

doubtful member of the Mimidæ, constituting the subfamily Calyptophilinæ.

Cory, in the recently issued Part II, No. 1, of his 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas', has raised the subfamily to family rank as "? Calyptophilidæ" with the comment that "the monotypic genus may later be considered to represent a subfamily."

I have recently had the opportunity of examining nine perfect skins of this species in the collection of Dr. L. C. Sanford. These prove that *Calyptophilus* is not ten-primaried as stated by Mr. Ridgway, but typically 'nine-primaried,' the tenth primary being a minute concealed vestigial quill varying from 4 to 8.5 mm. in length. There is no longer any reason for retaining this genus in the Mimidæ, and I believe that for the present, at least, it should be restored to its former position in the Tangaridæ next to *Phænicophilus*, and in the neighborhood of *Tachyphonus*, *Mitrospingus* and *Rhodinocichla*. I would also suggest that the name of Chat-Thrasher bestowed by Mr. Ridgway be emended to Chat-Tanager.—W. DEW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

***Junco aikeni* in New Mexico.**—In the last (1910) edition of the American Ornithologists' Union 'Check-List of North American Birds,' *Junco aikeni* is reported as of casual occurrence in New Mexico. Since there is no previous printed information that authenticates this statement, it seems worth while to place on record the single specimen that forms its basis, and this more since it forms the only record for New Mexico, and, furthermore, represents the southwestern limit of the known winter range of the species. This individual is now in the Biological Survey collection (No. 192902, U. S. Nat. Mus.) and is a female in juvenal plumage, collected two miles north of Arroyo Seco, New Mexico, at an altitude of 8000 feet on January 20, 1904, by Mr. M. Surber.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Notes on Some Bird Fossils from Florida.—On May 15, 1918, Dr. E. H. Sellards, State Geologist of Florida, sent me a small lot of fossil bird bones from Tallahassee and they were received a few days after that date. In the letter of transmittal Dr. Sellards states that one of these specimens is "a bird bone that came from an Indian mound. This bone is marked merely x, no other number." I find it to be the left humerus of a Florida Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax a. floridanus*), nearly perfect, and in a subfossilized condition, being of a rather pale earth-brown color and very pliable.

In referring to these "scraps" in his letter of the fourteenth of the same month Dr. Sellards says that "The one small piece of bone differing from the others in color is from a different locality. I find it in a collection from the Pleistocene at Camp Dam on the Withlacoochee River, and presumably it was taken in that locality although it seems to have escaped getting a number assigned to it." This bone is the distal end of a right tarsometatarsus.

tarsus and belonged to a bird of medium size. It is well fossilized but is too fragmentary for definite reference.

All the remaining bones in this collection belonged to the Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and apparently to the same adult individual. They are thoroughly fossilized and as fragmentary parts of bones, more or less perfect. In color they are generally of a pale cream white, blotched and otherwise rather sparingly marked with deep brown and rusty. The right coracoid is slightly chipped, otherwise nearly perfect. This is likewise true of the distal third of the right ulna found in the lot, and the distal portions of the two carpometacarpi, of which there is the lower two-thirds of the right tarso-metatarsus.

These turkey bones all came from the Pleistocene cavern deposits at Ocala, Florida, and bear the following original numbers, to wit: 7799, 7800, 7934, 7946, and 7954. They will probably be added to the collections of the U. S. National Museum, where they now are, and I have the permission of Dr. Sellards to publish the above notes in regard to them.

Among these I find a vertebra of the neck of a turtle—the ninth in the chain, which, in this genus, is the one articulating with the first co-ossified vertebra of the carapace. It came from a large-sized, soft-shelled turtle that apparently belonged to a specimen of *Apideretes*, possibly *ferox*, the group to which the fossil soft-shelled turtles are usually referred, while the form of that genus now found in Florida is *Trionyx ferox* or *Amyda ferox*. The last free vertebra of the neck in these turtles is very differently formed from any other in that section of the spine. It is spreading and much flattened from above downward. This is the fossil vertebra we have, and it is my present intention to describe it elsewhere; it is only noted here in that we may know what other animals were in existence in Florida at the time the Pleistocene Wild Turkeys flourished there.—ROBERT WILSON SHUFELDT, *Washington, D. C.*

A Note Concerning Bird Mortality.—On December 24, 1917, at Norwalk, Conn., while taking a Christmas census for 'Bird-Lore,' I had an experience so unusual and interesting that I believe it worth putting on record. In the course of the morning I noted a Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla pusilla*) flying from one clump of bushes to another, and chipping rather excitedly. Not identifying it immediately I watched it for some time. It finally flew into the low hanging limb of a Norway spruce, and then dropped vertically down into a hollow in the snow, where I could not see it. The chipping noise ceased, and though I watched for some time, the bird did not reappear. I finally walked cautiously up to the hollow under the spruce limb, and found the bird lying upon its back. I picked it up. Every muscle in its body was rigid. Its feet were extended up straight and its eyes were open wide. Its breast was inflated as though the lungs were filled with air that it could not expel. Thinking it suffering from cold, I tried to warm it in my hand. Soon its muscles relaxed, its eyes closed, its head drooped and it died in my hand.