

had flown into the power line in passing southward from their roost. They were still warm when I found them. One bird had a wing sheared off; one lost a wing and leg; another lost both legs. All five were saved as specimens. W. E. Eigsti and I examined the stomachs, weighed the birds, froze them and shipped two to Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne, University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology and three to Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr., Louisiana State University.

The stomachs had the following contents: (1) 13 kernels of corn; several weed seeds; some fine gravel. (2) 28 kernels of corn; corn hulls, sand; fine gravel. (3) 8 kernels of corn; corn hulls, weed seeds; coarser gravel. (4) 3 kernels of corn; corn hulls. (5) 5 kernels of corn; many oat hulls; gravel.

Two of the birds were males and three, females. Walter J. Breckenridge spent several days on this same area during late March, 1945. On March 28 he collected ten specimens, five males and five females. The average weight of these seven males was 3936.28 grams (range, 3402-4337) or 8 lbs., 10.8 oz. (7 lbs., 8 oz.-9 lbs., 9 oz.). The eight females averaged 3241.37 grams (2835-3856) or 7 lbs., 2.3 oz. (6 lbs., 4 oz.-8 lbs., 8 oz.).

The wing spans of five males taken by Breckenridge averaged 184.1 cm. (177.8-191.8) and those of six females averaged 168.8 cm. (152.4-182.9).

Thus all 15 specimens, ten collected by Breckenridge on March 28, 1945, and five that I found dead on March 22, 1954, were all Lesser Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis canadensis*).—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, 1703 Wolverine-Federal Tower, Battle Creek, Michigan, March 1, 1956.

Lark Sparrow collected in Rhode Island.—On November 12, 1955, at Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island, a Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) was observed feeding with Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) along the edge of a field adjacent to Newport's famed Ocean Drive. Since there was no previous specimen record for Rhode Island, the bird was collected. It was a male with the skull fully ossified; it weighed 31.7 gms. and was very fat. Its apparent good physical condition makes all the more curious the molt that the bird was undergoing.

The feathers over most of the body appeared fresh, but those of the posterior half of this sparrow were found to be in various stages of molt and replacement. The upper tail coverts on the bird's left side were fully grown and were slightly worn and ragged. There was one small feather on this side that was beginning to break out of the sheath. The upper tail coverts on the right side were all sheathed and about one-half grown. Two adjacent rectrices, lying to the right of the central pair, were normal in length but were worn, although not excessively. The remaining rectrices were all about the same length, sheathed and about one-half grown. All of the undertail coverts and many of the contour feathers on the right flank were still in sheaths and about one-half grown. There were fewer sheathed feathers on the left flank.

The specimen (JB no. 146) was identified by Dr. John W. Aldrich as the Eastern Lark Sparrow (*C. g. grammacus*).—JAMES BAIRD, Norman Bird Sanctuary, Newport, Rhode Island, March 22, 1956.

Records of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper from Alabama.—Buff-breasted Sandpipers (*Tryngites subruficollis*) were never collected in Alabama prior to 1955, although H. S. Peters took one near Pensacola, Florida, a short distance east of the Alabama border on September 2, 1936, and T. D. Burleigh took another from Deer Island, Mississippi, a few miles west of the state line, on September 6, 1940. A. H. Howell's "Birds of Alabama," published in 1924, does not list this species as occurring in Alabama. The only known records are those of Henry Stevenson, who noted them near Northport, in

Tuscaloosa County, on September 7 and September 24, 1938, and again near Stroud, in Chambers County, on August 10, 1952.

In the late afternoon of September 14, 1955, Eugene Cypert, E. A. Byford, W. M. Depreast, and the writer were observing shorebird migrants in the Garth Slough vicinity of the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. This locality lies some five miles east of Decatur, Alabama, in Morgan County. At that stage of water it consisted of several hundred acres of mud flat, interspersed with channels. Cypert observed five Buff-breasted Sandpipers feeding in short grass on a high portion of mud flat and tentatively identified nine or ten others at a greater distance. Since Thomas A. Imhof was at that time rewriting "Birds of Alabama," and since no specimen was on record for the state, one was collected from the small flock. Later a study skin was prepared and submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the identification was confirmed by Dr. J. W. Aldrich.

The Garth Slough locality was revisited September 15 but no more of these birds were seen. Byford, on September 23, reported seeing two more in the same vicinity.—THOMAS Z. ATKESON, *Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Decatur, Alabama, April 1, 1956.*

The Muscovy Duck in the Pleistocene of Panamá.—During the dry seasons of 1950 and 1951 Dr. C. Lewis Gazin, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology in the U.S. National Museum, excavated several Pleistocene fossil localities on the Azuero Peninsula on the Pacific side of the Republic of Panamá. In 1951, among abundant remains of ground sloths at El Hatillo, near the highway one and one-half miles west of Pesé, Province of Herrera, he obtained one bone of a bird, the distal two-third of a right ulna (U.S. Nat. Mus. no. 21312). This I have identified as from a Muscovy Duck, *Cairina moschata* (Linnaeus). Dr. Gazin considers the spring deposit from which this bone was obtained as Upper Pleistocene. The bone is stained light brown in color and is somewhat mineralized. It marks the first definite report of an avian fossil from Central America. The Muscovy Duck, well known in domestication, ranges in the wild in suitable habitats in the tropical lowlands from Sinaloa and Tamaulipas in northern México southward along both coasts of Central America and South America to Perú and Argentina. The species is locally common in lagoons and marshes in Panamá today where it is known to hunters as the *pato real*.

Cairina moschata has been found previously in cave deposits of supposed Pleistocene Age in southern Brazil so that it seems to have had an extended range over a long period of time.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D.C., May 3, 1956.*