

PLEISTOCENE BIRDS FROM AMERICAN FALLS, IDAHO

PIERCE BRODKORB

AN extinct stork, *Ciconia maltha* Miller, is the only bird recorded from the late Pleistocene American Falls lake beds in southeastern Idaho (Howard, 1942). More recently Marie L. Hopkins, with support from the National Science Foundation, has been collecting along the southeastern shore of the American Falls Reservoir in Power County, approximately 10 miles northeast of the town of American Falls. Vertebrate fossils, including several extinct species of mammals, occur in Bed B (Hopkins and Butler, 1961, fig. 3), which has been dated as having an age greater than 29,700 b.p. Miss Hopkins has asked me to determine the birds, which include the seven species listed below and preserved in the Idaho State College Museum.

- Ardea herodias* Linnaeus. Great Blue Heron. Tarsometatarsus, juv.
- Anser caerulescens* (Linnaeus). Snow or Blue Goose. Left humerus.
- Anas platyrhynchos* Linnaeus. Mallard. Left coracoid, left humerus, and left tibiotarsus.
- Mergus merganser* Linnaeus. Common Merganser. Right tarsometatarsus.
- Falco peregrinus* Tunstall. Peregrine Falcon. Right humerus.
- Bonasa umbellus* (Linnaeus). Ruffed Grouse. Right carpometacarpus.
- Agelaius phoeniceus* (Linnaeus). Red-winged Blackbird. Left coracoid.

These birds all occur locally today, although only the mallard has previously been recorded as a fossil from Idaho (Brodkorb, 1958). All except the grouse frequent aquatic situations.

This study was aided by National Science Foundation grant G-19595.

LITERATURE CITED

- BRODKORB, PIERCE. 1958. Fossil birds from Idaho. *Wilson Bull.*, vol. 70, pp. 237-242.
- HOPKINS, M. L., AND B. ROBERT BUTLER. 1961. Remarks on a notched fossil bison ischium. *Tebiwa*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 10-18.
- HOWARD, HILDEGARDE. 1942. A review of the American fossil storks. *Carnegie Instn. Washington Publ.*, no. 530, pp. 187-203.

Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Quart. Jour. Florida Acad. Sci. 26(3) 1963



Brodkorb, Pierce. 1963. "Pleistocene birds from American Falls, Idaho."
Quarterly journal of the Florida Academy of Sciences 26, 280–280.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/129640>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/91724>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In Copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.