

sparrow had made many trips in rapid succession, two of the kingbirds were seen to refuse bread offered to them. The sparrow offered it to each several times, then flew a few yards away to the third fledgling which accepted. At 7:00 p. m. the sparrow was seen to feed the fledglings several times. The bread was no longer in evidence, and apparently food was being obtained from other sources.

On the morning of July 8, the fledglings were observed on the ground following sparrows and occasionally receiving food from the foster parent. An adult kingbird flew down and attacked one of them, pecking it on the back. The attacked bird sought shelter at the base of a clump of grass, and the adult left. This adult was one of a pair frequently seen with its four young perched on telephone wires along the edge of a field 100 to 300 yards from the place where the present observations were made. On July 9 and 10, feeding of the kingbirds by the sparrow was again observed. The kingbirds were becoming stronger on the wing and frequently made short flights. Much of the time they were hidden from view by the thick foliage of a large cottonwood tree where they tended to stay, and observation was more difficult. On July 11, 12, and 13, the fledglings were not seen or heard and could not be located on the 14th when an intensive search of the general vicinity was made.—HENRY S. FITCH, *University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.*

**Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow in West Virginia.**—On September 20, 1948, while observing birds at Beech Bottom Swamp, Brooke County, in the northern panhandle of this state, the somewhat garbled song of a long-billed marsh wren, *Telmato-dytes palustris*, drew my attention. Approaching the spot where the bird was singing, I made the usual squeaking sound and two long-bills began to perform a few feet from me. It was while watching the long-bills that a sparrow made its appearance at the top of some cattails, apparently attracted by the squeaking. The bright ochre and gray face pattern and buffy breast suggested something unusual. Collecting the bird proved it to be a sharp-tailed sparrow, *Ammospiza caudacuta*. In the same general area another sharp-tailed sparrow was collected. Upon dissection the former was found to be a male and the latter a female. Subsequent visits to the swamp were unsuccessful in locating other sharp-tailed sparrows until October 8, 1948, when another male was taken. All three specimens have been identified as Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow, *Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*, by Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. These specimens represent the only records of the sharp-tailed sparrow for West Virginia.—KARL W. HALLER, *1097½ National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia.*

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#### NOTES AND NEWS

The Editor wishes to take this opportunity to thank all those who have assisted him in preparing Volume 66. To name each individual is impossible, but the following persons have borne much of the work of preliminary reading of manuscripts: John T. Emlen; Joseph J. Hickey; S. C. Kendeigh; James L. Peters; A. L. Rand; Robert W. Storer; Frederick Test; and J. Van Tyne.

Continuation of the section on Recent Literature would have been impossible without the cooperation of: Joseph J. Hickey; James L. Peters; C. S. Robbins and many others.

Mildred L. Fisher has assumed much of the secretarial work in the Editor's office and has aided greatly in the preparation of the Index to Volume 66.

The general prospectus of the Tenth International Ornithological Congress in Upsala, Sweden, June 10-17, 1950, has been prepared. Applications and all inquiries should be addressed to the *Tenth International Ornithological Congress; Upsala, Sweden.*

Letter to the Editor:

I think your readers should be informed that the obituary of Dr. Arthur P. Chadbourne that appeared over my signature in the July 'Auk' was an abridgment of an article written by me at the request of the President of the A. O. U. to carry out the custom of presenting formal Memorials of deceased Fellows, and that, in a laudable effort to cut down expenses, you had the article reduced to the form in which it appeared, unfortunately without giving me an opportunity to see it in proof until it was too late to make any changes. I understand it is your intention in the future to send proof of all obituaries to their authors before printing, which I am sure is the safest course to pursue. In the present case it should be understood that the signature to Chadbourne's obituary ought to have read "A. W. Schorger from material furnished by Francis H. Allen."

I note an error in the obituary as printed, one for which I am in no way responsible. When Chadbourne was elected an Active Member in 1889, there was no class of membership in the Union known as Members and the Active Members corresponded to the class now known as Fellows, the change in name occurring in 1901. Thus, Chadbourne reached the top class of membership in 1889, not in 1901 as stated in the obituary. This part of the first sentence, therefore, should read, "and a Fellow (then called an Active Member) in 1889" instead of "a Member in 1889, and a Fellow in 1901."

That an article intended as a Memorial was not recognized as such was due, I understand, to the conditions under which the Editor operates, which make quick decisions necessary. Perhaps we are overworking our Editor. I am sure that we all appreciate the good work he is doing under many difficulties, and that he and Dr. Schorger should receive all the assistance and encouragement that we can give them.  
—FRANCIS H. ALLEN. West Roxbury 32, Massachusetts, August 10, 1949.

WORD has just been received that Adriaan J. van Rossem, Fellow of the A. O. U., passed away September 3, 1949.