

Faxon as particularly careful and competent observers. Another excellent observer, Frank Bolles, in his 'Land of the Lingering Snow' (1891), after syllabifying the utterance as 'kung-ka-unk,' says, "As we listened to the bird at a distance . . . the only sound which we could hear was the 'ka,' which, under the changed conditions, became the true stake-driving 'chuck' or 'tock'." Of more recent writers Roger Tory Peterson, in 'A Field Guide to the Birds,' gives the song as *oong-ka-choonk* and adds, "Distorted by distance, the *ka* is often the only audible syllable and sounds like the driving of a stake into the bog."

I have made no attempt to round up all the published descriptions of the Bittern's song, and in addition to what I have already said I will simply call attention to the evidence of Arthur J. Parker and Frederick Hermann as presented by Edward Howe Forbush in 'Birds of Massachusetts,' Mr. Hermann's being quoted from 'Bird-lore,' 1924, page 441. Both of these witnesses placed the accent on the second syllable.

With my own experience thus supported by good authority it is a disappointment to find Dr. May's revised edition of Forbush's great book, now called 'Natural History of the Birds of Eastern and Central North America,' quoting this one of Brewster's rare mistakes and omitting the correct statements of others.

I find I cannot resist the temptation to add my own rendering of the Bittern's song to the many that are to be found in the literature. Once, in May 1927, I got unusually near to a pumping bird in the meadows between Dedham and Needham, Massachusetts, and made the following note: "The middle syllable, the one that carries and suggests stake-driving, has quite a liquid quality near at hand. The whole performance sounded to me like *oom-pwahl'-oom* or *oom-pwul'-oom*, the first note very sonorous and the last short, a mere appendage to the second."—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Massachusetts.*

Greater Snow Goose at Philadelphia.—Not many years ago, the spring migration route of the Greater Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*) had been an enigma to all ornithologists. During the last decade, sight records of migrating birds have cropped up from various localities in the Delaware Valley. It was observed that the flocks flew very high, almost out of sight. Delaware Bay is, every year, a regular stopping-off place for thousands of Snow Geese. By the first week in April, most of them have left to wing northward. To substantiate a few records already published on the occurrence of this species migrating up the Delaware Valley, I have the following record. On April 7, 1940, Mr. Jerome Kessler observed a flock of 150 Greater Snow Geese over the Delaware River at Holmesburg, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. These birds flew in V-formation at an altitude of approximately 1500 feet and had set their course due northeast. The day was clear with a mild temperature and scarcely any wind.—EDWARD J. REIMANN, 2261 E. Kennedy St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Snow Geese in the Pennsylvania Appalachians.—As waterfowl of any kind are all too rarely seen in the hilly country of Indiana County, Pennsylvania, one of the divide counties of the northern Appalachians for drainage to both the Atlantic and the Gulf, and as Snow Geese in the northeast are none too plentiful, I wish to report a record for this County.

Following a stormy period of several days, October 29, 1939, dawned crisp and cool. The cloudless sky helped the temperature to climb to 55° F. by noon, the time when the geese were seen. The first two or three calls of the still-invisible birds were mistaken for a distant hound. I was at the time about eight miles east of the

town of Indiana along what is locally known as the 'Dead Waters' of Yellow Creek. Here the creek flows directly toward the west, a part of the Monongahela system, while a few miles to the east the streams flow toward the Atlantic. The geese were flying high and directly up the creek toward the east. A large flock of about seventy-five birds in a very one-sided V did considerable shifting of leaders and of general shape during the time of their passing. Following a short distance behind was a beautiful V-formation of thirteen birds which held their alignment almost perfectly while within sight. The bright sunlight gave the oncoming flocks a shining, silvery hue which faded to dull white that contrasted vividly with the black of the primaries as the flocks passed overhead. Canada Geese in flight have never suggested a squadron of airplanes to me as strikingly as did these Snow Geese. Presumably these were Greater Snow Geese, *Chen hyperborea atlantica*.—THOMAS SMYTH, *State Teachers College, Indiana, Pennsylvania*.

Fulvous Tree-duck an addition to the avifauna of Florida.—During the course of the Audubon Wildlife Tours, conducted by the writer out of Okeechobee, Florida, during February and March, 1940, he learned of what appears to be the first record of the Fulvous Tree-duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor helva*) for Florida. On December 14, 1939, Mr. Richard Reed, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was duck-shooting on Lake Okeechobee, with his young son, and a guide known as 'Mule-head' Swain. Each of the three secured, out of a 'squad' of very strange-looking ducks, specimens of what could have been nothing else than Fulvous Tree-ducks. The birds were brought into the Southland Hotel, and exhibited to interested parties. None of the guides who have worked on Lake Okeechobee for many years (some of them since boyhood) had ever seen ducks like them. They were described to the writer as being "mainly of a tan color, with a black line on the back of the neck, a black back and a white stripe along the sides." Aside from the fact that the remarkably long legs and long necks of these unknown ducks attracted much attention, the shooters themselves averred that they had calls utterly unlike any duck they had ever heard, characterizing them as a "sort of squeal." This is, of course, a character of the tree duck which is unmistakable, the local name along the Texas coast for this species, being 'Squealer.'

Conversation with Swain elicited the fact that two or three 'squads' of these birds were seen. He himself, though having guided on the Lake for years, was utterly at a loss to know what the ducks were. Search of the literature has failed to reveal any other instance of their occurrence, and this must be the first. Unfortunately, none of the specimens was preserved. The presence of these ducks in Florida is somewhat on a parallel with the regular visits of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) and the Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa ruficollis*) to Florida in winter, both of these birds coming over from western sections of the Gulf Coast.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, South Carolina*.

King Eider in Ohio.—Reported occurrences of the King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in Ohio are sufficiently few to make worth recording the recent capture of a specimen in this State.

The last day of hunting season, December 5, 1939, found the writer out in a small hunting boat at Winous Point in Sandusky Bay, the southwesternmost extremity of Lake Erie. The day was cloudy and cold with occasional snow flurries. Most of the ducks that had been in the neighborhood earlier in the season had moved on. Huge flocks of Red-breasted Mergansers and a few American Mergansers