

social excitement is no doubt the origin of the 'shamming lame' behavior common to so many birds when beguiling enemies away from their nests and young, as in the cases of the Partridge, Lapwing, and Sheldrake; though no doubt the habit, emotional at first, becomes afterwards an intelligent action, in some cases at all events." This suggestion is interesting. Personally, however, I think it more probable that the practice developed from encounters with reptiles or small mammals, and may have had its origin in genuine cases of semi-paralysis. I do not think it likely that the trickery was devised for the confusion of man, even though it is practiced largely upon him. It may, indeed, have been in vogue long before man came upon the earth.

"The Argus,"
Melbourne,
Australia.

Yours, etc.,
A. H. CHISHOLM
(Corr. Fellow A. O. U.)

Editor of 'The Auk':

In the late Mr. Swarth's letter on "Injury-feigning in Nesting Birds," in 'The Auk' of July 1935, he wrote that he could not recall the instance of a Passerine bird resorting to injury-feigning at the nest.

As, according to my recollections of British birds, the Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) was a very decided instance of a Passerine bird so acting, I wrote to a friend of mine in England (Mr. J. Steele Elliott of Bewdley) for confirmation. Besides confirming my impression he adds "a far better example is the Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)." In British Columbia I have had one experience of this kind an Oregon Towhee which was frightened from her nest and young on May 29, 1919, by my walking up to it. She feigned injury but the performance was not very pronounced.

Courtenay, Victoria Island,
British Columbia.
March 6, 1936.

Yours sincerely,
THEOD PEARSE.

Birds Pairing with Mounted Specimens.

Editor of 'The Auk':

I was interested to read Messrs. Noble and Vogt's article on birds copulating with mounted specimens for over thirty years ago my mention of the fact in the press was ridiculed as a "traveller's yarn."

I mentioned then that when shooting Wood Pigeons (*Columba palumbus palumbus*) and Curlews (*Numenius arquata arquata*) over stuffed decoys, mounted on stands, both species repeatedly copulated with them not merely in isolated cases but often.

Lancaster, England.

H. W. ROBINSON.

Bat Banding—A Request for Cöoperation.

Editor of 'The Auk':

The example set by bird banding has led mammalogists to try various methods of marking bats to study their movements and migrations. Over 7000 bats have been banded to date by various workers in the United States and Germany; and many interesting returns have been recorded (Eisentraut, M, Zeitschrift für Morphologie

und Ökologie der Tiere, 28 Band, 5 Heft and Ornithologische Monatsberichte, 43, 1 and 43, 5. Mohr, C. E. Proc. Pennsylvania Acad. of Sciences, vol. 8, pp. 26-30. Griffin, D. R. Journal of Mammalogy, vol. 15, no. 3). However, the lack of popular interest in bats has made it very difficult to secure returns.

Field ornithologists could render extremely valuable coöperation if they would watch for banded bats whenever they have an opportunity. Most of the bats carry regular aluminum bird bands around their hind legs. Whenever a bat is captured or found dead, it is well worth while to examine it to see if it is banded. Full data on any recoveries of banded bats should be sent to the U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., or to the writer.

Most of the American bat banding work has been done in the Northeastern states, particularly Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Vermont. Consequently this request for coöperation is directed especially to ornithologists in this district.

It seems very desirable to locate all the large bat colonies in the New England region, in order that the bat banding studies may be as complete as possible. If any of the readers of 'The Auk' know of caves where bats might hibernate in winter, or large summer colonies in buildings, they are urged to communicate with the writer.

DONALD R. GRIFFIN.

Barnstable, Mass.