

genera *Aglaeactis*, *Lafresnaya*, *Pterophanes*, *Boissonneaua*, *Heliangelus*, *Eriocnemis*, *Haplophaedia*, *Ocreatus*, and *Lesbia*. Amer. Mus. Novitates No. 1540.

———. 1952. Studies of Peruvian birds. No. 62, The genera *Patagona*, *Sappho*, *Polyonymus*, *Ramphomicron*, *Metallura*, *Chalcostigma*, *Taphrolesbia*, and *Aglaiocercus*. Amer. Mus. Novitates No. 1595.

100 Years Ago in The Auk



From "General Notes" (1885 Auk 4: 382–383):

"On the Feeding Habits of *Phalaenoptilus nuttalli*.—Just without the picket fence that encloses in part the parking of my present residence at Fort Wingate, New Mexico, then [sic] runs a wide board-walk. Beyond this is a broad, well-kept gravel road, standing between the former and an open level plot of ground of about an acre's extent. For a number of evenings past my neighbors have tried to induce me to come out and see a strange-acting bird that disported itself in this roadway, between twilight and dark. I paid little heed to this, as from its description I believed it to be the half-grown young of the *Chordeiles* of this region, which is very abundant in the neighborhood. Last night, however, the bird having been described to me as a small Owl with a white throat, by one of its observers, I took my cane-gun and made a search for it up and down the road-way. I had not far to go, when, as well as I could see by the light of a very young moon, I noticed a small, dark-brownish looking bird apparently amusing himself by making short jumps of two feet or more up in the air, then resting on the road to repeat the performance in a moment or so. Another was going through similar capers on the broad walk. They seemed to be perfectly oblivious to my presence, and, indeed, some children further along were trying to catch them with their hands. As I had never heard the note of the Poor-wills in the vicinity, it did not

strike me at first that it might be this bird; moreover, its action was so odd that I hardly knew what to make of it. At any rate one soon noiselessly lit, like a great, gray moth, directly in front of me in the road, but a few feet distant. It was extremely difficult to see him, and it was more by good luck than good shooting that the little pinch of shot from my cane-gun knocked him over, though the weapon rarely fails me in daytime. I immediately ran up to my study with my prize, where I discovered I had killed a fine specimen of Nuttall's Poor-will. As the skeleton of this bird had long been among my desiderata, the skin and its beautiful plumage was soon stripped off, whereupon I was much surprised to find in its mouth some four or five quite sizable moths, and the upper portion of the oesophagus filled with a wad of a dozen or fifteen more. Fully half of these were yet alive, and two or three managed to fly away when freed from the bodies of their more disabled companions. This, then, is what the bird was up to; instead of flying about as a Nighthawk does, taking his insect prey in a conspicuous manner upon the wing, he captures it in the way I have described above.

"To-night the moon is twenty-four hours older, and the evening proportionately brighter, but a careful search for over half an hour failed to discover a single specimen of the bird on the same ground. I am not aware that any of the other Caprimulgidae have similar habits.—DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, Fort Wingate, New Mexico."