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CALLS OF THE GREAT POTOO

I read with interest Paul Slud's article (81:320-321, 1979) concerning the calls of the Great Potoo. During 1979 I spent eight months at La Selva and had occasion to hear several hundred calls of this bird. It makes only two types of calls with any regularity (sometimes a call will sound like a mixture of the two). These were described by Slud as a "baaaaa" and a "whoop." I agree with his remarks about the latter and have a little information to add on the former.

To my ear (and to others) the "baaaaa" corresponds to a long drawn-out "oorrr" pronounced by drawing air into the lungs at a low note. This of course is not precise, but the sound, or variations of it, can come close to mimicking the bird's call. I have found that it is only made while the bird is perched.

Slud's statement that the bird *apparently* makes the

"whoop" call both in flight and at rest is, in fact, true.—DONALD R. PERRY, 247 'C' Bicknell, Santa Monica, California 90405.

Perry has confused the well-documented "baaaa" with the completely different "oorrr," leading to the following anomaly. The final paragraph of my note cites the very froglike cry to which the "baaaa" has been likened as being uttered in flight from tree to tree. Thus, Perry's belief that his "oorrr" is the same as my, and everybody else's, "baaaa" controverts his statement "that it is only made while the bird is perched." Surely the "baaaa" and the "oorrr" coexist in the repertory of the species, to be used as the birds see fit in time or space and according to circumstance.—PAUL SLUD, *National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560.*

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