

**Egg of the Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga ridgwayi*.**—An egg ready for laying was obtained from the oviduct of a Great Black Hawk collected at noon on 17 February 1953 at about 5000 feet above sea level near El Volcán in the Province of Chiriquí in western Panamá. The measurements were  $59 \times 47.5$  mm. It was slightly ovate in shape, and dull white with scattered, tiny, irregular, brownish specks. I know of no published record of the egg of the Middle American race. These measurements are within the range of those of the nominate race of South America. An egg of the latter race, from Trinidad, was said to be rather heavily spotted with red-brown. The only previous report known to me bearing on the nesting season of *ridgwayi* is of a nest found on 14 April 1949 in the Sierra de Tamaulipas, México, with copulation observed in early June, and a family group of four noted the following year in early August (Martin, Robins, and Heed, *Wilson Bull.*, 66:45, 1954). It would seem that in Panamá the species may nest earlier.—FRANK A. HARTMAN, *Department of Physiology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio*, 24 January 1966.

**A Record of Stingray Predation by the Brown Pelican.**—Examination of the pouch contents of a freshly dead Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) yielded noteworthy data concerning the little-known food habits of the species. The pelican was found on the beach 10 December 1965, 16 miles south of San Felipe, on the Gulf of California, Baja California, México. The bird showed no sign of physical violence; there were no broken bones, the feathers were intact, and there was no evidence of internal bleeding.

The distended throat pouch contained five fish of the stingray (*Dasyatidae*) and tonguefish (*Cynoglossidae*) families. The latter family was represented by one individual of the genus



Figure 1. *Pelecanus occidentalis* with pouch cut open to show the relative position of the stingray, *Urotrygon asterias*. The ray's body is slightly anterior to its original position, and its tail has been removed from the pelican's throat. Photograph by Jay L. Ahrend.

*Symphurus*. The rays included one *Gymnura* sp., two round stingrays, *Urolophus halleri*, and a *Urotrygon asterias* containing two young, one of which protruded from her cloaca. With the exception of the *Urotrygon asterias* the fish were partly digested.

In his summary of the food of the Brown Pelican, Schorger (Handbook of North American Birds, 1:280, 1962) makes no reference to stingrays or tonguefish. Apparently this is the first report of the inclusion of cartilaginous fish (Chondrichthyes) in the diet of the Brown Pelican.

The method employed by pelicans to secure these bottom-dwelling fish is not known. It is probable that stingray predation is opportunistic, coincident with the discarding of these "trash" fish by Mexican fishermen. Shrimp trawlers and purse seiners are relatively common in the vicinity of San Felipe. Gifford (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., 4th ser., 2 (1):108, 1913) has shown that pelicans feed, at times, as opportunists and scavengers.

That opportunism is a hazardous way of life is indicated by the evidence on the probable cause of the pelican's death. The spine on the dorsal surface of the tail of the ray *Urotrygon asterias* was embedded in the ventral surface of the pelican's throat, near the posterior margin of the pouch. Apparently this impalement occurred when the bird tried to swallow the fish tail first (fig. 1). Presumably, death resulted from choking or poisoning; both generally elicit a regurgitation response which would explain the presence of the partly digested fish in the pouch.

We wish to express our appreciation to Bostic's vertebrate zoology class for assistance in the field, and to Joseph P. Copp for his help in identifying certain of the prey.—DENNIS L. BOSTIC, *Palomar College, San Marcos, California*, and RICHARD C. BANKS, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, 31 January 1966*.

**Inland Record of an Oldsquaw in California.**—An Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) was shot by a hunter in mid-December 1965 (exact date not recorded) in the Mendota State Waterfowl Management Area near Mendota, Fresno County, California. The specimen was obtained by personnel of the California Department of Fish and Game and was identified as an immature male. Other inland records for California include a specimen taken by Beck (Condor, 46:129, 1944) at Lake Yosemite, Merced County, on 24 December 1939, and a sight record by Evenden (Condor, 57:304, 1955) on Lake Tahoe, Eldorado County, on 16 May 1955.—ROGER O. WILBUR, *California Department of Fish and Game, Los Banos State Waterfowl Management Area, Los Banos, California, 6 February 1966*.

**Some Land Birds in the Caribbean.**—During October 1965 my wife and myself crossed the Atlantic on the M/V "Martin Bakke," from Lisbon to Colon via the Mona passage between Puerto Rico and Dominica. No land birds were seen until the morning of 6 October when at 0910 (local time) and approximate position 22° N, 52° W a small passerine arrived from the east and flew strongly to the west-southwest. At 1010 a tired passerine landed for a short time before also flying to the west. Neither of the birds was definitely identified. But they were different species, and the latter was probably a Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). The wind at the time was light southerly with little cloud and excellent visibility. If the birds had come from the north they must have come from Bermuda (about 1000 miles) or the North American mainland (1700 miles). Both flew out of sight in the direction of the nearest land, the Lesser Antilles, about a further 750 miles.

No further land birds were seen until 9 October (16° N, 70° W), when an American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) was found looking for insects after a night of heavy thunderstorms. It is extremely doubtful if any bird could subsist on food found on a cargo vessel such as this, and the bird soon left.

Many more birds were seen on 10 October. At 0810 (12° N, 75° 30' W) a Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) arrived from the north, circled the ship twice and departed south. An hour