

23, 1939. He had just received a report from the U. S. Biological Survey that I was the bander. The owl was twelve years and eight months old when killed. At the time of its taking it was in a canyon over the ridge three miles from where it was hatched.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California*.

Western Burrowing Owl in western Missouri.—An adult female Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) was taken in September 1934, by Mr. Estill P. Ravenscroft in company with Mr. Paul Mingle, three miles east and one mile north of Lee's Summit, in Jackson County, Missouri. Jackson County is one of the westernmost counties of Missouri bordering the State of Kansas. The specimen taken was one of four birds of this species which were flushed near a hole in the ground in a typical prairie pasture. This bird was mounted and is now in the Rotary Club Boys' Camp Museum collection near Lee's Summit, Missouri, where it was examined by the writer.

The only previous specimen of Western Burrowing Owl known to the writer to have been taken in the State of Missouri, is one reported by Harry Harris in his 'Birds of the Kansas City Region' (Trans. Acad. Sci. of St. Louis, p. 269, 1919) as being killed by Mr. Charles Dankers on April 19, 1902, at Corning in Holt County in northwestern Missouri.—DIX TEACHENOR, *1020 West 61st St., Kansas City, Missouri*.

Muscle atrophy in a Crow.—In the winter of 1938-39, at Cornell University, I came into possession of a Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, which apparently was the victim of a curious pathological condition. All the muscles of the left wing were in an advanced state of atrophy; in fact, the member was hardly more than skin, bone, and feathers. The bird was able to flex the wing but it would not support flight. When at rest the bird would hold the bad wing against the side of the body in an attempt at normal posture but the wing would always droop showing that the remaining muscle power was not great enough to overcome the attraction of gravity. The wing was normally feathered, and it was not abnormally warm or cold. The member seemed to be well supplied with blood. The whole situation curiously resembled the frequent condition of human victims of poliomyelitis in which the muscles of an arm or leg greatly atrophy with subsequent loss of power in the limb. This brings up the possibility that my Crow might have been afflicted with some related disease. Of course the possibility of pathological or accidental nerve destruction must be considered. Without doubt a veterinary might be able to advance more suggestions of what caused this peculiar condition.

The state of atrophy of the wing muscles of this Crow was so advanced that it probably had not flown for some time when it was picked up, although even if it were a bird of the year it had certainly previously known flight. How it managed to escape from predators while grounded I cannot say. When picked up the Crow was not in the best of flesh, but its attitude was that of a bird in good health. It defended itself with vigor and complained in a voice of normal corvine raucousness. The bird was placed in an outdoor cage on the roof of a building. It ate greedily of meat scraps and sunflower seeds. It was fond of exercising itself by running around the large cage and climbing and jumping from perch to perch. It apparently showed interest in the avian occupants of the adjoining cages. In all it seemed to be doing quite well in captivity. It was with some surprise, therefore, that I found the Crow dead one morning after two weeks in captivity.

I did not get a chance to examine the bird after death but the person who

skinned it told me that it was considerably under the average weight of the species, and that it seemed to be greatly emaciated. Apparently there was some factor about this Crow which prevented it from putting on weight despite a normal intake of food.—LEONARD J. UTTAL, 246 Catherine St., Albany, New York.

Mimicry by a Brown Thrasher.—Forbush gives a satisfactory discussion (Birds of Massachusetts, etc., 3: 330, 1929) of this subject, ending by saying, "The imitator may be the exception." My experience supports that conclusion, so I was much interested in the opportunity afforded me near Vienna, Virginia, in June 1940 to make observations on a mimicking thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). On a few occasions the song, beginning with imitations of some shrill-noted species suggested that of a Mockingbird until it lapsed into the gutturals and more deliberate phrasing characteristic of the thrasher's music. The birds that were imitated were all species commonly heard on the spot and included the Flicker, Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Wood Thrush. To my regret the audition was terminated suddenly, probably by the intervention of a Cooper's Hawk. Loss of the opportunity for study of a thrasher's unusual efforts was scarcely more a cause of regret than the deprivation of his standard singing, which to my ear is the best of any of our birds and is given during a season that always seems too short.—W. L. McATEE, Arlington, Virginia.

An albinistic Robin.—A partly albino Eastern Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) first nested on my premises in May of 1932. Two broods of young were raised each year thereafter. During the first three breeding seasons other Robins in the vicinity persecuted the albino whenever it left its 'territory.' However, in the seasons of 1935 and 1936, the albino became quite domineering and usually took the offensive. The bird presented a very mottled appearance, with numerous white areas on its plumage. The bird's peculiar color pattern apparently did not impair its ability to secure a mate, for the Robin was mated by the 5th of April each year. The bird's mates (?) were of normal coloration, as were its young. In the course of time this Robin became rather tame, and would allow members of the household to approach within three or four feet before moving. It was last observed on October 10, 1936, and failed to return the following spring.—CHARLES H. KNIGHT, 4157 East 113th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

Brewer's Blackbird in Florida.—On December 10, 1939, I collected two blackbirds that were new to me. These birds were associated with a large flock of Red-winged Blackbirds and Cowbirds that were feeding in a cultivated field, located about twenty miles north of Panama City, Bay County, Florida. Skins of the collected specimens were sent to Dr. H. C. Oberholser, in Washington, D. C., who identified them as Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). As far as I am able to ascertain, there seem to be no other records of this species for Florida.—R. C. HALLMAN, 521 Bay Street, Panama City, Florida.

Brewer's Blackbird in Florida.—On April 8, 1940, a flock of eight Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) was seen feeding at the side of a road through a stretch of recently burned-over pine woods near Vernon, Florida, approximately 120 miles east of Pensacola. From the moment that the birds were first observed, their appearance and characteristic actions left no question as to their identity, but as this species had not heretofore been recorded from the State, two birds, a male and a female in partial molt, were collected. Since in recent years this