

afford a most remarkable case of commensalism or exalted parasitism, even more remarkable than that of the association of the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*, Mol.) and the so-called Prairie Dogs.

The male pelican, during the breeding period, shows certain features prominently, such as the thick bunch or crest of white plumes passing down from the back of the head. A dry feathery bunch of plumes decorates the breast similar to the "powder-down" tract in the Heron (*Ardea*). These breast-feathers are often said to be phosphorescent, and when the pelican is fishing at night they are declared to lure the fish. The beak, at the period of nesting, exhibits an erect flat plate of yellow horny substance, some little distance from the tip of the upper mandible. Behind this large plate, about one and a half or two inches high, and two or two and a half inches long, there are several smaller erect plates, forming a saw-like ridge along the top of the beak. The adjacent surface, moreover, shows large flat scales, and at the tip of the upper mandible there is a sharp tooth-like hook almost as large as the nail of the little finger and actually pointed.

The male and female birds are alike in coloration, and this and some of the other features just mentioned support Stejneger's view that these birds, the Steganopodes generally indeed, are closely related to the Herodiones (the Herons and Storks).

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