

Vaurie had earlier considered them a separate species based on tail morphology, and this separation is confirmed by the distinctiveness of their vocalizations; neither species responds to playback of sounds of the other. The same thing is true of another pair of supposed conspecifics, *S. azarae* and *S. elegantior*. Tail shape and number of rectrices is variable in *Synallaxis*, and the genus *Poecilurus* Todd, based on rectrix shape, cannot be upheld. The type of "*Poecilurus*", *candei*, behaves and sounds like a typical *Synallaxis*.—K.C.P.

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OBITUARIES

WENDELL TABER, during his lifetime one of the most active and enthusiastic amateur ornithologists in New England, was born in Newton, Massachusetts July 14, 1897. Early in World War I he left Harvard to drive an ambulance with the French army, and in 1917 entered the U. S. Navy for the rest of the war. He received his B.A. from Harvard in 1920 and later graduated from the Harvard Business School. An active outdoorsman, Taber was for 35 years a member of the Union Boat Club of Cambridge, where he played squash three or four times a week and rowed a shell whenever the Charles River was open. He was also a capable mountaineer and a longtime member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, to whose journal, *Appalachia*, he contributed regularly. Most of his life he worked as an investment councilor with the Boston firm of Standish, Ayer, and McKay; but his chief and all-consuming interest was always his hobby, ornithology.

Taber joined the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1930 and served as its secretary for many years. In those days the N.O.C. meetings were held on the first Monday evening of the month at the historic home of Charles F. Batchelder on Kirkland Street, one of the oldest houses in Cambridge. When in 1949 Batchelder, then 93, could no longer have the meetings at his home, he was very happy to have Taber host them at his home nearby on Mercer Circle. There the club met for several years until the younger, radical element insisted on moving the meetings to the Harvard biological laboratories.

Wendell Taber joined the A.O.U. in 1933 and contributed the first of a number of short notes (Western Grebe in Massachusetts) to the *Auk* in 1939. He was also a member of the Wilson and Cooper Clubs and of the New Hampshire and the

Maine Audubon Societies. A steady contributor of notes to the latter's journals, he also had two papers apiece in the *Condor* and *Wilson Bulletin*. His first major papers were a list of the birds of the Mt. Katahdin region (written jointly with Ralph Palmer) and a life history of the Gray Vireo for the Bent series. Among the best of his writings are the Auk memorials he prepared for his friends and fellow N.O.C. members—F. H. Allen, C. F. Batchelder, A. C. Bent, and Winsor Tyler. The A.O.U. made him an Elective Member in 1948.

In addition to his Gray Vireo account, Taber was a steady contributor of field notes and records to A. C. Bent for use in the histories, and shortly before Mr. Bent died in 1954, he appointed Taber his literary executor, a responsibility to which Wendell devoted most of the six remaining years of his life. He saw the icterid volume through the press in 1958; and he had made considerable progress with the fringillid accounts, assigning some to others and working on several of them himself, before his health started to fail.

Only a few weeks before his sudden and premature death on August 31, 1960, Wendell asked me to take over for him if he was unable to complete the series. He was my longtime good friend, as is his widow, Frances (daughter of Charles Wendell Townsend, another longtime N.O.C. stalwart). I was a frequent guest at his home, and he visited me often on Cape Cod. I will always remember his as a cheerful and tireless field companion on Cape Cod bird outings, and as an eager and astute partner at evening bridge sessions.—O. L. AUSTIN, JR.

FRANK SEYMOUR HERSEY, a member of the A.O.U. since 1911 and an Elective Member since 1916, died in Newbury, Vermont, January 24, 1971, at the age of 86 years. Born on May 26, 1881, at Taunton, Massachusetts, he was educated in the local schools. Mr. Hersey lived in Massachusetts for most of his life, though he traveled widely from 1913 to 1918 as Arthur Cleveland Bent's assistant. Pages viii-ix of the "Life histories of North American diving birds" contain a tribute to Hersey by Bent. Hersey spent many months in the field during this time, journeying to such places as Manitoba, Newfoundland, Alaska, California, and Louisiana, gathering specimens, photographs, and notes for the volume on diving birds. Bent credited him with practically all of the distributional part of this work. Hersey also personally published several papers resulting from these expeditions, including "The status of the Black-throated Loon (*Gavia arctica*) as a North American bird" (Auk, 1917); "The present abundance of birds in the vicinity of Fort St. Michael, Alaska" (Auk, 1917); and "A list of the birds observed in Alaska and Northeastern Siberia during the summer of 1914" (Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 1916). He contributed a number of other papers in the fields of ornithology and photography. Following his stint with Bent, Hersey was employed as a purchasing agent in Massachusetts until his retirement in 1955. In addition to his activities in the A.O.U., Hersey was elected to the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1912 and was a life member of the Cooper Ornithological Society. I thank Kimball Elkins for providing me with information from the files of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.—DOUGLASS H. MORSE.

DORIS CALLAN HAUSER (Mrs. Roscoe C., Jr.), a Member of the A.O.U. since 1958, died on March 30, 1972. Her home was Fayetteville, North Carolina, and she published a number of papers on the ornithology of this area in the journals.

Her special interest was in bird behavior as indicated by her published article on hybrid pairing and nest building in vireos (*Wilson Bull.*, 71: 383, 1959), reverse

mounting in Red-bellied Woodpeckers (Auk, 76: 361, 1959), and sunbathing in birds (Wilson Bull., 69: 78, 1957). At the time of her death Mrs. Hauser was editing her paper, "Anting in wild birds."

She was an active member of the Carolina Bird Club and her enthusiasm, close observation, keen intellect, and ability to explain in layman's terms did much to interest others in ornithology. Mrs. Hauser's papers resulted in communication with ornithologists throughout the United States, and in Europe, Japan, Thailand, and Australia.—MRS. NEILL A. CURRIE, JR.

NOTES AND NEWS

Color-marked eiders.—530 female and 2 male Common Eiders were wing-tagged on breeding islands in the St. Lawrence River estuary during the summer of 1972. The rectangular, vinyl plastic tag ($3 \times 1\frac{1}{8}$ inches) carries a combination of letters, numerals, dots (either upright, upside down, or reverse) that may be overlined, underlined, or both. The tags are either white, bright yellow, or dull orange. The symbols appear in black or in white and every bird is tagged on both wings. Observers noting similarly marked birds, even though they do not manage to record the entire combination of color and symbol(s), please write—stating date, locality, and any further detail deemed pertinent.—J. BÉDARD, *Département de Biologie, Université Laval, Québec, P.Q., Canada.*

Color-marked Sanderlings.—For the past two years we have been color-marking Sanderlings at Long Point in some numbers to study their migration. Birds are dyed on the breast and belly with red, yellow, green, or white (no dye). They are wing-marked with semipermanent wing tags of black, blue, brown, green, red, orange, yellow, and white, and each bears an aluminum F&WS band. Will anyone sighting these birds please report the following information to us: Date and location, color of breast and abdomen, color of right wing tag, color of left wing tag, and leg on which the bird is banded.—*Long Point Bird Observatory, Long Point, Ontario, Canada.*

I am presently studying characteristics of winter populations of the Slate-colored Junco. I plan to spend time from 15 December 1972 to 15 January 1973 trapping or netting large samples (at least 100) at several localities, especially ones north and south of Bloomington, Indiana. The birds will be released after capture. I should be very grateful to banders who have established stations at which juncos feed regularly and who would allow me to share their facilities and/or examine their captures. I am also interested in receiving wing measurements of birds caught between 1 December and 1 March in any year and any part of the winter range.—ELLEN D. KETTERSON, *Department of Zoology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.*

A limited number of student membership awards are made available each year by the A.O.U. Students at any stage of their academic training who are not now and have not been A.O.U. members are eligible. The deadline for application is **31 December 1972**. Interested students and faculty members with promising students are encouraged to request application forms from the SECRETARY or from the CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AWARDS, DR. WILLIAM L. THOMPSON, *Department of Biology, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48202.*