

that there is no doubt about their identity, particularly since he has kept regularly the Bahama Pintail, the only species with which it might be confused. He also reports shooting the American Widgeon (*Mareca americana*) at the mouth of the Rio Yaque del Norte, another first record for Hispaniola.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Turkey Buzzards killing young pigs.—It is commonly assumed that the Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*), through inability to kill its prey, is a scavenger by necessity. Pearson (*Bird-lore*, 21: 319-322, 1919) speaks of this bird killing young pigs, but gives no specific instance.

During March 1939, at Half Way Lodge, fifteen miles east of Fort Myers, Florida, Mr. Dwight Dyess witnessed buzzards successfully attacking and killing young pigs. Several new-born litters were destroyed by these birds. On one occasion, the birds boldly approached the young shortly after the sow had farrowed them, and tore at the umbilical cord and belly, disembowelling the little pigs. Although the sow was but a few feet off, she offered no resistance other than a few passive grunts. Mr. Dyess assured me that this was not an uncommon occurrence, and that many young pigs were lost each year through the depredations of buzzards.—W. J. HAMILTON, JR., *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Gyr Falcon in Wisconsin.—An immature female gray-phase Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) was killed on the London Marsh at the western edge of Jefferson County, Wisconsin, just east of the town of London, on December 10, 1939, by Mr. R. R. Roehl of the nearby town of Lake Mills. The bird was examined by the writer shortly after it was mounted by a local taxidermist. The carcass was procured and the sex determined. The stomach was empty. Since the Gyr Falcon is protected by law in Wisconsin, and since it was deemed desirable to preserve this rare specimen, the bird was confiscated by the Wisconsin Department of Conservation, and is now on display in their museum at the State Game and Fur Farm at Poynette, Wisconsin.

In the event that future taxonomic workers in this group may be unable to examine the specimen, the following description is given: upper parts light gray-brown, general tone of head and nape much lighter in color than back, wings, or tail; head evenly and narrowly streaked with light gray-brown and white, 'moustache' mark scarcely discernible; feathers of back light gray-brown, narrowly bordered with white; tail light gray-brown, irregularly and narrowly bordered with white; under parts white, prominently, but not heavily streaked with gray-brown; under tail-coverts white, each feather very lightly marked centrally with a light gray-brown streak; tarsal feathering white to pale buff, unmarked; cere, eyelids, and feet light blue-gray.

Gyr Falcons have been taken in Wisconsin at least four times previously: near Lake Winnebago at an early date, near Beaver Dam on November 27, 1904, in Sauk County on October 22, 1916, and in Milwaukee on December 26, 1939, as reported respectively by Kumlien and Hollister (*Bull. Wisconsin Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 2: [= 3] 1-143, 1903), Snyder (*Auk*, 22: 413, 1905), Stoddard (*Auk*, 40: 325, 1923), and Gromme (*Auk*, 55: 273, 1938).—C. T. BLACK, *Game Division, Department of Conservation, Lansing, Michigan.*

Marsh Hawk feeding on Scaup Duck.—On November 25, 1939, at Melbourne, Florida, I saw a female Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*) on the shore of Indian River, feeding on the partly immersed and still fresh body of a Scaup. When first

discovered the hawk was eating the head of the carcass. Later, after vigorous effort, it succeeded in dragging its find from the water. The manifest difficulty of the task made it seem unlikely that it could have captured and killed even a sick or injured duck. Similarly, the length of time, after the breast was plucked, required to open the body cavity indicated something less than the power of beak usually attributed to birds of prey of the size of this species. It is known, of course, that the Marsh Hawk's food consists chiefly of small, soft-bodied animals. As much would be deduced from the observation here recorded and the conclusion is reached that the finding of remains of wildfowl or poultry among the stomach contents of hawks is doubtful proof of their danger to these forms.—EDWARD R. FORD, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois.*

Sage Hen eats grasshoppers.—During the past summer (1940) I noticed Sage Hens, *Centrocercus urophasianus*, feeding along the roadway in central Montana, sometimes at a distance from their usual feeding environment of sagebrush. I have often wondered if they were feeding on grasshoppers, but not having a collecting permit I was unable to obtain any birds for a food-habit determination.

On August 6, while at Yellow Water Reservoir south of Winnett, Montana, in the company of Philip Van Cleave and Allen Erickson, I found the remains of a Sage Hen. The body, including all of the bones, had been eaten or carried away. The feathers, however, provided adequate identification and luckily, the modified gizzard was intact. A pile of 19 grasshoppers from the gullet indicated what the bird had been eating. The gizzard was analyzed to determine to what extent this bird had been feeding on 'hoppers. It was found that the entire contents consisted of grasshoppers. Some, of course, were in a very much broken and mashed condition; however, the jumping legs served to indicate the number of 'hoppers consumed. There were 150 jumping legs, indicating the consumption of at least 75 'hoppers. These, plus the 19 that were found in the gullet, made a total of 94 grasshoppers destroyed by the Sage Hen just previous to its death. This is but a small part of the number of grasshoppers the bird might consume during the entire day, and indicated that the Sage Hen does, under some conditions, feed exclusively upon grasshoppers.—Louis M. Moos, *Biologist, Soil Conservation Service, Billings, Montana.*

Golden Plover in central Indiana.—Following heavy rainfall in April 1940, many fields in the adjacent flat countryside became temporarily flooded, and numerous shallow lakes were formed. It had stopped raining April 21 and become bright and clear. That afternoon we were driving along an unfrequented country road beside a last year's cornfield which was partly inundated, when we saw a flash of wings about a hundred yards distant from us on the opposite side of the water.

We stopped our car, and training our binoculars in the direction where we had seen the birds flying, were surprised to see a considerable number of Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) feeding along the edge of the water, and in the field near the water. The whistled call note was unmistakable, as were the golden-brown back, white streak above the eye and along the sides of the breast, and black throat and breast. The male birds were more strikingly marked than the females, and a number of the males performed energetically. Whistling, with wings slightly lifted, and head lowered, a male would run toward a female, stop when almost touching her, then run off again and come back and repeat the performance. Several times males had brief fights. Two of them became so embroiled that they carried their quarrel from land to water. They were going at one another