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

later 10 teal (*Anas* sp.) flew south low over the water, and an unidentified passerine was seen aboard. At 1450 a Common Egret and a very tired juvenile Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) alighted, and both stayed until dark when the latter was caught. Soon a Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) was seen and spent an hour or so about the ship. From 1555 to dusk (11° N, 77° W) birds were commoner, with Common Egrets (28 individuals) predominating, all going south, as were two Black-bellied (*Squatarola squatarola*) or Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*). Birds which alighted were singles of Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*), Black-and-White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*), and Barn Swallow. None of these birds appeared tired, and it seemed that intentionally or otherwise (having overshot Jamaica?), they were heading for Colombia. The fate of these birds is unknown, but some, including the Yellow-throated and Black-and-White warblers, had left by dusk, and all were missing on arrival at Panamá the following morning.

In a recent book based on collected specimens, de Schauensee (The Birds of Colombia, 1964) gives no record for Yellow-throated Warbler and only a single record for Ovenbird in Colombia. Excellent views of both these birds were obtained at ranges down to five feet, and there can be little possibility of error.

From 13 to 16 October we continued our voyage south to Guayaquil. The only land birds encountered were a Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) and a Barn Swallow on the afternoon of 13 October, within sight of land about 50 miles north of Buenaventura.—Michael P. Harris, *Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, Oxford, England, 3 January 1966.*

Hunting Methods of Gyrfalcons and Behavior of Their Prey (Ptarmigan).—The hunting techniques of wild Gyrfalcons (*Falco rusticolus*) are poorly known even by people who have studied the species extensively. For example, Cade (Univ. Cal. Publ. Zoöl., 63:232, 1960) saw Gyrfalcons pursuing prey only once in a five-year investigation in Alaska. Our combined observations in Alaska from 1961 through 1965 include 13 instances in which Gyrfalcons chased ptarmigan (Rock Ptarmigan, *Lagopus mutus*, and Willow Ptarmigan, *L. lagopus*) and eight other cases in which falcons were observed as they hunted in ptarmigan habitat. Observations were made near Eagle Summit (145° 30′ W, 65° 30′ N), in hilly country containing both arctic-alpine and boreal forest communities, and at Umiat (152° 08′ W, 69° 30′ N), in treeless, riparian habitats within the foothills section of the Alaskan low-arctic tundra. We will present our data and impressions under four general topics: (1) how Gyrfalcons look for prey, (2) how Gyrfalcons pursue ptarmigan they locate, (3) how ptarmigan try to escape detection, (4) how ptarmigan attempt to get away when chased by Gyrfalcons.

The hunting methods of Gyrfalcons we have seen can be divided into three types: (1) search from high over the terrain, (2) search in low flight, (3) low flight plus observation from temporary perches. Falcons sometimes used two or three techniques in succession; recognition of three categories seems justifiable because the method used to catch ptarmigan varied depending on where a falcon was when the prey was seen, and because ptarmigan reacted differently to falcons hunting in each of the three ways listed.

We saw Gyrfalcons hunting 500 to 1000 feet above the terrain four times in summer (with no snow on the ground) and four times in winter. The Gyrfalcons often were hard to see, especially when nearly in line with the sun, and we probably missed seeing falcons relatively often when they used this hunting method. The falcons usually progressed over the countryside by soaring in spirals without gaining or losing much altitude, occasionally flying in direct flap-and-glide flight for up to a mile between soaring periods. This flight pattern closely resembled that of Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaëtos*).

Twice in summer and three times in winter we saw Gyrfalcons hunting 20 to 60 feet above the ground, apparently hoping to surprise and flush their prey ahead of them. Their flight was direct and rapid in most cases, although once the Gyrfalcon quartered back and forth until it flushed a family of Willow Ptarmigan. A common tactic was for the Gyrfalcon to hunt low over