

Unlike their paleognathous cousins, the rheas, emus, and ostriches, Tinamous are volant. Although possessed of the capabilities of flight, these birds do not have a great command of that ability. The naturalist W. H. Hudson, exploring the pampas of Argentina late in the last century, likened Tinamou flight to the motion of a brakeless engine, powerful but ungovernable.

About the specimen

An osteologic preparation of the tinamou *Crypturellus cinnamomeus*, specimen number KU-34658, comprises the focus of this morphological study. This specimen, a loan from the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, was originally collected from El Astillero, Guatemala on the second of February 1955. First catalogued as KMNH-550212-11, it was identified as a male by its collector, James W. Bee.

The specimen is believed to be a mature individual by virtue of the relatively high degree of ankylosis of the parietal-frontal suture. Ankylosis of this suture is known to be incomplete in even relatively mature juvenile specimens.

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