

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE WILD TURKEY IN SIMCOE COUNTY, ONTARIO.—In an article on "Archæology as an Aid to Zoology," *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, 33: 68-70, 1919, I attempted to show how the prehistoric range of the wild turkey could be determined from archæological finds of its bones. The farthest northern archæological record of the presence of the turkey in Canada then was in Whitchurch township, York County, Ontario, about 20 miles north of Toronto. Since then I have secured two additional records which extend the northern range considerably. In 1926 I found some bones in refuse deposits of a Tionontati Indian village site near Creemore, Simcoe county, about 48 miles northwest of Whitchurch township. More recently Mr. T. G. Connon of Goderich, Ontario, found a humerus in a refuse pit at a post-European Huron village site on lot 6, concession IX, Tay township, Simcoe county, about 56 miles north of the Whitchurch township site. While it is possible that the bones are those of birds that were killed farther south than the localities where they were found, it is just as likely that they had been killed in the vicinity of the sites.—W. J. WINTEMBERG.

THE LITTLE BLACK BULLHEAD (*Ameiurus melas*) AS AN AQUARIUM FISH.—Two years ago last September, (1934) I noticed a string of tiny Black Bullheads following their leader, as they do, on the surface of Sturgeon Creek, Winnipeg, and, conveying 100 of these to the aquarium, I found they continued the same habit of following the leader everywhere round the aquarium, attracting more interest than the goldfish by their orderly activity. Many asked for them to

try in their aquaria, and they have proved hardy and successful. Mine are now four inches long, very active and attractive, and seem in no way to interfere with the goldfish, going about their own business and feeding in an entirely different way.

There seems no reason why the little Black Bullhead cannot be successfully used in any house aquarium.—V. W. JACKSON.

A LARGE MOVEMENT OF THE TERRESTRIAL FORM OF THE COMMON NEWT (*Triturus v. viridescens* (Harlan)).—On the twenty-fourth of May, 1933, Messrs. T. M. Shortt, A. H. Shortt and the writer were exploring the talus slope on the escarpment at Credit Forks, Peel County, Ontario. We were astonished to find the terrestrial form of the newt scattered along the slope in very large numbers. Where the upper end of the talus slope terminated at the base of a wall of limestone, many could be seen attempting to climb the almost perpendicular wall some thirty to forty feet in height. Many were succeeding in their attempt, as numbers of them were seen scattered at various heights on the face of the wall. On the level ground above they were found in fewer numbers. We gathered specimens at random, putting them into our binocular cases and, when later counted, found we had over one hundred individuals. Many times this number could have been secured.

Mr. R. J. Rutter of Toronto has informed me that on July 19, 1931, he found the aquatic form of the newt quite common in ponds in some old limestone quarries on the level area above the cliff described.—C. E. HOPE, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology*.

REVIEWS

A GUIDE TO BIRD SONGS, by Aretas Saunders. D. Appleton-Century Co. and the Ryerson Press, Toronto. 8vo. pp. 285, 163 song graphs. Price \$3.00.

Mr. Saunders has long been known as a careful student of bird song. In this little book he has presented the results of long and discriminating familiarity with the voices of most of the birds of eastern North America. More birds can be recognized in the field by ear than by eye but it has been among the difficulties that memory is fleeting, ear knowledge personal, and the experience of one can rarely be transmitted to an-

other. Various syllabifications have been found more or less useful in conventionally rendering bird sounds but, even when accompanied by musical notes, the result has been mostly disappointing. Birds do not enunciate clearly in any human language and do not follow any of our recognized scales or tempos. However pleasing their notes may be, they do not make music in the formal sense of the word. Mr. Saunders has abandoned these traditional methods of song recording and developed a system that seems to render bird songs in a manner more exact and satisfactory than any that has heretofore been current.

He represents the sound by a line, broken or connected as the occasion calls for. Length, indicates duration of time; weight, the intensity or loudness; and relative position, up or down the pitch. Distinct changes of notes are connected by vertical lines and slurs by curved ones. Qualities are represented by syllables that are rarely twisted into intelligible words. The pitch of the opening note and the distinctive timbre are suggested in a short heading.

The reviewer has long used a crude version of this method for recording particularly distinctive songs with some success. At least with notes so made he has often been able to recall a working version of songs long buried in subconscious memory. This proves the practicability of the system as developed and improved by Mr. Saunders and, even if some of the song diagrams given are difficult of interpretation to the mental ear, they introduce the bird student to a system that he can practice for himself and enable him to make records that will assist his own memory and be a basis of comparison with the experience of others. Undoubtedly this little book will be of great value to the field student. We foresee that in the future many note books will be filled with short-hand hieroglyphics which will greatly increase their value. —P. A. T.

THE HAWKS OF NORTH AMERICA, *Their Field Identification and Feeding*, by John Richard May. Illustrated by Allan Brooks and Roger Tory Peterson. Published by The National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York. Quarto, pp. 140, 37 full page plates in colour, 4 in black and white. Price \$1.25.

"Give a dog a bad name and hang him" is an old aphorism. Our hawks have suffered severely under the human prejudice thus expressed. True, some hawks occasionally take chickens and birds of economic value, but all hawks, good or bad, have been popularly damned for the deeds of the few. Any hawk is generally deemed a legitimate target for any gun

until the sight of a bird of prey living freely is an unfortunately rare experience over much of the country. We are neither hawkphobe nor hawkophile. Our attitude is that the hawk question is one of geography and circumstance with the preponderance of evidence greatly in favour of the hawk. Like humans there are many decidedly good hawks and a few bad ones. Occasionally good hawks get perverted, out of place or pinched by necessity. To mete out indiscriminate destruction to some of our importantly good friends on account of a few undesirables is like jumping over a precipice to cure a tooth-ache. The general popular attitude is, — "We cannot tell one hawk from another; all hawks look alike to us and we take no chance of allowing a possible criminal to escape". But too often there may be an under-current of, — "Besides, we like it, not only the shooting but the glow of virtue we feel in ridding the world of what we regard as a malefactor".

This excuse, weak as it is, no longer holds. With this exceptionally beautiful monograph of the hawks, with full page illustrations of all the species in colour from the brushes of most accomplished bird artists, presented at so reasonable a price, there is no reason why anyone should not inform himself on the appearance, both in field and hand, and on the economic value, of each and every one of our hawks. The text is by one well qualified to speak on the subject, and the evidence is presented with clarity and should carry conviction. Whether it will or not, remains to be seen. Some of us are pessimistic enough to feel that the anti-hawk complex is too firmly ingrained in certain quarters to be removed by any evidence contrary to tradition. We have been preaching the value of hawks in general so long, and with so little apparent effect, that we are getting discouraged. It is to be hoped that this and other efforts to lead popular opinion in the right direction will take effect before it is too late and the last of these interesting, beautiful and valuable birds is no more. This book should be in the hands, and ornamenting the shelves, of every conservationist, sportsman and nature student. — P. A. T.



Taverner, P. A. 1935. "A Guide to Bird Songs, by Arelas Saunders [Review]."
The Canadian field-naturalist 49(7), 125–126. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339843>.

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