

FOURTH SPECIMEN OF *ARDETTA NEOXENA*  
AT TORONTO.

(July 16, 1894.) Yesterday while going through Toronto marsh I had the good fortune to find Cory's Bittern (*Ardetia neoxena*), it was a little east of the south shore buoy and just in the act of alighting a little behind me when I caught sight of it, and at first mistook it for a Virginian Rail, but on a second sight its long legs showed clearly it was not. I pushed as close to the rushes as I dared, and watched it for about a quarter of an hour, and turned to leave it, all the time wishing I had my gun. After going some fifty yards, I returned to have, as I thought, a last look at my rare friend. This time I got so near it that Miss Phillips suggested I hit it with an oar. Happy thought! I took the hint, so did the Bittern, and he flew to the other end of the rushes, but again let me get within a couple of yards of him, and this time I had the good luck to knock him over. While watching it, its actions were altogether different to any other Bittern I have ever seen, for instead of standing erect when observed, as is the habit of most of the family, it would crouch down until it was only the size of a Virginian Rail, its long neck altogether out of sight. It had a very slow, sneaky walk, grasping a single rush with one foot and striding as far as possible to grasp another. It seemed to be feeding on insects on the lily leaves at the foot of the rushes, as it would every few seconds dart out its neck with lightning rapidity and take something off the leaves.

*Toronto.*

CHARLES PICKERING.

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The bird referred to above was handed to me by Mr. Pickering for examination, and following is the description of it. The terms used in defining the colors were taken from Ridgway's "Nomenclature of Colors," with which the bird was compared: Specimen ♀, in good condition. Total length from point of beak to end of middle toe claw, 16.2'; the same with moderate extension, 17.2'; expanse of wings, 16.2'; wing, 4.70'; gape, 2.2'; from point of beak to centre of eye, 2.3'; in length of nasal aperture, 0.4'; beak, measured at nostril, 0.3' wide; tail,