

Passenger Pigeon in Wisconsin.—What I believe to be an authentic record of the occurrence of the Passenger Pigeon in Wisconsin in 1905 is given me by Mr. O. L. Wetterhall. In the fall of that year, Mr. Wetterhall, who is an old hunter and who took hundreds of Wild Pigeons in the '70s, was a guest of a farmer near Oconomowoc, and he and his son went out to a large stubble field, where flocks of Mourning Doves were feeding on the loose grain which had been left on the ground.

It was a windy day and the doves were hard to shoot, but about forty were taken, and among them an adult male Passenger Pigeon. Mr. Wetterhall showed this bird to a number of people, who remarked on its being very rare, but did not realize that it was practically extinct. It was picked and cooked with the doves.

Though formerly abundant in the woods along the Des Plaines River, west of Highland Park, Illinois, the last record I know of was a female which I saw at close range in 1894. This bird was in a small oak tree within fifteen feet of the walk on which I was passing, and was so busy preening its feathers, that I stood unnoticed for several minutes watching it, until a passing wagon frightened it away.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Illinois.*

West Africa the True Habitat of *Glaucidium tephronotum*.—On page 78 of Brabourne and Chubb's 'Birds of South America' (1912) we find listed as No. 723: *Glaucidium tephronotum* Sharpe, Sharpe's Pygmy Owl, "Patr. ign." The species is included in this work because, as we read in the original description,¹ the bird was "said to be from 'South America.' It was presented to the British Museum by Mr. W. Wilson Saunders, F. R. S." A colored figure of this Pygmy Owl appears in the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum,' II, 1875, Pl. XIII, fig. 2; but up to the present time no further specimens have ever been reported from any part of the New World.

Now among the many remarkable birds discovered by Mr. G. L. Bates in the Southern Cameroon, West Africa, there is one whose validity has not hitherto been questioned, but which certainly merits careful comparison with *Glaucidium tephronotum*. This is *Glaucidium pycrafti*, described by Mr. Bates in 'The Ibis,' 1911, p. 85, and figured in color on Plate VII of the same volume. In studying the four specimens of *Glaucidium pycrafti* collected by Mr. Herbert Lang and myself in the northern Ituri Forest of the Belgian Congo, in 1910, 1913, and 1914, I chanced to compare the two plates above mentioned, and was struck by their very pronounced resemblance. Although the general tone of the crown and back would seem to be decidedly bluer in *tephronotum*, yet I find that our Congo specimens are more nearly like the figure of *tephronotum*, and not one is as brown as that of *pycrafti*.

Even between the descriptions of the two species, the principal diverg-

¹ Ibis, 1875, p. 260.

ences are that *tephronotum* is said to have the upper wing-coverts "rather blacker than the back," while in *pycrafti* they are browner, and that the under wing-coverts, said to be "vinous-chestnut, streaked with brown," in *tephronotum*, "the innermost ones and the axillaries yellowish," are largely whitish, streaked with dusky brown, in *pycrafti*.

If, however, we go back to the original description of *Glaucidium tephronotum* in Latin, we find that these differences are not so real after all: "subalaribus flavicanti-albidis, exterioribus vinascentibus et minute brunneo notatis: tetricibus alarum superioribus alisque dorso concoloribus, tetricibus majoribus primariisque paullo brunnescentibus."

Even in dimensions there is practically no difference between the two type specimens (the wing of *tephronotum* was given as 4.05 inches (= 102.8 mm.), that of *pycrafti*, 105 mm. (Bates); tail of *tephronotum*, 3 inches (= 76.2 mm.), of *pycrafti* 70 mm. (Bates). Our specimens from the Ituri region are slightly larger: wing ♂, 111, 115; ♀, 113, 120; tail ♂, 84, 82; ♀, 82, 87.

There can scarcely be any doubt, I feel, of the identity of the two species in question, *Glaucidium tephronotum* having been erroneously attributed to the South American fauna. This is an exact parallel to the case of *Accipiter castanilius*, described by Bonaparte² from a specimen in the Verreaux collection, presumably from South America. Dr. Sharpe believed it to be indigenous to New Granada, and even referred it in the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum' to the Neotropical genus *Micrastur*, notwithstanding the fact that it had since been redescribed from West Africa as *Astur macroleides*, by Hartlaub.³ To such an oversight, in these days of specialization any of us is liable.

The range of *Glaucidium tephronotum* may now be stated, in view of the specimens from the Upper Congo: Forests of Lower Guinea from the River Ja, Southern Cameroon, eastward to the Nepoko River, in the Ituri District. Since the type locality 'South America' is erroneous, I designate as the type locality, if, indeed, it does not become so automatically: Bitye, S. Cameroon, where Bates rediscovered the species.—JAMES P. CHAPIN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York*.

A Kingbird's Unusual Nesting Site.—While visiting Seaside Park, N. J., during the early part of July, 1919, I found a Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) nesting on the top of a street electric light reflector, the light being in use every night. The nest contained three young birds and was placed between and attached to the two insulated wires which supplied current to the light, the bottom of it resting on the top of the reflector.

As far as could be ascertained without disturbing the young, the nest externally was constructed mainly of string and broken pieces of fishing line which were attached to the wires and formed a kind of basket in which

² Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1853, p. 598.

³ Journ. für Orn., 1855, p. 354.