Another Preoccupied Name.—In 1922, Messrs. Osgood and Conover (Field Mus. Publ. Zoöl. ser., vol. 12, no. 3, 1922, p. 27, pl. 1, lower fig.) named *Odontophorus guianensis canescens* from the Rio Cogollo, District of Perija, Zuliá, Venezuela, based on a single specimen, the male, taken from what the authors believed to have been a mated pair. Unfortunately the subspecific name *canescens* proves to be a homonym of a name already in current use in the genus *Odontophorus*—*O. parambae canescens* Chapman (Am. Mus. Novit. no. 18, 1921, p. 4, Alamor, Province of Loja, Ecuador), and the bird described and figured by Osgood and Conover therefore requires a new name, which it is to be hoped these gentlemen will provide immediately.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*

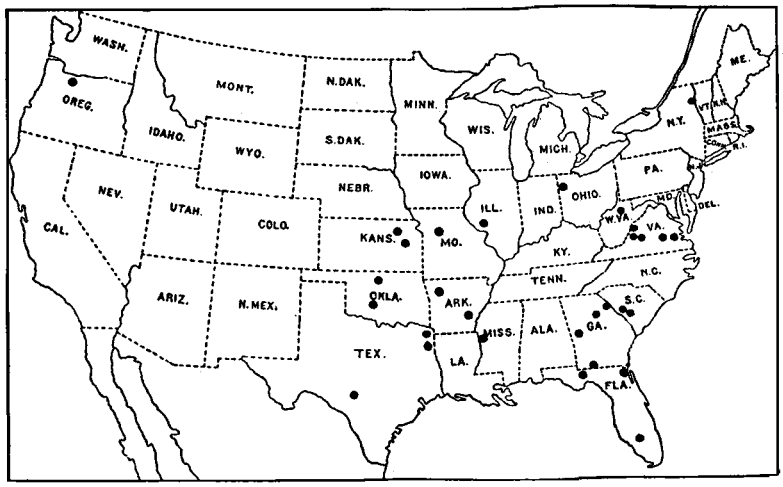
Turkey Vulture Nesting in Beaver County, Pennsylvania.—Although the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) is considered a regular summer resident in this region, I am unaware of any published account of its actual nesting in western Pennsylvania. Therefore the following notes, which I am enabled to present by the courtesy of Mr. Joseph J. Johnen, of McDonald, Pa., seem worthy of record.

On June 6, 1926, Mr. Johnen discovered a Buzzard's nest in an old snag on his father's farm one and one-half miles southwest of Frankfort Springs in extreme southern Beaver County. At that time the nest contained an addled egg and a downy white young Buzzard about the size of a baseball, which Mr. Johnen judged to be about two days old, as it was too young to hold up its head. Five days later (June 11) I made a special trip from Pittsburgh to see the nest. It was merely the natural litter at the ground level inside the hollow shell of an old oak standing in a small patch of woods at the back of the farm. The snag was about four feet in diameter inside and 16 or 17 feet high, but was torn down each side by a wide cleft. The bottom of one was about 10 inches wide and only 53 inches above the ground, and it was through this that the adult Buzzard gained entrance to the interior. As we approached the snag through a tangle of vines, one of the parents birds sprang up from the nest into the cleft, and then flapped to a near-by tree where it sat for several seconds before making off. The other parent was not seen. The addled egg was still in the nest, and quite warm, indicating that it was yet being incubated, but search as we would, we could discover no trace of the young. It can only be assumed that some prowling mammal, entering through one of the small holes at the base of the snag, had found tender squab Buzzard no mean dish.

A lady eighty-five years old, who had been a resident of the district since 1856, stated that she had never before heard of a Buzzard nest in this region.—ERNEST G. HOLT, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Hawk Abundance and Hawk Campaigns.—Ornithologists generally feel that Hawks have been so reduced in numbers that their depredations on poultry should be nearing the vanishing point. Apparently this stage has not yet been reached as correspondence about Hawks still bulks large

in the files of the Biological Survey. Typical statements are that the Hawks get ' half the hatch,' ' 400 out of 750 chicks,' ' 40 chicks in 3 days,' and the like. One correspondent in Oklahoma alleges that farmers lose from $25 to $100 apiece through the destruction of poultry by Hawks. While tabulating the specific complaints for the years 1918–1926, about Hawks destroying poultry the writer noted that a high proportion of the localities represented were in the southeastern quarter of the United States. As the expectancy, at least in the region of the old eastern forested area, would be for a random distribution, segregation of the records aroused interest as to possible causes. On the accompanying map (see fig.) are spotted the thirty definite complaints for the period cited. Various reasons conceivably are jointly responsible for the apparent greater destructiveness of Hawks in the southeast. Here poultry often is permitted to roost out-



of-doors, and protected runs are less frequent than on the chicken farms that are quite numerous in the northeastern states. However, it is almost certain that Hawks are more numerous in the southeast, partly because of concentration there in winter, but also apparently at other seasons. From the standpoint of the bird lover alone it is good news that there are some Hawks left somewhere. The age-long warfare against these birds is certainly showing results now that the human population has so largely increased. About Washington, D. C., there has been roughly a decrease of 90 per cent in each of the past two twenty-year periods. In nearby Virginia where a state-wide campaign against Hawks has been carried on for some years, they are very scarce, but as usually observed under such circumstances it is the elusive Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks that are holding out to the last. These species, against which such campaigns

are primarily directed, rarely are seen by the ordinary observer while the larger, more slowly moving, and more beneficial Buteos are comparatively easy victims. Thus the result of a Hawk campaign is the maximum destruction of the more beneficial species, and minimum destruction of, and subsequent freedom of the field, for the more injurious types. It may be added that although the Virginia campaign was carried on primarily for the benefit of game, Quail are not perceptibly more numerous than formerly in areas near Washington, D. C. where Hawks have been nearly exterminated.—W. L. McAtee, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Findings in Pellets of Barn Owl.—In the attic of an old rice mill near Charleston, S. C., on March 25, 1926, with Mr. E. B. Chamberlain and Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., I found numerous pellets of the Barn Owl (*Tyto pratincola*) together with the evidence of the nesting of the bird. As the Barn Owl is universally known to be such a beneficial bird, very rarely killing anything but undesirable rodents, it seems worthwhile to record this rare exception where birds have formed part of the prey. As the rice mill has not been used for many years and as the plantation has reverted to the jungle, it is probable that rats and mice are far less common than when these Owls or their ancestors took up residence here.

The findings in the fifty-six pellets by Mr. Remington Kellogg of the Biological Survey are as follows: Small shrew (*Cryptotis parva*), 2, Rice rat (*Oryzomys palustris*), 65, Cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*), 1, Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), 7, Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*), 12, Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans*), 4.

Dr. A. K. Fisher, in communicating this report to me, writes: "Although the matter can not be proved, I am wondering whether Rails and other birds which in a way simulate the movements of rats and mice in the thick foliage might not be taken by accident rather than intentionally by the Owls. This theory would seem to have some weight because they do not molest pigeons that are breeding in adjoining apartments or any species that are not found on the ground around marshes or fields."—Charles W. Townsend, *Ipswich, Mass.*

Richardson's Owl (Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni) in Cook County, Minnesota.—Late spring and summer records for Minnesota are not common. On the cloudy afternoon of May 20, 1926, I was fishing for trout along the southern shore of Rose Lake, which is intersected by the international boundary. Down from the high, forested shore came the bell-like *ting, ting, ting* of Richardson's Owl, notes which have been so charmingly described by Seton in 'The Arctic Prairies.' The guide, scenting the cause of my distraction, volunteered the information that the sound came from "a small owl" and that "it also sings at night."—A. W. Schorger, 2021 *Kendall Ave., Madison, Wis.*

Red-headed Woodpecker Nesting in Maine.—On July 4, 1926, at Cumberland Center, a village just outside of Portland, Me., I had the