

moult effrayant,' which suggests the scream of an owl rather than the whirring note of the Nightjar.

It should be noted, too, that Gesner (1555) corrected Belon's identification of the 'goatsucker' as an owl, and on the authority of Belon himself.

The name Effraie, which, of course, was originally given to a more or less unknown bird on account of its scream, has clung to the Barn Owl and is still the common vernacular name for that species in France; but evidently it persisted for some time in some quarters as a name for the Goatsucker, since we have Nicolas Denys using it in its corrupted form for our Nighthawk, the resemblance of which to the French member of the family he easily recognized.

To return to Denys' use of the incorrect form 'Orfraye,' it is interesting to note that old Belon himself says, "One should take care that the similarity of the name of Orfraye taken for Fresaye does not deceive, for that is another bird"—the Sea Eagle, as I pointed out in my original paper.

To sum up, then, Denys called our Nighthawk an Orfraye, using a corruption of the name Effraie, which was at that time applied by some, though mistakenly, to the European Goatsucker. And thus is a Nighthawk changed into an Eagle!

At the end of this long note I must correct the statement in my recent paper that the Effraie was apparently the Short-eared Owl. I assumed that the '*Strix flammea*' given in dictionaries as the scientific name was the *Strix flammea* of Pontoppidan, now *Asio flammeus* of the 'Check-list,' whereas it was, of course, *Strix flammea* of Linnaeus, our *Tyto alba*.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Massachusetts*.

**Arkansas Kingbird in Maine and New Jersey.**—On October 25, 1939, two Arkansas Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) appeared in Orono, Maine, along the shore of the Penobscot River and about fifty miles inland. Later, they were seen until October 30, 1939. They were rather tame and allowed close approach and prolonged observation with an eight-power binocular, although all their characteristic markings were plainly discernible with the naked eye. On several occasions their loud twittering notes accompanied their insect-catching activities in the open meadow beside the river, where they were constantly seen. Of the previous Maine records of this bird, the most northerly is from Mt. Desert, fifty miles south-southeast of Orono. This constitutes the first record of two being seen together, for the others are of birds seen singly or with Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*).

On September 10, 1939, in company with Mr. Irving Black and others, I saw an Arkansas Kingbird with an Eastern Kingbird at Tuckerton, New Jersey.—ROBERT BEATON, *University of Maine, Orono, Maine*.

**Identity of United States specimens of Fork-tailed Flycatcher.**—In his 'Studies of Peruvian Birds,' Zimmer has pointed out that *Muscivora tyrannus* (Linnaeus) can readily be subdivided into four races chiefly on account of differences in the emargination of the inner webs of the outer primaries (Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 962, pp. 1-11, Nov. 18, 1937).

According to the latest (1931) A. O. U. 'Check-list' there are seven records of this species from eastern North America. Four of these date from 1820 to 1834. I do not know the whereabouts of these specimens, if any exist. A record from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts (October 1916), was based on sight identification. A specimen taken at Trenton, New Jersey, in 1900 (Babson, 'Birds of Princeton,' p. 56, 1901) is said to have been lost (Stone, 'Bird Studies at Old Cape May,' 2: 677, 1938), but there is a specimen labelled "New Jersey" in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, included in the Hoopes Collection. This bird

I have submitted to Mr. Zimmer, who has identified it as *M. t. sanctaemartae* Zimmer. A specimen taken at Marion, Washington County, Maine, on December 1, 1908, and now in the New England Museum of Natural History, Boston, I have identified as *M. t. tyrannus*, the most southern race, which migrates regularly to northern South America, arriving, it is said, in February and March and departing for its breeding grounds about September or October. A specimen, apparently a female, taken near Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the late autumn of 1873, is now in the Princeton Museum. This bird was for many years in the collection of Mr. Thomas Gillin of Ambler, Pennsylvania, who informs me that it was collected by a Mr. Blake of Fox Chase. Mr. Charles Rogers informs me that this bird is also referable to the nominate form. The latest United States record of this species is of an individual seen near Cape May Point, New Jersey, during the first three days of November 1939, by Otway Brown of Cape May.

It is interesting to note that all North American records date from June to December, the majority being autumnal.—JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

**Winter range of the Short-billed Marsh Wren.**—On April 18, 1939, in a marshy spot not far from the village of Matlapa (near Tamazunchale), in southern San Luis Potosi, Mexico, my attention was attracted by the noisy scolding and intermittent singing of Short-billed Marsh Wrens. Collecting one of these birds, I found it to be in the midst of a molt involving head- and body-plumage. On preparing it, I found the testes to be but slightly enlarged, listed it in my field-catalogue as "*Cistothorus stellaris*," and entered in my diary a note to the effect that Short-billed Marsh Wrens must be wintering thereabouts.

Upon finding that the known winter range of *Cistothorus platensis stellaris* (I have followed Hellmayr in calling this a race of *C. platensis*) included no region to the south of "southern Texas, the Gulf Coast, and southern Florida" (A.O.U. 'Check-list of North American Birds,' 249, 1931), I began to suspect that my San Luis Potosi bird was *C. p. elegans* Sclater and Salvin, a closely related subspecies known to breed as far north as Jalapa, Veracruz, where Dr. Frank M. Chapman (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 10: 24, 1898) had found it in early April, 1897. Wishing to ascertain to what race my bird belonged, I wrote Mr. John T. Zimmer, of the American Museum of Natural History, asking if I might borrow pertinent material. Mr. Zimmer courteously replied, stating that the Museum's series of *elegans* numbered but four specimens. In addition to these, he said, there was a male *Cistothorus platensis* from Quijano, Tamaulipas (collected by George B. Sennett, March 22, 1888), "named *elegans* by someone," which he (Zimmer) believed to be not *elegans* but *stellaris*. Visiting the Museum, I compared my San Luis Potosi specimen with the Tamaulipas bird mentioned by Mr. Zimmer, and found them to be practically identical, save that in the latter the rectrices were molting. These two specimens I compared in turn with the four *elegans* in the Museum's series and a single *elegans* collected recently at Jalapa, Veracruz, by Mr. Frederick S. Loetscher, finding the *elegans* to vary somewhat in bill length *inter se*, but to agree in being much longer-tailed than either of our *stellaris*, and consistently *unstreaked* on the rump. The Quijano, Tamaulipas, bird (A.M.N.H. 86090) and my San Luis Potosi bird were, therefore, *C. p. stellaris*, and these two definite records tend to show that the winter range of our United States Short-billed Marsh Wren includes much of northeastern Mexico.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Department of Zoology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*