

Valley Quail (*Lophortyx californica vallicola*) and an English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). The birds, seemingly in close coöperation, chased the weasel across a weed-covered city lot, across a street and up to a garden wall, where they were frightened by the sight of a negro beating rugs on a lawn. It certainly seemed strange to see birds of such different type and temperament combining their efforts against their mustelid foe. The quail may have had a clutch of eggs on the ground or young to protect, but why was the English Sparrow interested?—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside Junior College, Riverside, California, August 26, 1926.*

A Three-cornered Fight.—I was camping in a pine forest not many miles from Reserve, New Mexico, accompanied by a small English terrier. In front of my tent stood a large dead pine, near the top of which there were a number of holes, evidently the homes of four pairs of Ant-eating Woodpeckers (*Balanosphyra formicivora aculeata*). A gray, tassel-eared squirrel came scampering along, and was at once spied by the dog, which gave chase. The squirrel ran up the dead tree mentioned above, to be instantly assailed by the Woodpeckers. Their constant cries and their sharp bills made things so uncomfortable for the squirrel that it ran down the tree to within a few feet of the dog, who sent him scampering to the top again with his eight antagonists constantly flaying him.

About this time there was a swish of wings, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*) darted like a streak among the Woodpeckers. For an instant it seemed that one of them was doomed, but by a small margin it managed to escape, and in an instant they had all darted to cover among the green boughs of surrounding trees. All was quiet for a few brief seconds, when the Woodpeckers returned to the attack, except one which perched on the topmost bough of a near-by tree, as guard or lookout, watching for the hawk. The other seven took up the fight with the squirrel.

In a few minutes the hawk again appeared on the scene, the guard gave a shrill call of warning, and all the Woodpeckers were under cover before their enemy could reach them. The hawk, then, finding the birds on their guard, left and did not return. The terrier soon abandoned the tree, and the squirrel hurried down and scampered away; the Woodpeckers quickly quieted down and went peacefully about their home affairs. I believe that the birds recognized in the squirrel a danger to their eggs or young.—ED. S. STEELE, *Reserve, New Mexico, August 28, 1926.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

THE OTTAWA MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.—The first meeting of the A. O. U. ever held outside of the United States convened October 12-14 in Ottawa. Despite its being held on "foreign" soil, this meeting proved to be almost the best ever held, in point of total attendance as well as in general interest manifested. This development showed the extreme cordiality of feeling which obtains between the two countries, as evidenced in part by the wonderfully warm reception accorded by the Canadians, in part by the large measure of attendance from all parts of the United States.

The Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa served as headquarters for the meeting. Here thoroughly comfortable rooms were available for the daily sessions; and the elegant Chateau Laurier provided for

the social features. The thoroughness with which local arrangements had been worked out set a new standard. And for this success the local committee in charge, Mr. Hoyes Lloyd as secretary, should be accorded full credit.

The upwards of 200 in attendance included more far-westerners by double than heretofore in the history of the Union. Evidently westerners thought of Ottawa as really a western point of meeting, as compared with the usual Atlantic coast cities. One of the original founders of the Union was present, Mr. Chas. F. Batchelder of Cambridge. An Antipodean delegate it was a pleasure to meet was Mr. W. B. Alexander, until lately Editor of the Australian *Emu*. There were naturally many others in attendance for the first time, from the various Canadian provinces.