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A STRANGE CASE OF HYBRIDISM.

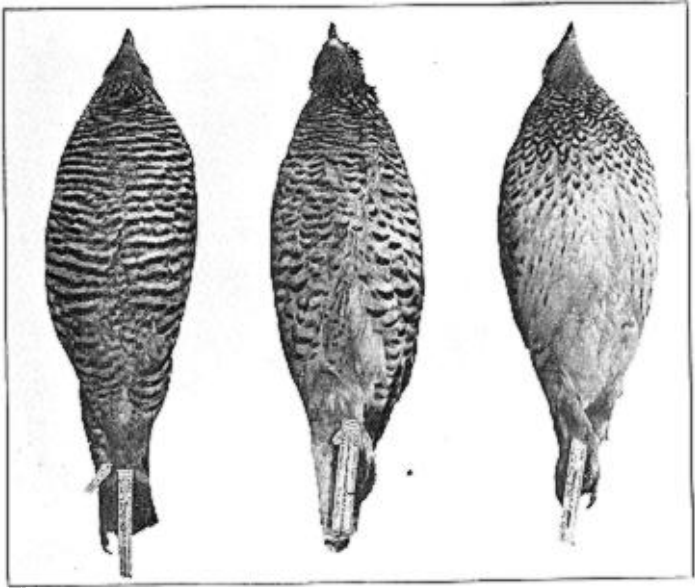
BY F. C. LINCOLN.

Among certain families the inter-breeding of species or even genera, is not of rare occurrence; hybrid juncos, ducks, etc., having been taken in numbers; but among the Gallinae (exclusive, of course, of domestic fowls and pheasants) such instances are decidedly uncommon if not rare.

The accompanying illustration portrays an example of this character, a cross between a Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus americanus*) and a Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes p. campestris*) the result, in all probabilities, of the somewhat peculiar conditions existing in Colorado.

The two forms came into Colorado from the east, coincident with agricultural activities, and are found during the winter months associated in the same flocks, though the bulk of numbers is generally in favor of *Tympanuchus*.

It will be noted that the elements of *Tympanuchus* have predominated, giving the breast the wide bars characteristic of this genera; although curved and broken sufficiently to exhibit the influence of *Pedioecetes*. These markings also become smaller and still more broken on the belly, another character found in Sharp-tails. The tail, though with much of the Prairie Chicken character in form, still has the large white areas peculiar to *Pedioecetes*, and even has the two central feathers decidedly elongated. And last but by no means least, is the suggestion of the pinnated feathers of *Tym-*



*Tympanuchus
americanus*

Hybrid

*Pediocetes p.
campestris*

panuchus on the side of the neck, although these measure but 28mm., while on a cock Chicken of the same season they will average 65mm., and 45mm. on the hens.

BIRDS OBSERVED NEAR MINCO, CENTRAL OKLAHOMA.

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE.

From May 23 to June 2, 1905, I was at Minco in central Oklahoma devoting my attention to the study and collection of the various forms of bird-life found. At that time the region was still known as Indian Territory and great stretches of prairie had been newly broken. Though the country was well settled there was still much land in its original condition, and birds were very common. The period spent here corresponded with the end of migration and the beginning of the breeding season. The notes given refer in the main to breeding birds, concerning which there are few published records from Oklahoma.

The country in which I collected was diversified in its character. A small stream known as Boggy Creek passed near Minco; there was a large slough nearby, and three and one-half miles east was the South Canadian River. The latter stream is often dry for months at a time, showing merely an expanse of shifting sand that drives and drifts with the winds. At this period, however, it contained running water, and before the first of June flood water had carried away bridges crossing near Minco and farther down at Tuttle. Willows and rushes bordered the slough, and thickets and small tree growth followed the winding course of Boggy Creek. Dense growths of wild plum were common, and there were small groves in hollows on the rolling prairie. Cottonwoods grew along the South Canadian River, but few of them attained any great size. Fields in the river bottom that had been cultivated at one time were grown with weeds, while areas of unbroken prairie supported dense stands of grasses, with rosin weeds at intervals offering outlooks for the Grasshopper Sparrows.