

and also very glad to present it to Prof. Kubichek for the Coe College museum.—
W. M. ROSEN, *Ogden, Iowa.*

On the Scent of Vultures.—After reading the articles of Mr. Lewis and Mr. Taber on the scent of Vultures (WILSON BULLETIN, XL, pp. 154-156 and 221-223), I am prompted to relate an incident bearing on this subject and one in which I figured rather ludicrously.

It was on September 17, 1926, that I received from a friend a squirrel which he wanted me to mount for him. The weather was very warm for so late in the summer and the flesh of the squirrel was decidedly tainted. I managed to remove the skin and then threw the carcass over into a stubble field.

On the following afternoon (September 18), the weather still being very warm, I was lying on a log on the edge of a strip of woods adjoining the field, and watching the sky. Presently four Turkey Vultures came sailing along from the east, in a line of flight that would take them directly over the spot where the carcass of the squirrel lay. Upon reaching this place the four birds began to fly around in short circles, peering intently at the ground. Of course the small carcass was hidden by weeds and stubble. My position was about 100 yards away, where I lay very still to observe the action of the birds. One of them, spying me lying on the log, seemed to say to the others, "I see it. There it is," and all four were soon circling over my head. Lower they came with each circle until they were not more than fifty feet above me, and as any moment might bring the gaunt creatures down at close quarters, I jumped up and hurled a stick at them. They then flew away. About five minutes later another vulture flew over the spot where the carcass lay, and it too circled four or five times, but seeing nothing flew away.

I am persuaded that the scent of vultures for decayed flesh is remarkably keen, but for untainted flesh they may rely more upon sight than the sense of smell.—THOMAS M. EARL, *Xenia, Ohio.*

The Return of the House Wren.—During the summers of 1925-26-27 the Eastern House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*) steadily increased in migration numbers in Hillsboro until it was rather common. In 1928, it extended its range to the immediate vicinity of the town. No bird welcomes its return. The hostility between this wren and the Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewicki bewicki*) is most bitter, and begins at nesting time. Twice it has come to open warfare. In 1926, on the first of June, the House Wren came over and began to investigate every available nesting place, spending several days at a Chickadee's old nest. All the time above the nest, in an apple tree, sat a Bewick's Wren, singing. Suddenly and viciously he darted at the House Wren, striking it on the back. He then returned to the tree and continued his singing. The House Wren sneaked away and nested in the neighbor's box. In 1928, the House Wren invaded an old nest of the Downy Woodpecker, carrying out the material a bit at a time. Three Bewick's Wrens sat on a wire fence, watching. Suddenly one darted after him driving him off the place. With one exception (*cf.* WILSON BULLETIN, XXXVII, p. 92) the House Wrens have nested in the wren boxes, while the Bewick's Wren nests in a neighbor's coal-house. Our premises will always be a battle-ground. Neither will ever give way for the other to nest here. The two will never occupy the same territory. The House Wren has come to stay. At the present time the Bewick's Wren is rather common and is generally distributed. On a drive through the country, we are never out of the hearing of his song.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio.*