

The measurements of the specimens in inches were as follows:

		Length	Wing	Tarsus	Bill
Adult (?)	♀	$6\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{9}{16}$
"	(?) ♀	$6\frac{1}{8}$	3	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{9}{16}$
"	(?) ♀	$6\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{9}{16}$
Juv. No. I	♂	$5\frac{5}{8}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{5}{8}$
Juv. No. II	♂	$5\frac{1}{4}$	—	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Juv. No. III	♀	5	—	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{7}{16}$

JOHN WILLIAMS, *St. Marks, Florida.*

**Purple Gallinule in North Carolina.**—A young Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinicus*) was shot by me at Currituck Sound, N. C., on November 12, 1919, sex undetermined. The record seems worthy of publication since there are only two previous records for the State.

The specimen was identified by Newbold T. Lawrence Esq. and Mr. Thomas Rowland and confirmed by my examination of skins in the collection of Dr. J. Dwight at the American Museum of Natural History.—H. F. STONE, *29 East 82rd. St., New York, N. Y.*

**Breeding of the Mourning Dove in Maine.**—On June 8, 1919, while in York County, Maine, not more than a mile from the New Hampshire border at East Rochester, four doves were seen and we were shown a nest in a small white pine grove, from which the young were said to have already flown, though two of our birds flew from the grove as we approached. The Mourning Dove is considered a very rare breeder in southwestern Maine, and as there seem to be very few definite records, our observation seems worthy of note.

Incidentally these birds had been reported as Passenger Pigeons by the local observers, one of whom was said to be an old pigeon-hunter. No reports we have ever seen were so plausible or circumstantial, nor could we have encountered greater certainty in our correspondents. The old pigeon-hunter, in fact, did not credit our identification of these birds as doves. In view of the numerous reports of Wild Pigeons, most of which are never followed up, we think that our experience is of interest.—W. DEW. MILLER AND LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

**The Status of Harlan's Hawk in Colorado.**—Harlan's Hawk (*Buteo b. harlani*) was first officially recorded for Colorado by Mr. Robert Ridgway in 1885 (Auk, II, 1885, p. 165) although he had previously referred to the specimen in 1882 on page 252 of Vol. I, of the same journal, when he called attention to the possible identity of *Buteo cooperi* and *B. b. harlani*. This specimen he recorded as taken by C. E. H. Aiken near Colorado Springs, Colorado, without exact date.



In March, 1897, Prof. Wells W. Cooke published his 'Birds of Colorado' from the Colorado Agricultural College, quoting this record and adding the note that "one was probably taken by Capt. P. M. Thorne at Fort Lyon," no date or other particulars of this reported capture being given. Throughout the three succeeding supplements to this work these records are permitted to stand without comment.

The next important work on the state birds was W. L. Selater's 'History of the Birds of Colorado,' and as the original material therein was taken mainly from the Aiken collection at Colorado College, additional data relative to this specimen might have been expected. His only comment, however, was that "I have not been able to trace this specimen in the Aiken collection," indicating that the bird had probably been lost or destroyed.

As it is obvious that the record credited to Capt. Thorne cannot stand scrutiny, the status of the species in the State thus depends upon the existence of the Aiken specimen. The recent acquisition of a fine Colorado specimen by the Colorado Museum of Natural History aroused my interest in the matter and stimulated an investigation that adds considerably to the known history of the earlier record.

A letter to Mr. Aiken enlisted his generous assistance and a few passages from his reply will be of interest in this connection. He states, in part: "In 1872 I went to Denver . . . and while there called on Rudolph Borchardt (taxidermist). I saw at his shop 3 or 4 *Buteo* skins and when I exhibited interest in them Mr. Borchardt gave them to me. I did not inquire where they were from . . . One of these sent to Ridgway for identification he pronounced *Buteo cooperi*. Years after, in 1883, I think, Ridgway wrote requesting me to send this specimen for reexamination and it was then determined to be *B. harlani*. The specimen I believe was untagged and Ridgway quite naturally assumed that I had killed it and near Colorado Springs. The specimen may be lost . . ."

Accordingly, although the identity of the specimen may remain unquestioned, it will be readily noted that while probable, there is no definite proof that the original record of *Buteo b. harlani* was a Colorado killed bird. In fact, evidence from other taxidermists of this early period indicate that a great many specimens were brought into the State from outside sources, mounted here and sold without any information being given as to their locality or collector, and the assumption that such material was of local take has been the cause of numerous errors which have crept into Colorado's ornithology. So, whether lost or not, this record must be regarded as questionable and were it not for the recent capture it might be necessary to eliminate the species from the accurate list of Colorado birds.

The Colorado Museum specimen, No. C. M. N. H. 7343, adult male, was killed near Littleton, Colorado, October 16, 1918. It is nearly typical in every respect, so much so in fact that were it before Dr. Coues when he wrote his 'Key' the description as there given would have been but slightly altered.—F. C. LINCOLN, *Colo. Museum Nat. Hist., Denver, Colorado.*



Lincoln, Frederick Charles. 1920. "The Status of Harlan's Hawk in Colorado." *The Auk* 37, 130–131. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072976>.

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