

English	French	Spanish
chitty-chitt	pain voie	berequetec
diggery-dick	peut-on-voir	caracatey*
gie-me-a-bit		cericaday*
killy kadick		querebebé
piramidig		querequequé
pira-mi-dink		querequeté
		querequetec

Thus there is wide recognition that the call note of the small Antillean nighthawks is a four-syllabled (rarely three-syllabled) sound. That of the common mainland species usually is rendered as one-syllabled, viz.: beedz, beerb, peeck, peent, or pisk. A few ears hear it as of two syllables. This difference in notes is a striking biological distinction. Biological species are regularly recognized in some groups of organisms such as the bacteria and rusts, and the advisability of accepting them has been proposed for other phyla. Perhaps the time has come to lean more in that direction in the classification of birds. The evidence in the present instance seems relatively as weighty as that in the *Sturnella magna*-*S. neglecta* case, in which difference in song is the most obvious distinguishing character.—W. L. McATEE, *Chicago, Illinois*.

**Wryneck from Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska.**—Another Old-World species (*Jynx torquilla*) was added to our North American list when Dwight Tevuk secured a male (C. M. N. H. no. 24570) at Wales, Alaska, on September 8, 1945—a remarkably late date for a small bird from near the Arctic Circle. *J. t. chinensis* is the subspecies found on the Siberian mainland and the form most likely to occur accidentally in Alaska, but Dr. Herbert Friedmann, to whom I submitted this specimen, thinks it is best referable to *J. t. harterti* of central Asia, which Hartert did not recognize as distinct from the nominate *torquilla*. In any case, whatever the subspecific identity of this bird may be, the species is new to North America. I am indebted to Dr. Friedmann for the identification.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *The Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado*.

***Sublegatus arenarum*—a correction.**—Mr. Eugene Eisenmann of New York City has called my attention to an unfortunate error in my account of the species of *Sublegatus* in my 'Studies of Peruvian Birds,' No. 37 (*Amer. Mus. Novitates*, No. 1109: 1-7, 1941). In that paper I recognized a "glaber" group as specifically distinct from the *modestus* group, but in so doing overlooked the fact that *glaber* was not the oldest available specific name, being antedated some five years by *arenarum*, belonging to the Costa Rican form. Consequently, my "glaber" group should properly bear the specific name *arenarum*, applicable to the subspecies *peruvianus*, *sordidus*, *obscurior*, *orinocensis*, *glaber*, *atrirrostris*, *pallens*, and *arenarum*, and the more recently described *tortugensis*.—J. T. ZIMMER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

**Hippoboscid parasite from Screech Owl.**—On October 4, 1946, an adult female Eastern Screech Owl of the red color phase was taken in a basement room at Fernald Hall, Amherst, Massachusetts. It had apparently gained entrance through the flue of a ventilating funnel. The bird was chloroformed in preparation for making a study-skin. In the chloroform jar a parasite was seen to drop from its feathers. On examination this proved to be an adult winged female specimen of *Ornithoica*.

\* These two probably are English versions of some of the terms beginning with "q."

The specimen was sent to Professor Joseph Bequaert at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy for identification. In view of Professor Bequaert's determination of the parasite as the species *O. vicina* (Walker) and the fact that many records of *O. confluenta* have been published for passerine, strigiform, and falconiform birds, it seems advisable to make known his conclusion. In correspondence he advises that the species *O. confluenta*, as defined by Say, is restricted to wading birds and that the species occurring on passerines, falcons, and strigids should be designated as *O. vicina* (Walker) since it appears to be distinct from the species so far known to occur on the wading birds.—L. M. BARTLETT, *Massachusetts State College, Amherst, Massachusetts.*

**Waterfowl grounded at the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, Texas.**—That waterfowl may share with the airplane difficulty in taking off from a wet field was the observation of the writer during the winter of 1945–1946 when he watched wintering ducks attempt to arise from muddy fields at the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, Texas. Following the mid-January snowstorms, the clay soils of dry lake bottoms where the ducks gathered daily to rest became surprisingly viscous, adhering tenaciously to their feet and legs with the result that when many attempted to fly they were so weighted down with the sticky mud that they could not rise and fell easy prey to predacious birds. Struggling created puddles about the birds and in many instances added to the accumulation on wings, breasts and legs to such an extent that death undoubtedly resulted from exhaustion. Representative examples were the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*), one of which had acquired 14 ounces of mud on its feet and legs, and a Pintail (*Anas acuta tzitsihoo*), from which one pound 11 ounces of the gumbo were removed. Before prairie winds altered the condition by drying the wet surfaces again, an estimated 500 ducks were lost.—EDWARD J. O'NEILL, *Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, Muleshoe, Texas.*

**Purple Martins killed on a highway.**—Much has been written concerning the mortality of Tree Swallows by cars along the highway. The following account concerns a similar type of destruction of another member of the swallow family. On September 10, 1940, while driving down to Bull's Island, S. C., with Dr. Edward Fleisher and Mr. Irwin Alperin, we passed over a low bridge spanning Albemarle Sound, N. C. We noticed hundreds of dead birds all along the bridge, but due to its narrowness, did not stop the car until we reached the other side. Upon returning on foot, we identified them all as Purple Martins. There were no live birds present, nor were there any dead birds along the road, except those present on the bridge. Our only deduction that seemed plausible in explaining this mortality was that the martins had chosen the bridge railings to roost at night, and flew into blinding headlights of cars as they traversed the sound.—DR. M. A. JACOBSON, *New York, N. Y.*

**Hooded Merganser and a watersnake.**—On August 21, 1941, while birding along the shore of a small lake at Glen Spey, N. Y., about fifteen miles from Port Jervis, a considerable commotion about three hundred yards distant, on the otherwise very placid lake surface, attracted my attention. Wishing to investigate at a closer range, after an unsuccessful view with my binoculars, I leaped into a near-by boat and rowed out to the site, and came in time to fish out a female Hooded Merganser with a common watersnake entwined about its neck. I had forcibly to remove the snake, which when finally loosened, slithered its three and one-half feet back into the lake. The merganser appeared in labored breathing, and made but feeble attempts to escape my hold with its bill.