

I regarded ectoparasitism as a primary cause of death. Thomas's cases, in which blood welled from the point of removal of ticks, would tend to substantiate my conclusion. It seems clear in combining my findings with hers, that the ticks secrete an anticoagulant, probably to facilitate their feeding. But in my opinion death results not so much from blindness and starvation as from the severe subcutaneous disturbances induced by the ticks.

It is an interesting observation that these large ticks have a predilection for the head region of small birds. Mr. Kuerzi subsequently sent me specimens as follows: a tick removed from the auricular region of a White-throated Sparrow; a Mockingbird bearing one tick between the eye and the base of the bill and another in the auricular region; a tick removed from an adult male Purple Finch in the auricular area just below and back of the eye; a tick from the auricular region of another adult male Purple Finch; and a tick from the auricular region of another White-throated Sparrow. All these specimens were obtained at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.—C. BROOKE WORTH, *Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.*

Aspergillosis in a Snowy Owl (*Plate 18*).—During the incursion of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) into the United States in the winter of 1941–42, a specimen was secured near Albany, New York, which proved to be heavily infected with the fungus *Aspergillus*. Following is a brief history of the bird.

The owl was captured alive on November 15, 1941, on the Carl Wilson farm near South Cambridge, New York, about thirty miles northeast of Albany. It was taken by hand by Mr. William Ibbott and two companions. They stated that the bird was on the ground, that they simply "closed in on him" and that he was "dangerous." These details suggest that the owl may not have been in a healthy condition at the time of capture.

Within a few days the owl was placed on exhibit in the window of a public market in Troy, New York. According to the proprietor of the store, the bird at first was fairly active and alert. However, it refused to eat meat or other food during the period of captivity and died on December 5, 1941, twenty days after it was taken in the field. It was received and examined grossly by Stoner on December 9.

This examination revealed that the subject was an emaciated male weighing 35 ounces (normal weight 48–72 ounces). The measurements, in inches, are as follows: length 21.5; wing 16.4; tail 9.4; tarsus 1.2. This bird is preserved as a study skin in the zoological collections of the New York State Museum, Catalogue No. 6274.

On opening the body cavities all the serosal surfaces were found to be profusely studded with small, round, whitish nodules. The parietal and visceral pleural surfaces of both lungs were heavily involved as were the epicardium and peritoneum. One or two discrete lesions were present in the capsule on the under surface of the liver. Discrete nodules were present in the mediastinum lying along the trachea and the great vessels of the neck. One of the largest discrete nodules was a flattened one lying adherent to the upper third of the left clavicle—it appeared to be in the periosteum.

The individual lesions were generally round, whitish-yellow in color, from 1–5 mm. in size, and fairly firm in consistency; some seemed almost calcareous and tended to shell out. Sectioning of the lungs revealed that both were extensively invaded. The parenchymal tissue was filled throughout with a myriad of discrete,

tubercle-like lesions and the intervening tissue was moist and firm. Unfortunately it was impossible to obtain cultures from the tissues before they were placed in fixative. For this reason the species of *Aspergillus* could not be determined.

Plate 18, upper figure, shows the gross appearance of the stomach, heart and a section of lung (after fixation in formalin). The lung section shows a transverse surface of the lung parenchyma above and the pleuro-peritoneal surface below. The numerous tubercle-like lesions are apparent. Lower figure is a photomicrograph of a section of lung tissue showing typical *Aspergillus* mycelia and conidophores lying in the pleura.

Although Aspergillosis is known to occur fairly frequently in birds, particularly strigiform and anseriform species, it seems worth while to record this instance of its presence in a wild individual which had traveled several hundred miles beyond its normal range. It is possible that the Snowy Owl here reported may have become infected after its capture. However, the fact that the owl could be taken by hand and the very extensive inroads which the disease had made only twenty days after the subject had been captured, suggest that the infection was present prior to the beginning of the period during which it was held in captivity. This latter point also is supported by the fact that this bird was infected with the nodulo-tubercular form of the disease which, according to Fox ('Diseases of Captive Wild Mammals and Birds,' 558, 1923), is the most slowly progressive and chronic of the three forms occurring in birds.—GORDON M. MEADE, M.D., *Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, New York*, and DAYTON STONER, *New York State Museum, Albany, New York*.

Two new bird records for Utah.—The Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge has contributed many interesting records to the list of Utah birds, but few were more unexpected than that of a male Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) collected by the writer on August 26, 1941. The bird seemed very much out of his element, as well as out of his range, as he perched on a wooden spill-box in Unit 2 with miles of lake on one side and more miles of alkali-flat desert on the other. He was, however, in fair flesh and feather condition.

Many an ornithologist has cast inquisitive eyes at the small terns which abound at the Refuge, hoping to identify the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*) among the common Forster's Terns. Presence of the species in Utah has long been suspected, but specimens which came to hand all proved to be Forster's Tern until on September 14, 1941, Mr. W. F. Kubichek of the Fish and Wildlife Service observed one of the species in the hospital that is operated at Bear River to care for birds afflicted with botulism. Mr. Kubichek's identification was verified by Dr. Clarence Cottam, and a specimen was made of the bird. Subsequent field observations indicated that during this period of fall migration the Common Terns were about one-fourth as common as the Forster's Tern.—CECIL S. WILLIAMS, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Brigham City, Utah*.

Mexican Dipper in the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona.—The range of the American Dipper, *Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*, is generally considered to extend southward in the mountains of California, Arizona and New Mexico approximately to the Mexican border. However, a specimen in Field Museum, collected by George F. Breninger in the Huachuca Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona, on May 28, 1903, proves beyond doubt to be a typical representative of the Mexican race, *Cinclus m. mexicanus*. This specimen (F.M. No. 14,994) is an adult female in clean, unworn plumage. It has been compared critically with adequate series of