

Birds of the Headwaters of the Gila River, New Mexico: Further Records.— I desire to add three more species to the list published in Vol. XXIV, Auk, p. 327. All of these three species were taken at the G. O. S. Ranch, on Sapillo Creek, N. Mexico and are as follows:—

Astur atricapillus striatulus. WESTERN GOSHAWK.— One (♂) shot Oct. 7, 1912.

Archibuteo ferrugineus. FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG.— One (♂) shot Oct. 14, 1912.

Calcarius ornatus. CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR.— A moderate sized flock lingered in the grain stubble from Oct. 13, to (at least) Oct. 21, 1912.— W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

Double Bird Tragedy.— About eight o'clock May 6, 1913, painters working on a forcing house on the grounds of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., were startled by the headlong flight past them of two birds. One was evidently frantic with terror from pursuit, the other conscious of nothing but its prey, for both birds rushed heedlessly past the men and after a flight of five or six rods more, dashed headlong into the plate-glass window of the residence of the Station Director, who, with his family, was away from home. The glass was not broken but the birds were both instantly killed, either by the shock or by breaking their necks. The concussion was heard by the forcing-house man at his work and he, with the painters, went to the place and picked up the birds. These were later identified by Mr. B. B. Fulton, Assistant Entomologist of the Station, as a Hermit Thrush and a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and the identification was later confirmed by the writer. The thrush is migratory here, the hawk resident but not abundant.— F. H. HALL, *Geneva, N. Y.*

Æsop as a Bird Observer.— Under the title of "Two ornithological fables from Louisiana" there appeared a note in 'The Auk' for April, 1913, p. 282, by W. L. McAtee, wherein two tales or fables relating to bird life were recited.

The first of these, concerning an alleged interesting fish-catching habit of *Mycteria americana*, is beyond the writer's power to verify. If the story, or at least the substance of it, be true, the easiest explanation at hand is that given by Mr. McAtee, i. e., that the scales allure small fishes in search of food and that these, rising to the surface in great numbers to nibble at the bait, are devoured by the Ibises.

The second tale, however, is of course to be relegated to the realm of myth and is as old as Æsop. As it is very beautiful and of great ethical importance in the proper education of good boys and girls, besides being of interest owing to its great antiquity, it deserves to be quoted in the original. The Latin is taken from an edition entitled "*Æsopi Fabulæ Graeco-Latinae*," &c., Eton, 1807, II, p. 26, and is a model of brevity:

"Formica sitiens descendit in fontem, ac tracta a fluxu, suffocabatur.

Columba vero, hoc viso, ramum arboris decerptum in fontem projecit, super quo sedens formica evasit. Auceps autem quidam post hoc, calamis compositis, ad columbam comprehendam ibat. Hoc autem viso, formica aucupis pedem momordit; ille vero dolens, et calamos projecit, et, ut columba statim fugeret, auctor fuit. Affabulatio: Fabula significat, opertere benefactoribus gratiam referre."

Which, freely translated, reads about as follows:

An ant, being thirsty, went down to a well, but, being carried along by the flow of water, was nearly drowned. A dove, however, seeing this, picked a twig from a tree and threw it into the well, and the ant, sitting upon it, made its escape. Later a bird catcher, armed with arrows, intended to secure the same dove. But when the ant saw this, she bit the foot of the bird hunter. Feeling the sudden pain, he dropped the arrows, and caused the dove to fly away at once. Moral: It is of importance to show gratitude to your benefactors.

As Æsop flourished (if he flourished at all) about 600 B. C., it will be seen that this remarkable tale is old indeed. It may with propriety be suggested that aspiring naturalists and especially those interested in zoölogy devote part of their earliest attention to this cheerful ancient mythologist, or at least to the collection of fables bearing his name. They will go far toward proving the truth of the old saying that "nothing is new under the sun." — S. M. GRONBERGER, *Washington, D. C.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Ridgway's 'Color Standards and Color Nomenclature.'¹—Twenty-seven years have elapsed since the publication of Mr. Ridgway's "Nomenclature of Colors for Naturalists." Although this work at once became the standard for almost all descriptive work involving color names, the author realized its imperfections and within two years set about gathering materials for the more comprehensive treatise which is now before us. Probably no one in this country is better qualified for the task than Mr. Ridgway as he combines the artist's knowledge and appreciation of color with a large experience in matching colors in nature and a keen perception of minute differences in color tones.

¹ Color Standards | and | Color Nomenclature | By | Robert Ridgway, M. S., C. M. Z. S., etc. | Curator of the Division of Birds, United States | National Museum. | With Fifty-three Colored Plates | and | Eleven Hundred and Fifteen Named Colors. | Washington, D. C. | 1912. | Published by the Author. | 8vo, pp. 1-43, pll. I-LIII. Price \$8. (cash with order), postage extra, registered 20 cts.



Gronberger, Sven Magnus. 1913. "Æsop as a Bird Observer." *The Auk* 30, 438–439. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4071685>.

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