House Finch Parasitized by Dwarf Cowbird and Black Phoebe Nests Occupied by House Finch.—Since I first found the Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*) in the San Bernardino Valley, California, in 1918, it has increased to such an extent that most of the small birds have been parasitized. One of our most common breeding birds is the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) and yet among the numerous nests, that I have examined in suitable locations, there has been but a single victim of the Dwarf Cowbird. Rex Parker called my attention on May 15, 1933, to a nest in East Colton containing three eggs of the House Finch and one of the Dwarf Cowbird. The eggs showed no signs of incubation, two of the finch eggs had holes in them, the other two eggs were addled, and the nest deserted.

The House Finch is considered by some people to be a pest and it is gratifying to find that they do not readily contribute to the support of the Dwarf Cowbird. However, with this word of praise I will give a couple of incidents which are not so good.

In April, 1931, I found a nest of the Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) under a bridge about twenty-five miles northwest of San Bernardino, California. On May 3 of that year I again visited the nest and was surprised to flush a House Finch from the nest which then contained one egg of the phoebe and four of the finch. On this latter date the phoebe was at work on another nest a few feet away. On May 28, 1933, I visited the same bridge and found a new nest of the phoebe containing large young of the finch and within five feet a later nest of the phoebe with four of the rightful owner's eggs.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, May 30, 1933.*

The Black Vulture in Arizona.—The first record known to the undersigned of the occurrence of the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus atratus*) in Arizona is that of Cooke (Auk, XXXI, 1914, p. 403), who reported "Several seen, May 1890, by Dr. A. K. Fisher in the Tonto Basin." H. H. Kimball (CONDOR, XXV, 1923, p. 109) surprised a number of vultures from the bottom of an old ditch along the Santa Cruz River, 12 miles south of Tucson, Arizona, on May 7, 1922. At least a dozen of these were Black Vultures, he states. On November 28, 1928, Miller, Taylor and Swarth (CONDOR, XXXI, 1929, p. 76) saw 15 or 20 Black Vultures in air at one time, circling about together with a few Turkey Vultures. The locality was just south of Tucson, where a number of the Black Vultures were startled from the ground in the vicinity of a small slaughter-house.

The undersigned have noted Black Vultures at intervals over several years in the general vicinity of Tucson. On April 20, 1928, a dozen were observed feeding on discarded offal just south of the city. On January 22, 1931, Chas. R. Reynard and Taylor, returning to Tucson from the Santa Rita Experimental Range, about 5:20 p.m., saw first a flock of eleven individuals and later one of three, flying due west, about 16 miles south of the city. In the same general locality, on November 28, 1932, five Black Vultures were observed circling and flying high in air about 10 a.m. The following month, on December 18, 1932, a flock of fourteen circled overhead in the vicinity of the San Xavier crossing of the Santa Cruz at about 2 p.m. The flock held together fairly well for some time, circling and wheeling, slowly moving from the general vicinity of the San Xavier Mission southeasterly toward the new Indian Service Hospital. Later they scattered out over the Santa Cruz bottoms. On March 11, 1933, one was recorded by Vorhies northeast of Tucson.

On March 21, a flock of about thirty Black Vultures was noted near Sells (Indian Oasis), about 60 miles west of Tucson on the Papago Indian Reservation. The Vultures were congregated about a dead cow at a small earthen reservoir or tank, a mile east of Sells. A couple of these birds were collected by Vorhies, so far as known the first actual specimens taken within Arizona. One of these specimens is on deposit at the University of Arizona, the other in the United States Biological Survey. Additional birds were seen by D. M. Gorsuch in the same locality the week of April 10-14; and an old Indian chief, a former Government employee named Hugh Norris, reported Black Vultures had appeared in the vicinity only in recent years.

A. A. Nichol has observed Black Vultures at intervals in winter north to the Tucson-Ajo highway, west to the Robles Ranch and Sasabe road, and south along the Santa Cruz valley (in which Tucson is located).

These various observations suggest that in recent years Black Vultures have been appearing in increasing numbers in southern Arizona. Their present known status in the State may be outlined as follows: Regular winter visitant at least from November to May, in Lower Sonoran zone north to Tucson, east to Santa Cruz Valley, and west to Sells (Indian Oasis).

The Black Vulture is easily told from the Turkey Vulture. If seen close at hand its head is blackish (covered with small pin-feathers) instead of red. In flight, while it is distinctly buzzard-like, it appears stockier than the Turkey Vulture, with shorter, square tail, and shorter, broader wings. (See Coues, Key, 2, 1903, p. 705.) The front of the wings is straighter in the Black Vulture, more curved in the Turkey Vulture. The ends of the wings show separate feathers in the Turkey Vulture, but not in the Black Vulture. An area on the terminal third of the wings of the Black Vulture appears white beneath in flight. The posterior portion of the wing in the Turkey Vulture is also paler than the rest, but does not show up white in flight. The Black Vulture's manner of flight is in contrast with the Turkey Vulture. While the latter soars a great deal with occasional slow wing beat, the Black Vulture flaps its wings with a quicker beat at intervals while soaring. Some we watched flapped their wings from six to nine times, usually about seven, then soared for a distance.—WALTER P. TAYLOR and CHARLES T. VORHIES, *Tucson, Arizona, April 19, 1933.*

A Skeleton of the Guadeloupe Caracara.—When Mr. Clinton G. Abbott wrote to the National Museum in 1928 asking regarding our series of the Guadeloupe Caracara it was our understanding that he was trying to trace the origin of the specimens in the San Diego Museum, so that in our reply no mention was made of a skeleton of this rare bird in our collection. As this may be the only specimen of its kind extant it seems proper to place it on record in connection with Mr. Abbott's interesting account in the CONDOR for January, 1933.

The skeleton in question was presented by Dr. F. A. Lucas on December 26, 1906, when he was Curator-in-Chief of the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. On the date in question Dr. Lucas wrote to Dr. Frederick W. True, Head Curator of the Department of Biology in the National Museum, "I see by a recent note in the 'Auk' that Guadeloupe Island Caracara, *Polyborus lutosus*, if not exterminated, has become extremely rare. This being the case, I am sending to your Department a skeleton of this bird which I have had for many years and is probably the only skeleton in existence. Such being the case, I feel that it would best be in the National Museum and take pleasure in presenting it. The data accompany the box which will go to you in a day or two." The specimen was accessioned on January 2, and catalogued January 8, 1907.

There are two data slips in Dr. Lucas' characteristic handwriting accompanying the skeleton, one reading "*Polyborus lutosus* Ridg. Guadeloupe Island Coast of California Species now extinct, or very rare." The other is inscribed "Skeleton received from Dr. C. Hart Merriam Collected by W. E. Bryant." A National Museum label in the box bears the catalog no. 19916 and another number 178.

Dr. Merriam informs me that he recalls the specimen which he obtained from W. E. Bryant as indicated, and suggested that I look it up in his osteological catalog which we have in our files. There is no record of it there, however, so that it seems probable that it was given to Dr. Lucas, at that time in Washington and working enthusiastically on avian anatomy, without being made a part of Dr. Merriam's collection.

The specimen is in excellent condition, being well cleaned and partly articulated. One foot including the tarsus still retains claws, scutes and skin. Three shot holes perforating the body of the sternum indicate the manner in which the bird was killed. Other bones are uninjured. The specimen is one of the prizes in our large series of skeletons that includes such other North American rarities as the Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Paroquet, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and Great Auk.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., April 4, 1933.*