

ANIMALS

REPORT ON BONES OF BIRDS FROM THE ROMAN VILLA, ST. STAUGHTON.

A quite considerable number of the bones turned out to be mammals, including rabbit, hare fox and dog. The bird bones I have described under the reference numbers from the list you supplied, so where no results are given at all, it indicates that the whole of the bag content was mammal (ie: AB 4, 7, 10, 14, 17, 27, 33, 35, 37a, 38a)

AB. REF.NO.

AM 590239

- 2 28. Peacock, (Pavo sp.) one bone.
- 6 80. Crow. ( Corvus sp.) one bone.
- 9 128. Peacock, (Pavo sp.) one bone.
- 15 253. GOOSE. (Anser sp.) A smallish tarso metatarsus. Impossible to define with my rather imperfect ref. material.
- 17 262. GOOSE. (Anser sp.) This seems to be a robust Grey lag type. Peacock. (Pavo sp.) Leg bone bearing a spur.
- 21 274. Domestic Fowl. ( Gallus sp.) One bone.
- 18 254. Stock Dove. ( Columba oenas ). One bone.
- 26 305. ? Blackbird or similar. (Turdus sp.) One bone.
- 29 355. Goose. (Anser sp.) one bone.
- 38 435. Domestic Fowl, (Gallus sp.) one bone.
- 40 565. Mallard. (Anas platyrhynchos) one bone.
- 42 613. Domest. Fowl, (Gallus sp.) One bird represented. Wigeon. (Anas penelope). One bone. Quail. (Coturnix coturnix) one bone.
- 51 669. Mallard. (Anas platyrhynchos) one bone. Duck. A smaller species, perhaps Garganey, (Anas querquedula) (Anas querquedula) Stock Dove. ( Columba oenas ). Bones of one adult. Dom. Fowl. (Gallus sp.) one bone.
- 2 707. Dom. Fowl. (Gallus sp.) one bone.
- 3 727. Partridge . (Perdix perdix). one bone.
- 4 742. ?Duck, domestic. (Anas sp.) one bone.

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54 712 contd.

Grouse sp. (Lagopus sp.) one bone.

Domestic Fowl, (Gallus sp.) Two or three birds.

Red-Breasted Merganser. (Mergus serrator) breast bone.

55 749.7, Garganey, (~~Anas crecca~~) one bone. (Anas querquedula)

59 784. Golden Plover, (Charadrius apricarius) one bone.

Domest. Fowl, (Gallus sp.) Remains of 3 birds.

Goose, (Anser sp.) one bone.

Mallard, (Anas platyrhynchos) one bone.

Peacock, (Pavo sp.) A considerable variety of bones, which, with those from other bags, see above, make up a good part of the skeleton of one peacock <sup>or</sup> male.

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#### OBSERVATIONS ON THE ABOVE LIST.

Three of the above seem to be first records for Roman sites <sup>in Britain</sup> (see ~~acc-~~ <sup>ie. not in</sup> ~~ording to~~ Fisher, 1966). These are Peacock, Quail and Merganser. The most important of these is the peacock as it appears in Roman art, e.g. on mosaics. The excavator will no doubt know of the particular attributes of the bird in Roman mythology. I would imagine that the scarcity of peacock remains in <sup>other</sup> Roman sites might indicate that Gt. Staughton villa was a place of some special significance. The wild birds in this collection are all well-known game.

Quail is a summer migrant to this country but the plover and ducks are more likely to be taken in Autumn or winter when they come together in large flocks.

\* Ref. The Shell Bird Book. Fisher, James, Ebury Press and Michael Joseph. 1966.

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