

Chestnut-collared Longspurs were also found in a pasture at Wallace Lake Dam, 36 miles south-southeast of Gilliam, on March 25 and 26, 1952, by Mrs. H. C. Hearne. I observed a flock of nine birds there on March 27, and five on March 29. None could be found on April 1.

The Chestnut-collared Longspur has not previously been recorded in Louisiana. While it seems unlikely that the species is of regular occurrence here, it should be noted that neither of the areas in which it was found has ever been visited previously during spring migration by an ornithologist.—HORACE H. JETER, 4534 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana, April 21, 1952.

**Unusual behavior of Tufted Titmice.**—On the afternoon of January 25, 1951, while looking for birds in a deciduous woods not far from Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio, I squeaked up five Tufted Titmice (*Parus bicolor*). I noticed that four of the five, in flying from tree to tree toward me, kept their wings and tails spread as they alighted, holding this rather extraordinary pose from five to eight seconds. Each time as they flew into a new tree they repeated the procedure. The fifth bird, although scolding and flying along with the others, did not put on the spread-wing act. When I stopped squeaking the birds stopped their spread-wing posing, though they continued to fly from tree to tree about me. I have read no other reports of this behavior in Tufted Titmice, nor have I previously seen this behavior in over 20 years of bird-watching.—CHARLES R. GOSLIN, 726 King St., Lancaster, Ohio, January 31, 1951.

**Pleistocene birds from Haile, Florida.**—Vertebrate fossil remains occur in a fresh water deposit in a limestone quarry in Section 24, T 9 S, R 18 E, a little south of the village of Haile, and about four miles northeast of the town of Newberry, Alachua County, Florida. The altitude of the railroad station at Newberry is 83.5 feet. The fossil locality thus lies between the Wicomico (100 feet elevation) and Penholoway (70 feet) terraces of the Sangamon Interglacial Stage of the Pleistocene, as outlined by Cooke (1936. *Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, 21 (21):503-589).

The stratigraphy is as follows:

5. 6 inches: surface layer of dark brown sand
4. 1½ feet: consolidated dark gray sand with charcoal
3. 8 feet: yellowish brown sand
2. 10 feet: bluish or yellowish clay with lenses of fresh water shells
1. White marine sand (Penholoway?).

Strata 2 and 3 both contain avian fossils. All of the birds identified occur in the county today, although the Mallard is present only as a winter visitant. One species had not previously been recorded in a fossil state, and two others were not known from Florida as fossils.

*Podilymbus podiceps.*—The Pied-billed Grebe is represented by the distal end of a right tibiotarsus and the proximal end of a left ulna, both pinkish brown in color. It has been previously reported from two other Pleistocene localities in Florida (Wetmore, 1931. *Smiths. Misc. Coll.*, 85 (2):12-13), as well as from other parts of North and South America.

*Guara alba.*—Cervical vertebra, reddish brown in color; collected by Jon L. Herring. The only previous record of the White Ibis as a fossil is that reported by Wetmore (*op. cit.*: 18) from Florida.

*Anas platyrhynchos*.—Two pale pinkish brown carpometacarpi, the proximal portion of a right one and the distal fragment of a left one. These bones were collected by Coleman J. and Olive B. Goin. The Mallard is widely known from the Pleistocene throughout the Holarctic Region.

*Porphyryla martinica*.—Distal end of a right humerus, pale pinkish brown. The Purple Gallinule has not definitely been reported before as a fossil, although Winge (1888. *E Museo Lundii*, (2):4) tentatively reported it from the Pleistocene of Brazil. My specimen is slightly smaller than the humeri of two modern birds from Florida. Its measurements are: transverse width through condyles, 6.4; width of shaft, 3.4; depth of external condyle, 3.5 mm.

*Gallinula chloropus*.—Cervical vertebra, pinkish gray in color; collected by the Goins. The Florida Gallinule has been reported from the Pleistocene of Florida, as well as other localities in North and South America and Europe.

*Fulica americana*.—Distal end of right tibiotarsus, dark gray in color. The American Coot has already been recorded from three other Pleistocene localities in Florida. Howard (1946. *Carnegie Inst. Washington Publ.* 551:182-183) separated the Pleistocene coots of Oregon as *Fulica americana minor* Shufeldt. This chronocline fossil coot had shorter wings and longer legs than the living coot. The only measurement of the tibiotarsus given by Howard is the length, but this is impossible to determine in the fragmentary bone at hand. In my specimen the bone is slightly more slender than the average for modern coots, although falling within the range of variation of modern birds. Its measurements are as follows: breadth through condyles, 7.6; depth of internal condyle, 7.8; depth of external condyle, 7.4; narrowest breadth of shaft, 3.3 mm. More material needs to be studied before the identification can be carried below the species level.

*Ammodramus savannarum*.—Right humerus, white in color but well mineralized. The Grasshopper Sparrow has not previously been recorded as a fossil. Measurements are as follows: length, 17.8; breadth of proximal end, 4.8; breadth of distal end, 3.5; breadth of shaft at middle, 1.4 mm.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Dept. of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, April 18, 1952.*

**Black snake captures nestling Blue-winged Warbler.**—On June 17, 1951, I was photographing Blue-winged Warblers (*Vermivora pinus*) at their nest, about four miles northwest of Brickerville, northern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. I had taken some 50 feet of motion pictures when a black snake (*Coluber constrictor*) came into the blind from behind me, passed between my feet, and proceeded out of the blind in the direction of the warbler nest. It moved past the nest for a distance of about ten feet, then circled back directly to the nest, swiftly took one of the young warblers, and moved on with the bird held in its jaws.

The adult warblers were not near the nest when the snake first appeared. But before the nearly naked young warbler was removed from the nest both adults were there. They dived swiftly and excitedly over the nest throughout the time the snake was present and for some time thereafter. Meanwhile two of the remaining three nestlings climbed over the edge of the leafy nest and crawled over the ground to a distance of about four feet, where I found them later. One of the young remained in the nest. It appeared as if the behavior of the adult Blue-winged Warblers was designed to lead the nestlings away from danger rather than to drive off the predator.—G. E. GRUBE, *Biology Department, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, April 19, 1952.*