

singularly distended crop. Upon making a cut into the membrane with a pair of scissors, out rolled, or rather jumped, the contents, which being released from confinement increased to three times its former size. At the same moment I was astonished to observe the character of the contents, which proved to be leaves of the common fern (*Pteris aquilina*), rolled up in so curious a manner, and in such quantity, as to plainly indicate that it was the result of a deliberate meal, and not an accident.

The crop was so full as to be incapable of holding any additional material. No other substance was mixed with the leaves, the entire wad or ball being free from dirt of any character. Every leaflet of the fronds was intact, and after being soaked in warm water and spread out side by side they covered a space twelve inches square. The stomach and intestines appeared to contain parts of partly digested leaves, but nothing else, though this was not carefully determined.

A '*Fern-eating Woodcock*' is a novelty in my experience. Drs. Merriam and Fisher have desired me to send this record for publication to 'The Auk.' This is one of the most singular instances noted, not excepting even the record of the presence of an entire Song Sparrow in the crop of a Chuck-wills-widow.

It may be mentioned that the locality where this Woodcock was shot was an open marsh, with bushes here and there, while springs and small streams afforded in abundance the usual food of this very fastidious bird. The specimen was in fine condition—a plump and fat old female.—FREDERIC S. WEBSTER, *Washington, D. C.*

A Further Note on *Colinus ridgwayi*.—I have recently received a letter from Mr. Herbert Brown, calling my attention to an error in my recent paper on this species (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., I, No. 7, 1886, pp. 273 and 275, footnotes), in which the pair of Quails referred to as seen by Mr. Stephens are said to be the fragments sent to Mr. Ridgway and now in the National Museum. It proves they were not these specimens, but a "fairly good pair," which was later sent by Mr. Brown to Mr. Henshaw, and through the latter's kindness now before me. This adds two to the list of specimens known to be extant, raising the number to 21. The male presents the average characters shown by the series previously examined; the female is darker than the average for that sex, being in fact much the darkest of the series thus far seen, the bars, both the black and the white ones, being much stronger both above and below, and the tones of color much brighter and stronger throughout. It is thus an almost exact counterpart of the more strongly colored females of *Colinus graysoni*.

This proves to be the pair of birds referred to by Mr. Brown in one of his 'Forest and Stream' articles (Vol. XXV, No. 25, Jan. 14, 1886, p. 445), as having been seen by Mr. F. Stephens, W. E. D. Scott, E. W. Nelson, and H. W. Henshaw. Mr. Henshaw informs me that he had entirely forgotten having these birds in his possession until I spoke to him of them after receiving Mr. Brown's letter, as mentioned above. Had he recalled the fact of his having them at the time he heard I was at work on a paper on

this species, he says he should have certainly sent them to me then for examination.

Mr. Brown has also sent to me, since the publication of my paper, the head and neck of an adult male, killed July 19, 1886, in the Barboquivari Mountains. The specimen, when received by Mr. Brown, was too far gone to make a good skin, but being remarkable for its whiteness he saved the head, which is now before me. A broad white superciliary stripe runs from the nostrils on each side of the head to the nape, meeting on the forehead. There is a conspicuous white maxillary patch, and the anterior part of the throat is white, with more or less white mixed with the black over the remainder of the throat. The superciliary stripes are as broad and as well defined as in *C. graysoni*, and on the throat there is nearly as much white as black. The specimen, therefore, very nearly agrees with the form known as *C. graysoni*—much more nearly than any other previously examined, or than with typical *C. ridgwayi*—and goes far toward bridging the slight gap between these two forms. This is particularly interesting, from the fact that this specimen is not only from Arizona, but from the same locality as the others obtained by Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown writes to me that he will soon renew his investigation of the habits of this species, in the hope of securing its nest and eggs. One of his collectors found a nest last year, containing eight eggs, but his collector delayed taking them, in the expectation that more would be laid; but on visiting the nest again he found that the eggs had hatched, and the prize was thus lost.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

The Golden Eagle in Eastern Massachusetts.—Two Massachusetts specimens of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtos*) have recently come into my possession. The first, a female, was killed in Paxton (Worcester Co.), Oct. 22, 1883; the second, a male, in Lynnfield, Nov. 23, 1886.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Black Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus obsoletus*) in Eastern Maine.—Mr. F. B. Webster has just sold me a typical example (♀) of this fine Falcon which came to him in the flesh from a gunner at Rockland, Maine. It was received Nov. 26, 1866, and judging from appearances, had been killed about a week or ten days previous to this date.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

A Singularly Marked Specimen of *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*.—A very singularly marked adult male of this species was sometime since kindly sent to me for examination by Mr. C. A. Allen, of Nicasio, California. It was shot in Blue Cañon, California, Oct. 9, 1878, and another like it was said to have been seen in the same locality. This specimen differs from the ordinary adult male of this species in having a large patch of crimson-scarlet on the crown, about half an inch broad, and commencing about .15 of an inch from the base of the culmen; anteriorly, this red patch has a quite regular transverse outline, but posteriorly the red feathers become



Allen, J. A. 1887. "A Further Note on *Colinus Ridgwayi*." *The Auk* 4, 74–75.
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