

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.*