

other individual was shot the opening morning of the season, and was identified as a Flamingo by a Federal game warden present at the time. The specimen was sent to a Denver taxidermist, and is now on display at the lodge near the lake.

The sketch and description of coloration supplied by Doctor Lyon leave no doubt as to the bird's identity. The coloration indicates that it is an immature specimen. Doctor Lyon further describes the appearance of the bird in flight, as he saw it before its death, stating that it flew with both neck and legs extended. One is left to wonder what organisms these Flamingos subsisted while in migration and in residence here, apparently so briefly, and what force drove them so far from their normal habitat.—ARTHUR L. GOODRICH, *Department of Zoology, Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas.*

Audubon's Caracara in New York.—A caracara (*Polyborus cheriway*) was discovered by John Flavin on September 28, 1946, in Alley Pond Park, a large park on Long Island on the outskirts of the City of New York. During the following week until October 5, 1946, the bird was intermittently noted by other observers, including William O. Astle and John J. Elliott, usually in a large open field. When seen by the writer, on September 29, 1946, the caracara was on the ground, apparently feeding on insects, and on being approached flew to a bare locust tree where it was examined at leisure through 8 × 30 binoculars. On the basis of the description given by Bent (*U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 170: 131, 1938*), this bird was in juvenal plumage, for though it had the characteristic pattern of an adult caracara, the back was brown rather than blackish, the throat pale brown rather than white or buffy, and the chest conspicuously streaked rather than spotted or barred. Whenever the writer attempted to come nearer than about fifty feet the bird would fly off a hundred yards or so and settle on another tree. On one occasion it left its perch to drive off a crow which was sitting on a tree some distance away, and pursued the crow for several minutes until that bird turned around and chased its attacker.

The caracara has never previously been reported from the State of New York and there appear to be very few records away from its breeding range. From the eastern part of the continent Bent (*U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 170: 135, 1938*) lists a bird seen in North Carolina on February 19, 1933, and another found dead on the north shore of Lake Superior in Ontario on July 18, 1892 (which is mentioned also in the A. O. U. Check-List). A caracara was observed in South Carolina in 1943 (*Auk, 61: 145, 1944*).

Because of the sedentary character of the species, our caracara was carefully examined for any indication of escape from captivity, but none was detected. It appeared vigorous and healthy; it carried no band or jesses; its soft parts were normally colored; its tail feathers were so unfrayed that even the pale tips plainly showed; its wing feathers were intact, except possibly for a secondary on one wing which in flight seemed missing or out of place. While one or two observers report an approach within twenty feet of the caracara before it flew, the writer's own experience with the species in its breeding range suggests that such unsuspectingness would be perfectly normal behavior. Inquiry established that none of the zoological gardens and menageries in the city had lost a caracara, but the possibility in these cases always exists that the bird may have been brought north by human agency.—EUGENE EISENMANN, *Linnaean Society of New York, New York, N. Y.*

Black Ducks in eastern Montana.—Inasmuch as there appear to be no published records of Black Ducks occurring in Eastern Montana, the following observations on the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, Phillips County, Montana, may be of general interest to ornithologists.

During an outbreak of botulism in July of 1939, many sick ducks were picked up along the lake shore and in the refuge marshes. Among the birds picked up for treatment of botulism at the refuge duck hospital were two Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes* Brewster). The opportunity to examine the specimens in detail left no doubt as to their identity. On September 12 of that year, another Black Duck was brought into the refuge hospital for treatment. The first two Black Ducks recovered and were released; the third duck died.

Black Ducks have been observed quite frequently on the Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, Burke and Ward Counties, North Dakota, which is located about 250 miles airline east of the Bowdoin Refuge. Most of the Des Lacs records are of individual birds; however, as many as 19 were seen on June 22, 1939. As yet there has been no evidence of Black Ducks nesting on Des Lacs or the Bowdoin Refuge. The Des Lacs observations indicate that the Black Ducks occur there primarily as irregular fall migrants.—R. E. GRIFFITH, *Division of Wildlife Refuges, Department of the Interior, Chicago 54, Illinois.*

The Northern Lappet-faced Vulture in Palestine—A new record for Asia.—I have deposited in the aviaries of the Zoological Society of London at Regents Park a living specimen of the Northern Lappet-faced or Sociable Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus nubicus* (synonym, *Otogyps auricularis*)) which has not previously been recorded in Asia to our knowledge. Dr. Vevers, the superintendent, informs me that in the Society's vertebrate list the distribution is given as Egypt to Kordofan, Abyssinia and Somaliland, in Africa. It was caught in February, 1946, in a jackal-trap at Kurnub, between Beersheba and Ein Husb in S. W. Palestine desert country. When first taken to my friend Dr. W. K. Bigger's garden in Jerusalem we thought it was a young Black Vulture (*Aegyptius monachus*), a very similar bird which breeds in the area (cf. Hardy, *Handlist of the Birds of Palestine*, Cairo, 1946). I removed it to my office in Allenby Barracks in Jerusalem and kept it for a fortnight in a very large room where P. A. D. Hollom and other ornithologists of the Jerusalem Naturalists' Club saw it. Dr. H. Mendelsohn first suggested the bird was *Torgos*, and comparison with immature Black Vultures in his aviaries at the Biological Institute in Tel Aviv showed it to be a lighter bird, and when later I had it crated and flown to the London Zoo where more reference literature was available, its identity was confirmed.

The following is a summary of descriptions I made for the Bulletin of the Jerusalem Naturalists' Club: wing, 790/830 mm.; tarsus, 130/150; bill from cere, 72. General plumage brown; head and neck nearly naked with bluish-gray to dull reddish-violet skin; bill blackish-horn with a dark ridge on the culmen; cere slaty gray; iris dark brown; nostrils oval, perpendicular; only a little down on head and neck; long black bristle hairs on chin and eyelid; soft brown feathers on throat; feathers of under parts a thick white down; on sides of neck soft gray feathers; on lower neck a frill of lanceolate brown feathers with paler margins, which extended down the center of the breast. Legs and feet blue-gray; claws black. The large, cinereous-brown feathers of its back and shoulders were prominently outlined. A very short, pale brown ruff of feathers was raised forwards or erected on the nape of the neck. Primaries and rectrices were a darker brown. Under the wing and on the flanks it showed much white in flight.

A mounted specimen at present possessed by Machial Bahow, of the Arab National Bus Co., and in his house at Upper Baq'a, Jerusalem, was shot by Dr. G. Ridenko (a 'hunter' of Jaffa) near Neby Musa monastery in the desert near the N. W. shore of the Dead Sea. I have discussed this specimen with both these men, and with my