

in reference to the vast open grasslands of the mid-continent. Areas designated as prairies range from great plains to openings in woodland, stream-side meadows, the coastal marshes of Louisiana, and pools with only low or submerged growths in cypress swamps as at Okefenokee, Georgia. There are trembling prairies, walking prairies, rolling prairies, and flat prairies, indeed gamuts are run in use of the term with respect to moisture, physiography, and vegetation. Hence argument about applicability of the name "Prairie Warbler" to *Dendroica discolor* tends to become academic. The difficulty of finding a practical solution is illustrated by the names suggested as substitutes, which include Bush, Hillside, Pasture, and Wildwood Warbler. None of these seems especially appropriate to me, for I have observed the bird in southern Indiana and in Maryland and Virginia near the District of Columbia almost exclusively in scrub pines, *Pinus virginiana*, 15 to 25 feet in height. In fact, seeing a rather open growth of such trees in the proper season was a stimulus to go look for this bird, and the probable result would be hearing its distinctive scale-climbing song before seeing the songster. Scrub-pine Warbler would be a fitting name for the species there, but my friend of olden days, A. W. Butler, writing of the Florida form (Auk, 48: 438, 1931), said "To me it is the Mangrove Warbler." As it appears hopeless to get a name of this type that will be appropriate over the general range of the species, for familiarity of the term alone, we may as well rest content with "Prairie Warbler."—W. L. McAREE, *Chicago, Illinois*.

Display of Oven-birds, *Seiurus aurocapillus*.—The following observation of the mating activities of two Oven-birds was made while conducting a census of breeding birds in the Elk Grove Forest Preserve in Cook County, Illinois, on May 30, 1949. The birds were in plain view and I watched them through 8-power glasses at a distance of 15 or 20 feet. I finally broke up the affair when I moved on.

One of the birds put on a lengthy display for the other which was perched about six feet from the ground in an ironwood tree. The displaying bird chose a dead branch on a tree some few feet in front of the other. Its foot-work reminded me of the "kneading" of the claws of a contented cat, only the action caused it to move along the branch. Its tail was tilted up and its wings were drooped and slightly outspread; the tip of each primary feather was separate and distinct. The elevated position of the tail revealed the anal region. The feathers on the underparts of the bird are usually whitish, but there appeared under the tail two pencil-lines of gray which converged at about a 35° angle about a quarter of an inch above the anus. The point of convergence and the anus were connected by two more gray lines arranged in an obovate shape.

I was able to make these notes carefully, as the bird for which the display was being made took no interest. I believe it was a sick bird as it looked "dumpy" and sat on its perch with the tip of its beak opening and closing about a sixteenth of an inch with each breath. Whenever it hopped to another perch, startled by a movement on my part, the displaying bird chose a new branch in front of it to make the display. I finally frightened the sick-looking bird away entirely, and the other attacked it in mid-air. It clung to it after it alighted on a branch and pecked it vigorously on the rump. The attacked bird did not fight back but sat there gasping as before, and the other desisted from its display.—F. J. FREEMAN, *Itasca, Ill.*

Northern Yellow-throat, *Geothlypis trichas*, Caught in Spider Web.—On September 4, 1949, Tom Foster and I saw this unusual sight. The warbler was making frantic efforts to get free. When we approached the bird its efforts increased and it became disentangled. It flew to a nearby bush where it spent some time

preening and freeing itself from the web. There had been a very heavy dew the night before, and the web was very wet. This wet condition of the web, it seemed to us, was a handicap to the bird in its efforts to free itself.—LUCRETIVS H. ROSS, *Bennington, Vermont*.

NOTES AND NEWS

TO ALL those who aided in preparing Volume 67 of 'The Auk' the Editor wishes to extend his sincere thanks. The Editorial Committee, composed of John T. Emlen, Jr., S. Charles Kendeigh, and Robert W. Storer, has borne much of the work of first-readings of manuscripts, but many others have helped occasionally.

Chandler S. Robbins, James L. Peters, and others have made possible the listing of titles in the section on Recent Literature.

The financial aid, in the form of gifts and subsidization of certain articles, has made possible the increase in the number of pages printed this year. All of us appreciate this help. Funds donated specifically for a colored illustration in each volume are now almost sufficient to start such a series, perhaps in 1951.

'THE AUK' has entered into an agreement with University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Mich., to make issues available to libraries in microfilm form. Microfilm makes it possible to produce and distribute copies of periodical literature on the basis of the entire volume in a single roll, in editions of 30 or more, at a cost approximately equal to the cost of binding the same material in a conventional library binding. Sales are restricted to those subscribing to the paper edition, and the film copy is only distributed at the end of the volume year. The microfilm is in the form of positive microfilm and is furnished on metal reels, suitably labeled. Inquiries concerning purchases should be directed to University Microfilms, 313 N. First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CECIL BODEN KLOSS, Corresponding Fellow, died in England on August 19, 1949.