 1914, from Mr. L. W. Hill of St. Paul, Minn., who secured them near Midvale, Montana, in the New Glacier Park. As I have never before seen any ptarmigan except the White-tailed species from this region, the occurrence seems worthy of record.—HARRY P. STANFORD, *Kalispell, Mont.*

Choucalcyon versus Sauromarptis.—In my "Revision of the Classification of the Kingfishers" (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXI, 1912, p. 241), I stated that the name *Choucalcyon* Lesson, *Traité D'Orn.*, 1831, 248, "type by subsequent designation (Gray, 1855), *Alcedo gaudichaud* Quoy and Gaim." would have to replace *Sauromarptis* Cab. & Heine, proposed on grounds of purism.

Dr. Gregory Mathews has kindly called my attention to the fact that Lesson himself in 1837 designated as the type of *Choucalcyon* the bird now known as *Dacelo gigas* (Bodd.). In the *Complément des œuvres de Buffon*, Oiseaux, 1837, p. 355 (a work which was not available when my paper was prepared) Lesson writes: "Le type de ce groupe est le grand alcyon de la Nouvelle-Hollande, que Buffon croyoit provenir de la Nouvelle-Guinée, et qu'il a figuré enl. 663." As Buffon's plate represents *Dacelo gigas*,