

It was noted that on different nights and even at different times of the same night the rate of calling varied considerably for individual birds. On some nights all birds heard were calling faster than usual. The slowest individual heard called at a rate of 16 repetitions per minute and the fastest at a rate of 41 per minute. Of all the birds timed, the average rate of calling was 28 per minute.

The following table gives the calling rates of four Rufous Nightjars for a ten-day period in April, 1955. Slight differences in their calls, as well as the fact that individuals habitually used the same tree for a calling perch, made it fairly easy to distinguish these four birds, even when all were calling at the same time. Their perches were spaced about 200 yards apart along the course of the Cardenas River near my house. They were timed for periods of five minutes or more beginning at each of the hours indicated. On the two evenings when the very fast rates are recorded my notes show that the weather was extremely hot and humid, much more so than usual.

Calling Rates of Rufous Nightjars

Date in April, 1955	Hour	Number of calls per minute			
		Bird A	Bird B	Bird C	Bird D
18	12:01 a.m.	29	24	20
18	4:00 a.m.	30	26	20	24
19	12:00 mid.	29	24	19	23
23	3:45 a.m.	25	18	18	20
24	9:00 p.m.	29	24	24	20
24	12:00 mid.	30	26	24	23
25	7:30 p.m.	28	24	22
26	1:00 a.m.	29	24	19	24
26	9:00 p.m.	30	24	26
28	7:45 p.m.	41	30	32	25
28	10:15 p.m.	32	28	26
30	7:30 p.m.	40	39	30
30	11:00 p.m.	29	25	22	24

During the month of April, when calling was at its height, individuals would call continuously for periods of five minutes to an hour or more. Often one would stop for a few minutes only to resume calling, keeping this up for several hours. On April 19, 1955, I recorded a remarkable series of calls for one Rufous Nightjar whose perch was a low tree on the river bank about 300 yards from my house at Fort Clayton (Bird A of the table). This individual had been heard at intervals earlier in the evening, but at fifteen minutes past midnight it began a session of continuous calling that went on without a break until 4:27 a.m., a total of 252 minutes! The rate of calling was nearly constant; I checked it at intervals of about fifteen minutes and it varied but little from a steady 29 calls per minute. It is believed that this record of over 7000 consecutive calls is the longest ever noted for a goatsucker. Sprunt (Florida Bird Life, 1954:258) mentions a count of 834 consecutive calls for the Chuck-will's-widow and Cleaves reports over a thousand consecutive calls for the Whip-poor-will (Mulaik, Lee, and Stillwell, Auk, 70, 1953:368).

Several birds were observed while calling. The beam of a powerful flashlight did not seem to disturb them a great deal and it was possible to approach to within a few yards before they would stop calling and fly off. Every bird seen calling was perched crosswise on a bare limb, usually on the end, under a canopy of overhanging branches. When calling the mouth is opened widely and the whole body vibrates with the effort of the call. Two birds observed during the day were perched lengthwise on limbs, in the manner of other goatsuckers. No birds were ever seen on the ground, although the Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*), which in this area frequents the same habitat as the Rufous Nightjar, was always found on the ground.—F. O. CHAPELLE, *Medical Field Service School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, September 24, 1955.*

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Idaho.—While vacationing along the Wood River, Idaho, fifteen miles from Sun Valley and at 6800 feet elevation, my husband and I saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*). It was observed on August 6, 7 and 16. It was a female or immature, since the

tail was not as long as in adult males, but the tail was definitely forked. The head, breast and back appeared almost white as it sat on top of small pines, three to five feet high usually, and this was what first attracted our attention to it. When it flew, the salmon-pink wing linings showed plainly and there was a pink wash on its sides. The red patch also showed on the wing in flight.

The air was full of flying Violet-green Swallows the first time we saw the flycatcher and each time it would take wing the swallows would dart at it. Apparently they recognized it as a strange bird and indeed it was far out of its range.—FLORENCE THORNBURG, *Tucson, Arizona, September 9, 1955.*



Fig. 1. Nest and young of Striped Horned Owl in Panamá

A Nest of the Striped Horned Owl.—On January 8, 1953, two young Striped Horned Owls (*Rhinoptynx clamator*) were discovered on their nest in a citrus orchard at Juan Mina Station located on an island in the Chagres River, Panamá. The young, not more than a few weeks old, are pictured (fig. 1) on the nest which was merely a beaten place in the grass on the ground. A female bird, apparently the mother, had been collected the day before.—FRANK A. HARTMAN, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, September 24, 1955.*

The Western Grebe Taken on Hook and Line.—Over a period of two years at the United States Naval Receiving Station, Seattle, Washington, the writer had many opportunities to observe the occurrence, relative abundance, and feeding habits of the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) and it was noted that this bird's habits are remarkably influenced in the pier areas by the large ships at berth. Ordinarily the anchor lights of ships are turned on at night and directed at the water's surface. These lights attract fish of many species, chief among which are the starry flounder (*Platichthys stellatus*), various sculpins, sable fish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*), rock cod or rock fish (*Sebastes* sp.), rarely a thread eel (*Nemichthys avocetta*), and many small fishes including the herring (*Clupea pallasii*).