

After watching for a few moments and being unable to see the cause of the gathering, we approached near enough to frighten the birds away. At first we could see nothing to cause so much excitement; then we discovered, as we had suspected, a copperhead snake, perhaps twelve inches long. The snake, blending so well in color with the dead leaves of the ground as to be hard to see, even when we knew it was there, lay irregularly coiled, its head flattened down on the body and so motionless as to appear dead. The birds meanwhile utterly vanished. BERYL T. MOUNTS, *Macon, Ga.*

Some Notes on Mutilated Birds.—In the first week in August, 1924, I saw a Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus gramineus*) that seemed to be rather weak, and therefore I made an effort to capture it. As I got nearer to the bird it flew about fifteen rods in the meadow, and it was easily captured. Upon examining it, I found that the bird was without a bill, but for how long, I could not tell. Its tongue was exposed, and how it managed to get its meals on insects or seeds is something to wonder about. I put it in a cage and tried to feed it, but its increasing weakness made that impossible, and it died a few hours after having been captured. This was in Luce County, Michigan.

A few days before getting the Vesper Sparrow without the bill, I saw a bird in a very unusual action. It appeared as if it was tied to a string and had only a few yards to range, like a cow when tied to a stake in the pasture. I at once ran and captured it, and found that half of its right wing was missing, which caused it to be weak on the wing. Its longest distance of flight was not over two feet. Just how long this bird had been this way, and where it was when it happened, is a mystery. In reply to a letter sent to the Biological Survey, I was informed that if I was not able to care for the bird, it had better be killed. I kept the bird and it lived until about April 6, 1926. I have kept a record of what I took to be of the most interest, and am planning on summing it up for a future number of the WILSON BULLETIN. These notes are mostly on its molt, song, and food—OSCAR M. BRYENS, *Three Rivers, Mich.*

Franklin's Gulls in Northwestern Oklahoma.—During the summer of 1925, Franklin's Gulls (*Larus franklini*) were with us more than usual. About 5,000 appeared in early July and among them were a goodly number in immature plumage. During the middle of August a good shower filled a dry pond near our house, and this was used by about a thousand gulls as their headquarters. They made a very pretty sight as they stood in the shallow water with their heads all in one direction against the wind. There was a constant hubbub of mewing and squalling amongst them. Some birds would be flying up to soar in the air above, while others would be sitting down with the flock. Some of them would go through intricate acrobatic aerial maneuvers, pitching and diving, while two different individuals actually banked their wings until they were in a vertical position and then turned over and floated on their backs upside down, righting themselves with a flip as they came on down to the water. The birds seemed much interested in fixing up their plumage and pulled out so many feathers in the operation that the border of the pond was completely lined with them. They ranged from little downy feathers a half inch long up to quills from the wings; most of them, however, were about two inches in length.

The gulls were very assiduous in their search for grasshoppers, and there was a noticeable diminution in the abundance of these insects as a result of