

him a very singular appearance in his flight. The Grouse are hatched in July, and attain their full growth about 20th of September, though the private regulations of the Province used to restrain the shooting them till the beginning of October. They are found among shrub oaks, and in considerable plenty on Long Island about 40 miles from this town, on a part of the dry flat barren country there, called the brushy Plains, on account of the great number of these low scrubbed oaks which grow there. You must already know the singular circumstances of Long Island compared with the rest of this country, that the middle of it is formed into a pretty uniform Plain of great extent, on which no trees appear ever to have grown, called Hampstead Plains. This champaign country terminates eastward in woods, but gradually, and the gradation is made by these brushy oaks, among which the Grouse reside. They are hunted by Pointers, the best of which for this purpose are of a very large size, so as to be able to make good their way among and over the infinitude of shrubs with which the country is covered. These birds are said to be much more delicate after the winter is set in; it is however, scarcely possible to catch them then but by chance, in a snow-storm, when they sometimes come near the Farmers' houses settled there for shelter, and are shot with the guns which these people always keep loaded for that purpose. I have inclosed you a specimen of the feather, to shew in what manner it is doubled, or lined, for the greater warmth of the bird. Toward the basis of the rachis of the great feather, the supradecomposition not beginning very near the raches, the plumage of the feather is hollow, and would be cold, if a smaller internal feather, arising from the same quill, and remarkably downy, did not fill up this defective place.

Winter is fairly begun, and with unusual severity. This morning near half an hour after sunrise, the Thermometer was rather below zero, whereas I never found it before lower than -4° . Though this may be a good remedy after the accursed sultry summers, it is certainly a very rough one, and I think our health might be as well restored by a more moderate prescription.

Your most affectionate Friend

C. Blagden.

—J. A. FARLEY, 52 Cedar St., Malden, Mass.

Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*) Increasing in Ohio.

—The Ohio Christmas bird census of 1915 as published in 1916 Jan.-Feb 'Bird-Lore' was the first Ohio census following the enforcement of the State law which gave permanent protection to *Colinus virginianus virginianus* from gun and dog.

This census consists of reports of fourteen Ohio observers from widely separated and generally representative parts of the State, and it develops the fact that the report of but *one* observer, Lutea E. Roades, Hillsboro, O. includes the Bob-White—fourteen birds. This equaled an average of one Bob-White to each observer.

Now after seven years of protection for this bird, the 1922 Ohio Christmas census as published in the 1923 Jan.-Feb. 'Bird-Lore' ought to reveal something one way or the other. It does. It shows that twelve of the seventeen Ohio observers from widely separated and representative parts of the State report seeing Bob-Whites to the total of eight hundred and fifty birds. That is an average of fifty birds to each observer.

These outstanding facts are accessible to anyone who cares to look them up. The point is—this is good material for those protectionists of any State, who are endeavoring to rescue the game birds from slow extermination by gun and dog. Likewise these are stubborn and pertinent facts to be faced and weighed in the dark, by advocates of "shoot 'em" to prevent inter-breeding, thereby maintaining a strong stock capable of raising large covies.—EUGENE SWOPE, *Cincinnati, Ohio*.

An Additional Record for the Extinct Porto Rican Quail-Dove.—In a small collection of animal bones taken by Mr. Rafael Vidal from a kitchen midden site at what is called the "Mesa" hill near Mayagüez, Porto Rico, is a left metatarsus of *Oreopeleia larva* Wetmore, a Quail-dove described originally (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 33, Dec. 30, 1920, p. 79) from cavern deposits near Morovís and Utuado. The present specimen is in a perfect state of preservation, better in fact than the metatarsus used as the type of the species, and agrees with other specimens in form. It has the following measurements: Total length 37.3 mm., smallest transverse diameter of shaft 2.7 mm., breadth of head 11.6 mm., breadth across trochlea 6.7 mm., depth through talon 6.2 mm. It is slightly shorter than four others from cave deposits which in length range 38.0 to 39.5 mm.

As Utuado and Morovís are both near the central part of the island the present find at Mayagüez near the west coast records the species at an entirely new locality. Other bird bones associated with *O. larva* at the new site represent the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) and Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas squamosa*). Further material from these deposits will be awaited with interest.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Turkey Vultures in Alberta.—With two friends I made a trip on July 2, 1922, to Ministick Lake, which lies about 28 miles by road southeast of Edmonton. It is a bird sanctuary, and one of the interesting points is Heron Island, in the southern lake. Here for years a colony of the Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias herodias*) and the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax dilophus dilophus*) have been nesting together, and the cackle of the young can be heard for almost a mile, in calm weather. We were very interested on this occasion in observing five Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) on the island. For the couple of hours we were watching they remained perching on the tops of the trees, and so far as we could judge, lived on terms of perfect amity with their neighbors. There is no doubt in my mind of the identification, as it is vouched for