BIRDS OF THE PLEISTOCENE AMERICAN FALLS LOCAL FAUNA, IDAHO

JONATHAN J. BECKER

The Pleistocene American Falls local fauna originates from the sandy lower member of the American Falls Formation (Ridenour 1969), exposed along the shores of the American Falls Reservoir in Power and Bingham counties, Idaho. This local fauna was formerly dated as Illinoian (Hopkins et al. 1969), but it has been more recently viewed as Sangamonian in age, based on the presence of the American lion (Panthera leo atrox; Kurten and Anderson 1980). I have examined all avian specimens known from this local fauna. This note corrects previously published reports and adds support for the interglacial age assignment of this local fauna.

Howard (1942) recorded Ciconia maltha (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, USNM 11684) from an unknown locality in this formation and Hopkins et al. (1969) and Steadman (1980) listed the Turkey, (Meleagris gallopavo; Idaho Museum of Natural History, IMNH 1736) from this local fauna. Brodkorb (1963) and McDonald and Anderson (1975) reported on the fossil birds from the overlying Wisconsin Rainbrow Beach local fauna.

The fossil localities are widely scattered along the shores of the American Falls Reservoir and data on specific sites are kept on file at the Idaho Museum of Natural History. All fossil specimens reported here are in the Vertebrate Paleontology collections of the IMNH and are identified by locality number/specimen number. Those marked with an asterisk were incorrectly listed by Brodkorb (1963) and McDonald and Anderson (1975) as being from the Rainbow Beach local fauna. Examination of the original field notes shows that these specimens were actually collected from the beach sands of the American Falls local fauna.

LITERATURE CITED


