

surprise, a Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*) alighted on the side of the nest and fed two of the young robins.

This was about 2 P. M. I shortly left the vicinity of the nest, but my sister remained and watched for them until 5 P. M. During that period of about three hours, the thrush fed the young robins nine times. After my return, the thrush fed at least twice more before 7 P. M.; making at least twelve visits to the robins in four hours. Once, while the thrush was feeding the youngsters, the mother robin appeared on a nearby limb, and that thrush fairly jumped backwards in its haste to leave the nest! It certainly showed every evidence of fear of the old robin. There were two robins and two thrushes near the nest during the entire afternoon. Although a systematic hunt was made for the thrushes' nest, it was not found.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, August 2, 1927.*

Food of Young Horned Owls Includes Adult Marsh Hawk.—During the nesting seasons of 1926 and 1927 at Fort Riley, Kansas, a family of young Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) was studied, and observations were conducted on the feeding habits. The first season a large Red-tailed Hawk's (*Buteo borealis borealis*) nest was used by the owls. This was completely destroyed by two soldiers and the young carried away when about half grown. The catastrophe was discovered within a short time. A new nest was constructed, by the writer, out of second Red-tail's nest and placed in the tree. Thereafter housekeeping went on as usual. In 1927 the nest of a Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), built last season in a small oak tree, was occupied by the owls. These quarters became very crowded as the two youngsters grew but proved adequate for the needs.

The bill of fare was varied, with cotton-tail rabbits forming the main component. Side dishes consisted of gophers, field mice, and an occasional Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) or Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). At infrequent intervals a Coot (*Fulica americana*), Teal (*Querquedula discors*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) or domestic fowl constituted the menu, while once the family fell completely from grace by indulging in a Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus americanus americanus*). However, the great preponderance of rabbits in the diet together with a goodly number of gophers partially if not completely counterbalanced these delinquencies.

On April 3, 1927, when the young were only about two weeks old I was astonished to find the feathers of a large hawk filling the nest and scattered around on the ground. There were many Swainson's (*Buteo swainsoni*) and Marsh Hawks (*Circus hudsonius*) migrating at this time, and evidently the rapacious mother owl had overwhelmed one of these in her quest for food. Everything, including the feet and head, had been eaten, the tough flight feathers alone being left. At the end of such a banquet the young could well join with Pepys in remarking "my dinner was noble and enough". The feathers were identified through the courtesy of Messrs E. R. Kalmbach and Remington Kellogg of the United States Biological Survey as being from a female Marsh Hawk of unusually large size.—LEON L. GARDNER, *Manila, P. I., August 18, 1927.*

Whistling of the Wilson Snipe.—In the January number of the *Condor*, Mr. Aldo Leopold gives some interesting observations on what he calls the "whistling" of the Wilson Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*), and I thought that in this connection an experience of mine this spring might be worth recording.

On April 28 a small party of us were out on an all-day hike through one of the picturesque valleys of southwestern Wisconsin. The day opened fair, but by afternoon the sky was veiled with clouds. It was around 3 o'clock when we heard an unfamiliar sound overhead and looking up made out the form of a jacksnipe flying at a height of four or five hundred feet. In fact the height was such that it was not easy to see the bird with the naked eye; but with our binoculars we could see it distinctly and could follow it throughout its course.

It was flying in a wide circle with a diameter of some 300 yards, extending roughly from the road where we stood to the slopes of a wooded hill. Midway between, and a little below us, lay a piece of marshy ground which marked the approximate center of the circle. The flight consisted of a succession of upward and downward courses, averaging perhaps a hundred yards in extent and being at an angle of rather less than 45 degrees. On each downward swing we could plainly hear that vibrating

sound which has been well described by the term "winnowing". It was clearly a wind sound, reminding me strongly of the small fanning mill that stood in the granary of our old farm. At the start of each upward turn—and this is the point I would emphasize—the winnowing ended abruptly, beginning again only with the next downward flight. This surely indicates that the sound was not vocal but was produced by either the wing or tail feathers, most probably the latter, since the spacing of the sound vibrations was not the same as that of the wing beats.

The evolutions above described were continued for some fifteen minutes while we watched and rested. Finally our bird set its wings and executed a straight nose dive, winding up with a graceful curve to drop gently in the marsh. The show was over and dinner was still six miles away.—JOHN S. MAIN, *Madison, Wisconsin, August 5, 1927.*

An Abode of *Otus flammeolus*.—At the head of Saliz Cañon, San Francisco Mountains, New Mexico, is a road camp and a garage made out of upright pine poles, roofed with galvanized iron, wherein is kept a three-ton Packard truck. For several mornings prior to October 1, 1927, when the men went to take out the truck they heard the flutter of a bird; but not until Saturday did they discover it was an owl.

The bird was brought to me and proved to be a male Flammulated Screech Owl. Evidently it had found the semi-darkened interior of the building a satisfactory resting place during the day, and might have stayed indefinitely if undisturbed.—H. H. KIMBALL, *Reserve, New Mexico, September 29, 1927.*

The Little Green Heron in Oregon.—During the past ten years, or since August 14, 1917, when a specimen of *Butorides virescens anthonyi* was taken a few miles south of the Oregon line at the Chandler Ranch on the west side of Lower Klamath Lake in Siskiyou County, California, I have looked for this species in Oregon. A few days after that specimen was taken, Dr. Geo. W. Field, then with the staff of the U. S. Biological Survey, told me that he and Deputy Game Warden Frank Triska saw one of these birds near the town of Merrill, Klamath County, Oregon. This location is just west of Lower Klamath Lake and only about a mile north of the California line. Some time later, Mr. Bud Hinton of the "P" Ranch in Harney County, Oregon, described a bird to me, seen in the hayfields during July, that could be none other than a *Butorides*.

Nothing new was learned of the occurrence of this heron in Oregon until the evening of June 7, 1927, when one was plainly seen flying over my home in Portland. It was not over 200 feet high and flying directly towards a large willow-fringed slough along the Willamette River. On June 12, 1927, I was walking along the willow-fringed bank of the Sycan River in western Lake County, Oregon, when, much to my astonishment, one of these herons flew from a willow tree not thirty feet distant. As it flew directly away from me, the back markings were plainly visible.

On July 26, 1927, at Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon, the day was excessively hot. After a late dinner, Mr. Vernon Bailey of the Biological Survey and I walked out to the highway bridge where it crosses Rogue River. While standing at the bridge rail, a Little Green Heron flew up the river almost directly under us. It was soon followed by another of the same species. Both were plainly visible to each of us and there is not the slightest doubt as to their being *Butorides*. Ordinarily, I am opposed to the recording of a species until after a specimen has been taken and preserved; but in this case I think the evidence is sufficient to put on record.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, August 2, 1927.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Ever since the beginnings of agitation for bird protection, we have been told that Italy is comparatively birdless, and that this condition is the result of the (wicked) practice of netting and trapping song

birds to eat. We have heard this so often that we never dreamed of questioning it as a fact—until *The Ibis* for October, 1927, came to our hands. Then we were indeed brought up with a start by reading the