

the specimens of *Megalocnus* might have been contained in this box of fossils from Honduras, or they may have come from some locality not in Cuba.

The only evidence which seems to contradict this expression of doubt is that given by de la Torre\* in his 'Observaciones Geológicas y Paleontológicas en la región central de la Isla (Cuba).' In this article additional localities, the vicinity of Cárdenas and between Santo Domingo and Sagua, are recorded. I am not able to express an opinion as to the correctness of these localities or on Torre's ability to determine fossil vertebrates. I am inclined to doubt because there has been so much error regarding those fossils concerning which we have subsequently been able to procure definite data.

The question which I wish here to bring to the attention of vertebrate paleontologists is: Are vertebrate fossils of the genus *Megalocnus* found in Central America, especially in Honduras?

A note may be added upon the question of the priority of the name *Megalocnus* Leidy, and *Myomorphus* Pomel. The note by Leidy was published in the *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, Volume XX., pages 179-180. The date given at the bottom of the page is June-July, 1868. The article by Pomel was published in the *Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences*, Paris, Vol. LXVII., for the second half, July to December, 1868, pp. 665-668. This is the account of the proceedings of the session of Monday, September 28, 1868. Apparently Leidy's name antedates that of Pomel by several months.

The recent mammalian fauna of Cuba consists of only two genera, a rodent, *Capromys*, which possesses species in several other West Indian Islands. It is a peculiar genus, having its nearest relatives in the Octodont rodents of South America. There are no relatives at all on the North American continent. The other genus is a peculiar large insectivore, *Solenodon*. This animal is entirely different from anything found in any other part of America.

\* *Anal. Real. Acad. Habana*, Vol. XXIX., pp. 121-124, August, 1892.

It is most closely related to a genus, which is very different, found in Madagascar. If there had been any Pleistocene connection between North America and Cuba it would have inevitably caused a considerable similarity between the mammalian faunas of the two regions. However, none of the common mammalian types of the continent, such as cats, raccoons, hares, etc., are found in that island.

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#### THE ENGLISH SPARROW IN NEW MEXICO.

For some time we have known of the presence of this bird at Raton and Las Vegas. I have now for the first time observed it at Albuquerque, the birds being fairly numerous in the immediate vicinity of the railway station.

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#### SHORTER ARTICLES.

##### NEJED: AN ARABIAN METEORITE.

AMONG a considerable number of important specimens lately added to the Ward-Coonley Collection of Meteorites, now on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, is a mass or single bolide of iron from Western Australia called the Youndegin or Penkaring Rock Meteorite. It is one and one half feet in greatest diameter, and weighs between 300 and 400 pounds. Its companion piece, which is in the Royal Museum of Vienna, weighs 910 kilogrammes (half a ton) and is with Cranbourne, also from Australia, one of the largest two meteorites from the entire Eastern Hemisphere.

But of even more interest is the subject of the present notice: the Nejéd Meteorite from Central Arabia. It is a siderite or iron meteorite, whose form is rudely triangular, flattened in its longest diameter, which is about fourteen inches, while its thickness below is eleven inches, and its breadth, or height, about nine inches. Its surface is completely and very handsomely covered with the pittings so frequent in meteorites, whether of iron or of stone. The sharpness of these depressions and the bright-