

known to do this is *Steatornis caripensis*. Although the ratio of *C. maxima* is less than that of *S. caripensis*, Table 1 suggests that the larger torus of *C. maxima* compared to other Apodiformes may be related to its use in echolocation. The number of specimens measured, however, is too small to prove the relationship definitely. More measurements of more brains and of other auditory and visual nuclei are needed.

This investigation has been aided by grants from the Foundation Fund for Psychiatry and the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Blindness (Grant 03429-02).

LITERATURE CITED

- COBB, S. 1964. A comparison of the size of an auditory nucleus (*n. mesencephalicus lateralis, pars dorsalis*) with the size of the optic lobe in twenty-seven species of birds. *J. Comp. Neurol.*, **122**: 271-280.
- GRIFFIN, D. R. 1953. Acoustic orientation in the oilbird (*Steatornis*). *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, **39**: 884-893.
- KAPERS, C. U. A., G. C. HUBER, AND E. C. CROSBY. 1936. The comparative anatomy of the nervous system of vertebrates including man. 2 vols. New York, Mac-Millan Co.
- MEDWAY, LORD. 1960. Cave swiftlets. Pp. 62-72 in *Birds of Borneo* (L. E. Smythies, ed.). Edinburgh, Oliver and Boyd.
- MELLO, N. K., F. R. ERVIN, AND S. COBB. 1963. Intertectal integration of visual information in pigeons. Electrophysiological and behavior observations. *Bol. Inst. Estud. Med. Biol. (Mexico)*, **21**: 519-533.
- PAYNE, R. S. 1961. Acoustic orientation of prey by the barn owl, *Tyto alba*. Technical Report no. 9160, Division of Engineering and Applied Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- STANLEY COBB, *Harvard Medical School and Museum of Comparative Zoology, 1010 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Peregrine Falcon and Purple Gallinule of late Pleistocene age in the Sudanese Aswan Reservoir area.—A recent report on the prehistoric archaeology in the Aswan Reservoir area in Egyptian and Sudanese Nubia by F. Wendorf, J. L. Shiner, and A. E. Marks (*The Prehistory of Nubia*, Southern Methodist University Press, Dallas, Texas, 1964) indicates a sequence of sites from early Palaeolithic to Neolithic times. The few avian bones recovered were set aside by Professor A. Gautier of the Geological Institute, Ghent, Belgium, and were later sent to me by J. L. Shiner, to whom I owe my thanks.

Only two elements could be identified. The distal part of a right humerus is that of a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) from a Sebilian Mesolithic site with a C¹⁴ date of 9,000 B.C. The Peregrine Falcon is common in this area today.

The second specimen is a nearly complete right carpometacarpus of the Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) from a late Palaeolithic site buried in early Nile silts. The C¹⁴ test gives the bone a date of 25,000-30,000 B.C. This specimen represents the first fossil record for the species, as well as its first occurrence in the Nubian region, where the Green-backed Gallinule (*Porphyrio madagascariensis*) and Allen's Gallinule (*Porphyryula alleni*) occur along the Nile Valley today. The Purple Gallinule inhabits swamps with extensive reed beds and dense growths of water lilies, a habitat probably rather common in the Sudanese Nile Valley during late Palaeolithic time.—EITAN TCHERNOV, *Department of Zoology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.*