

I have in the past fifteen years examined a very considerable number of nests, and it has been my experience that normally it is an unusual thing to find dead young in the nest. I should say that each such find the past season was so much evidence indicating an unusual mortality, and I am of the opinion that could such data all be gathered, it would be found that the effect of the unusual season of 1903 on bird life was very marked.—B. S. BOWDISH, *New York City*.

The Rapidity of the Wing-Beats of Birds.—Attention may well be directed to a neglected phase of the problem of flight, for while foreign observers have devised graphical methods for measuring wing movements too swift for discernment by the human eye, little or nothing is known about our birds of slow flight, in which it is possible to count the wing-beats. On several occasions, I have had opportunity for watching Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) following in the wake of a steamboat running at the rate of ten or twelve miles an hour, and on calm days I find the wing-beats in this species average about one hundred and eighty to the minute. Varying conditions make difficult even such simple observations as these; but the coöperation of many observers in this almost untouched field may some day furnish valuable data. Laboratory experiments abroad, with harnessed birds, show that the wing-beats of a Sparrow are 780 a minute, of a Duck, 540, of a Pigeon, 480, and so on, while at home we only know that wings are too swift for most cameras. The subject is a large one and I merely wish to stimulate interest in it, by thus lightly touching upon it.—JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., M. D., *New York City*.

A Correction.—In 'The Auk,' Vol. XIX, No. 3, July, 1902, p. 331, in the first line, "Faxon and Allen" should read Faxon and Hoffmann.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, *Concord, Mass.*

Audubon's 'Ornithological Biography.'—I have just purchased a copy of the above work, the first volume of which bears the imprint,

Philadelphia: | Judah Dobson, Agent, 108 Chestnut Street; | and |
H. H. Porter, Literary Rooms, 121 Chestnut Street. | MDCCCXXXI.

Coues's Bibliography makes no mention of this imprint, nor can I find another set the first volume of which bears such a one.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Concord, Mass.*

Delaware Bird Notes.—A hasty visit to Lewes, Del.—Cape Henlopen—on February 5, 1904, admitting of but an hour's walk across the frozen marsh and barely into the cedars and pines bordering the ocean sufficed to note the following, amongst the species:—Myrtle Warblers, numerous; Robins and Bluebirds, abundant; several Savannah Sparrows, a flock of 18 Snow Buntings, one Catbird, a single Brown-headed Nuthatch, and two Red-breasted Nuthatches.—C. J. PENNOCK, *Kennett Square, Pa.*



Dwight, Jonathan. 1904. "The Rapidity of the Wing-Beats of Birds." *The Auk* 21, 286–286. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070066>.

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