

completely ossified. The fact that they are embedded in stone does not seem to indicate great antiquity, as they still contain much animal matter and are supposed to be comparatively recent in origin. This specimen has been returned to the collections of the University of Kansas.

As these owls ordinarily only frequent those sections of caverns near the entrances it has been interesting to find these remains under circumstances that possibly indicate that the birds had become lost and had been unable to regain the outside world.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., August 24, 1931.*

**Records for Several Species of Birds Rare or Local within Costa Rica.**—*Spizastur melanoleucus*. An adult male was taken at El Copey de Dota in the first week of June, 1931. It was perched on a tree at the edge of a forest. The altitude was about 7000 feet. This constitutes the sixth or seventh specimen of which I can find any record. This splendid hawk is apparently entirely a forest dweller, glean- ing most of its prey in the tree-tops. The present specimen is now in the Henry O. Havemeyer collection.

*Glaucidium jardini*. An adult male of this owl was caught by hand, while perched in a low tree that grew along a trail near Estrella de Cartago, in June, 1931. It was at 4000 feet altitude in the humid Caribbean sub-tropical zone.

*Cryptoglaux ridgwayi*. Under this name I list a female adult of a small, plain-colored owl, taken in the heavy forest above El Copey de Dota, at an altitude of 7500 feet. The type of the species is a juvenile; and up to now this has seemingly remained unique. My specimen fits the description of the species fairly well, considering the difference in age. El Copey lies only 30 miles southeast of Escazu, the type locality; but the altitude of the first named is considerably greater. This specimen is now in the collection of Henry O. Havemeyer of New York.

*Thryorchilus basultoii*. A wren of the temperate zone, that has heretofore been known only from the type; an adult female was taken at Las Vueltas, Costa Rica. Las Vueltas is the name of a large ranch lying between the heavy oak forest and the brush covered paramo, forty miles southeast of San José.

On May 7 and 8, 1931, I saw several examples of this wren on a brush covered savanna at an altitude of 10,500 feet. Two were secured, both males, one adult, the other evidently immature; but both in unworn plumage. They were shot from the tops of bushes about eight feet in height; not observed at any time on the ground. Thus, this species differs from its congener, *Thryorchilus browni ridgwayi* of the volcanoes Irazú and Turrialba of the central tableland, which favors terrestrial situations. The male adult of *T. basultoii* is now in the Havemeyer collection.—AUSTIN SMITH, *San José, Costa Rica, July 20, 1931.*

**An Unusual Date for the Occurrence of the Young of the California Quail.**—Mr. William Lippincott, Captain of Patrol of the California Fish and Game Commission at Eureka, Humboldt County, California, reports the following extraordinary nesting record for the California Quail (*Lophortyx californica*). On January 10, 1931, while patrolling along the Eel River near Scotia, Mr. Lippincott in the company of Deputy Game Warden Feland came upon a pair of adult quail with eight or nine young apparently not more than ten days old. This would mean that the eggs for this brood of young were laid during the first part of December and that, if any conclusions are properly to be drawn from the record, it is probably a late rather than an early one. If such is the case it is again interesting to observe the tenacity with which quail hold to the breeding instinct, making repeated efforts until finally successful in bringing off a brood.

Mr. Lippincott describes the weather during the thirty days prior to the discovery of the quail as having been generally damp and stormy, fog intervening with the storms. The country at this point along the river is composed of small ranches including alfalfa and beet fields with plenty of cover for quail. Among the latter, Mr. Lippincott particularly mentions the wild blackberry. The elevation is approximately 150 feet.—LAWRENCE V. COMPTON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, September 23, 1931.*