

*Bagre*, *Ictalurus*, and numerous other as yet unidentified species. Amphibians are represented by both anurans and urodeles. The turtles from Haile XV A include the aquatic forms *Chrysemys platymarginata*, *Trionyx*, *Kinosternon*, and *Chelydra*, and the terrestrial box turtle *Terrapene carolina*. The material of *Chrysemys platymarginata* (Weaver and Robertson 1967) includes numerous complete shells. They all occur in upright position, but facing in various directions, and are most abundant in the uppermost green clay unit. Most of the birds at Haile XV A are aquatic and include a duck, three herons, and a grebe (Campbell 1976). Although the lower vertebrate fauna has not been studied in detail, this preliminary analysis is enough to indicate an aquatic environment near the sea.

The mammalian taxa may be separated for the most part into two ecological components, a smaller group of aquatic species and a larger group of terrestrial species. *Castor* inhabits medium to larger permanent bodies of flowing water. *Pteronura*, the probable descendant of *Satherium*, inhabits streams from the Guianas to Argentina (Walker 1975). Its surrounding terrestrial habitat is probably secondary to its stream habitat, as it lives in suitable rivers that flow through a variety of terrestrial areas. These mammals are thus ecologically associated with the turtles, fishes, and water birds as a primary inhabitants of the aquatic site.

The abundance of large terrestrial animals and the relative scarcity of smaller terrestrial ones strongly suggests a spring-head habitat. The presence of a few of the denser bones (and especially teeth) of *Sigmodon*, *Scalopus*, *Cryptotis*, and *Cryptopterus* must be ascribed to fortuitous burial. The only other small mammals in the fauna are *Castor* and *Satherium*, which are normally aquatic in nature and thus may be expected abundantly in the stream. All the other mammals in the Haile XV A fauna are large terrestrial forms, which were probably trapped as they drank by the treacherous slopes and abrupt limestone ledges that often surround Florida springs.

We may next consider the nature of this terrestrial faunal sample. The terrestrial animals consist of *Terrapene*, the box turtle, one species of quail, one turkey (Campbell 1976), a few small mammals, and a considerable variety of large mammals. The presence of eurytopic large forms, such as *Smilodon*, *Hemiauchenia*, two subgenera of *Equus*, *Nannippus*, *Odocoileus*, and of the small mammals *Cryptotis*, *Scalopus*, and *Sylvilagus* tell us little about the local paleoecology. These forms are present in many Blancan local faunas of North America and probably ranged through many habitats.

Several taxa in the Haile XV A fauna, however, strongly suggest the presence of a forest community adjacent to the site of deposition. The