

know where the birds had come from and whether or not this was their normal migration route. The incident indicates that they may migrate in flocks as a species not in company with related species.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Serrations on the Bill of the American Merganser.**—While examining the bill of an American Merganser (*Mergus m. americanus*) I noticed that the serrations of the upper mandible were fewer than on the lower 28 to 45 respectively. Further examination brought out the fact that the seven serrations nearest the base of the lower mandible pointed forward instead of backward as in the case of the others, a fact that I have not found noticed in the literature.—WILLIAM H. MOORE, *Scotch Lake, N. B.*

**An Aerial Nest of the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*).**—We have recently had occasion to examine a Turkey Vulture's nest located some forty feet up in a cavity of a live beech tree. All the others that we have found have been on the ground, in, or in the near proximity of hollow logs. This particular beech, growing in Union Twp., Clermont Co., Ohio, has attracted the attention of the writer for the past two years. During this interval, it has provided a home for an interesting succession of inhabitants. When first investigated the hollow in its top, in early March, 1932, held a Barred Owl (*Syrnium v. varium*) incubating four eggs. These eggs were collected. and three additional ones were laid, of which two hatched.

Several months after the young Owls had been raised to maturity and left their home, three Gray Squirrels (*Sciurus c. carolinensis*) had altered this former nursery into a storehouse for walnuts, as well as a place for concealment and rest on sunny afternoons. They were taken for museum specimens.

It was with a good deal of anticipation, therefore, that we clambered up this beech in early spring to find several cast up Owl pellets and a freshly killed White-Footed Mouse (*Peromyscus l. noveboracensis*). Things appeared as though the first boarders in this beech for 1933, would again be Barred Owls. However, though we carefully examined the nest each week, nothing more of interest was noted until April 22, when Woodrow Goodpaster reported to me that he had found a Turkey Vulture incubating a single egg in this tree. Somewhat doubtful, we examined the nest the following day and found that it was a Turkey Vulture and that it was now incubating two eggs. The bird was exceedingly tame and permitted itself to be stroked and lifted from the eggs in much the same fashion as an old hen. On later visits this procedure was repeated except that the Vulture began to protest over our excessive handling by its usual method of defense—vomiting. Only on one occasion did the bird leave the nest without our first removing it. This, although by no means positive evidence, would lead me to believe that both sexes incubated the eggs.

Realizing that some interesting facts might be revealed by this unique

nesting, we made it a point to examine the nest at least once a week until it was destroyed. Following are our notes as we made them after each investigation.

April 27—Lifted incubating bird from nest. Examination of both eggs showed that one had been chipped to the membrane.

April 29—Vulture incubating. The chipped egg had been crushed and trampled into the nesting debris. Another egg had been deposited leaving the nest still with two eggs.

May 6—Bird flushed as I started climbing. Only one egg in the nest. Markings on this egg showed it to be the last deposited.

May 14—Bird incubating one egg.

May 20—Bird still incubating single egg.

May 28—Mr. C. J. Goetz, of Cincinnati, banded the incubating Vulture. The single egg showed a polished surface.

June 3—Nest had been destroyed.—KARL H. MASLOWSKI, 950 Glenwood Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Errata: African Vultures.**—Plate 4 of the album of 'Abyssinian Birds and Mammals' from paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes, published by Field Museum of Natural History is mis-identified on the face of the plate and this error unfortunately is continued in the title which appears in the List of Plates as well as on the front and back of the plate itself. The bird shown is the Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), not the White-necked Vulture (*Pseudogyps africanus*).

It is thought worth while to call the attention of libraries and owners of the album to this slip, since the plates are so extensively used for reference by artists and others not intimately familiar with African birds.—RUDYERD BOULTON, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill.*

**Coots Breeding on the Delaware Marshes Below Philadelphia.**—

Having been informed by Mr. Delos E. Culver that he had seen a brood of young Coots (*Fulica americana*) with their parents on the Tincum marshes, Delaware Co., Pa., I visited the locality on July 29, 1933, and saw one adult and four young, the latter about two-thirds grown. The whole group was sitting on a submerged, moss covered log, making a fine display.

On July 22 I saw in the same locality an adult Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) with eight young about three-quarters grown and about half a mile away another adult. That evening there were present seven Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus*) a species which I had never seen here before. Florida Gallinules (*Gallinula chloropus cachinnas*) and white Herons have been very abundant all summer and on the evening of the 29th, there was a flight of approximately one hundred of the latter taking wing for the New Jersey side of the river possibly for a roost near the sea shore. About three-quarters of them were Egrets (*Casmerodius alba egretta*) and the rest Little Blues (*Florida caerulea*). The breaking of the dykes on the marshes, some months ago, has flooded large areas and the