

This appeared strange indeed to me, and a trip through the bird room revealed the Little Green Heron (*Butorides v. virescens*, which seemed to fit nearest a very sketchy description.

At my first opportunity I sought that part of the pond where this strange bird had been seen. There on the stone rim *was* a Little Green Heron walking stealthily along, its attention concentrated on the water at its side, and quite oblivious to the afternoon gathering of adults, children, and dogs on leashes, that, under an unusually hot sun for the season, walked close by.

For some time I watched the bird. After a while it turned cautiously until facing the water, toes at the rim of the stone, its neck stretched out at full length, and suddenly, as a swimmer in a race plunges from the marble rim of a tank, it plunged into the water, completely submerged; came to the surface with a goldfish which it immediately swallowed, and, raising its wings, flew back, only a matter of two wing-strokes, to the stone border.

Twice I watched it do this, and I had solved the mystery of the snipe-like bird that dove for fish.

The sojourn of this Heron at the Public Garden pond was about six weeks, according to a rather observing man who navigates one of the "swan boats."—W. SPRAGUE BROOKS, *Boston Society of Natural History, Boston, Mass.*

Natal Plumage of *Belonopterus cayannensis*.—As far as I know the natal plumage of this interesting species has not been described. On July 29 1922, a young specimen was brought to me, alive, which could not have been more than twenty-four hours old, as it was not able to run properly. This is a very early date as this Lapwing hardly ever breeds before September. As it was impossible for me to keep the bird alive I killed and prepared it. Its bill was black, the lower mandible at the mouth a horn color. The feet were dark plumbeous and the iris, which is pink in the adult, was of a plumbeous gray hue. The top of head is buff, dotted with black, which forms a band on the occiput and also one extending on each side of the neck faintly indicated at first but ending in a solid patch of black on the upper breast. Rest of lower parts also throat white. Neck white, rest of upper parts buff with numerous black dots and spots except wing, which has a buffish tip, but is white from the carpal angle to the tip. Tail feathers black with buffy tips. There is no trace of the head-crest nor of the wing-spurs, both so conspicuous in the adults. This bird is called "quero-quero" ("I will—I will") by the natives. The young in natal plumage is a trifle larger than a young Killdeer.—W. F. HENNINGER, *Cachoeira, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.*

Golden Plover in Cape May County, New Jersey.—Authentic records for the Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus dominicus*) on the New Jersey coast are so few that it may be of interest to publish the dates of two specimens I have in my collection. On September 28, 1900, while

collecting shore birds from a blind on the beach a mile or two above Sea Isle City, N. J., a single female Golden Plover came to my decoys. I had been shooting on this spot for many years, which at half tide disclosed a large area of sod bank, a favorite feeding spot for shore birds, but this was the only Golden Plover I had seen. On November 23, 1922, Mr. J. E. Godfrey collected a female of the year at Corson's Inlet a little farther north, and sent the specimen to me in the flesh—WHARTON HUBER, *Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., Pa.*

An Instance of Extreme Precocity in Young Pheasants.—On July 25, 1922, while cutting brush in a wet meadow, on my place in Newton Centre, Mass., I started a female Ring-necked Pheasant from a nest built in a clump of weeds, and which contained nine eggs.

On August 3, I found a female Pheasant lying dead, but still warm, upon the grass in front of the side door of my house. I jumped to the conclusion that my setter dog had probably caught the sitting bird. Hurrying down to the meadow, with a couple of friends, who happened to be with me, however, I was delighted to find the female sitting quietly upon her nest.

Owing to her protective coloration, my friends were at first unable to see her, until I reached over and attempted to part the weeds, when the bird rose into the air cackling and flew away, leaving a nest full of young just hatched, tottery, and some of them still wet. Before I could take a step nearer, every one of the little fellows had run or crawled out of the nest into the grass beyond, and I did not dare move for fear of stepping on some of them. Their fear in this case would seem to have been instinctive.—FREDERIC H. KENNARD, *Newton Centre, Mass.*

The Barn Owl in Washington State.—In his preliminary list of the birds of the Grays Harbor region (*Auk*, Vol. IX, 1892, pp. 43-44) Lawrence tentatively entered the Barn Owl as a resident, but only on the word of a neighbor, who reported seeing the species twice in February, 1891, near the east Humptulips River, where it seemed to have been attracted by the carcass of a small striped skunk. In 1909 Brooks (*Auk*, Vol. XXVI, 1909, p. 313) recorded the taking of a single specimen in April near the mouth of Fraser River, in British Columbia. I am indebted to Mr. D. E. Brown, of Seattle, Washington, for the following additional information concerning the status of the Barn Owl on the northwest coast. On July 13, 1915, Mr. J. Hooper Bowles, of Tacoma, collected a bird of the year at Puyallup, Pierce County, Washington; on October 1, 1917, Mr. Carl Lien, now of Clallam Bay, took a female specimen at Point Chehalis, on Grays Harbor; on November 1, 1917, Mr. Lien collected a male in the same locality, and on November 9 reported seeing another bird, which, however, was not taken. On November 25, 1917, Mr. E. A. Kitchin, of Tacoma, flushed a male Barn Owl from an old barn near the tide flats, later collecting it and finding its stomach full of the remains of mice. Professor H. S. Brode, of Whitman College, and Mr. S. H. Lyman, of Dayton, Washington, write that a specimen was taken at the Offner place near Walla Walla on