

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

article (pp. 659-691) by the well-known British ornithologist, Mr. H. G. Alexander, in which is given evidence which would seem with finality to dispose of the longtime story of Italy's poverty of bird life. Mr. Alexander implies that many of the general statements in the English language are, putting it mildly, "not wholly accurate." During a period of observation in the restricted Rome Province, Mr. Alexander's brother, the late C. J. Alexander, recorded "227 species alive"; "in some parts of the province birds of many species were found by him to be decidedly abundant. In a day's walk in the hills, either in summer or winter, he frequently saw over 40 species . . . . At the times of migration, especially in spring, he observed between 70 and 80 in a day, and over 90 in a week-end, at Fiumicino. And a good proportion of the small breeding-birds were found in abundance." This is a better score than we are usually able to make here in west-central California! Mr. Alexander says further, and on obviously sound ecological basis, that any scarcity of birds in Italy, locally, is due to methods of agriculture as "also in part to the lack of water during the late summer, and not entirely to the indiscriminate slaughter of small birds." Thus, it appears, another of our cherished beliefs must go by the board. We must be ever on the alert against employment of unsound "evidence"—especially so when seeking argument for a pet reform, no matter how worthy in itself.

Bulletin No. 9, issued recently by the Board of Game Commissioners, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, contains some statements by Mr. George Miksch Sutton, Chief of Research and Information, which appealed to us as eminently sensible. He says: "Nothing is more distasteful to the scientist than a half-hearted or ignorant sentimentality such as sometimes exists among amateur students. . . . False sentimentality has no place in genuine bird-study. Such sentimentality regards a hawk which captures smaller birds as wicked, and forgets that the smaller birds cause just as much death, if not actually more, when they capture numerous small insects. . . . A careful study of Biology leads the scientist to believe that grief plays very little part in the lives of birds and mammals. . . . False sentimentality is the sort of thing which brands a boy morally bad because he wants to collect a

bird's egg. The truly broad-minded bird-lover realizes that it [this] is a normal predatory instinct . . . . His [the boy's] desire to collect specimens should not be thought bad or even undesirable. . . . I am heartily in sympathy with the young chap who wants to assemble some sort of a nature-study collection, and if properly advised and encouraged, the boy's experience with natural history objects may be among the most valuable developing factors in his life."

### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The September meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, on September 22, 1927, at 8:00 P. M. In the absence of president and vice-president, Mrs. Amelia S. Allen was asked to occupy the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read. The following proposals for membership were made: Harold E. Hansen, 783 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif., by H. S. Swarth; Mrs. Robert French Leavens, 1900 Yosemite Road, Berkeley, Calif., by Mrs. A. S. Allen.

Mr. Jean Linsdale presented the following set of resolutions on the death of Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

*Whereas*, the untimely death by accident of Louis Agassiz Fuertes on August 21, 1927, has removed from the rolls of the Cooper Club one of its most eminent members, whose work is known and revered by all students of birds; then, be it

*Resolved*, that this Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club hereby place on record this statement of our grief that his brilliant career should be cut short; and, be it further

*Resolved*, that the Secretary be instructed to extend our sympathy at this time to the family of this, the greatest of American bird artists.

(Signed) Jean Linsdale  
J. Grinnell  
H. S. Swarth

These resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Mr. Swarth reported progress in the matter of collecting funds for a stone to be erected over the grave of Thomas Bridges.

When members were called upon for seasonal field notes, Mrs. Kelly reported that use of the Oakland air field by airplanes had not frightened away the shore birds which had formerly found it a convenient landing field. Mrs. Allen spoke of the sandpipers on the land about Dumbarton cut-off and of the finding of twenty