

On January 28 a flock of about ten Black Vultures were carefully observed below Sugar Grove, 37 miles southeast of Columbus, and for some time we had an opportunity to note their distinctive characteristics.

EDWARD S. THOMAS.

Columbus, Ohio.

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#### NOTES ON THE FLORIDA BURROWING OWL

In looking over some Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto*) from Florida, I noticed those taken at Miami Beach were much darker than those from the interior of the state. This owl is rather rare in the coastal area, and does not at the present time occur on the large prairies adjoining Cape Sable. No doubt the large filled-in area around Miami Beach, and the three golf courses, has attracted these birds to this point, though I have noted them further north, along the Ocean Boulevard,\* where no clearing other than the right-of-way has been. A comparison of my interior state specimens (Okeechobee), with specimen kindly loaned me by the National Museum (Kissimmee River), compare favorably, though mine were taken in the breeding season, May, while theirs were in February. In comparing the Bahama form of *Speotyto*, kindly loaned by the National Museum, with those of Florida, I find the breeding bird (June 28) worn and in the same plumage as the Okeechobee breeding birds, while the winter plumage, December 20th, Bahama birds correspond equally as well with the February birds from the interior of Florida.

Personally, I find little, if any, difference to have made the Bahaman form from. As a rule, all males in the *Speotyto* run lighter in color than the females, though I have one female from the Beach that corresponds favorably with a male. I have always been opposed to the hair splitting subspecies game, unless the specimen can show some great and easily distinguished difference in color or size (such as *Falco S. paulus*). While the coastal birds are easily distinguishable by their darker coat and heavier white markings in wings and back, and finer markings of white on head, I am refraining at the present time at least from becoming a real hair splitter.

H. H. BAILEY,

Miami, Beach., Fla., March 5, 1923.

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\* See Oologist. Nov., 1922, Page 164.

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#### A BABY HUMMER

One day last spring, 1922, while I was taking my Nature Study class on a field trip, we saw a full-grown female Hummingbird rise from a tree and fly across an open space. What seemed to be a large Bumblebee followed her. Purely by accident I looked closely at the supposed Bumblebee, only to find that it was a baby Hummingbird, not one-fourth the size of its mother. Since I was within a few feet of the birds I could not possibly be mistaken, especially when three dozen students

saw the same thing, many of them independently of the others. Though the Hummingbird has been known to me all my life, I have never at any other time seen a baby bird so much smaller than the adult. Doubting whether I should write this note for publication, I told the incident to Dr. L. O. Pindar of Versailles, Kentucky, who is the veteran bird student of this state. He records that he had never seen anything like this until last spring also. I should like to know how common this phenomenon is. We have all seen young Bobwhites only a few hours old running around in a meadow, and flying before they were grown, but I have been unable to find any reference to Hummingbirds sharing this precocity.

GORDON WILSON.

Bowling Green, Ky.

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#### A BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

As a rule, sight records of very rare birds must be taken charily. When I published in *Auk* my check-list of birds for this locality I was afraid of casting doubt upon my whole record of ten years' study here if I included the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, two of which I recorded at close range in April, 1918. On September 7, 1922, while I was standing at the edge of Hobson's Marsh near this town a sandpiper flew up within a few feet of me. I followed it to the opposite side of the pond, where I stood within ten feet of the bird for several minutes. At first I thought it was the Pectoral Sandpiper but I soon saw that it lacked the distinctive markings of that species. Fortunately, I had in my hands a bird-book with a very good drawing of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, accompanied by an accurate description of its markings. The markings of this bird so closely coincided with those of the picture and the description that there is no doubt in my mind that it was really the Buff-breasted. I told the story of my find to Mr. A. F. Ganier, who was convinced that my identification was correct and who advised me to submit my data to the Editor of the Wilson Bulletin for publication.

GORDON WILSON.

Bowling Green, Ky.

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#### SOME NEW WINTER RECORDS

The early part of the winter just past, 1922-23, was very mild here. I suppose it was for this reason that three birds which are usually found only in the summer spent the entire winter: the Red-headed Woodpecker, the Bronzed Grackle, and the Red-winged Blackbird. There is great irregularity about the winter distribution of the Red-headed Woodpecker in this state. In some sections farther north it is always found the year round but my latest previous record for this place was October 15 (1921). Though it was not found in the same abundance as in summer, there never was a time this winter when three or four could not be seen on an afternoon walk. The Red-winged Blackbird has always stayed late in the fall, November 12 (1921) being my latest record, but this winter it was common throughout the months of January, February