

encounters between the two species, in which the partridge invariably prevailed.

Mr. Neil Pratt, farmer, of Ravenscrag, and also at one time near Staveley, in a letter to me said—"I have your letter asking about the Hungarian Partridge. They have been quite numerous both here and on the Johnson place, but the one thing I noticed was that they are the sworn enemy of our prairie chickens." When asked later his reasons for writing thus he told me he had witnessed two partridges catch hold of a chicken by the neck feathers; and at Staveley he had also observed aggressive tactics on the part of the smaller bird. This bears out what I was told by Mr. Desillets, of Eastend, whom I quoted in my original article. He and two companions witnessed a partridge worrying a sharp-tail by holding on to the neck. Mr. Desillets vouches also for the following: In the spring of 1926 he was out for a stroll up one of the wooded coulees near Eastend in company with some friends. There they saw a partridge drive a sharp-tailed grouse off her nest and destroy the eggs.

Mr. Tom Ion, farmer, of Eastend, also says he has seen the partridge chasing grouse.

All these persons are well known to me, and I have no hesitation in believing what they say is true; and their evidence enables one to understand the many reports we hear, that the partridge is helping to drive out the native grouse. There are, of course, other factors bringing about the decrease of the latter. The increase in numbers of the Crow and the Magpie has become a serious menace to bird life of all kinds, and Mr. Randall's remarks regarding the use, or abuse, of motor cars by game hunters are much to the point.

Mr. Randall says: "The idea that the Pinnated Grouse is also a dangerous enemy of the Sharp-tail is even more absurd." In this connection I quote the late D. G. Elliott, who in his "Game Birds of North America" writes "The Sharp-tailed and the Pinnated Grouse often meet on the limits of their dispersion, but rarely mingle together, for they are deadly enemies and engage in desperate battles." Mr. Randall suggests that one of the real reasons for the prejudice against the partridge is that it is too "swift" and hard to hit. This should scarcely apply to us in Saskatchewan, for until this year the partridge has been on the protected list.

As a game bird no doubt the Hungarian Partridge is all that its advocates claim it to be. But there is a large, and I believe an increasing number of farmers, the writer included, who regard the prairie chicken with special affection, to be encouraged to come around the farm buildings, especially in winter when so few of our birds are

with us. One man, who must be nameless, informed me privately that, indignant at the sight of the partridge pushing the prairie chicken off his farm, he employed somewhat irregular methods to rid his premises of the partridge; and since then the chicken have returned.—L. B. POTTER.

THREE TORONTO RECORDS OF THE HOARY BAT.—*Nycteris cinerea*, the Hoary Bat, is one of the rarest species to be found in Ontario. It is a migratory form, conspicuous because of its size (sixteen inches or more in wing expanse) but the number of records indicate that it is seldom identified or collected. Three specimens have been taken in the Toronto region during the present fall (1927). The first was secured at Erindale, near Toronto, on October 1, by R. V. Lindsay. The specimen was presented to the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology where it is now preserved. The second was taken at Cedarvale, Toronto, on October 2, by C. Hope. This specimen is now in the collection of S. L. Thompson of Toronto. A third specimen was collected by C. Hope at Ashbridges Bay, Toronto, on October 23. This specimen was subsequently presented to the Museum.

The above mentioned dates are of interest in connection with a statement in "Life Histories of Northern Animals" by Seton, Vol. II, p. 1198, which I quote as follows: "The latest date in my Journal for the Hoary-Bat, at Toronto, is mid-September,"—L. L. SNYDER, Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto.

American bird lovers will hear with regret of the untimely death of that delightful delineator of birds and charming personality, Louis Agassiz Fuertes. The sad event took place August 22nd, at Unadilla, N.Y., when Mr. Fuertes car was struck by a train on a grade crossing. He was instantly killed. Probably no American ornithologist will be more keenly missed. All of us will miss his beautiful pictures in current literature and we who knew him personally will miss his friendly wholesome presence more than we can say.—P.A.T.

A MYSTERY BAND.—The National Parks of Canada Branch, Department of the Interior, Ottawa, which is keeping the file of official Canadian bird banding records, has received a seamless aluminum band, inscribed "40. P.B. 1917," and a fragment of bone from Mr. R. Owen Merri-man, 96 West Second Street, Hamilton, Ontario, with the information that the band and bone were found by Mr. John Baker, Centre Street, Kingston, Ontario, in the tilled rows of a market



Snyder, L. L. 1927. "Three Toronto Records of the Hoary Bat." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 41(7), 155–155. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338840>.

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