

I have attempted to learn whether such attacks are common in this part of the country. Darnell, a young veteran, had never heard of them before, but an elderly neighbor said that he had witnessed similar attacks many years ago on lambs as well as on pigs. There was also a case reported by another farmer of young pigs being killed in the same county a year ago.

It should be emphasized that all the reports agree that the culprits were Black Vultures (Carrion Crows, as the farmers usually call them).

In the present instance the presence of the placentae near by appears to have been the original attraction for the birds and it was agreed that in the future such material should be destroyed immediately.

Two other similar attacks have recently been reported in adjacent states. Roads (Wilson Bull., 48: 218, 1936) writes that near Hillsboro, Ohio, Black Vultures killed and ate every new-born lamb in one flock of sheep, and also destroyed young pigs. Sprunt (Auk, 63: 260, 1946) reports that Black Vultures attacked a lamb and "literally tore it to pieces while still alive" near Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Further evidence of the predatory tendencies of this species is furnished by McIlhenny (Auk, 56: 472, 1939) who actually observed them attack and kill a live skunk and two opossums. The statement of Hamilton (Auk, 58: 254, 1941), based on reports of a local resident that "Turkey Buzzards" kill young pigs near Fort Myers, Florida, seems almost certainly to be a case of misidentification, since many country people lump both vultures together under the term buzzard.—HARVEY B. LOVELL, *Biology Department, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.*

Black Vultures and live prey.—In General Notes, in the April, 1946, issue of 'The Auk,' Alexander Sprunt, Jr., mentioned that it is very rarely that one hears of a first-hand account of predation on living prey by the Black Vulture. I consider myself fortunate in having witnessed such a predation. While driving on a road near Deland, Florida, on March 27, 1946, I saw a gathering of about one hundred Black Vultures in a small pine grove. Upon closer observation, I saw a sow with a newly born litter. The sow seemed sick and weak, not moving at my approach. Out of the litter of ten live piglets, two showed evidences of having been attacked, presumably by the Black Vultures. One showed lacerations on its hind quarters; the other had had the flesh torn off from the middle of its back to its tail. Both piglets were quite alive. They cried loudly and continuously, but otherwise they joined the rest of the litter in running around the sow and suckling. The vultures remained near by in the trees and on the ground while three or four individuals would lunge at the piglets.—RALPH V. HAGOPIAN, *114 East 90th St., New York, N. Y.*

A Robin with one lung destroyed.—On the afternoon of April 27, 1946, while walking along Alum Creek, Columbus, Ohio, I noticed a female Robin ahead of me in the path. The actions of the bird attracted my attention, as it would not fly until I approached very closely. It finally flew and alighted on the ground about a hundred feet to one side of the path and tried to hide in the weeds. It made no attempt to fly again when I caught it. The bird died in my hand as I examined it. No evidence of injury was discovered. It seemed thin, and the bill was covered with mud. One feather in the middle of the tail was not fully developed. On dissection, the bird was found to have only one lung. The left lung was entirely gone and in its place were two large round cysts, one in the position of the lung and attached to the dorsal wall, and a smaller one attached to the side of the body cavity. The right lung appeared normal as did all of the other organs except the liver, which was enlarged and of a blue-black color.—ROBERT GOSLIN, *Department of Physiology, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.*