

"This crane has been bred and brought up on my estate at Ascania Nova, in the Province of Tauride, in South Russia. Whoever catches or kills this bird is requested to communicate with me, and inform me where it occurred.

"(Signed) F. R. FALZ-FEIN.

"September, 1892.'

"I now raised my head, which hitherto I had kept closely bent down; and the Khalifa asked, 'Well, what do the papers contain?' 'Sire,' I replied, 'this case must have been fastened to the neck of a bird which has been killed. Its owner, who lives in Europe, has requested that anyone who finds the bird should let him know where it was caught or killed.' 'You have spoken the truth,' said the Khalifa, in a somewhat more amiable tone; 'the bird was killed by a Shaigi near Dongola, and the cartridge case was found attached to its neck. He took it to the Emir Yunes, whose secretary was unable to decipher the writing of the Christian, and he therefore forwarded it to me. Tell me now what is written on the paper?' I translated the message, word for word, and, at the Khalifa's command, also tried to describe the geographical position of the country from which the bird had come, and the distance it had traveled before it was killed. 'This is one of the many devilries of those unbelievers,' he said, at last, 'who waste their time in such useless nonsense. A Mohammedan would never have attempted to do such a thing.'

"He then ordered me to hand over the case to his secretary, and signed to me to withdraw, but I managed to take one more hurried glance at the paper: Ascania Nova, Tauride, South Russia, I repeated over and over again to imprint it on my memory. The mulazemin at the door anxiously awaited my return, and when I came out from the presence of my tyrannical master with a placid countenance they seemed greatly pleased. On my way to my house I continued to repeat to myself the name of the writer and his residence, and determined that should Providence ever grant me my freedom I should not fail to let him know what had happened to his bird."

On February 20, 1895, about two years later, Slatin Pasha escaped from Omdurman, and after a soul-trying flight through the desert reached Assuan, upper Egypt, on the 16th of March, proceeding thence to Cairo. The end of this incident is quoted from his own words.

"A few days after my arrival, when seated on the balcony of the Agency, and looking down on the garden all fresh with the verdure of spring, I espied a tame heron stalking across the flower-beds. Instantly I thought of Falz-Fein of Ascania Nova, in Tauride, South Russia, and I hurried to my room, and then and there wrote to him a full account of the crane which he had released in 1892, and which had been killed in Dar Shaigia. It was the greatest pleasure to feel myself in a position to give the former owner of the bird an accurate account of what had happened; and soon afterwards I received a reply from Mr. Falz-Fein, who possesses a large estate in the Crimea, thanking me warmly for my letter, and inviting me to pay him a visit, which, unfortunately, the numerous calls on my time have hitherto prevented me from accepting."—F. H. FOWLER, *Palo Alto, California, May 19, 1931.*

The Dwarf Cowbird in San Benito County, California.—On May 10, 1931, H. W. Carriger while collecting along the San Benito River near Betabel located a nest of the Golden Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla chryseola*) with one egg of the warbler and one egg of the Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*). This he left undisturbed and very kindly turned over his interest in the find to the writer who collected the completed set on May 15, when it contained two eggs of the warbler and the cowbird's egg. The egg of the parasite was found to be the farthest advanced in incubation. Four eggs constitute a normal set for this warbler and one or more eggs may have been destroyed by the cowbird at the time of its own laying. The nest was typical of this warbler and was concealed twelve inches up in poison oak. This is our first record of the cowbird for this section. As yet no birds have been noted.—W. E. ENGLISH, *Gilroy, California, June 22, 1931.*

Black-footed Albatross on San Francisco Bay.—For several years past I have kept careful record of the birds seen in my daily "commuting" across San Francisco Bay,