

A single bird last spring was found in a small open space surrounded with marsh grass, and it seemed the bird was imprisoned by the tall grass which did not allow enough space for it to rise. As I picked it up carefully by the wing and tossed it into the air, it caught its balance and drifted across to a near-by sand bar, and later was gone.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. Dredge Morgan, Savannah, Ga.*

The Name of the East African Brown-headed Parrot.—In his list of the types of birds in the Tring Museum (Nov. Zool. XXXI, p. 125, 1924) Dr. Hartert called attention to the fact that “. . . the African Parrot now called *Poicephalus fuscicapillus* (*Pionus fuscicapillus* Verr. et Des Murs, 1849) cannot be called by this name, because of *Pionus fuscicapillus* Wagler, 1832, which is a new name for *Psittacus spatiocephalus* Kuhl, 1820, and refers apparently to a female of a *Geoffroyus*, but it is not possible to say which form.” The next available name for the species is *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus* Peters, 1854.

Recently (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., p. 267, 1930) I have shown that this species is divisible into three races, and since the name *cryptoxanthus* applies to the South African mainland form, the bird inhabiting Zanzibar Island requires a new name. *Poiocephalus hypoxanthus* Peters is a nomen nudum, and as there is no other name available I propose: *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus zanzibaricus* nom. nov.—W. WEDGWOOD BOWEN, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

The Barn Owl (*Aluco alba pratincola*) at Sea.—On November 1, 1931, while proceeding southward on the Clyde Line steamship “Cherokee,” I saw a Barn Owl (*Aluco alba pratincola*) come aboard the vessel as it was passing the Diamond Shoals Lightship. It was exactly 11 a.m. when the bird was sighted some fifty yards off the port side, flying strongly against a fresh westerly breeze. In a few moments it came aboard and alighted on the after yard supporting the wireless aerial. Standing on the boat deck I watched it with 8 x glasses and every detail of the plumage was distinct. The bird seemed to experience some difficulty in maintaining its perch in the wind and attracted considerable attention among the passengers.

Curious to see how long it would remain, I watched it closely and for twenty minutes it clung on to the yard. After that period of time the ship entered a heavy bank of grayish smoke which covered the sea for miles, caused by brush fires ashore, the vapor being carried to sea on the wind which was directly off-shore. So dense was it that it resembled a heavy fog and the whistle was set going every few seconds. At the first blast, the owl took flight, evidently frightened by the sudden sound, and disappeared at once into the haze. The position of the ship at the time was between twelve and fifteen miles from the coastline of North Carolina in the Cape Hatteras section.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.*