

clearly that it was not. I therefore pushed my boat as close to the rushes as I dared, and watched it for a quarter of an hour, and then turned to leave it as I had no gun. After going some fifty yards I turned as I thought to have another look at my rare friend when my lady companion suggested to me to hit it with my oar. I took the hint, but as I was about to strike, the bird arose and flew to the other side of the marsh. I followed, and as it allowed me to approach within a couple of yards, I succeeded in knocking it over and secured it. While watching its actions I noted that these were altogether different from those of any other Least Bittern that I had previously seen, for instead of standing erect when being watched, as is the habit of the other members of the family, it would crouch down until it seemed to be only the size of a Virginian Rail, its long neck being altogether out of sight. It had a very slow, sneaky walk, grasping a single rush with one foot and striding as far as possible so as 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 great rapidity and take something off the leaves."

In the appendix to Coues' "Key to North American Birds, 1884," the following description of the Florida Dwarf Bittern is given: "Crown, back and tail black, glossed with green; sides of head and throat chestnut, the feathers on the back of the neck tipped with greenish-black, breast and under parts rufous-chestnut, nearly uniform, shading into blackish on the sides, under tail coverts dull black, upper tail coverts rufous-chestnut, the under ones paler chestnut, all the remiges slaty plumbeous. Length 10.80 inches, wing 4.30, tarsus 1.40, bill 1.80; habitat southwestern Florida." It will also be noted by the more advanced students of Ornithology that while these specimens are thus described by Dr. Coues in "The Key" of 1884, *Ardetta neoxena*, yet, in "The Union Check List" of more recent date, the name *Botaurus neoxenus* is used, and by ornithologists it is known by both these names, as well as by the different English names previously mentioned. In the October, 1894, issue of the "Biological Review for Ontario," Mr. H. Brown writes that up to that date nine specimens of Cory's Bittern had been captured at Toronto, and he gives a résumé of its history, from which a few extracts are here given. "A most peculiar circum-