

stumbling and wing-fluttering, and finally the escape of the bird by flying. One peculiarity noticed was that the bird did not wait to see if I was following, but rather went through the act in set fashion regardless of whether I ran after her or remained by the nest, except that she would fly sooner if I pursued her closely. In no case did the display last more than a few seconds, the time required for the adult bird to cover about two or three rods of ground.

It appeared as if the entire act took place almost automatically, so machine-like were the movements of the mother. I have seen this display made by other individuals, but it has always been the same stereotyped performance. Perhaps it may be said that such a display is not real injury-feigning at all because of its more or less fixed sequence, but the fact remains that I have flushed many Ovenbirds at other times in the year and I have never seen one do more than run a short distance before flying. There was no attempt at self display.

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Editor of 'The Auk':

Francis H. Allen's letter of August 15, 1935, published in 'The Auk' (Vol. LIII, p. 125) comments on a statement by Dr. Herbert Friedmann, in his paper "The Instinctive Emotions of Birds," that he (Friedmann) had never seen any Grouse or Quail practicing "injury feigning."

Observations as a boy on a farm of central North Dakota would lead me to believe that injury feigning is practiced by the Prairie Chicken or Pinnated Grouse, *Tympanuchus americanus americanus*. In my observations, the female bird when molested would leave her nest in the prairie grass and flutter away for a distance, as though a wing were broken, before taking off.

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Editor of 'The Auk':

Some twenty-five years ago I found the nest of a Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) in a bush about four feet from the ground. The sitting bird when flushed from the nest fluttered away, still in the branches, with the "broken wing" action. Though I have found a good many nests since none of the birds acted in this way.

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#### Portenko on *Limosa lapponica*.

Editor of 'The Auk':

The last number of "The Auk" (Vol. LIII, No. 2, p. 194-197) contains a paper by L. Portenko (= Portenko) on the geographical races of the Bar-tailed Godwit, which is likely to provoke serious criticism. The author divides into two races the well known Siberian Godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri* Naumann) which was originally described from an Australian winter specimen. This type specimen of *baueri* had not been examined by Portenko, nor are the reasons given why the name *baueri* is employed for the bird which occurs only in a small region of easternmost Siberia

(Chukchi Peninsula, etc.) and the islands of Bering Sea, and not rather for the more common bird which occurs across all of northeastern Siberia from the Lena River to the western Anadyr Region. This latter bird is described as new (*menzbieri*), but no effort is made to investigate whether some other name is not already available for this form. In addition to *baueri* Naumann, the names *novae-zealandiae* Gray (New Zealand), *uropygialis* Gould (Australia) and *foxii* (Samoa) have been given to winter visitors. It is practically certain that at least one of these names refers to the common Siberian bird, named *menzbieri* by Portenko.

Portenko may have pointed out the differences between the two Siberian races of the Black-tailed Godwit, but he has by no means settled the nomenclature; rather he has complicated matters by creating another name.

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