

**Nicolas Denys and the Nighthawk.**—In discussing Nicolas Denys' 'Orfraye' in my paper in the January 'Auk' I said that I could not find that the name 'Effraie' had ever been used for the Goatsucker. Further investigation, however, shows that the old French naturalist Pierre Belon (Petrus Bellonius) was responsible for such a use of the word. It would not tell the whole story to say simply that he called the European Goatsucker, or Nightjar, by that name. The fact is that he was for a time hopelessly confused as to just what manner of bird it was that his countrymen called Effraye, probably from its frightful (*effrayant*) night cries. He did get hold of a Barn Owl, which he skinned or in some other way preserved with salt after making a recognizable drawing of it which he published in his 'Histoire de la Nature des Oyseaux' (Paris, 1555) as a figure of the Effraye. In connection with the figure he printed a not very good description of the bird and the statement that it nested in old towers, in cliffs, and in hollows of oaks. All this, and the 'frightful cry' that Belon makes much of, fits the Barn Owl very well, but unfortunately in this same account he identified the bird with the *Aigothelas* (literally, goat-sucker) of Aristotle and quoted Aristotle's story of the Goatsucker's habit of entering stables at night and milking the goats, "so that they give not a drop in the morning."

So Belon in 1555, but in 1557, while Belon was away 'in a foreign land,' his bookseller brought out another book, 'Portraits d'oyseaux, animaux, serpens, herbes et femmes d'Arabie et Egypte, observez par P. Belon du Mans,' in which under each 'portrait,' in lieu of a formal description, he printed a quatrain of his own 'for the easier recognition of the birds and other portraits.' Here under the heading of 'Effraye' we find a pretty good cut of a *Goatsucker* with lines of which the following is a literal translation:

The hideous cry of the Frezaye *effraye* [scares]                     .  
Whoever hears it: she flies by night,  
And in milking the goats she takes delight.  
Dost thou wonder that she is named Effraye?

In explanation of the first line of this verse it should be said that *fresaie* (*frezaye*) and *effraie* (*effraye*) are synonymous terms. It is probable that *fresaie* is the older. It was used at least as early as the twelfth century and is supposed to have been derived from the Latin *praesaga avis*, bird of presage, ominous bird. Some authorities consider *effraie* to have been derived from *fresaie* under the influence of the verb *effrayer*, to frighten. Belon used both names for the same bird.

Belon's drawing of the Barn Owl reappears among these 'portraits' as that of the 'petit Chathuant plombé' (little lead-colored hooting-cat) with the bookseller's statement that the author had believed it to be the 'Aegothilas,' but that he had drawn a true figure of the 'Caprimulgus' before his departure, and he (the bookseller) had made the change during Belon's absence because he felt sure that Belon would have so decided. So here we have the Goatsucker going under the name of 'Effraye' and the Barn Owl called the 'petit Chathuant plombé'; but the Goatsucker still has the hideous voice of the Barn Owl!

There was still confusion in Belon's mind about these two birds in 1588, when he published 'Les observations de plusieurs singularitez et choses memorables, trouvées en Grece, etc.,' for here we find, "This Fresaye is somewhat of the color and size of a Cuckoo and makes its nest in our country in high towers and crevices of churches," thus combining the appearance of the Goatsucker with the nesting habits of the Barn Owl! And further he says here that the Effraye utters 'un cry

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