

(*Hydroprogne caspia*) terns. The terns are much the more adept at catching fish in the air and can swoop in sideways, taking thrown fish on the run, so to speak. Conversely, gulls usually cannot catch a fish unless it is thrown straight at them, and even then they often misjudge the rate of fall and miss the catch. In their efforts they sometimes sprawl clumsily in the air with legs, as well as wings, outstretched, shrieking all the while. Young birds are not able to catch thrown fish under the best circumstances but they can be trained. Gulls following shrimp boats when the trash fish are being thrown overboard are common sights in these waters. They often fly close, ten to twenty feet overhead, and about the same distance behind the boat. The terns fly farther back and higher on the outskirts of the screeching flock. Thus it was in Copano Bay.

While I was busily engaged in feeding the gulls, the boat ran under the Copano Causeway, the mast having been removed for that purpose so that we would not have to wait for the drawbridge to be raised. I continued to throw the fish and waved at the gulls, but although the boat was in plain sight under the causeway, and was at first only a few feet away, the whole flock hung suspended where they were when the boat went under the drawbridge. They acted as if they could not see the boat at all and, to all intents and purposes, as if it had vanished into a solid wall. The birds remained suspended and stationary in that fashion, while the boat proceeded down the bay at about eight miles an hour. After it had gone two to three hundred yards, the elapsed time being 50 to 75 seconds, a tern flying higher than the gulls sighted the boat from above the causeway and came to it. The gulls saw the tern and streamed over the causeway to resume their feeding behind the boat which apparently had only reappeared to their view when they saw it from above the causeway.

Birds accustomed to flying in and out of trees are not loath to fly under overhead objects. The habitat and habits of gulls are quite different, and they are clearly reluctant to fly under overhead objects, even when there is ample leeway. The above observation suggests the possibility that gulls may have some mental occlusion which prevents them from seeing through or beyond overhead structures even though there are no physical obstructions to a clear view.—GORDON GUNTER, *Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Ocean Springs, Mississippi*.

**Some Early Drawings of Canadian Birds.**—A publication little known to ornithologists and deserving of a brief description is the following: *Les Raretés des Indes: "Codex Canadensis,"* Librairie Maurice Chamonal, Paris (1930). In March, 1949, I saw the album of original drawings which has since been acquired by an unknown private collector. The first part of the title is that of the binder of the original album and the second part, "Codex Canadensis," was added when the drawings were reproduced. The album contains 56 drawings of birds, 67 of mammals, 18 of plants, 33 of fishes, and several of reptiles, batrachians, and insects.

The identity of the artist is not known with certainty. All that is known about him is contained in the brief preface to the reproduction by Baron Marc de Villiers. The quotations from uncited documents indicate that the artist was Charles Bécard de Granville, who was born in Quebec in 1675, and who died in that city on January 2, 1703. De Villiers inferred from the little documentary material available that the drawings were executed in 1701. De Granville is stated to have been the only person in Canada at the time capable of drawing a map. The artist was without formal training but showed sufficient talent that, to permit him to perfect himself in drawing, an annual gratuity was sought for him from Louis XIV. The coat of

arms of this monarch is stamped on the original album. De Villiers says: "il est fort probable" that de Granville sent the drawings to the King as an indication of his promise as an artist.

The drawings of the birds are so highly stylized that even with the legends, which sometimes carry the Indian names, it is impossible to identify many of the species. A somewhat similar problem of identification has occurred with the birds of Denys, although the latter's text lacked accompanying drawings (Nicolas Denys: "Description géographique et historique des costes de L'amerique Septentrionale, avec l'histoire naturelle du pais." Paris, 1672; English edition by W. F. Ganong, Toronto, 1908; see Elsa G. Allen, 'Auk,' 56: 283-290, 1939; Francis H. Allen, 'Auk,' 57: 75-82, 1940). The manuscript text that accompanied de Granville's drawings unfortunately was lost.

The Crossbill and Hummingbird offer no problem due to peculiarities of structure. The drawing of the 'American Sparrow' contains a fuller legend than usual. It reads: "American Sparrow, the plumage of which is highly variable. In winter it is entirely white. At other seasons it is gray, mixed with a diversity of colors." Presumably, this is the Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).

The liberties taken in some of the drawings may have been deliberate, or due to an attempt to sketch from memory. The drawing of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), one of the earliest known, has the tail forked instead of cuneiform. The *Outarde* (*Branta canadensis*) has a white spot on the side of the head in place of the white band on the chin.

The "American Jay with entirely blue plumage" (*gey ameriquain du plumage tout bleu*) is undoubtedly the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) though only a slight crest is shown. Ganong (*op. cit.*) concludes with reason that Denys' *Gays* refer to gayly colored birds and not to jays. Jay (*geai*) in old French has been spelled variously *gai*, *jaie*, and *jai*. "Jay" appears to be of onomatopoeic origin and "gay" may have been derived from it.—A. W. SCHORGER, *University of Wisconsin, Madison*.

**A Bibliographical Bonanza.**—Daniel C. Haskell, retired bibliographer of the New York Public Library, had the good fortune to unearth some notebooks by editors of *The Nation* which identified the authors of thousands of unsigned articles and reviews in that periodical. The results have been published by the Library as: "The Nation, Volumes 1-105, New York, 1865-1917. Indexes of Titles and Contributors," Vol. I. Index of Titles (iv + 577 pp.); and Vol. II. Index of Contributors (iv + 539 pp.), 1951 and 1953, respectively. These are excellent sources of information about the writings of notables of the period covered, among them a number of ornithologists. Of the latter, those having ten or more entries include: J. A. Allen, 14; Spencer F. Baird, 10; William Beebe, 22; Elliott Coues, 65; Francis H. Herrick, 12; and Sylvester D. Judd, 52. The Coues items, as I have learned by a separate study, include eleven that were signed articles, and thus are available through ordinary bibliographic procedures. I was surprised by the Judd entries, as I knew him fairly well and never heard him or any of his friends allude to his writing for *The Nation*. These 52 reviews exceed by two and one-half times the entire number of publications I was able to cite for him in an obituary appearing in 1942 (*The Auk*, 59, July, pp. 464-467). Ornithologists represented by fewer than ten titles in the indexes noted are: Francis H. Allen, Paul Bartsch, John Burroughs, Frank M. Chapman, Guy Emerson, Wilson Flagg, Helen M. Judd, Frederic A. Lucas, C. H. Merriam, Henry Oldys, and R. W. Shufeldt.—W. L. McATEE, 3 *Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*.