

COLLECTED PAPERS IN AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF ALEXANDER WETMORE pdf

1: Ornimegalonyx oteroi - Palaeocritti - a guide to prehistoric animals

Collected Papers in Avian Paleontology Honoring the 90th Birthday of Alexander Wetmore STORRS L. OLSON EDITOR SMITHSONIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO PALEOBIOLOGY.

Paleobiology and relationships of the giant groundbird *Diatryma Aves*: Reappraisal of the Eocene groundbird *Diatryma Aves*: Los Angeles County, Science Series no. Fossil birds from Late Quaternary deposits in New Caledonia. Evidence of the growth plate and the growth of long bones in juvenile dinosaurs. *Archaeopteryx Lithographica*, a study based upon the British Museum specimen. British Museum Natural History. Evolution and history of the western Palaearctic avifauna. *Archaeopteryx* is not a forgery. Cranial anatomy and relationships of a new Triassic bird from Texas. *Protoavis, mya Chatterjee, S.* The Triassic bird *Protoavis*. The Rise of Birds: The first 85 million years of avian evolution. The origin and early diversification of birds. *Archaeopteryx lithographica*, a study based upon the British Museum specimen. London, Trustees of the British Museum. Evidence from claw geometry indicating arboreal habits of *Archaeopteryx*. Major Features of Vertebrate Evolution D. Short Courses in Vertebrate Paleontology, no. Explosive evolution in Tertiary birds and mammals. The aerodynamic model for the evolution of feathers and feather misinterpretation. Courier Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg Saurischian monophyly and the origin of birds. Phylogenetic, functional, and aerodynamic analyses of the origin of birds and their flight. The Beginnings of Birds. Freude des Jura-Museums, Eichstatt. Evolutionary significance of the Mesozoic toothed birds. A review of the bony-toothed birds *Odontopterygiformes* with description of some new species. Tertiary Research Special Paper 2. Proceedings of the International *Archaeopteryx* Conference Eichstatt Continental breakup and the ordinal diversification of birds and mammals. A beaked bird from the Jurassic of China. Ostrich ancestors found in the northern Hemisphere suggest a new hypothesis of ratite origins. Paleognathous birds from the early Tertiary of the northern Hemisphere. Paleognathous carinate birds from the Early Tertiary of North America. Allometric scaling in the earliest fossil bird, *Archaeopteryx lithographica*. Lower Cretaceous birds from Mongolia and their evolutionary significance. Congress, Moscow, pp. The early radiation of birds, pp. Professional Papers of the Engineer Department, U. The origin and early radiation of birds. Perspectives in Ornithology A. The origin of birds and of avian flight. The status of the Late Paleocene birds *Gastornis* and *Remiornis*. A new family of Eocene zygodactyl birds. Pleistocene extinction of *Genyornis newtoni*: Wickramasinghe, , "Archaeopteryx, the Primordial Bird: A Case of Fossil Forgery. Collected papers in avian paleontology honoring the 90th birthday of Alexander Wetmore. The fossil record of birds. The early radiation of birds. *Internationalis Ornithologici*, Ottawa, vol. *Archaeopteryx* and the origin of flight. *Archaeopteryx* and the origin of birds. Some hypothetical anatomical stages in the evolution of avian flight. The origin of birds and the evolution of flight. The origin of birds and their flight. *Scientific American*, Feb. The origin and early evolution of birds. Reptilian physiology and the flight capacity of *Archaeopteryx*. Unusual early Cretaceous birds from Spain. The Solnhofen limestone and the preservation of *Archaeopteryx*. A reconsideration of the reptilian relationships of *Archaeopteryx*. Origins of the Higher Groups of Tetrapods. Tarsitano does not agree that coelosaurs were ancestors of birds. The avian relationships of *Archaeopteryx*, and the origin of birds. A new specimen of *Archaeopteryx* from the Solnhofen limestone. Biomechanics of the jaw apparatus of the gigantic Eocene bird *Diatryma*: Is *Mononykus* a bird? On the evolution of intramamillary mandibular joints in *Pseudodontornis Aves*:

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2: California condor - Wikipedia

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Page Share Cite Suggested Citation: The National Academies Press. He died at his home in Glen Echo, Maryland, near Washington, on December 7, 1952, of congestive heart failure. In his ninety-two years he compiled a remarkable record of service to science, both as an investigator and an administrator. His mother kept the home and indulged her bent for reading and study. His parents made his home a place of books and ideas. On graduating from high school, he chose to work his way through the University of Kansas. His first field entry, made in Florida three years later, was an observation of the pelican: At first, Wetmore had planned to develop his interest in science as a doctor, but once he found he could make a living as a scientist, he changed his plans and concentrated on science directly. Wetmore first worked in the University of Kansas Museum. In 1914 he received his B. S. in Biological Survey as a field agent, rising to the posts of assistant biologist in 1915 and biologist in 1916. He studied the food habits of North American birds and had a chance to meet many of the noted biologists of the day, especially those about the Biological Survey and the National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. National Academy of Sciences, 1917, p. Smithsonian Institution Archives, April 18, 1917, p. Lincoln, Remington Kellogg, and Hartley H. In 1917 Wetmore spent nearly a year studying the avifauna of Puerto Rico and nearby islands. In 1918 the United States signed a migratory bird treaty with Canada. This took Wetmore to South America, where he spent a year roaming from the Chaco in Paraguay to northern Patagonia, surveying wintering grounds of North American migrants. In 1919 he joined the Tanager expedition to the mid-Pacific, sponsored jointly by the Biological Survey and the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. His stay at the National Zoo was brief, for he became the assistant secretary in charge of the National Museum in that same year. In that capacity he was responsible for overseeing the research and museum programs of the Institution in every field except solar radiation and astronomy, which were assigned to Charles G. Wallingford. This change was significant for him and for the Smithsonian. Wetmore never pretended to enjoy administration. He admitted afterwards that he had always avoided administrative duty at the Biological Survey, either by leaving for the field or by sponsoring someone else for the post at issue. There are those who come to find administrative work interesting, an end in itself; to this group Wetmore clearly did not belong. Others become administrators reluctantly, never reconcile themselves to the work, and do it badly. Some, like Wetmore, do become reconciled and perform well. Considering his continued scientific output, he judged rightly. During that time he accomplished a great deal, both as an administrator and a scientist. Yet many of us, now accustomed to years of relative largesse from foundations and government, forget if we ever knew just how limited support for science was before World War II. Wetmore, on the other hand, lived his professional life with that reality. The work he took up in must have been exceptionally discouraging many times. Soon after his arrival the Institution began to plan for an increase in its capital funds, only to see that effort frustrated, first, by the death of Secretary Charles D. Walcott in 1917, and second, by the onset of the Depression. To make matters worse, the Smithsonian was losing an older generation of able staff members like Ales Hrdlicka and Leonhard Stejneger, and it often lacked the means to compete effectively to replace them. Salaries were low, even in comparison with government departments like the Biological Survey. Physical facilities were also a problem, one with which Wetmore struggled throughout his career. Thus the Institution, and especially the National Museum, faced on the one hand were its collections, which increased at a great rate over the years. On the other was a museum understaffed! Some may have felt he was too careful. A fairer evaluation reveals that he was agreeable to new ideas, but also mindful of the practical realities of the times. The first order of business was to obtain more money. The Institution, which had always stood in a special relation to the government because of its status as a trust establishment, had collected an assortment of functions that it performed, as reflected in the seven different annual federal appropriations. These lent a miscellaneous and unimpressive air to its presentations. Gradually, the Smithsonian developed a unified

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presentation aimed! The nineteenth-century system of chief clerks had lingered at the Smithsonian while other government offices reorganized themselves along more efficient lines. Wetmore brought in a specialist in federal budgetary procedures from the U. S. Bureau of the Budget, John Keddy. Keddy used his experience to make a more cogent case for funds and programs to the administration and the Congress. Subsequently Wetmore also brought in John Graf to aid in these reforms. Wetmore recognized the changing realities with which the Smithsonian must cope. The Smithsonian has always had a double function; that is, "Wetmore oral history," pp. Taylor oral history transcript, Washington, D. C. Smithsonian Institution Archives, February 27, 1967, pp. It is not possible that all staff members will be equally interested or capable in both areas. Good exhibits that communicate effectively with viewers are astonishingly expensive, and there was little money to spend. In consequence, Smithsonian exhibits changed very slowly, and still, old problems could not disappear for the Smithsonian. In 1907 Wetmore had urged introduction of a bill in Congress authorizing construction of a separate building for historical items; a building for engineering and industrial collections, including aviation; and [None were approved] at that time, but the need was clear to him all the same. In his annual report that year on the condition of the Smithsonian, pp. By his bibliography contained entries. Of these, only appeared before 1907, when he began his administrative labors. He began work on his magnum opus, *The Birds of Panama*, in 1907, the year of his appointment as secretary, and had produced three of its volumes by 1910, when failing health caused him to set it aside. Altogether, quite a remarkable record! Alexander Wetmore was widely regarded as the dean of American ornithologists. He worked extensively in the field of avian paleontology and as a systematic specialist. For some sixty years Wetmore produced a stream of papers on fossil birds. With over such entries, and almost as many new fossil taxa to his credit, he can certainly be said to have contributed more to his field than any other single person. Smithsonian Institution, pp. Smithsonian Institution Press, 1967, pp. Apart from the California school, he was for years almost the only student engaged! For this reason! For years Wetmore diligently maintained a card catalogue of references from which he prepared three separate editions of a checklist of fossil birds of North America. He also prepared a series of lectures, and entertaining synoptic papers designed! All this he did in addition to regularly producing many basic detailed descriptions and diagnoses of new forms. Among his more striking discoveries was the giant Barn owl, *Tyto ostologa*, of Haiti, which he had discovered in Miocene terrestrial deposits of the western states and the marine Miocene of the east coast. In these areas he laid the groundwork for all future research. But for Wetmore, some of the most interesting fossil deposits were those found nearest home the Miocene marine beds of the Chesapeake Group. In 1907 Wetmore published a major paper concerning the Pleistocene avifauna of Florida that established the presence of several birds like the California condor and the huge vulture *Teratornis* -then known only from the west, especially the Rancho La Brea Tar pits, in Florida. This paper opened a fertile field of investigation in which Wetmore has been followed by other scholars.

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3: Collected Papers in Avian Paleontology Honoring the 90th Birthday of Alexander Wetmore

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The problem of how migrant hummingbirds fit into tropical communities. Migrant Birds in the Neotropics: Ecology, Behavior, Distribution, and Conservation. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D. Historical aspects of hybridization between blue-winged and golden-winged warblers. The extent and sequence of the molts of the yellow-rumped warbler. The timing of fall migration and molt in least flycatchers. Rediscovery of the rufous-faced crane *Laterallus xenopterus*. Behavior, songs and populations of parasitic finches. Behavior and songs in hybrid parasitic finches. The foraging behavior of mountain bluebirds with emphasis on sexual foraging differences. Identification and status of wood pewees *Contopus* from the great plains: Speciation in African woodpeckers. Geographic variation in vocalizations and evolutions of North American pine grosbeaks. Toward a phylogenetic classification of the Recent birds of the world class Aves. A taxonomic review of the spotted-breasted oriole. Geographic variation in the juvenal plumage of the lesser nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*. Migrations of the least flycatcher in southern Ontario. Variation in the jaw musculature of the avian family Vireonidae. Royal Ontario Museum Speciation in South American woodpeckers. The phylogenetic relationships of the Piciformes Class Aves. Sunbathing as a field character for the eared grebe. Auk 99 3 suppl. Morphological similarities between the Menuridae and the Rhinocryptidae, relict passerine birds of the southern hemisphere. Universiteit van Amsterdam Bull. Migrations of the yellow-bellied flycatcher in southern Ontario. The distribution of fused phalanges of the inner toe in the Accipitridae. Woodpeckers of the World. Subspecies and the study of geographic variation. The hooded grebe on Laguna de los Escharchados: Fused thoracic vertebrae in birds: A survey of the tyrant flycatchers. World inventory of avian skeletal specimens. World inventory of avian spirit specimens. Remarks on a world-wide inventory of avian anatomical specimens. Check-list of North American Birds. Notes on the avifauna of the Balinsasayao rainforest region, Negros Oriental, Philippines. Bird specimen records of some uncommon or previously unknown forms in Egypt. Continental patterns of morphological variation in a South American sparrow. A distributional checklist of the birds of Michigan. Bird songs, sexual selection, and female mating strategies. Academic Press, New York. Breeding of a mixed pair of white-shielded and red-shielded American coots in Michigan. Monophyly of the Piciformes: Delayed plumage maturation and the presumed pre-alternate molt in American redstarts. Notes on common and Antillean nighthawks of the Florida Keys. A new subspecies of fox sparrow from Alaska. Phenetic relationships within the Ciconiidae Aves. Age and sex size variation in golden eagles. A morphometric comparison of western and semipalmated sandpipers. Occurrence of supernormal clutches in the Laridae. A report on two small collections from the general Gebel Elba region, southeastern Egypt. Key to the nightjar species of Africa and its islands Aves: Museum and Monuments of Zimbabwe 4: Clutch-size and nest placement in the brown-headed nuthatch. A phylogeny of the kingbirds and their allies. The systematic position of the Cocos flycatcher. A new cuckoo and a chachalaca from the early Miocene of Colorado. Papers in vertebrate paleontology honoring Robert Warren Wilson R. Reuse of other species nests by lark sparrows. Sexual selection, lek and arena behavior, and sexual size dimorphism in birds. Sexual selection and interspecific competition: Natural history notes on some poorly known Bolivian birds. The behavior and relationships of the hooded grebe. Use of homoplastic characters in compatibility analysis. The range of the snail kite and its history in Florida. Birds from Zacatecas and adjoining states. Concordance between classifications of the Ciconiidae based on behavioral and morphological data. Early seafarers of the Comoro Islands: A functional and evolutionary analysis of rynchokinesis in birds. Australian Museum 37 3: Taxonomy of the lesser nighthawks *Chordeiles acutipennis* of North and Central America. Notes on Philippine birds, 6. Geographic variation in some Amazonian forest birds. Inventory of bird egg collections of North America, A phylogeny of the myiarchine flycatchers. Patterns of morphological evolution in bird genera of New World and Old World peatlands. Hypoderatid mites Acari associated with cormorants Aves:

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Phalacrocoracidae , with description of a new species. A Dictionary of Birds. The species of parasitic finches in West Africa. Museum collections, comparative anatomy and the study of phylogeny. Their Roles and Future in Biological Research. An analysis of plumage and morphological characters of the two color forms of the western grebe. The phylogeny of the Alcidae. Demography, environmental uncertainty, and the evolution of mate desertion in the snail kite. An analysis of physical, physiological, and optical aspects of avian coloration with emphasis on wood-warblers. Winter fattening in the American goldfinch and the possible role of temperature in its regulation. Distributional Checklist of North American Birds. United States and Canada. Artemisia Press, Lee Vining, California. The birds of the Egyptian western desert. Museum of Zoology, Univ. A Species in Peril. The Birds of Ancient Egypt. With a preliminary checklist to the Birds of Egypt by S. The Natural History of Egypt, vol. Aris and Phillips, Warminster, England.

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Collected papers in avian paleontology honoring the 90th birthday of Alexander Wetmore. [Smithson. Contr. Paleobiol.,] by Olson, S.L., editor.

The word condor itself is derived from the Quechua word kuntur. Just how different the two are is currently under debate, with some earlier authorities suggesting that the New World vultures are more closely related to storks. During the Pleistocene epoch, this genus was widespread across the Americas. From fossils, the Floridan *Gymnogyps kofordi* from the Early Pleistocene and the Peruvian *Gymnogyps howardae* from the Late Pleistocene have been described. It may even have derived from a founder population of California condors. However, there is a Late Pleistocene form that is sometimes regarded as a palaeosubspecies, *Gymnogyps californianus amplus*. Current opinions are mixed regarding the classification of the form as a chronospecies or a separate species *Gymnogyps amplus*. This bird also had a wider bill. Tracking tags can be seen on both wings. The adult California condor is a uniform black with the exception of large triangular patches or bands of white on the underside of the wings. It has gray legs and feet, an ivory-colored bill, a frill of black feathers surrounding the base of the neck, and brownish red eyes. It has mottled gray instead of white on the underside of its flight feathers. They can make a few hissing or grunting sounds only heard when very close. Their weight can range from 7 to California condors have the largest wingspan of any North American bird. They are surpassed in both body length and weight only by the trumpeter swan and the introduced mute swan. The American white pelican and whooping crane also have longer bodies than the condor. Condors are so large that they can be mistaken for a small, distant airplane, which possibly occurs more often than they are mistaken for other species of bird. The talons of all the toes are straight and blunt, and are thus more adapted to walking than gripping. This is more similar to their supposed relatives the storks [29] [30] than to birds of prey and Old World vultures, which use their feet as weapons or organs of prehension. Historic range[edit] California oak savanna on the east flank of Sonoma Mountain At the time of human settlement of the Americas, the California condor was widespread across North America; condor bones from the late Pleistocene have been found at the Cutler Fossil Site in southern Florida. Faunal remains of condors have been found documented in Arizona, [32] Nevada, [33] New Mexico, [34] [35] and Texas. These areas were chosen because of their prime condor nesting habitat. Ecology and behavior[edit] Preening condors When in flight, the movements of the condor are remarkably graceful. The lack of a large sternum to anchor their correspondingly large flight muscles restricts them to being primarily soarers. The birds flap their wings when taking off from the ground, but after attaining a moderate elevation they largely glide, sometimes going for miles without a single flap of their wings. Often, these birds are seen soaring near rock cliffs, using thermals to aid them in keeping aloft. This social hierarchy is displayed especially when the birds feed, with the dominant birds eating before the younger ones. He then spreads his wings and slowly approaches the female. If the female lowers her head to accept the male, the condors become mates for life. A mated female lays one bluish-white egg every other year. Eggs are laid as early as January to as late as April. Researchers and breeders take advantage of this behavior to double the reproductive rate by taking the first egg away for puppet-rearing; this induces the parents to lay a second egg, which the condors are sometimes allowed to raise. Chicks are born with their eyes open and sometimes can take up to a week to leave the shell completely. They are able to fly after five to six months, but continue to roost and forage with their parents until they are in their second year, at which point the parents typically turn their energies to a new nest. They still prefer to feast on large, terrestrial mammalian carcasses such as deer, goats, sheep, donkeys, horses, pigs, cougars, bears, or cattle. Alternatively, they may feed on the bodies of smaller mammals, such as rabbits or coyotes, aquatic mammals such as whales and California sea lions, or salmon. Bird and reptile carcasses are rarely eaten. Since they do not have a sense of smell, [47] they spot these corpses by looking for other scavengers, like eagles and smaller vultures, the latter of which cannot rip through the tougher hides of these larger animals with the

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efficiency of the larger condor. They can usually intimidate other scavengers away from the carcass, with the exception of bears, which will ignore them, and golden eagles, which will fight a condor over a kill or a carcass. A juvenile in the Grand Canyon, with its numbered tag prominent. Its low clutch size one young per nest, combined with a late age of sexual maturity, make the bird vulnerable to artificial population decline. Significant past damage to the condor population has also been attributed to poaching, [48] lead poisoning from eating animals containing lead shot, [49] DDT poisoning, [50] electric power lines, egg collecting, and habitat destruction. During the California Gold Rush, some condors were even kept as pets. This belief was so deeply ingrained that the reintroduction of condors to the Grand Canyon was challenged by some cattle ranchers, who mistakenly believed that the bird hunted calves and lambs. Since the implementation of this aversion conditioning program, the number of condor deaths due to power lines has greatly decreased. In an article titled: The goal of the California Condor Recovery Plan was to establish two geographically separate populations, one in California and the other in Arizona, each with birds and at least 15 breeding pairs. As the Recovery Program works toward this goal the number of release sites has grown. There are three active release sites in California, one in Arizona and one in Baja California, Mexico. Reintroduction to the wild[edit] As the number of condors grew, attention began to focus on releasing some back into the wild. In , the United States Fish and Wildlife Service began a reintroduction experiment involving the release of captive Andean condors into the wild in California. Only females were released, to eliminate the possibility of accidentally introducing a South American species into the United States. The experiment was a success, and all the Andean condors were recaptured and re-released in South America. In , the first nestling fledged in the wild since This was the first time in more than years that a pair of California condors had been seen nesting in Northern California. In May , the number of living individuals had reached , with living in captivity. Younger birds of the Central California population are seeking to expand their territory, which could mean that a new range expansion is possible for the more than 60 condors flying free in central California. A pair of condors, who were released in Arizona, nested in Zion National Park and the hatching of one chick was confirmed. The tasks on the website include identifying tagged condors and marking the distance to feeding sources such as animal carcasses. Biologists can then use this data to deduce which birds are at risk of lead poisoning. Condor Watch enables volunteers, or citizen scientists, to participate in active research. The project has up , images to view and assess—far more than the team could hope to view on their own. McCaffrey believes this approach not only directly benefits ongoing projects, but will also help train aspiring ornithologists. Unusually, [83] this bird takes on different roles in the storytelling of the different tribes. The Wiyot tribe of California say that the condor recreated mankind after Above Old Man wiped humanity out with a flood. Cave paintings of condors have also been discovered. Shamans then danced while wearing these to reach the upper and lower spiritual worlds. Whenever a shaman died, his clothes were said to be cursed, [89] so new clothing had to be made for his successor.

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5: Published Papers List | U-M LSA Museum of Zoology

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They also illustrate, to a lesser degree, his personal affairs. Wetmore was a prolific correspondent and a large part of his papers consists of letters written and received between and . Other materials dealing with his professional activities include files on meetings and conferences attended and records from his service on the Committee on the Daniel Giraud Elliot Award Fund of the National Academy of Sciences. Included are field notes, diaries, specimen catalogs, correspondence, collecting permits, expense accounts, photographs, motion pictures, and related materials documenting field trips to Puerto Rico, the Hawaiian and other Pacific islands, Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, Central and South America especially Panama and all regions of the United States. The papers also include files documenting his work as head of the USNM and Smithsonian; biographical, genealogical, and personal information on Wetmore and his family; manuscripts, lists, notes, and drawings from his research on recent and fossil birds; desk diaries and appointment books documenting his daily activities; extensive photographs, photograph albums, lantern slides, and 35mm color slides including images of Wetmore, family, friends, scientific colleagues, and events; manuscripts, correspondence, and related materials concerning his Birds of the Republic of Panama; diplomas and certificates received by Wetmore; and typescript copies of John Xantus letters compiled by Wetmore for the use of Harry Harris during his research on Xantus. Historical Note Frank Alexander Wetmore , ornithologist, avian paleontologist, and science administrator, was the sixth Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, serving from to . He developed an early interest in birds and at the age of eight made his first field journal entry - an observation on the pelican recorded on a family vacation to Florida in . By the time he entered the University of Kansas in , Wetmore had made extensive natural history collections around his Wisconsin home and in Independence, Kansas. His undergraduate career was interrupted on several occasions as he took jobs in Arizona, California, and Colorado to finance his education. He also used these opportunities to study and collect the native avifauna. Wetmore received the Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Kansas in . Wetmore continued his education in Washington, D. During the summers of he assisted on field investigations in Wyoming and Alaska. He traveled to Puerto Rico in late and spent nearly a year surveying the bird life of that and adjacent islands. In , Wetmore was promoted to Assistant Biologist with the Biological Survey, and he moved to Washington to begin work in the program on the food habits of North American birds. His career with the Biological Survey was highlighted by constant field investigations which took him to most of the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, and South America. Among his more important investigations were a study of the causes of waterfowl mortality around the Great Salt Lake, Utah, ; a survey of North American birds that migrated to the southern part of South America, ; and the leadership of the Tanager Exploring Expedition to the islands of the mid-Pacific, . Wetmore was promoted to the rank of Biologist with the Survey in . As his professional status grew, Wetmore received offers of curatorial and research positions from several of the leading museums in America. Perhaps the most interesting came in when the American Museum of Natural History asked him to join the Roy Chapman Andrews Asiatic Expedition and take charge of the zoological collections. Wetmore declined this and several other offers. Wetmore held this position for nearly twenty years, when, in , he was elected the sixth Secretary of the Smithsonian. He retired in and became a Research Associate of the Institution where he continued his research on recent and fossil birds. Among his most important accomplishments was a move toward professional management of the Institution by hiring specialists such as John E. Graf and John L. Keddy to assist with federal budgetary procedures and other administrative matters. He also steered the Smithsonian toward a period of exhibit modernization which was realized after his retirement. Despite his administrative responsibilities at the Smithsonian, Wetmore continued an active research program in the field and the laboratory. He conducted several collecting expeditions to the American tropics between and . When the outbreak of World War II restricted travel outside the country, he

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undertook a study of the birds of Shenandoah National Park in nearby Virginia. In the mid-1930s, Wetmore began a research program that would occupy his energies for the remainder of his life. Between 1935 and 1945 he took annual trips to Panama - making an exhaustive survey of the birds of the isthmus. This work culminated in the publication of his magnum opus, *The Birds of the Republic of Panama*. Three volumes of the work appeared during his life. The final volume was completed by his Smithsonian colleagues and published posthumously. Wetmore was widely recognized as the dean of American ornithologists, and he worked extensively in the field of avian paleontology and as a systematic specialist. His bibliography contained over seven hundred entries; including papers and monographs on fossil birds. He described species and subspecies of birds new to science. Wetmore made enormous natural history collections, which were eventually donated to the Smithsonian. Included were 26,000 bird and mammal skins from North America, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean area; 4,000 skeletal and anatomical specimens; and clutches of birds eggs. Fifty-six new genera, species, and subspecies of birds both recent and fossil, mammals, amphibians, insects, mollusks, and plants were named in his honor - an assemblage which Wetmore called his "private zoo. Wetmore was a member of countless professional organizations, scientific committees, conservation groups, and social clubs. He served many of the groups in elected or appointed capacities. Wetmore also had a long-term association with the National Geographic Society, serving as a Trustee, and as Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Research and Exploration. He also authored several popular publications on birds for the Society. During his career at the Smithsonian, Wetmore was named to several national and international scientific committees. His contributions to science resulted in many honors and awards. Wetmore married Fay Holloway in 1917, and a daughter, Margaret Fenwick, was born in 1918. After a long illness, his wife died in 1935. That same year he married Annie Beatrice Thielen. Wetmore died at his home in Glen Echo, Maryland, on December 7, 1951. For more detailed biographical information on Wetmore, see Paul H. Alexander Wetmore, "The Auk, July, 1952, vol. 69, pp. 1-10. A discussion of his contributions to paleornithology is found in Storrs L. Olson, editor, *Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology*, 1976, no. 27, pp. 1-10.

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6: Ornimegalonyx - Wikipedia

Eighteen papers covering diverse aspects of avian paleontology from the earliest known bird to extinct species found in Indian middens are collected here to honor the 90th birthday of Alexander Wetmore.

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7: Alexander Wetmore | Biographical Memoirs: V | The National Academies Press

*JT Reprinted from: "Collected Papers in Avian Paleontology Honoring the 90th li *1 Birthday of Alexander Wetmore," Storrs L. Olson, editor, 21 May !#.*

8: Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan

A discussion of his contributions to paleornithology is found in Storrs L. Olson's "Alexander Wetmore and the Study of

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Fossil Birds in "Collected Papers in Avian Paleontology Honoring the 90th Birthday of Alexander Wetmore," Storrs L. Olson, editor, *Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology*, , no. 27, pp. xi-xvi.

9: Storrs L. Olson - Wikispecies

Paleontology or palaeontology (from Greek: paleo, "ancient"; ontos, "being"; and logos, "knowledge") is the study of prehistoric life forms on Earth through the examination of plant and animal fossils.

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