

Faxon as particularly careful and competent observers. Another excellent observer, Frank Bolles, in his 'Land of the Lingering Snow' (1891), after syllabifying the utterance as 'kung-ka-unk,' says, "As we listened to the bird at a distance . . . the only sound which we could hear was the 'ka,' which, under the changed conditions, became the true stake-driving 'chuck' or 'tock'." Of more recent writers Roger Tory Peterson, in 'A Field Guide to the Birds,' gives the song as *oong-ka-choonk* and adds, "Distorted by distance, the *ka* is often the only audible syllable and sounds like the driving of a stake into the bog."

I have made no attempt to round up all the published descriptions of the Bittern's song, and in addition to what I have already said I will simply call attention to the evidence of Arthur J. Parker and Frederick Hermann as presented by Edward Howe Forbush in 'Birds of Massachusetts,' Mr. Hermann's being quoted from 'Bird-lore,' 1924, page 441. Both of these witnesses placed the accent on the second syllable.

With my own experience thus supported by good authority it is a disappointment to find Dr. May's revised edition of Forbush's great book, now called 'Natural History of the Birds of Eastern and Central North America,' quoting this one of Brewster's rare mistakes and omitting the correct statements of others.

I find I cannot resist the temptation to add my own rendering of the Bittern's song to the many that are to be found in the literature. Once, in May 1927, I got unusually near to a pumping bird in the meadows between Dedham and Needham, Massachusetts, and made the following note: "The middle syllable, the one that carries and suggests stake-driving, has quite a liquid quality near at hand. The whole performance sounded to me like *oom-pwah!-oom* or *oom-pwul'-oom*, the first note very sonorous and the last short, a mere appendage to the second."—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Massachusetts.*

Greater Snow Goose at Philadelphia.—Not many years ago, the spring migration route of the Greater Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*) had been an enigma to all ornithologists. During the last decade, sight records of migrating birds have cropped up from various localities in the Delaware Valley. It was observed that the flocks flew very high, almost out of sight. Delaware Bay is, every year, a regular stopping-off place for thousands of Snow Geese. By the first week in April, most of them have left to wing northward. To substantiate a few records already published on the occurrence of this species migrating up the Delaware Valley, I have the following record. On April 7, 1940, Mr. Jerome Kessler observed a flock of 150 Greater Snow Geese over the Delaware River at Holmesburg, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. These birds flew in V-formation at an altitude of approximately 1500 feet and had set their course due northeast. The day was clear with a mild temperature and scarcely any wind.—EDWARD J. REIMANN, 2261 E. Kennedy St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Snow Geese in the Pennsylvania Appalachians.—As waterfowl of any kind are all too rarely seen in the hilly country of Indiana County, Pennsylvania, one of the divide counties of the northern Appalachians for drainage to both the Atlantic and the Gulf, and as Snow Geese in the northeast are none too plentiful, I wish to report a record for this County.

Following a stormy period of several days, October 29, 1939, dawned crisp and cool. The cloudless sky helped the temperature to climb to 55° F. by noon, the time when the geese were seen. The first two or three calls of the still-invisible birds were mistaken for a distant hound. I was at the time about eight miles east of the