

Black Vulture nesting in Washington Co., Tenn.—In the January issue of 'The Auk,' there was a General Note: "The Black Vulture in Tennessee Mountains," and it may be of interest to know that on May 2, 1931, I found a pair of Black Vultures nesting on the Watauga River, Washington County, northwest of Johnson City, Tenn. Their eggs were deposited on a few leaves and sticks in a small cave or hole at the top of a rather high bluff bordering the river. For four years, I have watched these birds but only this year have I been fortunate enough to locate their breeding place. Their range seems to be confined to about six miles along this stream, as I have never seen one at any other point near here although the Turkey Vulture can be seen in many places.

I would also like to report a pair of Peregrine Falcons breeding southeast of here on the Nolachucky River, Unicoi County, Tennessee, and although in an inaccessible place, I have had excellent opportunity for observation. Three birds were reared both this year and last.—ROBERT B. LYLE, 4 Cumberland Apts., Johnson City, Tenn.

The Black Vulture in Greenbrier County, West Virginia.—Having found the Black Vulture (*Catharista urubu urubu*), as early as 1919, nesting at 3,400 feet elevation above sea level on the eastern edge of the Alleghany Mountain range in Rockbridge County, Virginia, and only about 30 miles to the southeast of the nearest point in West Virginia (Auk, 1929, p. 385), its occurrence occasionally in neighboring regions of West Virginia seemed very likely; however, my hunt for it, until November, 1929, did not pass beyond a subconscious watchfulness whenever I visited adjacent parts of West Virginia. It was then that I learned from natives of Giles and Tazewell Counties, Virginia, that two kinds of buzzards had been seen there, within a few miles of the West Virginia boundary, for several years past. With this information in hand, it seemed only necessary to set a carrion feast on the West Virginia side of the state line in order to induce a few of the black-headed fellows to set their wings and sail west a few miles in order to establish a new state record for their occurrence.

An opportunity to carry out such a plan did not present itself until the following summer. On July 3, 1930, preparatory to making a trip into Monroe and Mercer Counties, West Virginia, to look for Black Vultures, I visited my old home, just west of Lewisburg, in Greenbrier County. Unknown to me a sizeable hog had died on the farm the day before my arrival and had been hauled out for the Vultures to feast upon. As I stepped from my automobile, relatives were not the only ones to greet me; an escort of ten or more Turkey Vultures circled low overhead. There, circling at close range and somewhat apart from the others, were also five Black Vultures.

The group gained altitude rapidly. The Turkey Vultures soon sailed away while the Black Vultures continued to climb until fully a quarter of a mile above the earth. They then sailed off towards the west. At this time another group of three Black Vultures was sighted at about the same

altitude but a little to the east of the position of the former group. After circling a few times they took a course toward the south.

I found the carcass of the hog by this time had been pretty well stripped of flesh. Although there were a number of Turkey Vultures sitting on the ground and trees near by, there were no Black Vultures among them. However, when I visited the vicinity the following day I saw two Black Vultures circling at close range accompanied by four Turkey Vultures.

As far as I am aware the eight Black Vultures seen by me on July 3 constitute the first record for the occurrence of this bird in Greenbrier County, and for that matter, in West Virginia. The point of occurrence is approximately ten miles west of the summit of the Alleghany Mountain range on the plateau 2,100 feet above sea level.

The Turkey Vulture is a common, permanent, resident in the region of Lewisburg, W. Va. On several occasions during my boyhood, I recall having seen bands of five hundred or more gather to feed on the carcass of some dead animal. My father told of having seen fully two hundred roosting in the sugar maple grove near the hog carcass at dusk on July 2, 1930.—CHAS. O. HANDLEY, *Ashland, Virginia*.

The Black Vulture (*Coragyps urubu*) at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.—A Black Vulture was seen by the writer soaring overhead in a flock of forty Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*), at the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, on the morning of April 12, 1931, at 6:30 A.M. The short, square tail and the gray patches at the end of the wings were easily discernible. The Rev. Earle A. Brooks informs the writer that there is but one other bona fide record for West Virginia.—W. HOWARD BALL, 1861 *Ingleside Terrace, N. W., Washington, D. C.*

Marsh Hawk vs. Coyotes.—On May 24, 1931, while driving between Los Banos and Dos Palos, California, at about 6:00 A.M., two coyotes crossed the road about one hundred feet in front of the car. Directly above them in the air was an adult male Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonicus*) which swooped down on them continually. Though the animals soon disappeared in the sage brush, my companion and I were able to trace their route through the brush by the actions of the bird which followed just above them attacking continually until out of our sight.

There were immature young Marsh Hawks already on the wing in the vicinity, and the adult bird was probably concerned about their safety, as no doubt the coyote would not hesitate to eat wild "poultry" of this kind.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California*.

Barn Owl nesting in Springfield, Mass.—Another extremely interesting record for the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts is that of a pair of Barn Owls (*Tyto alba pratincola*) found nesting this spring in the belfry of the North Congregational Church of Springfield. When the young birds were quite well grown some boys inadvertently climbing into the