

*Ardea
herodias*

10-11-13 (49)

1. 56

Massachusetts.

Ardea herodias (No. 1).

1892.

May 23. Concord. Was surprised to start a Great Blue Heron from Mrs Barrett's meadow where it was standing knee deep in the water as I came around the bend above. It was in immature plumage & doubtless a barren bird. It flew from nearly the same spot as I passed on my way homeward at evening.

Sept. 9. As I was approaching the spot where I saw the Wood Duck this morning keeping close to the bushes & paddling silently in the hope of surprising the same bird again I heard suddenly a prodigious flapping of wings directly overhead and looking up saw a Great Blue Heron, a young bird evidently, flying from a dead tree the top of which was still standing. I afterwards disturbed the same bird again higher up the river where it had chosen the top of a leafy maple for its perch. As it went off it presented a most picturesque appearance showing in silhouette against the glowing evening sky.

Oct. 8 There was a Great Blue Heron on the river this morning, a noble bird but in the young plumage, I started him first from Wild Rice Island and drove him before me to the Holt where he doubled back. Once he alighted on the top of the bank where the ground was hard and smooth & the grass short. Over this he moved with slow stately steps towards the water's edge occasionally stopping & stretching up his long neck to look at me. He reminded me of a sand-hill crane which he resembled not only in motions but in his nearly uniform bluish

Massachusetts.

Ardea herodias. (no. 2)

1832.

arby coloring - between the blue of the river and sky -
 as Thoreau says. Poor bird! I hope that a shot which
 I heard at this bend an hour later did not end
 his career but I saw nothing of him when
 I paddled homeward at evening. There is a
 skeleton of one of these Herons under the pines on Davis
 Hill - shot there by some camper, I suppose, and left
 to rot where it fell! It is indeed sad to think that
 the few large birds which still visit this river are so
 mercilessly pursued & wantonly slain. This fine
 creature, for instance, one evening adding life and
 interest to the meadows by its picturesque form
 and imposing flight, the next a heap of carrion
 and dishevelled feathers under the pines where it
 met its fate!

Ardea herodias

1896 Penobscot Bay, Maine.

- July 6 Campbell Island.. Conway found about a dozen nests here with young in 1894. He visited the place to-day but there were no birds nor any signs of their recent presence. Several of their old nests were seen in Balsams 20 to 30 ft. above the ground. Conway saw one Heron near the mouth of Fish Creek (2 miles from the island) where I was in the cabin.
- " 8 Isle au Haut. Started three birds from a rocky cove where they were apparently fishing. Conway knows of no breeding colony on this island.
- " 11 I bought of Ralph N. Knight two sets of 5-eggs each, taken May 16 on Pickering's Island one of the most northerly of the Fox Islands group.

Ardea herodias.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898. On the afternoon of August 2nd a Great Blue Heron passed
July 5 high over our house coming from the south-west and flying in
to
Aug.15. the direction of Cunningham Pond. An hour later we found
what was no doubt the same bird standing in the shallow water
near shore at the head of the pond. He was a fine large bird
in full adult plumage.

Concord, Mass.

1899. At 11 A.M. as I was standing in front of the cabin a
April 8. flock of seven Great Blue Herons passed overhead very high in
air flying in close order like Geese for which I at first
mistook them. They kept on out of sight due north. I cannot
remember ever seeing so many migrating in company before.

Ardea herodias

1890 Mass.

Nov. 20 Belmont. - One seen by M. A. Fraser sitting in the top of a tall leafless elm in front of his house. It afterwards flew to an apple tree. late date.

1891 Mass.

January Nanshown. Mr. Harry Gordon White tells me that these Winters in Herons have been actually numerous about Nanshown numbers at during December and January. These winters has been Nanshown Mass. unusually severe, very cold with a good deal of snow.

1890

Dec. 8 Lexington. - One shot to-day. For the last two weeks the weather has been steadily cold and twice the therm. has fallen to 0°.

1892

April 19 Concord. One in immature plumage on the Great Meadows.
" 20 " " flying over the meadows in the evening twilight.
May 23 " " immature bird
" 24 " " " "

1894

Oct 11 - Nov. 21. Concord. A few birds were seen along the river, the last Nov. 11th.

1898

Apr. 25 Concord. About noon three passed Davis's Hill flying down river [Journ.].

1898

Apr. 26 Concord. Two hawking in the swamps by the Blakemore woods this evening. [Journ.].

1900

Dec. 1 Lynn Marshes, Lynn "I saw a Great Blue flying over a creek in the Lynn Marshes the day I started for Bethel" [W. Brewster.]

FREDERIC H. KENNARD,
Landscape Architect.
82 Devonshire Street,
Room 12.

[9 lines copied
HD]

Boston, Feb 7th 1901.

My dear Mr Brewster

I don't know what
reminds you have for
the winter occurrence of
the Great Blue Heron here-
abouts; but thought you
might be glad to know
that I saw one on Tuesday
a.m. Feb 5th at East
Dart. Brookline.

I was in there trying to
take some photographs, after
the storm, and had just
discovered that I had made
4 exposures on one film.

He was a good healthy bird,
but possibly my language jarred
him, for he flopped over dampfully
off. Yours sincerely
Fred. H. Kennard

Stamba River, Newfoundland.

Ardea herodias herodias. GREAT BLUE HERON.— One seen by Dr.
Shattuck.

Auk. XXX, Jan. 1913, p. 115.

1885

Aug. 16

Great Blue Herons are numerous here. Every evening at about sunset we see them flying low over the spruce woods, crossing the point, uttering at intervals their nasal clank. They feed at low tide on the rocks about the edges of sheltered coves and tide-pools. At all times of the day when the tide is down a few are always to be found fishing, but the greater number are seen in the evening. After dark even during foggy nights, I often hear their cries. They are picturesque objects—standing erect on the black seaweed-clad rocks. I saw one today which looked

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam.

100. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON. — Rather rare, and generally seen in September.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 239

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region
Cape Breton Id., N.S. J. Dwight, Jr.

3. *Ardea herodias*.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887, p. 16

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings
County, N. S. Watson L. Bishop.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). May 10, twelve sets taken, numbering respectively, four, five, and six eggs. Five was the usual number, however. The sets seemed to be complete with but few exceptions, and were fresh or slightly incubated.

G. & O. XIII. Mar. 1888 p. 45

Allen, Summer Birds Bras d'Or Region

Ardea herodias. — I saw one at Northeast Margaree, 28 miles northwest of Baddeck.

Auk, 8, April, 1891, p. 165

Dwight, Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.

Ardea herodias. GREAT BLUE HERON. — I learned of at least two heronries of this bird, but did not visit them. One near Charlottetown was described to me as containing several hundred birds. The nests were in hard-wood growth, and were warranted to contain young each year by July 4. The Herons were seen at many points on the island, notably along St. Peter's Bay, where I saw upwards of twenty as the train skirted the shore. They paid little or no attention to it, although often less than a gun-shot distant.

Auk X, Jan, 1893, p. 8

mainly pure white, but which were still
probably *A. herodias*, probably in a
bleached plumage. They were a few
and white.

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west of Baddeck.

Auk, 8, April, 1891, p. 165

The Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) was seen abundantly in Cape Breton, but apparently does not cross the Straits into Newfoundland. — LOUIS H. PORTER, *New York City*. "*Newfoundland Notes*":

Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, p. 73.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 447.

64. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON.—Common migrant, March 19 to April 7, and probably later; a young bird was taken July 24, 1891, but they usually commence to return a week later (August 1, 1897). They are common through August, and a few remain till late in November (November 17, 1901). Earliest record February 1, 1891 (Mr. J. H. Ames).

*Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region
Nipissing District, Ontario.*

By Frederick C. Hubel. Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907,

p. 49.

6. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON.—This species is very common, especially along the marshy creeks where they feed.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

93. *Ardea herodias*, (Great Blue Heron). Occasionally seen at the various lakelets of the region in August and September. No knowledge could be obtained of its breeding.

O. & O. XI. Dec. 1886. p. 178

Fall Birds of Northern Maine.
F. H. Carpenter.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). A dead specimen found floating in the river.

O. & O. XII. Nov. 1887 p. 182

Summer Residents on Southwest
Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

194. Great Blue Heron. Common. Saw one at Boothbay. In Penobscot Bay on Long Island, opposite Castine, there was a colony of about eight. Shot an adult ♀ at North Haven.

O. & O. XIII. Nov. 1890. p. 161

Brief Notes.

F. J. Carpenter, Mount Kesco, Me., reports the first Great Blue Heron on April 10.

O. & O. Vol. 18, April, 1893 p. 62

Maine (Brewer)

Ardea herodias

1887

In December

Dec 1, 3

"Two Great Blue Herons were brought in here Dec. 1 & 3, one found in this town on the ice, frozen, the other shot." (M. Hardy in letter of Dec. 28 - 1887)

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Great Blue Heron, (*Ardea herodias*). Two seen on the banks of the lake, when fishing about dark.

O. & O. XI. Feb. 1886. p. 25.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

Houlton, Maine.

92. *Ardea herodias* Linn. GREAT BLUE HERON. — "Common" at Houlton.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, July, 1882, p. 151

Ardea herodias. - Aug. 18, 22, 27 Rye Beach, N. H. 1866.

Ardea herodias. - Aug. 24 Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.

Rye Beach, N. H. 1871. 1 shot

49 *Ardea herodias*. - Sept. 2

Ardea herodias. - Aug. 14 Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

Shelburne, N. H.

Ardea herodias

1884

July 15. A fine adult bird fishing in a shallow creek; once he waded across the water coming up to his body. Motions slow, deliberate, and very graceful. Not uncommon here along the river.

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N. H.
July 21 - Aug. 11, 1883. F. H. Allen

Ardea herodias. - Tracks and one feather.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889, p. 78

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N. H.
July 12 - Sept. 4, 1883. F. H. Allen

Ardea herodias. - One or two seen.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889, p. 76

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE SUMMER BIRDS
OF MOUNT MANSFIELD, VERMONT.

BY ARTHUR H. HOWELL.

IN selecting a desirable point in northern New England to study the bird life, I chose Mt. Mansfield for the double reason that it is the highest mountain in the State of Vermont, and that its fauna is comparatively little known. Indeed, our knowledge of the avifauna of the entire northern portion of the State is very limited, for although two State lists of birds have been published, neither of them meets the requirements of a modern scientific list compiled from authentic records. The first, by Zadoch Thompson, published in 1842, is long since out of date¹; the second, by Dr. Hiram A. Cutting, is a nominal list of 191 species, many of which are evidently admitted on insufficient evidence. The annotations consist, in the main, of very general statements, and contain numerous glaring inaccuracies.²

Numerous scattered notes from the State have appeared in the ornithological magazines, but the only faunal list is that by Dr. F. H. Knowlton, treating of the birds of Brandon.³ Brandon lies in the west-central portion of the State, in the Champlain Valley, and the list is therefore valuable as indicating the fauna of the Alleghanian portions of the State. It furnishes very little information, however, concerning the birds that breed in the Canadian zone, and since it was published in a local newspaper, is quite inaccessible to all but a very few persons.

The list herewith presented is intended to be merely a preliminary one, and is offered chiefly as a contribution to our knowledge of the breeding ranges of Canadian species. I made two trips to Mt. Mansfield, the first in 1899, from June 14 to 24, the second in 1900, from June 23 to July 2. Observations covering

¹ See History of Vermont, Natural, Civil and Statistical, pp. 56-112. Burlington, 1842.

² See Catalogue of the Birds of Vermont, Eighth Vermont Agric. Report, pp. 211-229. Montpelier, 1884.

³ See 'The Brandon Union,' Dec. 13, 1878; revised list, Feb. 10, 1882.

Ardea herodias

Wintering in Mass.

Boston Harbor, Mass

Dec. 27, 1881.

Mr. H. H. Job writes Mr. Purdie that he saw a Great Blue Heron on the mud flats off Thompson's Island, on the above-named date. He also saw what he took to be the same bird, two days later, in the same place.

(Middlesex Co.)

Ardea herodias

Wintering at Mystic Pond, Arlington.

A young ♂ killed at daylight this morning on Mystic Pond, in Arlington, & brought in to Webster. I saw it in the flesh and talked with the man who shot it. It had been about the pond some three weeks, spending most of the day well out on the ice, fishing at morning and evening at some air holes close in shore. It was very shy and excessively fat. Skinned by Fraser; skin ~~now~~ in my collection.

Ardea herodias

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MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

Ardea herodias

1886

Wintering at Mystic Pond, Arlington.

Dec. 20. A young ♂ killed at daylight this morning on Mystic Pond, in Arlington, & brought in to Webster. I saw it in the flesh and talked with the man who shot it. It had been about the pond some three weeks, spending most of the day well out on the ice, fishing at morning and evening at some air holes close in shore. It was very shy and excessively fat. Skinned by Fraser; skin ~~now~~ in my collection.

Ardea herodias.

Nantucket, Mass.

1878. On a sand bar we noticed six sitting among the Gulls.
Sept.25.

Sept.30. Saw one sitting on a sand bar among the Gulls.and Terns.

Mass. (near Concord). 1887

1887
April 7th

Ardea herodias

Mass. (near Concord).

1888

APR 12th

Ardea herodias

Mass. (near Concord).

1888

Oct. 26th - 27th

Ardea herodias

Mass (Concord)

Ardea herodias

1888

In late October

Oct. 26 A young bird near Fairhaven Bay seen each
" 27 day & probably the same individuals
very shy.

Mass (Brookline)

Ardea herodias

1888

Wintering

Dec. 25

Arthur Smith shot one to-day.
He saw it in the same place for
several previous days.

Birds which have appeared at Framingham,
Mass. in notably increased numbers since
the construction of the Reservoirs on the
Sudbury River. - - - J. C. Browne.

6. *Ardea herodias*. Ratio of increase, say 2.

Bull. N. O. C, 6, April, 1881, p. 127

Winter Birds of Eastern Massachusetts.
H. K. Job.

I do not remember having known of a Great Blue Heron here
in winter before, but last year, late in December, I observed one
on an island in Boston harbor, where it was feeding in a marsh.
Happening to revisit the island about the first of January, I met
the Heron again, feeding in the same spot.

1881

Bull. N. O. C, 8, July, 1883, p. 149.

Notes, Belchertown, Mass.

one nice Blue Heron, Apr. 11th '86.
S. L. Kent.

O. & O. X. Oct. 1885. p. 160

Boston Notes by F. B. W.

. During August an unusual number of Great Blue
Hérons were brought in,

O. & O. X. Dec. 1885. p. 192

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Ardea herodias Linn., Great Blue Heron.
Seen in summer, rare.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 138

A Great Blue Heron shot at Lexington, Mass.,
Dec. 8.

O. & O. XVI, Jan, 1891, p. 16

J. W. Jackson, Belchertown, Mass., re-
ceived on April 13 a Great Blue Heron

O. & O. Vol. 18, April, 1893 p. 57

East Greenwich, R.I.

Col. Boston Soc. Nat. History

Herodias egretta. AMERICAN EGRET.— A female taken at East Greenwich, R. I., August 16, 1904, was purchased from Messrs. Angell and Cash.

Ank 25, Apr-1908, p. 234

Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) in Van Cortland Park, New York City. — Three individuals arrived on July 16 and have taken up their constant abode in the pond at Broadway and 242nd Street for the past week. They are attracting attention and admiration.

Great numbers of Kingfishers and Little Green Herons are also sharing the good fishing.— S. H. CHUBB, *American Museum Nat. Hist., N. Y. City.*

Ank xxxiii. Oct. 1916. p. 433.

Note from Danbury, Conn.

November 9 a Great Blue Heron was
seen

A. E. Pettes

O. & O Vol. 17, Nov. 1892 p. 172

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y.,
O. Hart Merriam

in the Eastern (Adirondack) district

Ardea herodias, is found breeding

Bull. N.O.C. 3, April, 1878. p. 53

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

139. *Ardea herodias*, Linn. GREAT BLUE HERON.—A common summer resident, breeding in small colonies.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 233

GREAT BLUE HERON. I had the good fortune to shoot a specimen on Nov. 7.—
L. R. Rich, Saratoga, N. Y.

O. & O. VIII, Nov. 1883. p. 86.

Birds Tioga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring

487. Great Blue Heron. One or two are usually shot every year. Found along the rivers and creeks; lives on small fish and frogs.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 86

Notes from Northern New York.

On the 24th also I found the body of a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), from which the wings had been cut off, lying on top of the snow on the margin of the lake. As the last heavy snow in that section fell on Dec. 12, 1900, the bird could not have been killed before that date. The plumage was immature.—Geo. C. SHATTUCK, Boston, Mass.

Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 199.

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the Northern Adirondacks [Aixton], New York [1901].
May 25 to 30.

Blue Heron. Not common.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XX, July, 1902, p. 299.

NUMBER OF EGGS OF ARDEA HERODIAS.—A letter from M. K. Barnum, of Syracuse, N. Y., states: "I have lately collected a large number of eggs of the Great Blue Heron, and nearly every nest examined contained five, instead of the 'two or three' given by you as the number (Birds N. W., p. 519). In one case there were six. When less than four were found in a nest, they were invariably fresh; whence I infer that in such instances the birds had not finished laying. Audubon, I believe, also gives the number as only three: if his observations were correct, the birds laying in this vicinity offer an exception to the rule."—ELLIOTT COUES, Washington, D. C. *Bull. N. O. C.* 5, July, 1880, p. 187.

GREAT BLUE HERONRY.—I went to a heronry near here and took one hundred and three eggs (twenty-five sets) of the Great Blue Heron. They ranged from two to six in each set. Audubon says the Great Blue Heron lays three eggs, and Coues in Birds of the N. W. says: "Two or three eggs are laid, probably never more." I have taken about two hundred and seventy eggs of this bird and have always found from three to six eggs in a full set. In only two cases have I found six, and I consider that an unusually large number; but five is very common. In my last expedition the sets were as follows: nine of five eggs, nine of four, three of three, three of two, (all fresh), and one of six, besides a single egg.—Morgan K. Barnum, Syracuse, N. Y. *O. & O.* VII. Aug. 1882, p. 147.

1947. *Cranes and Cormorants.* *Ibid.*, No. 7, July, 1888. —Nesting of *Ardea herodias* and *Phalacrocorax dilophus*. *Oologist's Exchange*, Vol. 1.

393. *Malheur Lake, Oregon.* By Capt. Chas. E. Bendire, U. S. A. *Ibid.*, pp. 129-131, 137, 138. —Description of the lake and of the nesting there of the Great Blue Heron, White Pelican, and Double-crested Cormorant, with measurements of eggs, etc. *O. & O.* Vol. VII

409. *Great Blue Heronry.* By Morgan K. Barnum. *Ibid.*, p. 147. —At Syracuse, N. Y.; about 270 sets of eggs taken. *O. & O.* Vol. VII

54. *Nesting of the Great Blue Heron in the West.* By Elliott Coues. *Ibid.*, XI, p. 391. —An account of its nesting along the Colorado River on shelves of rock in the cliffs bordering the river.—J. A. A. *Chicago Field*

1993. *Breeding Habits of Ardea herodias as seen during a Visit to Crane Town.* By [R.] B. [Trouslet.] *Ibid.*, No. 6, Jan., 1886, p. 81. *Occident Naturalist*, Vol. 1.

position, being usually less than twenty feet from the ground. My earliest date for a full set was May 10. On May 13 two sets were taken, one of four and the other of five eggs; both were slightly incubated. It was a great surprise to me to learn how devoted this bird is to its nest. After incubation has commenced, no noise or disturbance is sufficient to drive the bird away. In several cases it was necessary to remove it by force before the eggs could be secured. After being robbed, it almost immediately begins the excavations of a hole for a second set of eggs. This is always in the vicinity of the first, often in the same tree. Their attachment for their nests is an additional trait of character which should commend these birds to our protection. Besides, the fact of its being a permanent resident and thus an ever useful "insecticide," renders it one of the most beneficial of the Picidae.

The eggs of this species are in size and general appearance so much like those of the Red-headed Woodpecker that they cannot be distinguished. Making exchanges of Woodpecker's eggs with us, faith in the reliability of the collector is an essential factor.

A Visit to a Heronry.

BY EDWIN F. NORTHRUP.

A swamp on the north shore of Oneida Lake, the Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), congregate every Spring to breed. For several acres nearly every tree contains one or more nests of these strange birds. Their eggs have a scientific value of about thirty cents each and can be exchanged for other eggs at that price.

On May 11, 1883, my friend John Dakin, a close observer and an honest man, with myself made a visit to this place for the purpose of collecting eggs and studying the breeding habits of the Herons. We found we were ten days too late for obtaining fresh eggs; so on the following Spring we repeated the visit, but at an earlier date.

Thinking it may interest the readers of the ORNITHOLOGIST AND OOLOGIST to learn about this curious place and to read the experiences of two ardent collectors, I cull from my notes the material for this article. In accordance with our plan, May 1, 1884, found us at 3.30 in the morning, seated at the table of Nett Wood's, in Brewerton, eating heartily of a warm breakfast, for we knew a hard day was before us. After breakfast we started off by the light of a lantern, in a boat loaded with guns, baskets, climbers, lunch, birch-beer, and other equipments necessary for a col-

lector's use. After having rowed in the d for some time, we reached Great Bay swamp, which the Herons breed. The entrance heronry is a road used in Winter for dry wood, but which at this season of the year is covered, as is all the rest of the swamp, with two to three feet of water. This road runs a mile or more to dry land and passes the heronry a few rods to the west. Along this water we poled the boat without much difficulty, we were opposite the nests. But when we reached the road and pushed the boat into the swamp, it became harder work. Logs had gone around or the boat dragged over brush to be cleared away and many other obstacles to be overcome. But at last we found ourselves in the midst of the heronry, and placed it is. The flooded land extends back to the lake shore for about one and a half miles much farther along the shore.

Between the 25th of March and the first in April, the Great Blue Herons begin to migrate in this swamp to breed. From that time until their eggs are laid, they may be seen to and fro in the swamp carrying large stones with their bills with which to repair their nests, or to say repair, for the Herons seem to be attacking their old nests and to use the same ones year after year.

The timber in the swamp is all Black Alder, growing very high, branching at the top. The trees are slender, varying from one to three feet in diameter, and are readily climbed with spurs, if one is an adept at using them. Several hundreds of these nests, built in the crotches of the limbs, are grouped together at one place in the swamp and cover a space nearly or quite a mile across. Nearly every tree which rises to the general height of the rest and which has suitable crotches, contains from one to four nests. Two, however, is the more usual number in a tree, four being seldom found. The nests are constructed of sticks about one-fourth to one-half inch in diameter. A large bundle is laid in the crotch and lined with finer twigs, making a nest from twenty-five to forty inches in diameter.

Audubon describes the Great Blue Heron's nests in the south as being lined with a large quantity of weeds, but there is nothing of this kind here. The nests and tree tops are all white from the droppings of the birds, which, possibly, has a tendency to kill the trees, as many have fallen. From the higher trees one can look down into many nests, all of which contain eggs. The usual number is three or four, and many contain five, a few have two, and John found

Mass.

Ardea herodias

S. H. Forbush tells me that about 1876 he found a nest in Case Brookfield, Worcester Co., near Podunk Pond. The nest was in a tall white pine. The young had left it a short time before his visit (September). The people living near had seen the birds at the nest. He also says that this Heron used to breed near Baker's farm.

K. ge ed er ur in so ds is,

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393. *Malheur Lake, Oregon.* By Capt. Chas. E. Bendire, U. S. A. *Ibid.*, pp. 129-131, 137, 138. — Description of the lake and of the nesting there of the Great Blue Heron, White Pelican, and Double-crested Cormorant, with measurements of eggs, etc. *O. & O.* Vol. VII

409. *Great Blue Heronry.* By Morgan K. Barnum. *Ibid.*, p. 147. — At Syracuse, N. Y.; about 270 sets of eggs taken. *O. & O.* Vol. VII

54. *Nesting of the Great Blue Heron in the West.* By Elliott Coues. *Ibid.*, XI, p. 391. — An account of its nesting along the Colorado River on shelves of rock in the cliffs bordering the river. — J. A. A. *Chicago Field*

1993. *Breeding Habits of Ardea herodias as seen during a Visit to Crane Town.* By [R.] B. [Trouslet.] *Ibid.*, No. 6, Jan., 1886, p. 81. *Illinois Naturalist*, Vol. 1.

nest containing six! We went at just the right time to find full sets and the eggs fresh.

Their average measurement is 2.63 by 1.75 inches. John found one abnormal egg which measured but 1.66 by 1.34. These eggs are pale greenish blue, shells not very rough, and generally oval, although they sometimes vary from this shape.

At this season there are few other birds in the heronry itself. A few small flocks of Black-birds wander in and Woodpeckers rap the trees. A little earlier, and in other parts of the swamp, many Black Ducks are found, and later, many Wood Ducks build in holes their feather-lined nests.

When a gun is first fired in the swamp, hundreds of terrified Herons rise off their nests, uttering from their long throats most deafening squawks quite similar to the quack of a duck, but coarser and much louder. You can see them everywhere anxiously flying over the tops of the trees, with their necks reared and their long legs held closely together and thrust straight out behind. They are now easily shot with a long reaching gun and many could be killed, still one is surprised, when he considers the size of the marks, to see how many he fails to bring down.

I want some for their skins, so am prepared to shoot the next one that came along. It is but a moment before I see a fine specimen with broad pinions, approaching. His neck is reared, nervously he turns his crested head from side to side, trying with his sharp yellow eyes to catch sight of the hostile collectors below. I raised my gun to fire, the Heron sees the movement, when suddenly giving a loud squawk, he changes his course and strives to escape by vigorously beating the air with his wings. But too late. A fatal pellet has crushed through his wing-bone and the heavy body, unsupported, falls crashing through the bare limbs and far down to the water with a loud splash. I hasten to catch the wounded bird, he sees me coming and raising on his stilt like legs first attempts to make off. But the wounded Heron soon finds that he is overtaken; then with broken wing drooping, he stands and stretching up his long neck with its feathers all on end, and erecting his wavy crest, the sharp bill being partly opened, in a rasping voice he bids defiance. He is certainly a fierce looking bird, and as he stands there with ruffled feathers, a beautiful one. Arming myself with a club, I cautiously approach and striking the towering head a sharp blow, lay him quivering on the water. Such is the mercy of science!

Up to this period, May 15, the birds have not

28. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON.—This Heron begins to arrive from the South quite early in the spring (April 8, 1884; February 14, March 1 and 18, 1885), and remains until late in October. It seems to be by far the most abundant Heron which visits us. At present there are two large heronries in the County that I know of. The first of these is in Adams township near the northern limit of the County, about six miles north of the Wabash and about the same distance east of the Tippecanoe. The other is in what is known as the Maple Swamp, in the southern part of the County, about six miles south of Wild Cat Creek, or eighteen miles from the Wabash. This swamp is made by the widening of a small stream called Middle Fork, so that it covers an area of several hundred acres. The lower portion of this swamp is covered with a heavy growth of swamp ash and soft maple, and in the tops of these trees the Herons build their nests. My first visit to this heronry was on June 12, 1882. We found more than a hundred pairs nesting there then, and their many nests, some no longer used, presented a very interesting sight. Passing by the swamp in winter when the leaves are off, the nests show very plainly. As many as thirteen nests were seen in one tree, and many other trees contained from three to ten nests each. I climbed to many of these nests on May 21, 1883, and found young in some and eggs in various stages of incubation in the others. It is said that many more nested here formerly, but they have been so harassed and molested by squirrel hunters and others who annoy them needlessly, that they are being gradually driven away. In the last two years the swamp has been ditched and this heronry may now be counted among the things of the past. Solitary pairs of Herons are found breeding in various other parts of the County, and I remember that years ago there was a small colony (of perhaps twenty pairs) in some large cottonwoods about a mile south of Burlington, near my father's farm.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888, p. 347-48.

On a Collection of Eggs from
Georgia, H. B. Bailey.

79. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON.—Nests near the top of very tall trees, sometimes several in the same tree; eggs three or four. March 4.

Bull. N. O. C., 8, Jan, 1883, p. 42

my heart sank within me. Of the twenty-seven Redtail's eggs collected during the season, all were destroyed but three; also of Cooper's Hawk, three; Barred Owl, four; Ruffed Grouse, about three dozen; of Crows an indefinite number. Luckily my season's collecting of the Great-horned Owl were at the bottom of the box, and not having yet reached them were safe.

I never possessed very much skill in quoting profane history and therefore could not get satisfaction in that way. But there was one thing I could do and that at once. Going to the room where he had retreated I found him concealed in a bed, all except one eye with which he peeped out cunningly at me, as if to ascertain what I was going to do about it. This I had already determined upon, and taking him by the tail he was conveyed to the woodpile, where with a sharp axe his spirit was sent to that "haven of rest" from which mischievous "Coons" never more return. Woe be to the individual that ever again dares to offer me a raccoon.

One of the most amusing experiences that ever fell to my lot as a collector was in the spring of 1888. I was out for an afternoon of it and was accompanied by a hard-headed, black-eyed gamin of the village, whose front name was George. Our route lay over woodland pastures, down into deep shady hollows, up steep hills, and then across cultivated fields, from one stretch of woodland to another, when we had reached a certain large hawk's-nest tree, four miles from the village. We were to return by another route. We were having great luck and consequently were in correspondingly high spirits. Already there was in our collecting boxes fifty eggs of the Crow, of the Chickadee several sets, White rumped Shrike one set of five, Hairy Woodpecker one set of four, Long-eared Owl one set of five. Suddenly our attention was arrested by the noisy and excited cawing of a pair of Crows some distance in our front. Hastening in this direction we soon came in sight of a nest in a tall, straight sapling. The crows perched overhead were making a great ado about something that they appeared to see in their nest. George, who had insisted on doing nearly all of the climbing, was half way up the sapling before I could get one climber adjusted. Little did he suspect what was awaiting him at the nest. As his face came on a level with it, a huge black snake (*Coluber obsoletus*) ran his head over the edge and darted out his tongue almost in the boy's face. Great Cæsar! the way that lad came down that tree was truly aston-

ishing. Nor did he pause when he reached the ground, but shot off through the woods like a streak of lightning. Putting on a pair of gloves I ascended the tree, and taking Mr. Black Snake by the neck removed him from the nest, where he had doubtless resorted for the purpose of feasting upon the young crows which it contained. Taking the reptile home with me I found his length to be five feet and a half, and he proved quite an attractive addition to my den of snakes.

Dr. W. S. Strode.

Bernadotte, Ill.

Hunting Herons with a Camera.

I had watched the going and coming of Great Blue Herons as they passed over to and from the hill east of the town, to the bay shores southward, early mornings, then back, after the day's fishing, at night to their home-roost in some deep canyon. I had a desire that, after many years of information, led me to hunt these Great Blue Herons' rookery with a camera instead of the usual gun and shells.

I started out one morning with a friend, in April, 1887 (one of those days that occur only in the climate of California), with my mind filled with the great sight I expected to meet, and the pleasure of a day among Nature's most beautiful things, green hills and trees teeming with spring life. The old white horse took us leisurely along the unused road, up a grade of four miles.

Meadow-larks were singing from fence-rails to their mates, busy in the grasses; Red-winged Blackbirds showing off their bright shoulder-straps from every long weed-stalk, throughout the hay-fields; now and then whiz would go by a Hummer to its bower home. When the grade began in earnest and Old Faithful commenced to blow, I gave him the rein to suit his own gait. The atmosphere was filled with hot-house steam of spring, and made the sweat roll from us both. After getting up the first ridge the air became cooler from the bay breezes across the valley. Ruddy Horned Larks were common on these ridges; some had begun incubation, as we found by shooting specimens. Across a deep canyon side could be seen a Golden Eagle's eyrie in the top of an old white sycamore; and far up on a rocky point of the ridge sat his majesty, "monarch of all he surveyed." We left him in peace of his white, scraggling "castle." A bend in the road brought us in sight of an old Californian rancher, where we were directed

to tie up, and go down the trail from the house that led to the rookery, about a mile. We had started out intending to get back for dinner, not having taken any lunch. How the inner man growled before we even came in sight of our haven of joy! We tramped and tramped to the end of the trail and out to the bare top of a hill, lugging camera and tripods (this was before the little detective had come to hand), but no sign of hundreds and hundreds of nests. Would get no egg or views and back for dinner this day. I crawled back to the shade of a live oak on the trail, and sent out my brother collector on a survey. He came back in five minutes, saying he had struck them sure! We started again, but soon came to a line of brush on the canyon side, where, far below, lay the wanted goal. Nothing must do but get there, Eli; so down through bush and brier, with plenty of poison oak put in here and there for kind of a warning notice "No trespass here." After going into several squirrel-holes, and getting the brush out of my hair, still hanging to the camera-box, we dropped ourselves down under the shade of a California maple. Hark! what was that crash out of the tree? On looking up, lo and behold a Great Blue Heron, and not over twenty-five feet from us a nest, and another further out. "By Gum" and there's another, as the old Cornwall man says; but, like the fox and sour grapes, "so near and yet so far." Below could be seen the gleaming silver of a cool stream in the bottom of the canyon. How our burning throats ached for it, but we did not dare go down there for fear of not getting out again. Such is the luck of a collector's hunt on a blind trail, far from home and dinner, 1.30 p.m., and no eggs either.

I had made up my mind I was not going to leave that place if I never got an egg or another dinner for a week, until I had a nest on every plate in my case. That was easier said than done, as the hill had a slope of 45° straight down to the creek bottom. I got some limbs cut out of the way, tripods set, and by this time the Herons began to come back and perch on the edges of their great bulkily built nests of sticks and branches. One now and then could be seen craning his long neck, the better to see what was going on below by those odd-looking coons. I had to hang on to one of my tripod legs to keep from taking a header down the hill. It was now or never; so snap went the trigger, and I had one of the nests to look at in after days, a reminder of the pleasant times spent afield after birds and their homes. These plates proved fine ones on developing.

On another trip made there with my friend Mr. Bryant, we got down to the rookery by the right trail to the canyon bottom. Four exposures were made: one at what I call the old Plum-pudding tree, a tall, bare, white sycamore, with twenty-two nests scattered through it; from the hillside eggs could be seen in the nests right and left, from two to four in each, with some of their downy young.

On a small rifle being shot off all the herons took to wing, flying off down the canyon. I got a fine snap at them on one plate. Another plate shows the herons standing on some of the nests, and others on the great limbs of the live oaks. Several sets of eggs were taken, of two, three, and four, also downy chicks, and what odd-looking birds they were when put together on the ground side of the creek, where we sat to eat our lunch. Pretty soon we had a lot of fun: the largest gray-haired chick was at a set-to with his brothers, fighting with their large black bills like young roosters. The large one soon knocked out all his companions.

The young herons all have long, grayish, hair-like down, quite long on the neck and head; bill and feet black, eyes grayish white. Their notes are coarse and squawk-like. All these nests were from 25 to 100 feet up, mostly in the sycamore trees, a few scattered in the live oaks and California maples. There must have been upwards of 250 nests in this heron rookery, and it has been occupied year after year for no one knows how long.

The ground was well whitewashed under the trees inhabited, and a strong smell of guano greeted the collector wherever he stood. Many small fish-bones could be seen lying about the ground.

A good detective camera taking a plate $4\frac{1}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$, cabinet size, I find makes the best views, and allows to cut down in printing where a plate is not entirely perfect. Some prefer a 4×5 for birds and nests.

It is wonderful what can be done in the line of taking birds in flight or otherwise. (I believe the first honor in this line of photography is given to Mr. E. Moybridge, a Californian, whom I have had the pleasure to meet; would advise the readers of these notes to see article on his works, *Century Magazine*, July, 1887, page 356. In the article a series of ten cuts are given of Golden Eagle in flight, showing the true position of the wings in motion.) With the quick eye of the lens and the sensitive plate, Gulls, Hawks, and Ducks on the wing, well as Cormorants, Herons, and all small birds on their nests, can be caught in their natural

positions. It gives one a true idea of the bird's motion and characteristics peculiar each to itself. One has a sure thing on identification in the field, collecting nests, leaving no doubts of the species to be settled by the gun.

Some there are who may say, "But you can't get close enough to always do that." Take time, just as you would to hunt or watch the bird in the case of your wanting to know what it is. I have yet to see the nest or bird in the bush that a true collector's wits, of Nature's facts, could not get within five or ten feet of his object long enough to spring a shot on his sensitive plate.

As shy a little bird as the Hummers are, I have had my face within ten inches of the bird on the nest; the same with many Sparrows, Finches, Warblers, and even the timid Flycatchers. I well remember the time I took a grand negative of the Farallone Cormorants, on one of my never-to-be-forgotten trips. How I set up my camera within five feet of them! Only four or five birds left the nests; they soon came back after circling several times overhead, and finally settling down on the edges of the nests, others covering the eggs at once, even picking the weeds from one another's homes to place on their own, — a habit peculiar to the Cormorants. I found while tending the duties of incubation, in another plate of Western Gulls, they would walk around the nest, I suppose to see if it was in trim for "having their picture took," like a country lass.

I use for general work of this character a medium plate, not too quick in its action, for a better success is had in handling the development of it.

Detective cameras can be had now all the way from ten to a hundred dollars or more. I will give a description of mine for the benefit of the O. & O. readers. Cost complete with one double plate-holder, \$37.50 (made to order), and I would not give it for the best hundred dollar outfit in the market. It is made of Spanish cedar, polished, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, same in depth, $6\frac{1}{2}$ wide, a focus range of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches (outside of that is always in focus, a distance indicator marked off from 3 to 25 feet; outside of 25 feet is in focus on everything. Two field-finders, one for uprights. The shutter works in the lens, regulated for any desired time by a set of five notches (can be set for time exposure). The sliding cap over the lens when moved for exposure opens the finder at the same time, and on seeing the image on the finder, you know your lens is open ready for the snap of the shutter. Maker of lens, R. D.

Gray, N. Y., Periscop No. 3, revolving disk set in the lens. Carries two double plates and only weighs four pounds. The lens front board has hinges, so if anything gets out soon be remedied. I have learned from my subject, but hope of interest to the reader, means of drawing others out of experiences in this new field something besides a noisy gun.

Fruit Glen, Haywards, Cal., Oct. 1889.
O. & O. XI

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OÖLOGIST.

File under
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No. 6.

A Visit to Crane Island.

BY GEO. G. CANTWELL.

For some time past, it has always been my great desire to pay a visit to a great rendezvous of birds near Minneapolis, Minnesota, known as Crane Island.

This is a small island, comprising about ten acres, and is situated in the upper part of Lake Minnetonka, which lies about fifteen miles from this city.

The island has very steep banks, but when once on top, it is found to be almost level and covered with a very tall growth of elm, basswood, and weeds growing thick and rank everywhere.

On the seventh of May, 1886, a companion and myself boarded a train for the lake, equipped with a small sized trunk full of cotton, with the necessary climbers, straps, etc., bent on reaching this island if possible. We arrived at the lake in the evening, and found accommodations in a summer hotel which had not yet opened for the season, but where the proprietor and his family live the year around.

We did some tall thinking that night, and dreamed of wading over our ears in eggs. At daybreak we were up, but alas! it was raining hard and blowing a gale, making it impracticable to make the distance of a mile and a half to the island in a small rowboat. We contemplated spending the whole day on the island, but as it was, we found we must be contented with half a day, for the wind continued till noon, but it stopped raining soon after breakfast. In the meantime we found plenty to do, as it was in the middle of the migrations, and secured many valuable skins. Evening Grosbeaks were very common that day as well as many species of Warblers. We found some eggs of the earlier breeders, and an unfinished nesting place, each of Yellow-bellied Woodpeck-

er (*Sphyrapicus varius*), and a White-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*).

Soon after dinner we were on our way to the island, and were delighted at the birds going and coming, for they proved to be Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), and Double Crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax dilophus*): On our near approach, great numbers of the birds could be seen sitting on the dead limbs, the Cormorants looking like so many Crows, and the Herons balancing themselves as best they could. At this they seemed awkward, as they are not "built flat way." They generally alight by falling all in a heap in the leafy part of the tree, and after a good deal of fuss find a comfortable perch, and tie their necks in a bow-knot and sit and sun themselves until another Heron comes flopping along and accidentally gives him a "poke" and puts his centre of gravity out of position.

After a good deal of trampling among the small branches for a foothold and several coarse "honks," the other flops into another tree top.

Once on the island our spirits rose, for the trees were full of huge nests, almost all of which were worn and weather-beaten, and bleached almost to whiteness, as this place has been the breeding place of Herons and Cormorants ever since our "oldest resident" can remember. An adjacent island was formerly yearly occupied by a pair of Bald Eagles, but with the advancement of population they left a few years ago.

In numbers the Herons predominated, and they occupy a particular part of the island, while the Cormorants have the other part. The "line" seems very distinctly drawn, for in the Heron part no Cormorants were found, and *vice versa*. The greatest harmony seemed to prevail between the two, and on the "line" both are found breeding in the same tree.

There must have been upwards of five nests on the place, and in one tree I counted fourteen. Not a large part of the nests are inaccessible, on

OÖLOGY.

J. PARKER NORRIS, Editor.

The Editor assumes no responsibility for those articles which have the names of the writer attached.

A Day With the Birds of a Hoosier Swamp.

BY BARTON W. EVERMANN.

Through the southern part of Carroll county, Indiana, flows a small creek called Middle Fork. Not far from where it is crossed by the Logansport and Terre Haute Railroad, it widens very much, spreading over considerable country which, in its upper portion, forms a large slough, covered with cat-tails and tall water-reeds and grasses, and devoid of timber. The western half is equally wide, but differs from the upper or eastern half in supporting besides a pretty dense undergrowth, a heavy forest of swamp ash, (*Fraxinus sambucifolia*) and soft maple (*Acer dasycarpum*).

Besides various other species of water plants, there are large patches of the yellow pond lily, (*Nelumbium luteum*), in occasional open spots. During the greater part of the year this maple swamp (as it is called) is covered with water from one to two or three feet deep. The current is scarcely perceptible, so it has much the nature of a large pond.

I had been told that "Big Blue Cranes," (*Ardea herodias*), nested in great numbers in this swamp. "Why," said the man who described the place to me, and who had seen it in winter, "the nests in the tree-tops look like small hay-cocks! I saw them plainly from the road as I drove by in my sleigh. I counted over a hundred of them." This was enough. I decided to visit that swamp at the proper time next spring; and on May 21, 1883, with two companions, I reached the swamp after a pleasant morning drive of ten miles. We drove our spring-wagon into a barnyard near by, put our horses in the stable, and dressed ourselves in our wading suits. Although it was late in May, yet we found the water very cold, and, as if to increase our unpleasant sensations, the bottom was very uneven, and we often suddenly stepped into boles deeper than any before; or our feet became entangled and we fell headlong into the water. And occasionally we found small areas of quicksand into which we were kept from sinking only by being able to catch hold of prostrate logs or other vegetation. Hardly had we entered the swamp when we saw a Great Blue Heron coming

toward us from northward. He was high in air when first seen, and was approaching the swamp with long, steady strokes of his mighty wings. But as he neared the margin of the forest he suddenly stretched his neck and legs to their full length, partially closed his wings and swooped downward with a whirring noise in a direct line for the top of a large ash, in which was a nest. While in this descent, no movement of wing or other member could be detected. I had often watched different species of hawks descend from great height in the same way, but had never before seen so long a bird as the Great Blue Heron perform the feat. I was anxious to note how the descent would end, so I watched the bird intently. When within but a few yards of the tree, he suddenly doubled up his neck close against his breast, let fall his long legs in a very awkward, dangling manner, spread his wings and beat the air with a few well-timed strokes until he was able to clutch the limb where he wished to alight.

We were soon among the trees which contained the nests, and during the day witnessed the return of many a heron from the fishing grounds to the north, and in every case the descent was made as I have already described, and each returning bird was received with loud croakings by those at home. But soon all became quiet except an occasional malcontent who, seemingly not satisfied with his lot, gave evidence of his discontent in spirited quarrelings with those about him. Then the return of another bird would put all in confusion again. We walked about among these trees and tried to estimate the number of nests which they contained, and, while we could not readily determine the number exactly, we counted over one hundred and thirty. Some trees contained but one nest, but there were usually several in each suitable tree. In one instance we counted twelve nests in one tree and they were all in use.

As these maples and ash were quite tall and were devoid of limbs for the first thirty to sixty feet, and as we had no "climbing irons," only rarely did we find one which I could ascend. With the aid of a long rope, however, I was able to reach a few of the nests. I here give my method of using the rope—a method which I have on many occasions found quite useful and satisfactory. To one end of the rope I tied a small, light, but stout cord one or two hundred feet long. To the other end of the cord I fastened a weight of convenient size. This I could throw over limbs at considerable heights, and could then draw the rope up over the limb. When this was accomplished I have found it not very difficult to ascend even very large and tall trees. In doing

File under Ardea herodias

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so I would make use not of the rope alone, but of the tree also.

One of the trees I climbed on this occasion contained eleven nests, but most of them were so far out on the limbs that I dared not venture to reach them, but had to content myself by standing in the main top above them all and looking down upon the thirty beautiful eggs which they contained. The usual number to the nest seemed to be three, but several nests seen that day contained but two, and not a few contained four as the full nest complement. In no case did I find more than four eggs in any set. While the majority of the nests contained eggs, quite a number were filled with young of various sizes—some just from the shell, others almost ready to fly. In fact one young fellow that I tried to catch attempted to fly to another limb, missing which, he fell to the water below, his life paying the penalty for his rashness.

From all indications it is safe to say that as early as the middle of May the nesting in this locality is at its height.

But our day in the swamp was not devoted wholly to the Herons. These were not the only birds which make it their summer home. The Red-winged Blackbird, (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), was there in great numbers and their nests were seen hanging in the tall reeds or resting in the crotches of the buttonwoods. The Crow Blackbird, (*Quiscalus quiscula*), next to the herons the most numerous and noisy bird found there, was feeding its young in the nests built in large knot holes, tops of snags, forks of trees, and even in deserted and decaying Woodpecker holes. The Redstart flitted across the open space like a flame, and we found its beautiful, fluffy nest with three handsome eggs in a small elm tree. The Maryland Yellow-throat hid in the coarse grasses along the edges of the marsh, and we felt sure its nest was there, though we did not find it. And in the thickets and haw-trees on the banks we found Doves, Catbirds and Brown Thrashers living together and rearing their young in peace and contentment. And with what a thrill of delight did we discover that this swamp was the breeding place of the Golden Swamp Warbler, (*Protonotaria citrea*). I had never before seen this beautiful bird alive and was delighted to find it nesting here in considerable numbers.

Shortly after entering the swamp I caught a glimpse of a rather bright-colored bird as it flew from a hole in a small dead snag not far away and disappeared in a thicket near by. In examining the snag to see what the hole might contain, I broke it off easily a few feet below the hole,

and, with my fingers, could feel the eggs in the nest. Not feeling sure that I knew the bird, I stood the snag up against a tree and awaited its return. I had not long to wait, for soon the bird, solicitous for its treasures, came by short flights toward the nest. After she had entered the hole I scared her out again, and with a light load of "dust," secured her for my cabinet. Presently the male came about and suffered a like fate.

The nest contained five beautiful fresh eggs. Later in the day several other pairs were seen and four more sets of eggs were secured. The nests were found occupying deserted Sapsucker holes in usually small rotten trees or saplings, and varied from four to ten feet from the ground. The first one found was about six feet from the ground, in a very rotten snag not over four inches in diameter. The shell left by the excavation of the hole was very thin, less than half an inch. The cavity was about four inches deep and was filled nearly to the top by the nest, which was composed almost entirely of some species of moss. All the other nests were similarly situated and constructed from similar materials.

The eggs which are now before me vary considerably in markings as well as in measurements. The ground color is an enamel white with quite a number of dull lilac spots which appear as if imbedded beneath the surface. Above these are numerous other large chocolate spots and blotches which are more or less confluent about the larger end, where they frequently tend to arrange themselves in an irregular ring, from which they decrease in number toward the smaller end. A set of four in my collection from Muscatine, Iowa, has the blotches perceptibly smaller and less pronounced, and more evenly distributed over the entire surface. In general shape the egg is an elliptical ovoid, tapering but slightly toward the smaller end. One set of five measures .75x.57, .73x.56, .75x.56, .70x.55, and .75x.57; another, .73x.55, .72x.55, .74x.54, .73x.55 and .72x.54; and still another, the Iowa set, .65x.55, .68x.57, .68x.54 and .71x.55. The first two may be regarded as typical sets from this State, while the other is lighter in color markings and considerably shorter or more elliptical than any I have seen from Indiana.

All the eggs we obtained were fresh or nearly so, and it is more than likely that but few, if any of the sets were completed. Most of those which were taken contained either four or five eggs each; others were examined which had from one to three eggs, and still others which were not yet completed. It thus seems probable that the full nest complement may be more than five, perhaps even six or seven.

Again on May 2, 1885, it was my good fortune to visit this swamp and learn more of this beautiful and interesting warbler. The season this year had been much more backward than when I visited the swamp before, and as a consequence, the *Protonotarias* had not yet begun laying. Several unfinished nests were found, but no eggs. On my first visit and when the birds were all mated and the females were busy with household cares, no song was heard, nothing but an occasional note of alarm when disturbed, which seemed much like the syllable *piph*, *piph*, uttered sharply and hurriedly.

But to-day even the pairing of the birds had not yet been settled, and many a combat between rival males did I witness. Near the centre of their breeding ground was perhaps half an acre of comparatively clear space, a pond, in fact, covered with a thick growth of water lilies. Standing near the edge of this, I would often see a couple of males dart by me and cross the open space or make the circle of the pond, the one in close pursuit of the other. Often they would cross and recross the pond, circle around its margin, and then dart off through the trees and disappear from view, only to return again after a time to repeat the same wild race. Sometimes the one was not always a coward, but stood his ground, when a fierce conflict would ensue, and frequently they would clinch and fall nearly to the water before letting loose. Often they would ascend in a spiral flight far up among the tops of the trees only to return to the pond again. And sometimes I would see a male flying alone in a slow fluttering way across the open space toward the place where the female was busy constructing the nest. His wings were bent downward, the tail spread so as to show the white very plainly, and as he flew he gave expression to his happiness in a somewhat excited but pleasing song. Once he perched upon a limb above me where he warbled forth a very pretty song which I listened to intently then and at other times, and tried to represent by syllables. I refer to my memoranda made at the time and find "*twue, twue, t'whee, t'whee, t'whee, t'whee, t'whee, t'whee, t'whee.*" The first two syllables are lowest and most subdued, the *t* being more prominent than in the other syllables which vary from six to eight in number and are uttered rapidly and with slightly increasing volume. The interval between the second and third syllables was longest, and I sometimes thought the syllables were uttered in pairs throughout. I have always been more less skeptical as to the possibility of correctly indicating on paper the songs of birds, for it is not so much the particular note

or order of notes which makes the melody, but the cadence, the way in which they blend or follow one another, the *timbre* of the note itself. To require a very skillful ear to approximate, the song never heard, if he were the best of ornithologists. I have often submitted such ones of my musical friends for results. What is more, the attempted imitations by the average collector heard the delicious song. The imitations are simply

so I squatted clear out of sight for a minute or two and when I raised my head again they were both at the nest.

For an instant I hesitated but I might destroy the eggs, and while I was waiting one flew off to a distance of about a hundred yards. After looking carefully about for a few minutes, he gave a call and his mate rose from her nest and joined him. They seemed to be making a lot of fuss out there, kicking up the sand, squatting down and cackling like mad. In a few minutes though they seemed to get over this excitement and one bird came flying back and settled on the eggs. Now she began to act strangely, wiggling round and squatting down again and I began to think she was going to lay another egg, when off she went and joined her mate, who welcomed her coming with the most extravagant cries and gestures. But she sat down quite still and demure. I was about to rise and look for my third egg when I saw her coming back. Again she went through the same operation and her second welcome was if possible more exuberant than the first. Then all was quiet; one bird sat on the sand and the other stood silently by her, and though I waited some time longer they showed no sign of returning again to their eggs and I could only conclude that they had seen me watching them and would not come back until I went away. So I arose from my uncomfortable position and went to pick up the eggs, when to my surprise the little hollow in the sand was empty. While I was watching the curious antics of the female she had lifted the eggs between her legs and carried them off. So without giving time for her to repeat the offence I hurried to her new quarters and secured them successfully.

On preparing the specimens they proved to be slightly incubated and were no doubt a full set. The Oyster-catcher seems to deposit two as often as three eggs; at least that is my experience in this locality.

Nesting of the Great Blue Heron.

BY HARRY R. TAYLOR, ALAMEDA, CAL.

Often while watching a stately Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), flapping its course over one of the salt marshes adjacent to San Francisco Bay, I have wondered in what part of Santa Clara Valley their nesting-place was situated. On hearing this year, through a friend, that there were a lot of "big Blue Cranes" nesting within ten miles of San Jose, I set out

NOTES ON HABITS OF A FEW BIRDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

BY D. MORTIMER.

Ardea herodias. GREAT BLUE HERON.

THE Great Blue Heron is commonly rather wary, but I have noticed one or two singular exceptions to this rule. On June 23, 1888, my brother and I were fishing in a small creek that drains from the great prairie on the west shore of Lake Jessup. We had shifted our position to a certain point when we noticed that some creature was splashing about just around the nearest bend. Watching for a moment, we soon saw a Great Blue Heron busily engaged in catching a lunch. It was wading in water that reached above the joints of its legs, and its mode of proceeding was to lift one foot after the other slowly and deliberately clear of the surface, thus moving steadily and silently. Frequently it struck to the right or left, first pausing and apparently taking careful aim. Occasionally it wished to reach some object at a distance out in the stream, when it plunged bodily forward and stretched its neck to the utmost, though it could no longer touch bottom with its feet. At these times it always spread its wings, and with their aid floundered backward to its former position in shallow water. The manœuvre was decidedly awkward, though apparently always successful, as the bird could be observed swallowing what it had secured. We watched it for some time as it waded up and down the shore, and were surprised that it was not disturbed by our presence and conversation. Finally, to test its unconcern, my brother sculled the boat past it, keeping to the opposite shore, which, however, was less than twenty yards distant from the bird. After he had passed the Heron, we talked back and forth past it, but the only notice it took of us was to stand motionless once or twice and look at us. It displayed the greatest proof of confidence as my brother was returning, for, as he was about opposite to its station, it made one of its comical plunges into deep water. We finally left it still pursuing its nourishment.

AUK, VII, Oct,
1890, 337-338.

with a gentleman on May 5th, 1887, to view for the first time the home of the largest of the herons.

After travelling some miles on the wrong road, and being directed and misdirected several times by the unassuming countrymen, we arrived at last in sight of the nests. After tying our horse to a fence we started towards the objects of our search through a field of grain, and luckily for us, the owner of the field failed to put in an appearance.

The nests were in the tops of three tall sycamore trees, and appeared at a distance very much like the bunches of mistletoe often seen in oak trees. As we approached nearer the nests one of us sighted the first bird and cried "there's a heron, see him!" and just at that thrilling moment stepped into a hole in the ground, and was thrown violently forward and lost to sight in the waving grain.

When within one hundred yards of the sycamore trees, about thirty herons flew from their nests and circled around in the air, uttering dismal croakings as though they felt very unwilling to give up possession of their homes. Finding that without climbers it would be impossible to ascend to the nests we contented ourselves, for the time being, with a sight of them and a view of their long-legged owners.

There were about thirty-five nests in all, built mostly in three sycamore trees which were in a field of grain and within a half-mile of a farm house. The heronry was about two miles from a salt marsh and not near any swamp as is, I believe, usually the case on the eastern coast. The nests were of different sizes, some being very large and built of sticks, on the highest branches of the trees. In one tree I counted twenty-two nests. Although there was an immense grove of live oaks near by, the herons had built no nests in them, seeming to prefer the tops of the lofty sycamores, because of their being more inaccessible. I am informed that the Great Blue Herons build in the tops of tall trees in some of the canyons of the mountains near this valley.

The heronry we visited has been occupied by the birds every year for many years. As we saw some nests only partly constructed, it is probable that the adult population of the colony has considerably increased since last year.

O. & O. XII, Aug. 1887 p. 129-130.

~~Dr. Wm. DeForrest Northrup arrived in New York from Central America, just as we go to press. He was successful in his explorations beyond the expectations of his friends.~~

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AUK, VII. Oct.
1890, 337-338.

Brookline, Mass (Arnold Arboretum) Ardea herodias

Jan. 1890 - In winter

"Did Edwin tell you that on the first of Jan. or the last day of Dec. one of the men at the arboretum found a large blue heron near the nursery, sick apparently. He was brought into the green house & kept there five or six days, grew better & was quite lively one day going ^{for} Peter (the dog) fiercely and eating minnows freely from a tub of water. He died suddenly as birds usually do in such cases" (C. E. Faxon in letter of Jan'y 25, 1890 to Walter Faxon)

The Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias) is a bird that rarely favors us with his presence in the winter months. It may be worth while, then, to chronicle the capture of one in the Arnold Arboretum, West Roxbury, Mass., either December 31, 1889, or January 1, 1890. A tub of water stocked with minnows served to keep him alive for five or six days, when he suddenly died either from cold or the enervating effects of imprisonment. His body afterwards came into my possession. A previous record of this species in Massachusetts in winter will be found in Bull. Nuttall Orn. Club, VIII, 149.

The winter of 1889-90 was on the whole a very mild one, with but little snow, yet marked by great and sudden changes of temperature. The mercury stood at 5° F. or thereabouts on several nights, and on the 22d of February it fell to -7°. It is worthy of note that the Yellowthroat, Nashville Warbler and Blue Heron above-mentioned were all birds born during the preceding summer. It seems reasonable to suppose that many young birds annually get left behind when the autumnal migration occurs. In such an event they might survive the following winter if it should prove to be a mild one, while the stoutest heart among them would probably succumb to the rigors of a genuine 'old-fashioned' New England winter.—WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*

A Blue Heron's Meal.—There is a heronry not far from my home, and during the breeding season the great broad-winged birds can be seen day and night flying between their nests and the seaside. I once surprised one ready to start back with its finny burden, and becoming alarmed it disgorged ten good-sized fish before it mounted into the air. Is this not an unusual load for this bird to carry?—FRANCIS BAIN, *North River, P. E. I.* *Auk*, 2, April, 1885. p. 221.

1949. *From the Sunflower State.* By D. B. R. *Ibid.*, No. 11, Nov., 1888.—*Ardea herodias.* *Oologist's Exchange*, Vol. 1.

MINOR ORNITHOLOGICAL PAPERS.—141. *Food of the Great Blue Heron.* By Wm. P. Neild. *Forest and Stream*, XV, p. 7.—Large snakes and fish.

1900. *An Early Bird.* By C. T. Richardson. *Ibid.*, April 24, p. 267.—*Ardea herodias.* *For. & Stream*, Vol. 34

For. & Stream, Vol. 30 1884. *Powder-down Feathers in Herons.* By C. E. B. *Ibid.*, p. 46. Feb. 9.

1024. *Winter Notes.* [By F. T. Jencks.] *Ibid.*, No. 2, p. 15.—Records a Great Blue Heron taken in Milton, Vt., Dec. 22, 1884, and the capture of two Great Gray Owls at the same place the previous winter. Also a Prairie Warbler killed in Rhode Island, Dec. 4, 1884. *Rand. Notes Nat. Hist.* 11

Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Ardeinæ. †—This paper contains a detailed description of the osteology of *Ardea herodias* and *Nycticorax violaceus*, with excellent figures of the principal parts of the skeleton in

these two forms, as well as of some bones of *Ardea candidissima*. The paper concludes with a 'Synoptical and Comparative Review of the chief Osteological Characters of certain species of North American Ardeinæ.

—J. A. A.

†Osteological Studies of the Subfamily Ardeinæ. By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D., C. M. Z. S. Journ. Comp. Med. and Surg., July and October, 1889. (Separates repaged.)

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 277-278.

egretta

White Ibis

1890.

Florida,
Suwanee River.
Mar 20-Apr 1, 1890.

Common along the river for fifteen or twenty miles above its mouth, but nowhere numerous. Most of those ~~seen~~ were flying high in air, following the course of the river. On the 28th, I came upon twelve in one flock, sitting on the lower branches of some green ash trees over a creek. They made a beautiful picture against the background of green foliage, reminding me of ~~the~~ group of *Hierons* in one of *Bremis's plates*. One superb fellow had plumes which extended ~~to quite or~~ ^{fully two inches} below his feet as he stood erect on his long legs. Their attitude were wonderfully easy and graceful. They allowed me to get within fifty yards, when they began to fly, one after another, going only a few rods and realighting in the tops of some tall cypresses. I approached them somewhat nearer the second time ~~I~~ shot one of them. The others rose high into the air, and soared in circles on set wings, a habit which is not uncommon to the ^{diurnal} herons of the south. The plumes of this species are now worth about 75 cents per bird, and the hunters are rapidly exterminating them.

Ardea egretta.

Newton Centre, Massachusetts.

M. ABBOTT FRAZAR,

Taxidermist

AND DEALER IN

NATURALISTS' SUPPLIES AND SPECIMENS.

MINERALS, BIRDS' SKINS, STUFFED ANIMAL HEADS, Etc.

No. 93 Sudbury Street.

SEND STAMP FOR CATALOGUE.

Boston, Mass., 189 2.

Mr. William Brewster,

Concord, Mass.,

Dear Mr. Brewster,-

A party just brought in a Great White Egret on Thursday last. ^[July 7] He says that was another one with you. It is a young bird. I offered him \$5.00 for it and he would not accept. If you care to go higher, let me know your maximum bid and I will do what I can to get it for you if you wish it. You had better publish it in my giving me the credit for it.

Yours truly,

M. Abbott Frazar

THE GREAT WHITE EGRET IN NEW BRUNSWICK. — Mr. C. J. Maynard has informed me of the capture of an immature specimen of *Ardea egretta*, which he examined in the flesh, shot at Whitehead, Island of Grand Menan, on the 3d November, 1878. It is a singular fact that so many instances have occurred in late years of southern species having wandered north to New England and more northern localities in the fall and winter months. Besides a bird of this species recorded for Nova Scotia by Mr. J. Matthew Jones of Halifax, this is, I think, the most northern locality in which this bird has been detected. — RUTHVEN DEANE, *Cambridge, Mass.* *Bull. N. O. C.* 4, Jan, 1879, p 63.

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can., Comeau & Merriam

101. *Ardea egretta*. GREAT WHITE EGRET. — Accidental straggler from the south. One seen June 9, 1882, on an island in Godbout River.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p, 239

The Great White Egret ~~and the Yellow Rail~~ in Ottawa, Canada. — In the ornithological collection of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada are two mounted specimens which, from the localities of their capture, deserve special notice. The first of these is a fine spring male of *Herodias egretta*, which was shot in the spring of 1883 at Rockliffe, Ont., by Mr. Sidney H. McIntyre, and presented by him to the Survey. In answer to a letter of inquiry Mr. W. H. McIntyre writes: "Two of these birds are all that were ever seen here. They seemed to be a pair, and after this one was shot the other stayed around for a day or two and then left, and we have seen no more like them. I cannot give date of the shooting; it was shot, however, by my son Sidney H. McIntyre within about one half mile of our house at Rockliffe." Rockliffe is on the Ottawa River, about lat. 77° 50' north, long. 46° 08' west, making, as far as I am aware, the most northerly record of the Egret.

W. L. Scott, Ottawa, Canada
Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 110.

Records from Toronto. E. E. T. Seton.

GREAT WHITE EGRET. *Ardea egretta*. — A magnificent specimen of this beautiful Heron was shot at Lake Nipissing in 1883. It is now in the museum of Mr. C. A. Hirschfelder.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885, p. 336

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 447.

65. *Herodias egretta*. AMERICAN EGRET. — A specimen in my collection taken at Port Union (17 miles east of Toronto) May 24, 1895; this is the only definite record, but white herons have been reported from various points on the lake that seem to be of this species. Dr. Wm. Brodie says a pair bred regularly many years ago (about 1870) at Port Union and several were shot.

Rare Birds in Maine: In the latter part
of August, 1879 a Great White Egret was shot
at Grand Menan. Driven north by storm.
R. Deane.
Bull. N.O.C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 64.

The American Egret in Maine.

A specimen of the American Egret (*Ardea egretta*) was shot at Matinicus Island, Maine, during the latter part of June or first of July of the past year, 1888. I have one of the wings in my possession, and there is no doubt about the identity of the bird.

O & O. XIV. Feb. 1889 p. 28 John C. Cahoon.

Recent Occurrence of the Egret (*Herodias egretta*) near Portland, Maine.— Although a few authentic records have been made of the occurrence in Maine of the Egret (*Herodias egretta*), the increasing scarcity of the species in its usual haunts renders especially interesting the recent capture of a beautiful adult example near Portland. This, a female in full nuptial plumage, was shot not far from Black Rock, Scarborough, on April 23, 1911, and was brought to me in the flesh. It is now included in my collection.— HENRY H. BROCK, Portland, Maine.

Arch. XXX. Apr. 1912. p. 236-37.

Newburyport, Mass.

Ardea egretta

In the Peabody Academy at Salem are two young birds fully grown and feathered but entirely without plumes. They are marked ♂ & ♀ respectively and the locality is given as Newburyport.

Ardea egretta

♂ & ♀ labeled simply Newburyport shot about . . . They are both immatures having no plumes. (Coll. Peabody Acad. of Salem.) Mr. Robinson tells me he had them of R. B. Newcomb.

E. Mass.

A ♂ & ♀ in the Peabody Academy Coll. at Salem are labeled "Newburyport, Mass." Both are young birds.

Ardea egretta.

Uncommon Birds for Nantucket Island, Massachusetts.—*Ardea egretta*, AMERICAN EGRET.—On September 20, 1890, while shooting at the eastern end of this island, I saw in the distance a large white heron-like bird, which I thought might be *Ardea occidentalis*, but unfortunately I failed to secure it. The following day it was again seen, near the same locality. On September 23, 1890, this bird was shot, and I saw it; it proved to be *Ardea egretta*, and was without any plumes. This is the first record of one being taken on this island.

George H. Mackay.

Auk, VIII, Jan, 1891, p. 120. [29792]

June 29 42 [1882]

~~From J. Brewster~~
Dear Sir I have
a fine specimen of the white
Heron shot at Ipswich Mass
It is not mounted but if
you should want it give me
price you would be willing to pay
for it and I will try and get
it for you
Yours
Wickham

1952. *The Great White Heron*. By T. G. Pearson. *Ibid.*, No. 4, July, 1889. **Oologist's Exchange, Vol. 2.**

1081. *White Egrets in Orleans County, N. Y.* By S. L. Davison. *Ibid.*, April 9, p. 204.—Three killed in Carlton, "on Thanksgiving Day, 1883." **For. & Stream, XXIV**

925. *Rare Birds on Long Island*. By Geo. Bird Grinnell. *Ibid.*, p. 24.—*Porzana jamaicensis*, *Rhynchops nigra*, *Herodias alba egretta*, and *Garzetta candidissima*. **For. & Stream, XXIII**

754. *White Herons*. By W. T. Warrick. *Ibid.*, p. 80.—Seven shot, and many more seen, at Washington, Pa. **O. & C. Vol. VIII**

674. *White Heron (Herodias alba egretta)*. By Jno. H. Sage. *Ibid.*, p. 4.—Shot at Saybrook, Conn., Aug. 11, 1882. (Previously recorded by same writer in O. and O., VII, p. 189. See *antea*, No. 443.) **O. & C. Vol. VIII**

853. *The Egret*

1160. *Early Occurrence of the Great White Egret at Washington, D. C.* By C. Hart Merriam. *Ibid.*, No. 26, July 22, p. 508.—Taken July 15, 1886. **For. & Stream, Vol. XXVI**
251. *Herodias alba egretta . . . American Egret*. By John W. Shorten. *Ibid.*, p. 95.—Specimen in full breeding plumage taken at Maysville, Ky., April 22, 1882. **Jour. Cincoln. Soc. N. H., 1882**
443. *Great White Egret (Herodias alba egretta)*. By J. N. Clark. *Ibid.*, p. 189.—Capture of two specimens in Southern Connecticut. **O. & C. Vol. VII**



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

Wm Brewster Esq
147 1/2 Brattle St
Cambridge
Mass

M. ABBOTT FRAZAR,

Taxidermist

AND DEALER IN

NATURALISTS' SUPPLIES AND SPECIMENS.

MINERALS, BIRDS' SKINS, STUFFED ANIMAL HEADS, Etc.

No. 93 Sudbury Street,

SEND STAMP FOR CATALOGUE.

Boston, Mass., May 15, 1894/189

Mr. Wm. Brewster,

Cambridge, Mass.

My Dear Mr. Brewster:-

I received this morning, by express, from Chathamport, a great white egret in the flesh, the party wishes me to sell for him. It has some of the long plumes on the back, but is not very full feathered in that respect. I presume you would like the bird, however, and was thinking that \$5. would be a fair price for it, the list price being \$3.50. I trust you will drop me a postal on receipt of this, letting me know if you wish the bird. Price of \$5. of course is for the bird all made up.

Yours very truly,

M. Abbott Frazar

Bird purchased &
in my collection.

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Dec 6 92 *Ardea egretta*
nota pocket
 Dear Sir - I am sorry to say
 I cannot buy the Heron
 I tried my best but the
 owners will not sell
 This specimen is my
 first recorded
 "Orn. & Bol." Vol 17 not
 Nov. 1892 p. 165
 19 psuade, Mass
 Nov. 22 1892

Massachusetts

The Egret in Plymouth County, Mass.— On July 27, 1911, I saw two Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) in the salt marsh near the mouth of North River, which is the boundary between the towns of Marshfield and Scituate on the south shore of Massachusetts. They were catching fish, and permitted a fairly near approach. Neither had plumes. They were still at North River on August 6.

On July 30 I saw an Egret in the southern part of the town of Plymouth. This bird was catching frogs and fish at a small pond but a short distance from farm buildings. When I startled him, he flew up into a hillside pasture close by. The tall white wader presented a striking and unique appearance as he stood up "straight as a major" in the huckleberry bushes on the hot sunny hillside. He was quite fearless and soon flew down to resume feeding in the ditch of a near-by cranberry bog.

On July 22 Mr. F. D. Lyon of Halifax saw at a pond-bottom in his town another Egret which, like the three birds already noted, was plumeless.

Thus within 10 days four Egrets were noted in Plymouth County, at points rather widely separated, the North River being over 25 miles from the South Plymouth pond and over 12 miles from the Halifax pond-bottom, while this latter point is over 20 miles from the south Plymouth locality. Halifax lies eight miles inland; the South Plymouth pond is within two or three miles of the sea.

I am informed on good authority that an Egret was seen about 10 years ago at North River. Mr. Thomas W. Graves of Plymouth tells me that he also saw an Egret at Yarmouth on Cape Cod a number of years ago. This bird had the plumes.— J. A. FARLEY, *Plymouth, Mass.*

Auk 28. Oct-1911 p. 482-83.

Eastern Marshes of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) in Massachusetts.— On August 9, 1911, I secured an Egret from a flock of six on the Eastham Marshes of Cape Cod. The birds had been feeding far out on the open mud flats, but luckily for me approached some "hummocks" of grass behind which I was able to stalk them. Mr. Matthew Luce, who has a house commanding a fine view of the marsh, had been seeing them intermittently since about July 21, and on several occasions approached within a few yards of them. Walter Nickerson, the game warden, had also been watching them and said they always roosted together in a certain tree at a nearby Night Heron colony.— STANLEY COBB, *Milton, Mass.*

Auk 28. Oct-1911 p. 482.



Wm Brewster
145 Brattle St
Cambridge
Mass

Massachusetts

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Aug 25. Oct-1911 p. 482-83.

Eastern Marshes of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) in Massachusetts.— On August 9, 1911, I secured an Egret from a flock of six on the Eastham Marshes of Cape Cod. The birds had been feeding far out on the open mud flats, but luckily for me approached some "hummocks" of grass behind which I was able to stalk them. Mr. Matthew Luce, who has a house commanding a fine view of the marsh, had been seeing them intermittently since about July 21, and on several occasions approached within a few yards of them. Walter Nickerson, the game warden, had also been watching them and said they always roosted together in a certain tree at a nearby Night Heron colony.— STANLEY COBB, *Milton, Mass.*

Aug 28. Oct-1911 p. 482.

The Egret at Marshfield, Massachusetts.—The town of Marshfield is situated about thirty miles southeast of Boston bordering on Massachusetts Bay. There is a considerable stretch of salt marshes with a number of small ponds or pools scattered here and there. It is an ideal place for water birds.

On July 30, 1911, in company with Mr. Joseph A. Hagar of Marshfield and Mr. Harold D. Mitchell of Newtonville, I observed a pair of Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) feeding in one of the numerous pools on the marshes at Marshfield. We first saw them from a hill about three-quarters of a mile away. Under the cover of bushes and stone-walls we approached to within about four hundred feet, then, at times crawling flat on our stomachs, Mr. Hagar and I gained the shelter of a blind, not over two hundred feet away from the birds.

With the Egrets was a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias herodias*) which remained perfectly motionless on the bank, while the others were nervously moving about. Comparing them with the Blue Heron, they appeared to be rather smaller; in form similar, but more slender, especially the neck. The entire plumage was pure white, the bill bright yellow, and the legs and feet black. When they saw that they were observed they became very restless and shy and kept walking up and down the bank with quick, graceful steps. One was always on watch while the other was preening its plumage or catching fish. Several times they ran quickly towards each other and with outstretched wings, and in a rather ludicrous manner, bobbed, bowed and touched their bills together. At this time we thought that we saw two or three "aigrette" plumes on the back of one of the Egrets, but of this we were not certain. They were altogether silent while we were near.

Their movements and flight were more graceful and agile than those of the Blue Heron and their snow-white plumage showed up very plainly against the dark background. We observed the Egrets for over an hour and have no doubt of their identification. They were *not* albino Blue Herons.

After I had returned home to Jamaica Plain, Mr. Hagar wrote me a letter, dated August 13, from which I take the following: "Two days later, on August 14, I was fortunate enough to approach them (the Egrets) within one hundred and thirty feet by actual measurement, first on foot and then in a ducking boat. This time they were feeding along the bank of the river and were much less wild. The night of August 1 they changed their feeding grounds to the Scituate side of North River, about five miles north of where we first saw them. They were reported by various persons for almost a week before I saw them again. They were usually seen feeding on the marshes or perched in some large dead tree along the edge of the marsh. On August 5 I saw them late in the afternoon and for the first time heard their note, a harsh guttural 'squawk,' not unlike the note of the Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*).

"On August 8, while out in a dense fog on the marshes, I heard a hoarse squawk and looking up, saw the Egrets directly overhead. That day either they parted company or one was shot, for the next morning one was seen on the marshes and another (or perhaps the same one, in the former case) on the shore of a little pond seven or eight miles back from the coast. The next night they disappeared, nor have I heard of them since."

The 24th of July a local gunner told Mr. Hagar that a few days previously he had seen a pair of "White Herons" with several Great Blue Herons near the mouth of the North and South Rivers in Scituate. This would indicate that the Egrets had been in the vicinity for about a month at least.

From the 'Birds of Massachusetts,' by Howe and Allen (1901), page 45: "*Ardea egretta*. American Egret. An occasional summer visitant. Records from: Ashland, Dedham, Hudson, Ipswich, Lynn, Nantucket, North Hadley, Plymouth, Quincy, Springfield, Topsfield, Wellesley, West Brookfield, and Westford. Last record: Nantucket, one taken Sept. 23, 1890 (Auk, Vol. VII, Jan., 1891). Apr., May, Aug., Sept., Nov."

Marshfield is a new town and July a new month for their appearance, and 1890 is the latest year that I find any authentic record of Egrets in Massachusetts.—HAROLD L. BARRETT, *Jamaica Plain, Mass.*

American Egret (*Herodias egretta*) at Martha's Vineyard, Mass.—
On July 22, 1913, I was attracted by the sight of an American Egret in the
Black-Crowned Night Heronry at Squibnocket Pond, Martha's Vineyard.
This wanderer from the south seemed to live in perfect harmony with his
cousins. The bird remained in the colony during my entire week's stay.
At times he would circle with the immature herons a few rods above my
head; again he would sail leisurely out to the edge of the pond and stand
motionless as if awaiting an opportunity to seize some finny loiterer. But
not once did I notice any quarrelling or wrangling between the egret and his
less ornate relatives.— G. KINGSLEY NOBLE, *Cambridge, Mass.*
Auk, 1913, p. 100.

American Egret (*Herodias egretta*) at Naushon Island, Mass.— I
was much interested in Mr. Noble's note in the January 'Auk,' on the
American Egret at Martha's Vineyard. I saw an American Egret fly over
the northeastern end of Naushon Island on July 20, 1913 while I was there
for a visit. On August 11, 1913, when returning from Nantucket my hus-
band and I saw two American Egrets standing at the edge of a green marsh
between Wood's Hole and Falmouth. These birds looked gleaming white
with the green marsh background.— LIDIAN E. BRIDGE, *West Medford,*
Mass. *Auk*, xxxi, Oct. 1914, p. 635.

Notes.

A fine specimen of the American Egret was shot on Prudence Island, a few miles from Providence, R.I., August 17, 1888. J. M. Southwick.

O & O. XIV. Apr. 1889 p. 63

An American Egret was shot by E. W. Champlin, in cedar swamp, Ocean View, R.I., first of June. C. G. Dunn.

O. & O. Vol. 18, June, 1893 p. 94

See also note by Jenks on Com. sheet.

Point Judith R. Island.

An Egret in Rhode Island.— Messrs. Angell & Cash of Providence, R. I., permit me to record the capture of an immature male Egret (*Herodias egretta*) at Point Judith, August 2, 1909. The bird was brought to them to be mounted.— REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Concord, Mass.*

Aug 27. Jan-1910 p. 79

American Egret (*Herodias egretta*) in Rhode Island.— Seeing Mr. Noble's record of the American Egret on Martha's Vineyard reminds me to record the following observation. In August, either on the 15th or 16th, 1913, while crossing the road that skirts the salt marsh just after crossing Stone Bridge, Tiverton, on to the Island of Rhode Island, I noticed from an automobile a white heron—I think undoubtedly of this species—feeding by one of the pools. Mr. Lyman Underwood, who was spending the summer in the same township with me (Nonquitt, Mass.), saw several white herons a day or so later at the same place, as he also passed in his automobile, and later I was asked by residents of Wareham, Mass., if white herons should be seen in that locality. Apparently there was a flight during August, 1913.—R. HEBER HOWE, JR., *Thoreau Museum, Concord, Mass.* *Arch. XX XI. Apr. 1914. p. 245, 246.*

O. & O. VII. Dec. 15. 1882. p. 119.
GREAT WHITE EGRET (*Herodias alba egretta*).—One of my neighbors procured specimen August 11th, nearly two miles from the seashore. It was following up a mill stream and he shot it from his door as it flew past. It was pure white, in young plumage, a long-legged, long-necked, stilty looking bird. The same person shot one of these birds in 1878, the 2d of August. These are the only birds of the species that I ever saw.—*J. N. Clark, Old Saybrook, Ct.*

WHITE HERON (*Herodias alba egretta*), shot at Saybrook, Conn., Aug. 11, 1882, by Mr. J. R. Chalker, and is now in my cabinet.—*Jno. H. Sage, Portland, Conn.*

O. & O. VIII. Jan. 1883. p. 4

Capture of Three Rare Birds near Hartford, Conn.—*Ardea egretta*. AMERICAN EGRET.—A bird (sex unknown) of this species was shot in this vicinity Aug. 14, 1883. Two or three more were reported seen near here in the same month, but I can vouch for the authenticity of only the one mentioned above.

Willard E. Treat, East Hartford, Conn.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 78.

In Conn. & R. I.

Ardea egretta

*Connecticut & R. I.
Sept. 3, 4, 1883*

Mr. F. J. Jewkes writes me that two American Egrets were shot at Warwick, R. I. on Sept. 3, 1883 and on the same day another was killed at Norwich, Conn., One from each locality was sent to Southwick Jewkes to be stuffed.

The American Egret in Connecticut.—On the 28th of July, 1899, a fine specimen of the American Egret, *Ardea egretta*, was brought me, having just been shot from a tree on the shore of a small pond in this town, Kent. As the person in question passed near the pond, the great white bird flew up from the shore, alighted on a low tree close by, remaining until he returned from the house with a gun, and manifesting no shyness. It was a male, but whether old or young I could not decide, as, though without plumes or long feathers, it was of full measurements, and showed no lingering adolescence. This occurrence, forty miles inland, is probably much more unusual than the appearance of this species on Long Island Sound.—*REV. HERBERT K. JOB, Kent, Conn.*
Auk, XVII, July, 1900, p. 294.

Rare Birds at Sing Sing, N.Y.

4. *Ardea egretta*. GREAT WHITE EGRET. — A specimen was shot, early in September, 1870, on a broad marshy flat a short distance north of this village, where the Croton River joins the Hudson. The bird was taken to Dr. Fisher, but the warm weather spoiled it before it was preserved.

A. K. Fisher.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan, 1879, p 62.

Bird Notes from Long Id. Wm. Dutcher

4. *Herodias alba egretta* (*Gmel.*) *Ridgw.* AMERICAN EGRET.—August 3, 1882, Nelson Verity, a gunner, shot on the marshes at South Oyster Bay, and sent me, a male of this species. He tells me that they usually arrive about August 1, and remain until the latter part of September. In the course of the season he sees, perhaps, 25. During the summer of 1882 a few were shot, a lad killing two in one day. Verity also tells me that they are invariably found in company with the Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*.

Auk, I, Jan., 1884. p. 32.

*Third addition to List of Birds of
Adirondack Region. E. Hart Merriam, M.D.*

209. *Herodias egretta*. GREAT WHITE HERON.—Dr. A. K. Fisher writes me that "a large white Heron was seen in the marsh at the head of Dunham's Bay, Lake George, Warren County, N. Y., for a period of a week or more in the latter part of May or first of June, 1883. It was seen by a number of residents of the neighborhood, its color rendering it very conspicuous, and was shot at several times at long range without effect."

Auk, I, Jan., 1884. p. 69.

Ardea egretta in Niagara County, N. Y. — In April, 1884, I reported to the 'Forest and Stream' the capture of three birds of this species in the adjoining county of Orleans, on Nov. 28, 1883. At that time I little expected that I would ever have an opportunity to mention its occurrence nearer home. But on the 18th of last August two specimens were brought to me, by different persons, for identification, both taken in the town of Newfane, this county, near the village of Olcott, on Lake Ontario. I did not have an opportunity to learn the sex, but took the measurements of one of them: Length, 36½ inches; wing, 15½; tarsus, 6.

—J. L. DAVISON, *Lockport, Niagara County, N. Y.*

Auk, 4, April 1887. p. 159.

**Oneida County, New York,
William L. Ralph & Egbert Bagg**

Ardea egretta.—A specimen killed in Marcy, about Nov. 10, 1889, was mounted by Messrs. J. P. and F. J. Davis, taxidermists, of this city. This is our third record.

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 230

Auk, XIII, April, 1896, p. 178-9.

Bird Notes from Erie County, New York—Among the rarer summer birds found near Springville, New York, may be mentioned the American Egret (*Ardea egretta*). A young bird of the year was taken on the Cattaraugus Creek on August 10, 1881, by Mr. Depew of Long Island. The specimen is now in my collection. *E. H. Eaton, Canandaigua, N.Y.*

Notes on Birds of Long Island.—*Ardea egretta* and *A. candidissima*.—
It is a pleasure to note that both 'White Herons' are still entitled to notice among the present avifauna of Long Island, notwithstanding the continued persecution to which both species throughout the entire limits of their range have been of late years subjected, and the consequent diminution in their numbers.

Their persistent occurrence on Long Island in spite of their decline in numbers is rather remarkable and may be regarded as denoting that Long Island is an attractive feeding ground for this genus of birds. It may also be that there exists an instinct affecting certain individuals leading them to migrate in the autumn in a direction contrary to that of the species as a whole, or, that the genus is simply prone to a wandering, restless disposition. Since Mr. Dutcher's note on the former was published (*Auk*, III, 1, p. 435) nothing, I think, has appeared to show that either of the birds now nest on Long Island, and it seems questionable whether the birds have nested so far north since the prevailing demand for their plumes first began. Late occurrences of the two species are as follows:

During the autumn of 1897 several 'White Herons' were noted about the shores of Jamaica Bay, Queen's County, by several observers, from whom I heard of them. Chas. Ward, a gunner of Rockaway Beach, shot several on or about October 1, one of which was merely wing-tipped. This bird was preserved alive for some time, in which condition I saw it on October 9, it having then been in captivity about a week or ten days. The bird was confined in a boat builder's shop where its unnatural surroundings affected it unfavorably, as it appeared drooping and sick. It proved to be a specimen of the American Egret, *Ardea egretta*.

A flock of Snowy Herons, *Ardea candidissima*, comprising six or seven individuals, was seen on the salt meadows near East Rockaway in mid-August this year (1899). Two of these, which were wing-tipped, are now in the possession of Mr. Daniel DeMott of East Rockaway. They are at present in apparently excellent condition, established in roomy, comfortable quarters, with out-door run and with in-door shelter. Mr. DeMott recalls having seen 'White Herons' in his locality fifteen years ago, but none since until the present summer. He writes: "The two which I now have would eat from my hand a week or two after their capture. I now have them in a yard enclosed in wire netting with a coop eight feet high attached. I notice they sit in the uppermost part of the coop most of the time during the day unless called out to be fed; but when night comes they will leave the coop and sit in the open yard until morning." The chief food of the Herons is small fish, with which they are kept abundantly supplied. Mr. DeMott has several other wild birds quartered in separate enclosures, including Black-bellied Plovers, Turnstones, and one Golden Plover, all in apparently excellent condition and comprising in all a decidedly interesting natural history exhibit.

William C. Braislin, M.D., Brooklyn, N.Y.,
Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, pp. 69-70.

Some Birds of Unusual Occurrence in Orleans Co., N.Y.

Ardea egretta. AMERICAN EGRET.—Three of these birds wandered into our county in July, 1883, and two of them were shot near Kent on the 27th of that month. One of these is now in the possession of Mr. Edgar Ford of Carlyon, who shot it.

Neil F. Hosson,
Medina, N.Y.

Auk, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 193-6.

Notes concerning certain Birds of Long Island, by William C. Braislin, M.D.

Ardea egretta. Through the courtesy of Capt. James G. Scott, keeper of the Montauk Point Light, I am enabled to record the second specimen of the American Egret which has come under my observation from Long Island (*Auk*, XVII, 1900, p. 67). Capt. Scott informs me that he shot the bird on July 23, 1900, on Oyster Pond Beach (Montauk). The mounted skin is now in the possession of Capt. Jesse B. Edwards, keeper of the Amagansett Life Saving Station, to whom I am indebted for measurements and other particulars concerning the bird. The following data are noted: Length, 39 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches (dry skin); length of bill, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Auk, XIX, April, 1902, p. 145.

The American Egret (*Herodias egretta*) in the Catskill Mountains.—

On July 18, 1906, I saw at East Windham, New York, three of these birds on the topmost branches of a tree near a hemlock swamp and secured one of them, and another on the following day. Both birds were young females, and undoubtedly, according to a peculiar habit of the family to wander northward during the latter part of the summer, were erratic visitors in this locality. Upon inquiry among several inhabitants, I was informed that this species had never been seen by them in this locality before, nor had they bred there, and that the flock consisted of six birds on July 16, two days before my arrival.— J. A. WEBER, *New York City*.

Auk, XXIII, Dec., 1906, p. 457.

An Egret on Long Island.— In connection with Mr. R. Heber Howe, Jr.'s note on the American Egret, in the April 'Auk,' and the one by Mr. G. Kingsley Noble to which he refers, I would like to report a single bird of this species which I observed at Mastic, Long Island, where it is very rare, on August 9, 1913. It was identified with certainty.— JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS, *New York, N. Y.*

Auk. xxxi. July 1914. p.

Hérons of Alachua Co., Florida.
F. G. Pearson.

AMERICAN EGRET.

Five years ago the American Egret was very common around our lakes and ponds, but through the agency of man, especially the plume hunters, its numbers have been reduced to such an extent that at the present time it is seldom met with in any great numbers. During the breeding season the Egret is adorned with a magnificent train of long white plumes, which, starting from the back, float far behind the tail, even reaching to the feet or beyond while flying.

On March 28, 1888, I found perhaps a dozen pair breeding at Levey Lake. The rookery was on a partly submerged island one mile from shore, and the nests were placed in the bushes usually about three feet above the water. Incubation at this date was far advanced; in fact, in at least one-half of the nests examined the eggs had hatched. No fresh eggs were found on this day at all. The usual number in a nest was three, sometimes, however, only two, and in no case were four found in a single nest.

While on a camping and collecting expedition in Walkahootta Hammock my partner and I, on April 27, 1889, found a few pair of Egrets breeding in the buttonwood bushes of a slew just east of Horse Prairie, although at this late date the nests contained eggs only partially incubated. The usual number of eggs in this case was also three. Four were found in a nest in one instance. A set of four fresh eggs were taken by my partner from a nest in the northern part of the county on March 26th of the same year. These birds around here are becoming quite shy and it frequently requires considerable caution to approach within gun-shot of them.

O. & O. Vol. 17, Mar. 1892 p. 37

**On a Collection of Eggs from
Georgia. H. B. Bailey,**

So. *Herodias alba egretta*. AMERICAN EGRET.—Nests on trees in fresh-water ponds; eggs three. April 18.

Bull. N. O. C. 2, Jan, 1883, p. 42

HERODIAS EGRETTE AT AMHERST.—I record with pleasure that while I was away from home, recently, three of these beautiful and rare birds were seen in the swamp about what we here call "Hadley Pond." One of these, a fine specimen, was shot and purchased for the Amherst College collection. It is now being stuffed at Mr. O. B. Deane's at Springfield. I do not recall that the bird has been authentically noted from this State since 1875, at Plymouth, Mass. The Amherst specimen was taken within a day or two of Aug. 27.—W. A. STEARNS, *Amherst, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. C. 8, Oct. 1888, p. 243

A FLOCK OF WHITE HERONS (*Herodias egretta*) IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.—Eight of these birds paid a visit to the salt marshes in the town of Quincy in August last, and on the 23d of that month Mr. Geo. H. Bryant succeeded in shooting one. I saw the mounted bird in the shop of P. W. Aldrich, Washington St., Boston, and it was a handsome specimen. The flock was much harassed by gunners, and another Heron is reported to have been killed since. As stated in "New England Bird Life," where may be found the record of the species for this section, it appears to be a more frequent visitor than either the Snowy or Little Blue Heron.

I know of no record of the occurrence in New England of the Louisiana Heron or Reddish Egret.—H. A. PURDIE, *Boston, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. C. 8, Oct. 1888, p. 243.

An American Egret was shot at Ipswich, Mass., November 22. It has been preserved by N. Vickary the well known Lynn taxidermist.

O. & O Vol. 17, Nov. 1892 p. 166

Dear Mr Deane
Boston April 3rd 1901
The Ardea Egretta, was taken in Nantucket by a man named Chadwick. It was mounted as a "Screen" by a man by the name of Herbert Sweet of Nantucket who was a watchmaker by profession. Mr Brewster on receiving the bird had it re-mounted as it is now.

[29792]

25 Congress St.

Yours truly
Geo Mackay

water in flocks, associating freely with one another, and were easily approached.

On one occasion I sailed up to quite a large flock, and shot a *P. fuliginosus*. As the rest rose, I suddenly perceived amongst them a Shearwater entirely new to me, and my other barrel soon brought it down. The yacht was put about, and I was on the point of laying hands on the prize, when it suddenly started up, and was gone,—much to my chagrin. Soon, however, I saw a similar one flying about in company with several of the common Shearwaters. It presently came near, and was shot, proving to be a Cory's Shearwater. This was enough to keep me on the lookout for more, and when about half way in to land, another

head is much duller than when I saw the bird last May, and now falls lower upon the neck, but, instead of covering the auriculars, only encircles the eyes with a very narrow line above and below, which disappears at the lores. The coloring of the auriculars is such that I think before long this part too will be of a like gray color, and will finally take on the former silvery effect. The crown patch of dark brown continues from its

125a/685a Pileolated Warbler,
127 686 Canadian Warbler,
128 687 American Redstart,



Walter Deane,
145 Brattle St.,
Cambridge,
Mass.

candidissima

GARZETTA CANDIDISSIMA AT NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS.—Visiting the above-named island, Aug. 12, 1882, I saw in the shop of Mr. H. S. Sweet, a mounted specimen of the Little White or Snowy Egret, which he said was shot near the south-west shore, at Hummock pond, last March, by one of the men of the Life-saving Station. A straggler to New England, the species has occurred far less frequently than its larger relative the White Heron (*Herodias egretta*), and this capture in early spring is remarkable.—H. A. PURDIE, *Newton, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. O. 7. Oct. 1882, p. 257.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

| *Ardea candidissima* Gmel., Snowy Heron.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 138

A TRIP TO A HERONRY. (O. and O. IX p 30.) I notice in O. and O. for July a piece entitled "A Trip to a Heronry," by H. A. Talbot, of this city. He says: "Several

O. & O. IX, Aug. 1884, p.
103-104

Snowy Herons were seen, but we could not get a shot at them." The study of R. I. birds has been one of considerable interest to me for twelve years, and I know of no authenticated instance of the capture of the Snowy Heron during this period. Still it is not improbable that they may occur. During the past eight years two young little Blue Herons have been shot and sent to me, and at the time of the capture of the latter more were seen. These birds look precisely like the Snowy Heron and especially at a distance. The distinguishing marks are slight bluish tips to the wings. Last year ('83) there was quite a flight of American Egrets. These two species appeared in summer, July and August. As Mr. Talbot did not succeed in obtaining a Snowy Heron, which with a limited experience might easily be confounded with the other two mentioned, I think his occurrence must be annulled as a R. I. record.
—Fred T. Jencks, Providence, R. I.

Ardea Caudiglossine

Houghton "My Bird's Plumage"

Forest & Stream, Vol XLV, No 14,
Oct 5, 1895 pp. 291-292

For note on Snowy Heron see little

Blue Heron. by A. H. Helme
Miller's Place, N. Y.

Q. & C. VII. May. 1882. p. 118.

Jan. 9. p. 497. 1853. Snowy Heron on Lake Ontario. By E. E. Chapman. Forest & Stream, Vol. 33

CAPTURE OF THE SNOWY HERON (*Garzetta candidissima*) ON LONG ISLAND. — Although the habitat of this species includes this region as well as the greater part of New England, I consider it worth the while to record its capture here, as it is now rare so far to the North. Mr. John M. Rodocanachi shot a fine specimen on Cedar Island, Great South Bay, Long Island, on August 4, 1881, which he kindly sent to me. — LOUIS A. ZEREGA, 111 East 72nd St., New York City.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct., 1881, p. 248.

Bird Notes from Long Id. Wm. Dutcher

5. *Garzetta candidissima* (Gmel.) Bp. SNOWY HERON. — July 11, 1881, while on the marshes at South Oyster Bay, I saw seven individuals of this species, but they were so wild I could not get a shot at them. On the following day I saw but one. July 17, Nelson Verity, a gunner, killed three, one of which, a female, he sent to me. Verity afterwards informed me that his father, who is also a gunner, killed seven on the same marshes in one day, later in the summer of 1882. About July 1, 1883, Verity saw a flock of five near Fire Island, and on the 3d of July he shot one on the South Oyster Bay marshes.

Auk, I, Jan., 1884, p. 32.

Long Island Bird Notes. Wm. Dutcher

4. *Ardea candidissima*. SNOWY HERON. — Although these birds are not uncommon on Long Island in the summer months, I do not recall any published notes of their breeding. Mr. L. S. Foster and the writer visited a very extensive pine and cedar swamp on Great South Beach, off Sayville, Suffolk Co., May 30, 1885, and while there saw three individuals of this species. One was alone, but the others were mated and undoubtedly were preparing to breed. They were watched for some time and were always flying to or from a pine tree in the swamp. All their actions indicated that they were nest building. The one first seen was carrying a long stick in its bill.

Auk, 3, Oct., 1886, p. 435.

Notes on Birds on Long Island,

Ardea candidissima

[Ardea caerulea]
see correction under that name.

See under Ardea egretta.

William C. Braislin, M.D.,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, pp. 69-70.

On a Collection of Eggs from
Georgia. H. B. Bailey.

81. *Arzetta candidissima*. SNOWY HERON.—Nests in trees near
water; eggs three. April 14.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Jan, 1883, p. 42

caerulea

Little Blue Heron

Ardea caerulea

1890

Florida,
Suwanee River.
Mar 20-Apr 1, 1890.

The commonest and most widely distributed species, as well as the tamest. They are strictly diurnal in habit, and during the day scatter along the entire course of the ^{lower} river and its connecting creeks. About half an hour before sunset each day, a regular flight began and continued until a short time after sunset, the birds going down stream in flocks of from five or six to 50 or 75 individuals each, flying in a compact body like Waders, and usually about on a level with the tops of the trees. We found that this flight had for an objective point a small, treeless island, covered with marsh-grass, near the mouth of the river. Here on the evening of March 30th, we saw fully five hundred of these birds come in and ^{pitch} ~~go~~ down into the grass. There was nothing to distinguish this island in any way from ^{apparently} ~~any~~ other similar ones ^{near by}, but it was evident from the signs which we found there that the birds had made it their roosting-place for a long time. There were a few of the large Aigrets among them and probably some Snowy Herons also but we did not get sufficiently near the flock to distinguish these from the young of the Little Blue Heron. The flight of this species is swifter than that of any other Heron of my acquaintance, and the long, pointed wing moved in quick, firm sweeps ~~and~~ give it a distinct ⁱⁿ appearance when ~~in~~ ~~the~~ flying. It perches freely on trees, but, like the Green Heron, prefers such as are dead, or scanty foliage, such as the bald cypress. 7

Remarkable Ornithological Occurrences
in Nova Scotia

Auk, XV, April, 1898, p. 195.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Ardea cærulea*).—A male in adult plumage was killed at Lawrencetown, Halifax County, on March 18, 1896—two days after the Least Bittern was shot. The bird was very thin. Another specimen, also an adult, was taken at Shut Harbour, N. S., on April 10, 1897. Only once previously has the species been collected in this Province. In the summer of 1884 an immature specimen was taken at Cole Harbour, near Halifax. *Harry Piers, Halifax, N.S.*

Occurrence of the Little Blue Heron in Labrador.—On May 23, 1900, a Little Blue Heron (*Ardea cærulea*) was brought to Mr. Ernest Doane at Lance au Loup, Labrador, by a man who had shot it there a day or two before. Mr. Doane skinned the bird and sent it in a shipment just made to my brother and me. The specimen (No. 4433, Coll. of E. A. & O. Bangs) is a young male just emerging from the white plumage, having some blue feathers in the wings, a few long blue back plumes, and the back, neck and head much intermixed with grayish. While to me, little interest attaches to such wanderers it still, perhaps, is as well to record them, and so far as I know this is the first time the Little Blue Heron, has been taken in Labrador.—OUTRAM BANGS, *Boston, Mass.*

Auk, XVII, Oct., 1900, p. 326.

Ontario Bird Notes

A pair of Little Blue Herons (*Ardea cærulea*) was taken by J. W. Anderson at Aylmer, Ont., a small inland town about nine miles north of Lake Erie, August 15, 1901. Two more were shot within a few miles of this place some time ago; all four were in the white plumage, with the primaries tipped with slate color.

J. N. Ames, Toronto, Ontario.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p

THE LITTLE BLUE HERON IN MAINE. — During the summer of 1881 a small white Heron took up his abode in a dense swamp bordering the eastern side of Scarborough Marsh. He foraged regularly about the neighboring ponds and rivers, and before autumn had been seen and unsuccessfully shot at by many covetous gunners. In September, however, he fell captive to the wiles of Mr. Winslow Pilsbury, and now reposes in the cabinet of Mr. Chas. H. Chandler, of Cambridge, Mass. Before writing Mr. Chandler, to ascertain the species represented by his specimen, I learned that Mr. Henry A. Purdie* had seen the bird and pronounced it the Little Blue Heron (*Florida carulea*). No previous instance of its occurrence in Maine is on record. — NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.* **Bull. N. O. O.** 7, April, 1882, p. 123.

* It should be stated that Mr. Purdie, with characteristic courtesy, declines to publish this note as, after discovering his prior knowledge of the specimen, I requested him to do.

S. L. CROSBY & CO.,
FINE TAXIDERMISTS,
AND DEALERS IN
NATURALISTS' SUPPLIES.

All Specimens Cured with Arsenic. The only
Preventive against Moths.

Ardea caerules

Rangon, Me., Sept 6. 1888

Dear Sir,
I had a specimen
of the Little Blue Heron
in the white plumage
sent in to be mounted
the other day is it not
the first occurrence in
Maine. The plumage is
very white & nice it
was a male bird. Would
it be worth while to
try to buy it.

Yours Respect.

S. L. Crosby

Maine

Ardea caerules

1888

"I have just seen at Crosby's what I
believe to be a Little Blue Heron in white
plumage - all white except tips of wings"
(M. Hardy let. Sept. 18-1888)

A Third Maine Specimen of the Little Blue Heron. — Early in April of the current year, I received from Mr. Herbert A. Arey of Vinal Haven, Me., a specimen of *Ardea carulea*, to be mounted for Mr. Arey. His letter, dated April 2, 1902, states: "The bird was shot yesterday at the east end of Carver's Pond, Vinalhaven." It was a male, a fine specimen in the light phase, and was in good bodily condition; it would probably have bred had it not strayed from its kind and home.

The two other Maine records are: A bird in light phase, Scarborough, September, 1881 (Brown, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VII, p. 123). A female, Popham Beach, May 19, 1901 (Spinney in Swain's editorial, Journ. Maine Orn. Soc., III, p. 30). — ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Westbrook, Me.*
Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 285.

Little Blue Heron (*Florida carulea*) in Vermont.— While on Montebello Hill, Newbury, Vt., on August 16, 1912, between 5 and 6.30 p. m., I was looking down upon a swampy meadow which lies below and in which the Bittern makes its home, and saw something unusual moving about. Using my field glasses I saw that it was a white heron wading slowly in the water. It was not so large as the Great Blue Heron with which I was familiar and was pure white except the tips of the wings which were a soft gray — evidently the Little Blue Heron in immature plumage. I could not see the legs as the water came nearly up to the body.

It moved very slowly and deliberately feeding among the plants which grew in the water. I watched it for half an hour or more until it passed out of sight around a curve. It made no call of any kind.— ANNA E. COBB, *Providence, R. I.*

Auk. XXX. Jan. 1913. p. 111.

Ark. XIV, July, 1897, p. 316.
Little Blue Heron in New Hampshire.—I have recently had a Little
Blue Heron (*Ardea carulea*), in perfect plumage, with maroon neck,
brought in, killed in Amherst, New Hampshire, April 28, (1897). Is it not
rare to take a bird of this species in New Hampshire?—JAS. P. MELZER,
Milford, N. H.

[Postmarked
June 28
1897]

Ardea caerulea.

Roslindale, Mass.
Mr William Brewster.

Dear Sir,

I have a mounted
Little Blue Heron a OU⁵⁰⁰
that I shot in Roslindale
Boston April 1896, the
bird is a mature female.
If you are interested in
this specimen you can
have it for 10.00 I will
give you any particulars
in regard to it that you
may wish.

Aug. 22, 1881.

Monument Beach, Mass.

" Aug. 22, 1881. Saw flock of three Ardea
caerulea (in white pl.) on salt marsh at
Monument Beach, head of Buzzards Bay, Mass.
Mr. Alpheus Hardy who was trout fishing had a
gun shot one & I skinned it for him. They were very shy"
(Ex Journal Ed. A. Bangs)

Ardea caerulea

I have a little White Heron
(white) nest in from Wahfax
Mass. if you would like to
see it I shall have it here for
two weeks yet. It cannot be
bought

Your truly,
M. A. Faxon

Boston
May 13, 1902

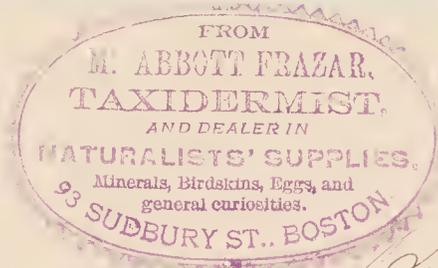
note by H. W. Henshaw

Florida caerulea. Cambridgeport, Mass.

It must have been in the early sixties, '61 or '62, when I saw, for the first and only time, a little white heron (Ardea caerulea) on the Cambridge marsh not far from Whittamore's point. It was in the early fall, September I think, after a stormy period of several days, and the marsh was being traversed in every direction by six or eight gunners' all after peeps. How the unfortunate heron had eluded the scrutiny of so many eyes I know not, but when I espied it the bird was standing motionless ^{in the open marsh} although in a crouching attitude as though thoroughly frightened, by a small ^{rush bordered} creek. It was very tame and allowed me to approach within easy range. My shot wounded it sorely, and no doubt it would have soon fallen, but ^{in its labored flight} it chanced to pass near a gunner who brought it down, and I lost the prize.

I remember that everyone on the marsh gathered around the lucky sportsman to view and handle the strange bird, none of them ever having seen such a bird before. *Afterwards the bird was stuffed by a local taxidermist and so passed into oblivion.*

Little Blue Heron in Massachusetts.— The Boston Society of Natural History has recently acquired for its New England Collection, a fine specimen of the Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*). It was shot by Mr. Benjamin Pease on Chappaquiddick Island, Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, on April 14, 1904. The morning when the bird was shot was cold, the ponds were skimmed with ice, and a snow-storm came two hours after the bird's capture. The specimen is unsexed and is in the blue and maroon plumage. I am indebted to Mr. C. W. Johnson, curator of the Society, for permission to record the above facts.—GLOVER M. ALLEN, Cambridge, Mass. *Auk*, XLII, Jan., 1905, p. 77



Ardea caerulea,
1/15 Arch, Mass.,
May 13/04.

Went to-day an
Immature Little Blue Heron
from Harry W. Abbot
killed July 12 way
Fremick Ma York

Two Massachusetts Records:—

Florida caerulea at Sandwich.

Aug. 12, 1904 by Henry W. Abbot.

R. H. Howe, Jr.

Auk, XLII, July, 1905,
319.

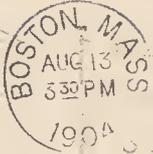
See *Totanus martinica*.

Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) at Lynn, Mass.— On April 29–30 a bird of this species was seen about a small overflowed bog on a farm known as the Fay estate, near the Salem line. The bird was very tame, and gave us fine opportunities for study; at times it was watched at a range of 200 ft. with a four power field glass. Points noted were the even slaty blue of the body above and below; the fine maroon tint on the head and neck; neck long and much less in diameter than that of the Green Heron; legs long, slender, and dark in color; bill blue next the head, black at point.

On April 30, it was also observed by Mr. Charles Norton.—ARTHUR P. STUBBS, Lynn, Mass.

Auk 30, July, 1903, p. 530.

Little Blue Heron in Massachusetts.— The Boston Society of Natural History has recently acquired for its New England Collection, a fine specimen of the Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*). It was shot by Mr. Benjamin Pease on Chappaquiddick Island, Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, on April 14, 1904. The morning when the bird was shot was cold, the ponds were skimmed with ice, and a snow-storm came two hours after the bird's capture. The specimen is unsexed and is in the blue and maroon plumage. I am indebted to Mr. C. W. Johnson, curator of the Society, for permission to record the above facts.—GLOVER M. ALLEN, Cambridge, Mass. *Auk*, XXII, Jan., 1905, p. 77



THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTMARK.
POSTAL CARD.
THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY

Mr. Wm. Brewster
Cambridge
Mass

Two Massachusetts Records:—

Florida caerulea at Sandwich.

Aug. 12, 1904 by Henry W. Abbott.

R. H. Howe, Jr.

Auk, XXII, July, 1905, 319.

See Zonotrichia.

Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) at Lynn, Mass.— On April 29–30 a bird of this species was seen about a small overflowed bog on a farm known as the Fay estate, near the Salem line. The bird was very tame, and gave us fine opportunities for study; at times it was watched at a range of 200 ft. with a four power field glass. Points noted were the even slaty blue of the body above and below; the fine maroon tint on the head and neck; neck long and much less in diameter than that of the Green Heron; legs long, slender, and dark in color; bill blue next the head, black at point.

On April 30, it was also observed by Mr. Charles Norton.—ARTHUR P. STUBBS, Lynn, Mass. *Auk* 50, July, 1905, p. 530.

THE LITTLE BLUE HERON IN RHODE ISLAND.— Although this rare accidental straggler from the South has been recorded as far north as the Massachusetts coast, yet its occurrence anywhere in New England is noteworthy.

Mr. F. T. Jencks informs me of the capture of a young specimen in white plumage, which was shot at Warwick, R. I., July 13, 1878, and brought to him for preservation. — RUTHVEN DEANE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Bull. N.O.C. 5, April, 1880, p. 123.

316. *Little Blue Heron*. By John N. Clark. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 51.—Half a dozen in immature plumage taken at Saybrook, Conn., Aug. 12, 1881.

Auk, XIV, Oct., 1897, p. 402.

Capture of the Little Blue Heron in Connecticut.—A local gunner reported the capture of a strange Heron on August 4. Unfortunately it was sent off to be mounted before I could sex or even see it. The bird has just been shown me, however, mounted, and proves to be an adult *Ardea cærulea* (sex, as I said before, unknown). The man who secured the specimen said that he found it in a small fresh-water 'pond hole' near this place. It was in company with another of the same species, and owing to their extreme shyness it was nearly a week before he could succeed in getting this one. The individual secured is in perfect plumage.—P. J. McCook, *Niantic, Ct.*

The Little Blue Heron (*Ardea cærulea*) in Connecticut.—On July 21, 1899, I saw no less than seven individuals of this species, all young birds, in white plumage. On the 25th I secured one, and a few days later another; there were five shot all together. The remaining two left and were not seen again. The flock spent about two weeks here, feeding on the salt marshes. This is the first and only time that I have met with *Ardea cærulea*, in Connecticut.—ARTHUR WILLIAM BROCKWAY, *Old Lyme, Conn.* *Auk*, XVI, Oct., 1899, p. 357.

Little Blue Heron in Connecticut.—A flock of Little Blue Herons (*Florida cærulea*), all young in the white plumage, made its headquarters during a large part of this summer on a chain of three ponds connected by the Patagansett Stream, township of East Lyme, near this village. Two were recorded on July 22, and until August 18 from one to ten were present on one or another of the ponds every day. After August 18 they disappeared until Sept. 7, when two returned and were then seen for the last time.

I personally observed them from July 25 to July 31 inclusive and on the 28 took one, which upon dissection proved to be a female. The crop was full of small fish, species not determinable by reason of decomposition. This specimen is now in the county collection of Mr. James H. Hill, New London.

The birds were not very wild, and gave me an opportunity to watch them from a short distance. It has been sometimes said that they are silent except on the roost, but I heard them on several occasions, while feeding on the pond margins, utter a low chuckling or croaking sound.—P. J. McCook, *Niantic, Conn.* *Auk*, XXII, Jan., 1905, p. 76-77.

HERONS.—On the 4th of August, 1879, I saw an adult Little Blue Heron (*Florida cærulea*) at Mount Sinai Harbor, L. I., accompanied by a flock of eighteen or twenty Snowy Heron (*Garzetta candidissima*). One of the Snowy Herons I secured, which proved to be a young male.—*A. H. Helme, Miller's Place, N. Y. O. & O. VII. May, 1882, p. 114.*

W. H. M. Mottling
NOTES FROM SHELTER ISLAND.—The Little Blue Herons must have been unusually numerous along our coast last Summer. A gunner brought one to me on Aug. 16th, and said he saw two. May they not have been stragglers from the same flock mentioned by Mr. J. N. Clark, in the September number of O. and O.? My specimen corresponds exactly with his description. *O. & O. VII. Jul. 1882, p. 144.*

Long Island Bird Notes N. T. Lawrence

9. *Ardea cærulea*. LITTLE BLUE HERON.—On April 3, 1885, while taking a tramp over the salt meadows at Far Rockaway, I started a Little Blue Heron from a small pond near the sand hills. The bird flew almost out of sight. It finally lighting, I walked to about where I thought the bird had gone down, and on following the banks of a small creek, had the good fortune to flush the bird within twenty-five feet, when I secured it. It proved to be an adult male. This is my first record of the Little Blue Heron on Long Island, and I think it is an unusually early date.

Auk, 2, July, 1886. p. 272-273.

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Ardea cærulea. LITTLE BLUE HERON.—Both are in the dark phase of plumage and are labelled "South Bay." Col. Pike's notes are as follows: "These birds were killed by me on the meadows of the Great South Bay on August 17, 1847. They were at that time frequently met with. In 1888 I passed three weeks shooting at Ponquogue, Long Island, and was surprised not to meet with them."

Auk, II, July, 1893 p. 271.

Notes concerning certain Birds of Long Island.
by William C. Braislin, M. D.

Ardea cœrulea, not *A. candidissima*: A Correction. In 'The Auk,' Vol. XVII, Jan., 1900, p. 69, I recorded *Ardea candidissima* from Long Island. The record was due to an error in identification, and should refer to *A. cœrulea*. The two birds to which reference was made were immature specimens in captivity; and a subsequent spring moult (in March) to the blue plumage, of which I have been fortunately informed by their possessor, Mr. Daniel De Mott of East Rockaway, renders them unquestionably referable to *Ardea cœrulea*.

From the present instance, as well as that of their occurrence in the summer of 1900, on Long Island, later referred to, it appears that these birds are apt to occur with us in summer and early autumn in flocks composed entirely of white, or immature, birds. This fact should prevent a hasty inference that any flock of small white herons must be *Ardea candidissima*. Furthermore, unless the conditions for observation were extremely favorable, the dark blue at the tips of the primaries of *A. cœrulea* would not be visible. For example, I may cite the fact that in both instances of the occurrence of this species, as related above, the birds secured were described to me by their respective captors as being altogether white, without other color, except as to their feet and bills. I should therefore be unwilling to trust to the color of the wing tips as a field mark. I mention these details in order that they may possibly be of advantage to other observers.

The occurrence of the Little Blue Heron on Long Island in the summer of 1900 is recorded on account of finding an immature (white) bird of this species in the shop of Mr. Willis of Freeport, which had been shot, together with others, on Hempstead Bay. Mr. Albert Lott of Freeport mounted this bird and confirmed the history of it. Mr. Lott thought the bird was brought to him in August, but of the exact date he was uncertain. The gunner who secured this bird stated that there were no darker birds in the flock; that all were white birds.

Auk, XIX, April., 1902, p. 145-146.

Alachua Co., Florida. F. G. Pearson C. & O. Oct. 17, May 1892

P 71 & 72
The Herons of Alachua Co., Florida.

[Concluded.]

LITTLE BLUE HERON.

Most common of all our Herons is the *Ardea cærulea*. Countless thousands of these birds live around our lakes and wet prairies. Here they spend the summer days wading around in the shallow water cooling their feet and legs and filling themselves with fish and frogs. They accumulate in large colonies to breed, and construct their nests much like other Herons.

The young birds at first are white and, before they begin to get their blue coat, are not easily distinguished from the *Ardea candidissima*. When the blue feathers first begin to appear the birds look quite odd. Often one-half of the wing feathers will be blue while the remainder are still white; the rest of the body at the same time will have the same general appearance.

In April, 1887, I visited a colony of Little Blues nesting in a pond at Horse Hammock. There were, at least, five hundred pairs breeding here at this time. The number of eggs in a nest was usually four, sometimes three and occasionally five were found. In this rookery were also breeding five other varieties of Herons and several pairs of Anhingas.

Another colony visited on April 8, 1890, in a cypress swamp north of Waldo, Fla., contained no other birds but Little Blues. The nests were placed around on the cypress limbs at various heights. Often six or eight nests were seen in a single tree. At this date but few of the nests contained eggs and many of the new nests were not yet complete.

Birds of Houston, Texas, and Vicinity - H. Nehrling

169. *Florida cærulea* Bd. LITTLE BLUE HERON. — This beautiful bird is exceedingly abundant in all suitable localities. Many are resident throughout the year, but most migrate further south in winter. They nest in large colonies in swamps and marshes overgrown thickly with bushes. I have always found the nest in the top of button-bushes (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). Eggs three or four, in one case five, in number. I have seen hundreds of nests in one pond. They are built entirely of sticks without any lining. In the second week of May many eggs were already hatched.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 223

On a Collection of Eggs from Georgia. H. B. Bailey,

83. *Florida cærulea*. LITTLE BLUE HERON. — Nests in trees; eggs three. April 15.

Bull. N.O.C. 8, Jan, 1883, p. 42

1889
Feb. 7

Enterprise, Fla.

Have seen two adults, one to-day, both about small ponds in the pine lands. This Heron reminds me most of *A. virescens* in its flight and attitudes. Like *virescens* it is fond of alighting on low shrubs & dead branches. The one seen to-day came flying over a pond 300 ft. or more in air then setting its wings scaled down on a steep incline & finally alighted without having once flapped its wings. This descent was very gracefully managed

Ardea cærulea

Our Three Herons.

BY E. C. W.

As the result of a visit to a Herony in June, 1884, my brothers and I became the possessors of three Little Blue Herons. They were but partly fledged when we deprived their parents of them, and took them under our care and protection. We fed them freely on raw beef, of which they were very fond. They grew rapidly, and were soon fledged in snowy white plumage throughout, except the black primaries.

As they progressed towards adolescence, each one began developing characteristics and a disposition; so that they were early distinguishable by their mien and behavior.

I introduce them successively, as to their vigor, as Unus, Duo, and Tres. They were all three more or less pugnacious; but my favorite, Unus, like invincible John L. Sullivan, held the championship. His irascible temper caused his brother Herons to hold aloof from him. Duo was rash enough one night to attempt to share the part of the roost that Unus occupied, and, as a consequence, Duo withdrew from the combat that ensued with his crest deplumed. He did not limit his disputes to his brother Herons alone, but had frequent contests with the pigeons and chickens that were denizens of the same yard, and was always victorious. With feathers erected, wings partly open, head raised to its utmost, and his amber-yellow eyes expressive of fierce anger, he advanced to the combat and met the attacks of his adversary by bringing his long bill vehemently down on him, causing the feathers to fly—and his adversary likewise. He allowed no children to approach him, and would boldly attack them.

Unus was very fond of me. Whenever he saw me approaching, he would hasten to my side, uttering incessantly, meanwhile, "keedle-keedle-keedle." During my absence from home for a few weeks, he anxiously looked for my return. He daily searched for me in my accustomed places, and not finding me, mounted to a roof and expectantly watched for my coming. It was during this time that he one day had a scuffle with Tres, resulting in their losing their balance and falling into a cistern of water. Unus saved himself by using Tres as a raft, thereby drowning the latter. On my arrival home Unus was overjoyed to see me, and expressed his delight by caressing my shoes with his bill.

In September and October the two remaining Herons would daily station themselves on the roof of an old house. This was for the purpose of watching the Night Herons pass by every

morning and evening. The grating cry of these birds as they winged their way overhead, were answered by our Herons on the house-top. Although interested in the flight of the Night Herons, they never attempted to leave us.

I found Unus dead one day last January, on the edge of the bayou near which we live. The air was chill, and while standing on a plank that extends a little over the water from the bank, he probably fell in and before he could reach terra firma was overcome by cold and drowned.

Only one of the three Herons now remains to us. When hungry he stalks down to the bayou, catches and makes a meal of some of the inhabitants of the grassy shallows. He wades cautiously lest he alarm the prey. Espying a minnow or crayfish among the grasses he stretches his long neck out at an obtuse angle, then launches his bill at the object of his aim, seizes and devours it. He is, also, an adept at catching flies, as were also the other two Herons. If not fishing he stations himself sentinel-like on a shed that commands a view of the bayou, and any commotion in the water below will call forth loud admonitory squawks from him.

The change of his plumage began last December, and he has now nearly all of his slate-blue feathers, only a few light ones remaining, which are fast becoming blue, and a few weeks hence will find him clothed in the complete dress of the adult of his species.

p. 117 — O. & O. X, Aug. 1885

1782. *Outdoor Notes from Louisiana.* By H. P. U[Ford]. *Ibid.*, July
18, p. 528.—*Ardea carulea.* For. & Stream, Vol. 32

March 29. 1694. *A Blue Heron on Mid-ocean.* By Mac. *Ibid.* For. & Stream, Vol. 30

virescens

Ardea virescens.

1889

June 1st - 5th - 9th - 11th - 12th - 13th - 14th - 16th - 1889 5th - 6th - 8th - 25th - 1890

July 7th - 16th - 1889.

Aug 16th - 17th - 27th - 28th - 1889 22nd - 1890

May 13th - 22nd - 28th - 30th - 31st - 1890 17th - 21st - 24th - 1891 1st - N. Hartwong 1899

" 9th - 10th - 11th - 21st - 22nd - 28th Concord 1892 3rd - W. W. Pond 1896

" 7th - 17th - 29th - 1893 11th - 1893

" 3rd - 4th - 5th - 14th - 18th - 19th - 1894

June 7th - 12th - 17th - 20th - 1895 7th - 12th - Concord 1898 7th - 13th - 17th - 19th - 22nd - 23rd - 24th - 1899

June 4th - 6th - 7th - 19th - 21st - 23rd Concord 1892

5th - 9th - 22nd - 1895 22nd - 1897 8th - 12th - 29th - 1898

July 1st - 2nd - 6th - 9th - 14th - 15th - 19th - 20th - 21st - 22nd - 23rd - 24th - 26th - 27th - 31st - Concord 1892

" 3rd - 5th - 6th - 12th - 13th - 14th - 16th - 18th - 19th - 23rd - 27th - 29th - Concord 1893

" 11th - 22nd - 26th - 1894

Aug. 1st - 2nd - 24th Concord 1892

" 2nd - 8th - 9th - 10th - 11th - 12th - 13th - 14th - 16th - 19th - 24th - 25th - Concord 1893

" 9th - 11th - 12th - 1894

" 8th - 9th - 20th - 23rd - 1895 28th - 1897

Sept. 6th - 13th - Concord 1893 10th - 1898

April 16th - 20th - 22nd - 27th - 28th - Concord 1896

A. virescens

Ardea virescens

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

- June 1 Concord. - Saw one flying across Great Meadow. Distribution
- " 5 Cambridge. One flying across the marshes between Bush Island and the Pine Swamp, calling keough. "
- " 9 " One flying over the same route. He started from the dense swampy woods behind Port Pond. The time was about 1 P.M. The sun shining at the time. Flying at mid-day.
- " 12 Spent most of the day about Port Pond. Green Herons in pairs flying, every few minutes, across the railroads to Bush Island Swamp and back. It was evident that they were carrying food to ~~the~~ young in the nest in Port Pond Swamp but we could not see that they held anything in their bills. Taxon, covering a flying bird with his glass at about 40 yds, said that he could see distinctly that its legs were not extended out behind in the way usual to most Herons. Per contra Torrey assures me that he has ^{invariably} seen them thus extended when he has put his glass on a bird at short range. Feeding young
- Once to-day we saw two pairs of Herons crossing at once so there must be at least two nests in the swamp this year. The flight of this species is lighter & more erratic than that of the Night Heron. The wings also seem to cut deeper at each stroke. Flight
- " 14 Several flying about over the meadows near Port Pond. One which passed us within 50 yds. carried its head & neck extended to the full length as long as we could see it distinctly (about 300 yds.). Torrey finds this bird in Turkey Swamp, Stoneham. Neck extended while flying
- " 16 Weyland. Two or three flying over the meadows late in the afternoon. Flight very characteristic. Distribution

Ardea virescens.

1889 Mass.

July 7 Cambridge. - At Port Pond from 6 P.M. to dark. Saw no Green Herons until about 7.30 when three birds began "trading" between this swamp and Bush Id. meadow. Is it possible that now that they have ceased feeding their young they have become more nocturnal in habits or has the hot sultry weather (ther. 80 to day) more to do with it? Becomes nocturnal after weaning young?

1890

May 22 Saw one about noon fly into Port Pond swamp and alight on a mass of drift-wood. During a number of evenings passed at this swamp lately we have seen none at all and I doubt if they are breeding here this year.

" 28 Started one from the bank of Alewife Brook North of the Fitchburg R.R. and saw another fly from the Maple Swamp across Glacialis. This was about 5 P.M.

" 31 Brookline. - Mr. Kennard took a nest with six eggs which were about 1/3 incubated. Nest in the top of a tall slender birch near Hammond's Pond. Nest 6 eggs

June 5 Cambridge. - At least three different birds flying into & from Port Pond swamp during the entire forenoon (weather dark & misty). I think they are carrying food to their young in the nests. The fact that we have seen only one there before this season during our many visits shows that they must be regularly retiring during the period of nest building & incubation. Feeding young
Retiring during nesting period

1894.

Aug. 9 Green Herons have been numerous on the Charles River marshes (Brookline) behind the Cemetery for the past month, but they appeared only this day three flying across the intervening upland to the Fresh Pond swamps just after sunset or a little before the night Herons come from the swamps to the marshes. Thus the two species relieve each other as it were at the task of keeping down the numbers of the mummy chugs in the tidal cells of Charles River. Diurnal feeders

Ardea virescens.

Concord, Mass.
May 29, 1898.

Green Herons appeared on the lake woods to-day for the first time. I saw two pairs and several single birds flying about pursued invariably by Great Red-wings. They do the latter avoid their Herons as well as the latter & brown within their passes near this breeding grounds? Perhaps it is so, because the Herons are big and awkward & suspicious-looking and easily killed; or it may be that they get a young Blackbird or two when opportunity offers.

Green Heron
appear a
vire

Ardea virescens

1895 Maine

near Bangor. - A specimen seen by Mowly Hardy in the Flora of Holt & Union of Bangor "taken near here in a trap set in a tree for a hawk. This is the first Green Heron I ever saw or heard of taken in this part of Maine." (Mowly Hardy, letter Nov. 9, 1895) Rarity in E. Maine.

1897 Maine

July Lincoln. "While out hunting last of July xxx I saw a Green Heron the first I ever saw about here" W. J. Cloughton, Aug. 5, 1897.

1896 Massachusetts.

Apr. 16 Concord. Saw one near the north end of Davis Hill, I looked at him through a glass at a distance of not over 30 yds. Have seen one never before in Mass. before May.

1898

June 7 Concord Early this morning a bird made a singular deep, groaning sound in the pines on Ball's Hill, I think it must have been a Green Heron. [Journ.]

N.H.

July 5 Peterborough. Two at Cunningham Pond on July 7, flying about Aug. 15 and alighting in the maples, calling to one another. One also seen at Long Pond, E. Joffrey, July 25 and one in the same place, July 27.

Mass.

May 10 Cambridge. Fewer birds were nesting in the Maple Swamp this season than in 1896 & 1897. The first nest, containing 3 eggs, was found May 10th U. A. Bolthrop. nesting

South Yarmouth. Mr. F. B. Mc. Keehan tells us that in 1987 nesting in he found a small colony of Green Herons breeding pitch pines in pitch pines on the edge of Boss River marshes. He examined four nests all of which contained 5 eggs. They were placed in the pines at 8 to 12 ft above the ground.

Ardea virescens.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1897. O.A.Lothrop told me that he examined ten nests of the
Jan.31. Green Heron which contained eggs or young one day last spring.
They were all in maples in the southern part of Maple Swamp,
near Heron Pool. He brought me one nest with a fine set of
five eggs. Passing around Heron Pool to-day I counted five
nests of this Heron scattered about over an area of an acre or
two, all in maples at an average height of about 20 ft. This
comes pretty near being a colony of Green Herons. They did
not breed so numerously in any part of the Fresh Pond Swamps
thirty years ago. Lothrop says that about all the nests are
found and robbed by boys.

The Green Heron Breeding in Ontario.—Very little seems to be known of the breeding habits of the Green Heron (*Ardea virescens*) in Ontario, and its presence is not often noted north of the southern parts of the Province — McIlwraith makes the general statement that it breeds near Dunville, the St. Clair Flats, and at Hamilton. This summer we have located it in a spot fully eighty miles north of these places and there is reason to believe that it breeds at several points in this locality. Early in June the Rev. C. J. Young of Lansdowne, Ont., informed me that he had located several Green Herons at Charleston Lake in the County of Leeds, and had obtained positive proof that they were breeding there. On June 14, 1899, we visited the lake together and investigated a grove of young trees which was partly submerged as a result of the blocking up of the outlet to the lake. The flooded territory was anything but an inviting field for investigation, even by enthusiastic ornithologists, as it was almost impossible to shove a punt through the tangle; to wade in slime and water three or four feet deep was not an attractive occupation, and the presence of clouds of mosquitoes made a long stay in the vicinity out of the question. We had not penetrated the tangle many yards before a deserted nest was seen; twenty yards or so further on was a second nest, and while we approached it a Green Heron flew to it, but immediately departed on seeing the intruders.

The nest was a platform of sticks, placed nine feet from the water in an ash sapling. After considerable difficulty, the eggs, five in number, were secured and proved to be somewhat advanced in incubation. The millions of mosquitoes and the impenetrable nature of the grove made further investigation impossible, although we saw several Green Herons. The probability is that other nests existed. In another locality we found two nests, one of which had recently contained eggs.

Two Herons were noticed at this place, and it is evident from what we learned that these birds are comparatively common about Charleston Lake. Not wishing to disturb the birds after having satisfactorily established the fact that these Herons breed as far north as the County of Leeds, we declined further contest with the battalions of mosquitoes, whose breeding and other habits are too well known to require further investigation. — C. K. CLARKE, M. D., *Kingston, Ont.*

Auk, XVI, Oct., 1899, pp. 357-2.

- Ontario Notes -

In a former issue of 'The Auk' I reported the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) as breeding on the shores of Charleston Lake; this year I have found it breeding in a bay on Loughboro Lake, twenty miles north of Kingston, and from reports given have not the slightest doubt that it will be found at various points along the so-called Rideau Canal. — C. K. CLARKE, M. D., *Kingston, Ontario*. *Auk*, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 402.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 447.

66. *Butorides virescens*. GREEN HERON.—Regular migrant, not common, April 30 to May 24; they reappear in June (June 25, 1904), and from August 7 to September 17.

Uncommon Birds at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec. —

September 24, 1917 secured a fine example of the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

H. Mosley, Hatley, Que.

Auk. xxxvi. Jan. 1918. p. 84-85

Maine (near Bangor)

Ardea virescens

1886

Sept. 20

"Saw to-day a young Green Heron taken here, the first I ever heard of in this locality."
(Manly Hardy in letter of Sept. 20 - 1886.)

Ardea virescens. - Aug. 17, 18 Rye Beach, N. H. 1866.

Ardea virescens. - Aug. 19, 23 Rye Beach, N. H. 1867.

Ardea virescens. - Aug. 13, 17, 20 Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.
See 8. 17. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31.

Ardea virescens. - Aug. 28 Rye Beach, N. H. 1869.
1 shot 2. P.

Ardea virescens. - Aug. 16, 23 Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.
2 shot. 1 shot 8. P.

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N. H.
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F. H. Allen

Ardea virescens. - Not common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 76

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

May 13¹² - 17¹² - 23³

June 2² - 3¹ - 4² - 16⁴ - 17⁴

July 7⁶ - 10² - 24² - 25²

Aug. 9³

Ardea virescens.

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

Oct. 4¹ ^{juv}

Ardea virescens.

Barnstable, Mass. 1889.

25. *Ardea virescens* July 14¹

Aug.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Ardea virescens

One seen June 29th and another, perhaps the same bird, June 30th near ~~the~~^a mill pond on the outskirts of Ashby. The surrounding region is so ~~well~~^{all} adapted to its requirements that probably it does not occur any where at all regularly or numerously.

Birds which have appeared at Frammingham, Mass., in notably increased numbers since the construction of the Reservoirs on Sudbury River — J. C. Brewer.

5. *Ardea virescens.* Ratio of increase, say 3.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, April, 1881, p. 127

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Ardea virescens Linn., Green Heron. Summer resident. common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 138

General Notes.

Summer Birds of Central Berkshire Country, Mass. ~~Francis H. Allen~~ Ralph Hoffmann

3. *Ardea virescens*. GREEN HERON. — Not common.

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 88

Mass. (Concord)

Ardea virescens

Early laying

MAY 13 1827

Shot a ♀ to-day which had an egg
of full size and enclosed in a soft shell,
in the oviduct.

Mass. (near Concord)

Early laying

MAY 13 1827

A ♀ shot to-day had a thin-shelled
egg of full size in the oviduct.

Ardea virescens

Ardea virescens

1895 Talmouth, Mass.

July 20th going to roost at evening, in white cedars,
with blackbirds & robins & Blackbird Hawk

Butorides virescens

Clear River, Needham Mass

(one)

Apr. 9, 1805

A. C. Comey

Auk, X. 1891, p. 420.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Ardea virescens

June 4th

Fairfield

" 5-9th 10th 11th 12th 13th } Saybrook
" 14th 15th 17th 18th 19th } nest 3 young in
" 20th } white cedar

22nd Mill Pond 23rd Pine 24th Andover

When this bird on night of the
first of June as well as later
in each week and a company were
made in all ponds & along brooks
to find about the big woods
at night but most were
in the early morning & late afternoon
they appeared to be in the woods
which were dark, the first of
the first of June as dawned in
in June.
at the hotel Paris & high birds
continually flying to & from
a small artificial pond near the
hotel. They were up in one
ground to come from a hole in

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Ardea virescens

One end one eye or two or three
was seen on the first of June
at the hotel & Charles at
the hotel. The birds were
seen at the hotel on June 24th
(1893) at the hotel. The novel
can be heard

494. Little Green Heron. Common. Found along the river banks and creeks; lives on dragon flies, small fish, etc. Breeds. Builds in trees. The nest is composed entirely of twigs and is lined with a few dried leaves. A set of four taken by me measure 1 1-2 in. by 1 1-8 in., 1 1-2 in. by 1 1-8 in., 1 1-2 in. by 1 3-16 in., 1 5-8 in. by 1 3-16 in. Their color is a sky blue; they are very coarse and rough looking.

O, & O, XV, June, 1890, p. 86

Oological Notes.

The Green Heron is quite common in its favorite haunts here, but is always shy, and up to 1889 I was never able to find any of its eggs. On June 26, 1889, while paddling up a creek near here, I found a nest with one egg. It was seven feet above the water, and built on an overhanging branch of a birch. As the small boys oölogically inclined are very numerous here, I carried the nest and egg home. A week later I found a new nest, occupying exactly the same place of the one I had formerly taken, with four eggs.

Oswego, N. Y. - - D. D. Stone,
O & O, XVI, March, 1891, p. 42

I shall not soon forget my first introduction to the heronry on this island. It was on the first bright day we had after three days of heavy northeast storm, and the fourth day of my visit, that I started out from the miserable hut in which I had found shelter for the night, with my men, to explore a portion of the tract hitherto neglected by us.

Immediately in the lee of the sand-hill is a stagnant pool of dank, bad-smelling water, maybe one half mile long by from one hundred to five hundred feet in width. From out this lake grows a tall, nodding green plant, and on its bank the holly and cedar grow in all their native luxuriance; the former trees are used exclusively by the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) for their nests. Everything was covered with moisture and the early morning sun shining over the sand-hill tops reflected a million gems from every moss-decked tree. Taken with other surroundings I came to believe a heronry not such a dismal, filthy place after all.

Probably two hundred and fifty pairs of this species were breeding on this ground. They are a shy bird, and fly away with a discordant squawk on the approach of man. Nests are generally twenty feet or upwards from the ground, and at the time of my visit were egg laden. I spent a pleasant morning in climbing to the nests, which are frail looking platforms placed without apparent care on the horizontal limbs, and so sparingly made of sticks that it is an easy matter to determine from below whether they contained eggs.

Five eggs was the largest number found in any set, and four was as often encountered. When fresh, with the morning sun shining through the leaves, it is a rare sight from a treetop to look around and below at the great number of eggs on every tree. I took a good assortment of clean fresh sets of four and five eggs, and there is considerable difference both in size and intensity of coloring.

Seven-mile Beach, N. J. H. A. R.

O & O. XIV. Jan. 1889. p. 2

Birds of Chester County, Penn.
Cyrus B. Ressel, Ercildoun, Pa.

30. *Ardea virescens* (Linn.). Green Heron. Summer resident; common. Arrives first week in May. Nidification commences by the 25th of that month; eggs, five to six. Departs second week in October.

O & O. XIV. July. 1889 p. 98

Nycticorax
naevius

Zycticorax nycticorax naevius.

1889

May ^{Ed.} 5¹ ad - ^{Ed.} 17¹ ad - ^{Ed. 3 (ovs)} 28³ - 1889. ^{Ed. 1¹ im} 13¹ - ^{Ed. 1¹ ad} 15¹ - ^{Ed. 1¹} 18¹ - ^{Ed. 2¹} 21² - ^{Ed. 2¹} 24¹ - 1890. ^{Ed. 4¹} 4¹ - ^{Ms. V. (Hansen)} 9¹ - 10⁴ - 11⁶ - ^{May Col. ⑤} 23³ - 24¹ - 1891.

June ^{Ed.} 7⁵ - ^{Ed.} 11⁵ - ^{Ed.} 14⁵ - ^{May} 16¹ - ^{Ed.} 15² - ^{May} 16¹ ad - ^{Ed.} 21¹ heard - 1889. ^{Ed.} 5¹ - ^{Ed.} 26¹ - ^{Ed.} 29³ - 1890. ^{Ed.} 7² - ^{Ed.} 3¹ - 1891.

July ^{Ed.} 7⁴ - ^{Ed.} 16² - 1889. ^{Ed.} 5² - ^{Ed.} 2⁴ ad - ^{Ed.} 3² ad - ^{Ed.} 30¹ - ^{Ed.} 31¹ - 94⁶ - 16¹ - 17³ - 18^{7⁵} - 19^{10^{ad} 50^{pw}} - 31^{8¹} - 1890.

Aug ^{Ed.} 2¹ (ovs) - ^{Ed.} 9¹ (ovs) - ^{Ed.} 12² 8 P.M. - ^{Ed.} 13¹ heard 9 P.M. - ^{Ed.} 16¹ - ^{Ed.} 28¹ heard - 1889. ^{Ed.} 1¹⁰ - ^{Ed.} 2³⁰ - ^{Ed.} 3¹⁰ - ^{Ed.} 18¹⁰ - 1890.

April ^{Ed.} 15⁴ - ^{Ed.} 23² - 1890. ^{Ed.} 11¹ - ^{Ed.} 26¹ heard - 1891. ^{Ed.} 17² - ^{Ed.} 20³ - 1891.

n. naevius

May 17¹ ad - 23¹ ad - 28³ Concord

June 1¹ 3¹ ad 8¹ im - 15¹ - 17¹ - 22² Concord

July

Aug.

Sept.

Oct. 6² - 1891

Nov.

Dec.

Jan. ^{Quincy} 13⁷ 7. Clark - 19⁶

Feb. ^{Fresh Pond} 11 (Hoffman) - ^{Fresh P.} 11 (Hoffman) - ^{Fresh Pond} 22 (Hoffman)

Nycticorax naevius.

1892

January
 February
 March.
 April 17^② - 20^③ Concord.
 May 17^{hd} 23^{ad} - 28^③ Concord.
 June 1⁻ 3^{ad} 8^{1. im} - 15⁻ 17⁻ 22^③ Concord
 July
 August 14^{heard at evening} - 24^{do.} Concord
 September
 October
 November
 December

N. naevius.

1893

January 13^① - 19^⑥ Quincy, Mass. J. T. Clark.
 Fresh P. Iron do do E. Waterbury
 February 1 (Fox & Hoff) - 11^{1 ad} juv (Hoff.) - 22^{2 ad} juv (Spelman).
 E. Waterbury
 March 20^{1 juv} 2 (1 ad) N. B. -
 Fresh P. Iron Arlington Belmont etc. - Farrow!
 April 1^⑤ (Hoffmann) 4⁻ 10⁻ 11^③ 20⁻ 24^③ 25¹⁰
 May
 July 12^{hd} (Buttricks at evening) 13^② Balls H. at evening. Concord.
 September 4^{heard at night} - 5^{do.} - 8^{do.} - 14^{do.} Concord.

1894

January
 February
 May 8^{5⁺ 10^{hd}} 14^② - 18^{18¹⁸ Hearing of about 3000 birds & 15000 more.}
 Warham
 June 10^{1 im}
 July C. Deans place - C. Reservoir
 4² flying over (R. D.) 19^② ②.
 August 5⁻

Nycticorax naevius

N. naevius

January

February C. Gray place, Braintree. 2: evening specimen. 1896

March C. (Elmwood) 4: shot by 2 boys 1895

April 28th Ball's Hill 1895 Concord 16th on Great M. at evening 1896 29th Fly on Ball's Hill 30th do Concord 1898. 18th Ball's Hill 19th do 30th Concord 1899.

May Concord 5th at night 6th Barnstable Neck about 2000 birds with 4 or 5 eggs 1895 a Devil's Den 8th at W. D. 1897 Ball's Hill 4th 7th 10th 12th 13th 18th 23rd Concord 27th 28th 29th 1898 B. H. 1899. B. H. 2nd 4th 5th 6th 9th 11th 12th 15th 22nd 26th 27th 29th 30th Concord, 1899.

June B. H. 2nd 4th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th Concord 1898. 21st at 2 P.M. W. D. 1899.

July Cg. (over) C. Elmwood 7th 10th at twilight. 1895

August Cg. (over) C. Elmwood 5th at twilight. 12th boys on at w. 23rd at twilight. 25th 8 P.M. 1895. Cg. (over) 18th at twilight. 1896. Cg. (over) 9th at 2 a.m. 1899.

September

October

November

December

Nycticorax nycticorax

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

- May 28 Cambridge. - This evening when it had become nearly dark I saw three Night Herons flying over my garden. Their line of flight was S. E. or exactly what it used to be years ago when they were numerous here. I suppose they still have a small roost somewhere in the Fresh Pond swamps.

Flying over my garden.
- June 4 One flying over my garden in the evening twilight.
- " 7 As the twilight deepened this evening, not far from 8 o'clock, I heard several Night Herons leave the swamp N. W. of Beach Island. Judging by the sound of their calls they flew off in a N. E. direction or in nearly the direction of the Alms House. There must have been five or six of them.

Roost near Beach Island.
- " 11 Four, three together, one singly, came from Beach Id. swamp to night at dusk and passed over the big marsh in a S. E. direction. Mr. Frank Bolles tells me that he explored their haunt last year and found five nests which he took to be Night Heron's, large, of sticks, placed high in the maples. He did not climb to any of them. Saw droppings beneath them & several birds were flying about. He thinks his brother-in-law Mr. Swan has an egg which he took in this swamp.

Breeding(?) in Fresh P. swamps.
- " 14 Seven at dusk flying from the Beach Island swamp, three in one bunch crossing the big meadow & evidently heading for the Charles River marshes, four in another going down into Pond Pond swamp. Through a strong glass I could see that they carried their legs stretched out behind close against the tail giving the appearance of a fairly long tail. The flight is steady & direct; the wing strokes shorter & quicker than those of the Green Heron. The cry is wock or wark, short, loud, almost explosive in tone.

Legs carried under tail
Flight
Note

Nycticorax nycticorax

1889 Mass.

July 7

Cambridge. - At 5.45 P.M., the afternoon slightly hazy but
 very still & hot, I saw an adult Night Heron fly by
 leave the swamp near Beech Island and rising high day
 in air start for Charles River. Later, as twilight
 was deepening into night, others began calling in the
 flooded maple woods bordering Port Pond. In the
 still evening air their loud swank was a fairly startling Notes
 sound. After repeating it a few times three birds
 appeared, one after the other, and flew off, two
 towards Charles River, the third in the direction of Change of
 Beech Island. The latter soon returned and alighted roost.
 on the ground at the edge of Port Pond. There
 were none roosting about this pond in June.

Aug 28

Cambridge. - The report of a pistol which I fired in the Maple
 Swamp this forenoon was instantly followed by a
 loud and prolonged outcry from some Night Herons
 in the old haunt about the edges of the brushy pond,
 where they were probably roosting in the maples. They
 gave a succession of short cries very different from the
char-cut wank and sounding like kok-kok-kok-
kok-kok-ko. The combined clause was not unlike
 that of a number of scattered hens for which,
 indeed, my companion, Spelman, at first
 mistook them. He did not see them but there must
 have been several.

Nycticorax nycticorax

1890 Mass.

July 16 Martha's Vineyard.— In the twilight this evening a Night Heron alighted on the shore of Cape Poge Pond (half a mile within 100 yds. of where I was camping in my canoe. Through a night glass I could see him distinctly for 15 minutes & dimly for sometime more. He would take a step or two in the shallow water then stand motionless for a minute or more the legs stiff & straight, the body horizontal, the neck well stretched, the head sometimes up (watching, probably,) but usually extended forward over the water, the bill often only three or four inches above the surface. I saw him catch several fish. The act was not performed as I had supposed by a lightning-like lunge of the head but, on the contrary, was rather deliberate and was not unlike that of a hen picking up corn but quicker of course. The head was raised and the neck stretched up as he swallowed his prey. He walked very slowly a step or two at a time raising and putting down his feet with that measured automaton-like motion seen in the Bittern. In 20 minutes he moved about 50 yds. During the entire time I watched him he was facing me, at times squarely, with his breast fully exposed. I looked closely for phosphorescent light but could detect none either on his breast or reflected on the dark water beneath.

Night Herons are numerous here. I heard them quarreling near the town the other evening & to night their hoarse voices woke me more than once as they flew over my canoe. Apparently they are strictly nocturnal & feed all night long.

Nycteardea nivaea

1890 Mass.

July 19 Martha's Vineyard. Very abundant at Great South Pond (fresh) where they collected in flocks of from 10 or 12 to 30 or 40 at certain favorite fishing grounds, usually the heads of little bays or coves or sand spits where the water was shallow on both sides. In sailing a distance of about 2 miles on this pond yesterday afternoon I saw fully 200 of these Herons. In one place a number were sitting in a row on the top of a rail fence which ran along the water's edge. Several were also perched on the top of an embankment of earth thrown out by steam shovels in digging the herring ditch across the plains near Katama. On the pond their numbers increased after sunset when they were continually coming from the distant oak woods in small flocks and pitching down among their fellows. I camped at the head of a little bay whence two or three dozens started just before I landed. They soon returned and alighted on all sides of me but it had become so dark that I could see them only when passing overhead against the sky. They were very noisy indulging, at frequent intervals, in a general outcry of loud squawks and occasionally making a prolonged series of choking sounds resembling those produced by gargling but much louder. The latter cries, I think, uttered while two or more birds were fighting or struggling over a fish for they were often accompanied by the sound of flapping wings and plashing of water.

2

They were constantly moving from place to place and many passed over me within a few yards showing dimly like shadows against the sky, their wings making a slight rustling sound. These and other evidences of their incessant activity convinced me that they were actively engaged in fishing during the entire night. It seems however that they are by no means exclusively nocturnal for at least half of these birds remained about the place long after sunrise on the morning of the 19th and a good many fished there through the entire forenoon although the day was clear and the sunlight, reflected from the white sand along the shore, very bright and dazzling. I had a rare opportunity to watch about a dozen which were posted along the edge of a herring ditch that connected the larger pond with a smaller one. This ditch was about 20 ft. wide with gravelly banks 15 to 25 ft. high. The incoming birds regularly alighted on the ground a little back from the ditch, walked sedately to the edge, peered over and looked sharply about for a moment there and then flopped down to the water below where they chose a position either on the very edge or standing knee deep in the shallow water. Once settled they remained nearly motionless in easy attitudes, resting invariably on both legs, the feet well apart, the body usually about horizontal, the head and neck either stretched up to nearly the full height or out over the water. When one of them saw a fish he at once betrayed the fact by the eager concentration of his gaze to the spot whence it was approaching. As it came nearer he leaned slightly forward at the same time extending his neck slowly down and out over the water until the tip of the bill

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was within an inch or two of the surface. Then with a quick movement the open bill was thrust in to the water and the fish literally picked out precisely as a hen would pick up a kernel of corn and almost instantly swallowed although sometimes the bird would first turn it over or roll it around a few times. Frequently several fishes were seized in quick succession before any of them were swallowed. The forward movement of the head and neck ~~was~~ singularly cat-like and stealthy. sometimes the fish passed out of range when the bird would raise its head and watch its retreating course with an expression of ludicrous disgust & disappointment. These Herons were crack marksmen and rarely missed their aim. The fish that they captured while under my observation were all small fry or minnows less than two inches in length with one exception *viz.* that of a white perch at least six inches long. I did not see the latter caught the bird when it first attracted my attention, being engaged in trying to swallow its prize a task which apparently gave it much trouble. Holding the fish high above the ground it turned it over and over in its bill till at length it got it head downward when by a succession of gulps it got it all out of sight except the tail which protruded from the side of the mouth. The birds neck was so distended as to appear of nearly double the usual thickness and it appeared unable to shorten it and resume the usual Heron attitude. Its companions stood around regarding it with evident envy and more than one tried to rob it of its prize before the latter was swallowed. The captor, however, looked ill at ease and ~~uncomfort-~~able and made frequent and futile attempts to get the fish

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quite out of sight.

I saw another Heron strike at what was doubtless a fish of considerable size. It showed great excitement making a sudden rush for several yards out into the creek plunging its whole head and most of the neck, also, under water (the only time that I saw more than the bill immersed) . It missed its aim, however.

There was much marked and very interesting individuality in the methods pursued by the dozen or more Herons which I watched in this ditch. One bird chose a position at the end of a little point where he commanded the water on both sides as well as in front, during a period of more than an hour he did not once change his ground. Although a young bird with down still adhering to the feathers of the head he captured at least three times as many fish as any of his companions several of whom were adults in full nuptial plumage. More than one of them tried to drive him from his station but he defended it pluckily and always came off victorious. He was evidently a born fisherman.

Another bird, apparently lacking in both skill and patience and probably cursed with a nervous temperament, kept running from place to place plashing noisily through the shallow water and occasionally making a frantic rush after a fish which he invariably failed to secure. This bird seemed to be generally regarded as a nuisance by his companions whom he was continually disturbing and who pecked at him viciously whenever he passed within their reach. Between these extremes there were various intermediate stages. Most of the birds, however, pursued the tactics described

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in detail above although unlike the lucky fisherman they often changed their stations after waiting a reasonable time at each.

I tried various noises on these Herons with rather interesting results. Lying well concealed within a few yards of them I whistled loudly, talked, and ~~even~~ shouted at the top of my lungs without so much as even attracting their attention. But the snapping of a small dead twig caused most of them to raise their heads and stand on the alert and when I clapped my hands all but two or three at once flew.

About 75 % of ~~all~~ the birds seen at this pond were young of the year in spotted plumage. They varied much in general color and especially with respect to the size, number, and whiteness of the light spots. The remaining 25 % were old birds in full breeding plumage most of them still wearing the long occipital plumes.

In a general way these Herons reminded strongly of Black Vultures. They had a similar habit of sailing in circles about the place where they intended to alight and just before alighting dropped the legs in the same manner. Their habits of taking long leaps in quick succession with half spread wings and of flopping heavily a few yards from place to place with hanging legs was also very Vulture-like. As a rule their attitudes were slouching although not devoid of a certain easy grace but some of the old birds stood erect in firm almost dignified poses the neck stretched up and both neck and body slender in shape and with graceful outlines.

Visited this place Aug 3 & found nearly all the Herons gone. Some empty shot-gun shells on the bank of the ditch perhaps thrown near light on the camp. The few left were very shy & skulking.

Nycticorax nycticorax

1890 Mass.

Jan. & Feb. Cambridge. - Mr. K. V. S. Howland found three of these Herons in the white pine grove on the Lowell place every time he went there during Jan. & Feb. He shot one of them on Feb. 15 (see clipping from Camb. Tribune of Feb. 22.)

Wintering on Lowell place.

1891

January Nanshew Id. Mr. Harry Gordon White has found them in some numbers during January, and December also. The winter has been very cold with much snow.

Winter at Nanshew.

May

" 24 Concord. A little after sunrise a flock of 5 birds passed over Ball's Hill and the Broad Meadows flying high towards the S. W. a little later a single bird came into the meadow & alighted. All his came from the direction of Cochichewick Bridge. I heard one at Mayland last evening.

1893

January Lynn. Mr. James S. Clark tells me (Jan. 16) that he has just seen a young Night Heron that was shot there or four days ago in "a cluster of cedars close to the beach" at Lynn. There were six others with it, most of them in full plumage. They were seen in the same place several days before the date when the bird was shot. The winter throughout N. E. as well as elsewhere is the worst here that we have had in many years. Boston harbor would doubtless be frozen solid by this time were it not for the number & activity of the tugs & steamers. As it is they have kept little more than the ship channels open & skates cross safely to many of the islands on the ice.

Wintering at Lynn

Jan. 19 Mr. Clark has seen another young Heron shot this evening from the flock of seven at Lynn. The young man who killed it says that there are two young & three adult birds left.

1892.

Nycticorax nycticorax vauvins

Night Heron.

Bedford,
~~Lexington~~, Mass.

I spent last Sunday with a college class-mate who lives in Bedford. He showed me a heronry quite close to the village, in a white cedar swamp. We counted 51 birds leaving the heronry Saturday eve, and we did not see the beginning of the flight. Most of the Herons flew over to the Shawsheen River, but a few took a line for the Concord. Sunday we estimated the nests at 50. The herony adjoins my friend's land and he is going to buy the swamp to preserve the heronry.

Walter Faxon (letter April 29, 1892).

~~Brown Thrushes, Chewinks etc.~~

~~Lexington, Mass.~~

~~Brown Thrushes, Chewinks, and Black and White Creepers this morning.~~

Walter Faxon (letter April 29, 1892).

Nycticorax nycticorax

1893 Mass.

Feb. 1 Cambridge. Foxon & Hoffmann started a single Wintering
Night Heron from the humlocks in Fresh Pond Grove at Fresh P.
this afternoon. These birds supposed to be Herons
were seen in this grove last December. Since Jan 7
a Duck Hawk has haunted the place.

1894 Chatham

Dec. H. X. Job
Jan. 4, 1895

1895

Jan. 27 Cambridge. Mrs. Burnett told us Jan. 27 that her son,
a few evenings since, heard a Night Heron
quawking in the pines at Elmwood. Since the Wintering
back part of the grounds were thrown open to the public still at
by the destruction of the fence which surrounded them the Elmwood.
Herons have practically deserted Elmwood. Mrs. Burnett saw
three or four there about three years ago, but since then
boys have shot, or shot at, them whenever they reappeared.

March 4 A Night Heron, the last of the Elmwood flock Mrs. Burnett believes -
was shot in the pine grove at Elmwood to-day by a boy who
was brought up before Judge Olney a few days later & fined
\$15. for "discharging a fire arm in the city limits".

1896

May Stoughton. Mr. J. H. Bowles found about 200 pairs breeding in a white Large Herony
cedar swamp. The eggs were far advanced in incubation. None of were Boston.
the ^{many} nests which he examined contained more than 4 each. He found
a Cooper's Hawk's nest with 4 eggs in the midst of the colony. Although
this Herony is within 1/2 mile of the village of Stoughton & has
existed there for a number of years he was assured that
neither the birds nor their eggs have ever been introduced

Nycticorax n. naevius.

E. Haleslome, Mass
March, 20-1893.

Two Night Herons started from the cedars
on French's Hill. One a fine old bird circled
back over me quacking and then flew off
towards Mt. Auburn. I got only a glimpse at
the other as it flapped heavily through the trees.

Night
Herons

Myiarchus cinerascens

1894 Mass.

May 18

Barnstable. In company with Outram Bangs I visited to-day what is probably the largest Nighthawk in Massachusetts. It is situated on what is known as Barnstable Neck directly opposite the town of Barnstable. This Neck is three or four miles long and of a nearly uniform width of about four or five hundred yards. On its inner side it is bordered by an immense salt marsh which in turn borders a large tidal bay and which is intersected by numerous creeks and dotted with shallow pools of varying sizes. On the outer side there is a fine sand beach on which break the waves that roll in from the open ocean across Massachusetts Bay.

The Neck is wholly made up of sand-hills rising in peaks, rounded summits and their regular ridges to a height of 40 to 80 feet with deep hollows between. Some of these hills and hollows are covered wholly without vegetation & made up of creamy white shifting sand but most of the hills are covered with beach grass, bayberry, poison ivy etc. and the hollows carpeted with cranberry vines and clothed with strata of bayberry, beach plum and beds of cranberry vines. The larger and more sheltered hollows as well as the slopes and even crests of the sand hills which surround them are covered with a dense growth of pitch pines and scarlet oaks intermingled with many other species of trees.

The Hens were breeding in a ~~hollow~~ nearly circular hollow of about 4 or 8 acres bounded on every side by sand hills and grown up to pitch pines and scarlet oaks with a rather dense undergrowth of High Blueberry, Ilex glabra, Pyrus orbiculifolia, Cotoneaster dentata V. lentago etc.

Nyctorhiza nivosa

1894 Mass.

May 18
(No 2)

Barstobh. - The pines and oaks were scarcely to thirty feet in height, stunted, with spreading umbrella tops. The Herony occupied about 3 acres of these woods and its boundaries were sharply & finely defined there being no isolated or scattered nests. The nests were all in or near the tops of the trees or on their upper lateral branches but as some of the smaller trees were occupied the height of the nests above the ground varied from 8 to 25 feet. There were ordinarily from two to four nests in every tree and were more than five. The nests varied greatly in size some of them being as large as a Crow's nest while others were scarcely larger than the nest of a Green Heron. They were made of sticks and were rather deeply hollowed and very neatly and often softly lined, usually with the roots & blades of dead beach grass, sometimes with pine needles and occasionally with fine dead twigs. As a rule they were so substantially built that they could be thrown to the ground without falling apart and with only two or three exceptions it was impossible to see the eggs through the bottom or sides from beneath. Most of them, indeed, were much stronger & stiffer than the nest of a Crow or Hawk and quite as deeply hollowed as the nest of the former bird. In nearly every case the entire rim of the nest was whitewashed with the excrement of the birds which had also been freely discharged over the branches of the trees & the ground beneath, and which throughout the Herony emitted a faint, sickly, fishy odor. Fully 75% of the nests held either 4 or 5 eggs each & these numbers evidently make up the usual set but in a few instances there were only two or three eggs &

Nyctardea vivāca

1894

Moss.

May 18
(no 3)

Barnstable - in one case we found seven eggs in an exceptionally large nest, but as five eggs in this set were far advanced in incubation and two only slightly incubated and as the latter differed slightly in shape from the former it is probable that two birds had laid in this nest.

With few exceptions all the eggs that we took care for advanced in incubation & the proper date to have fresh sets was probably a week or ten days earlier.

As nearly as we could estimate the number without actually counting them there were fully 1000 occupied nests in this Herony. There is said to be another Herony of about 200 nests on an island in a fresh water pond about a few miles inland from Barnstable.

From the place where we landed on the beach to the Herony is a distance of fully $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. While walking this distance we saw only two or three Herons in the air and when we reached the Herony the place was so silent that we feared it was deserted. But as soon as we reached the crest of a sand ridge which overlooks it the birds began rising in ^{swarms} clouds and in less than two minutes nearly all had taken wing. We estimated the total number of birds at about 3000. and fully $\frac{2}{3}$ of this number were in flight at once. I have never seen anything finer than the spectacle which they presented as they rose above the trees in a great cloud, their snowy plumage strongly contrasted against the background of light blue sky & dark blue sea. They scattered in every direction and flew straight away for miles until one could not look anywhere out over the bay or sea or sand hills without seeing the air full of the countless moving specks.

Myiarchus cinerascens

1894 Mass.

May 18
(no 4)

Barnstable. We started them all from the Herony for a few times during the day and watched them return and spent hours watching them after they had settled & were unconscious of our presence either concealing ourselves in the Herony itself or among the bushes ^{the crest of} on one of the sand-hills which overlooked it. This is what we observed and concluded.

Apparently ^{practically} all the Herons of both sexes spent the entire day in the Herony itself for it was rare to see even a single bird flying to or from it unless after a general alarm. When thus at rest and unconscious of danger the females sat quietly on their eggs and the males perched ~~among~~ ^{on} the ~~branches~~ ^{trunks} near them, as a rule below the crests of the trees, hidden by the foliage, although one or two birds were ^{apparently} ~~perhaps~~ always on the watch in exposed situations. They ~~may~~ lay in their nests for half-an-hour or more at a time without making a sound save an occasional subdued croak, but occasionally two birds got to quarreling and burst out into loud clamor. It would have been quite possible, however, to have passed this Herony within gun shot without suspecting that it harbored a bird of any kind save the Song Sparrows, Cow Birds, Cat Birds and Pine and Yellow Warblers whose songs mingling with the sighing of the wind in the pines above broke the stillness of the place. As we lay on the ground under some dense wild berry bushes we could see upward of a hundred Herons some of which were directly over us and not 25 ft. distant. So long as we kept motionless they did not discover us for their eyesight by day is evidently not very keen. A flight with such as the snapping of a twig was, however, not over noticed by them.

1894

Mass.

May 18
(no 5)

Barnstable. The moment that the birds discovered our presence, however, there was a general alarm and ~~hundreds~~ they rose, hundreds at a time, until within two or three minutes at the most the Herony was practically if not completely deserted. During ~~these~~ a general exodus of this kind the clamor was simply drooping for nearly every bird as it flew uttered a cry of alarm. Their wings also made a loud flapping as they struck against the branches. After scattering as already described they began returning within ten or fifteen minutes. If one was in sight they would circle & soar over the Herony and then fly away again but when one covered ourselves they quickly alighted, invariably on the tops of the trees which in the course of the next half hour would become simply covered with birds some of the pines supporting forty or fifty birds each. From a distance the woods looked as if these upper branches of the trees were covered with snow. The birds sat very still in all sorts of graceful attitudes presenting a most beautiful appearance. There was something peculiarly gentle & almost dove-like in the expression of their large dark eyes and easy attitudes. Some of them showed their occipital plumes which blew about in the wind. Others kept them pressed down on the neck & perfectly concealed.

It was evident that they perchance first on the tree tops to reconnoiter for if everything remained quiet they would, after dull on hour or more of watchfulness, seek their usual resting places. The sitting birds sometimes flew directly down to their nests sometimes walked slowly in along the branches. On reaching the nest they would first plant their feet carefully on

1894
May 18
(Ms 6)

Mass.

Barnstable. The opposite edges of the outer rim (evidently so as to be ready to fly at a moment's notice without endangering the egg) and then settle gradually down on their eggs which they usually arranged or turned by thrusting their bills in under their breasts. When fairly settled they sat with the back horizontal, the head only slightly raised. ~~They~~ They settled down on the eggs with a curious swaying of the body from side to side.

When we first invaded this Herony a large number of the birds flew from the ground under the trees.

We noticed one curious fact viz. that when we approached the Herony from the outside or began to move about freely within it the greater part of the birds took wing at once & all the others soon followed them but when we were quiet & ^{were} discovered only by the birds in the trees immediately above us then birds only became alarmed & took flight. This was especially marked when the Herons were returning.

They would alight all over the Herony by hundreds but only the individuals which actually saw us would fly away again although these would squawk & make a great outcry which was apparently wholly unheeded by the rest.

The whole body of birds, after awhile, however, became panic and would rise all at once without any visible cause of alarm & when we were ~~but a~~ hundreds of yards away from the border of the wood.

This Herony has existed on Barnstable Neck since time immemorial according to Mr. Eldredge, our host, who further informed us that the birds are seldom molested to any serious extent. A few are shot each year & sometimes a few eggs are taken.

Nyctarada vivæca

1894 Mass.

May 18
No 7

Barnstable. Sitting in the Herony to-day I noted down all the vocal sounds which the birds uttered. They were as follows:

Vocal notes

Quok, quawk, or quawk, the ordinary flight note.

Wook or wō-wō-wook; given in a grunting tone & resembling somewhat the voice of the Boar Owl.

Coc-coc-coc-coc; exceedingly like one of the cries of a Hen Aink; very like the ordinary cry of Ardea herodias.

Skan or kean closely resembling the cry of Ardea virescens. They also made various boiling sounds and at times a outcry which might have been easily mistaken for the clatter of a number of hungry Swine. This last sound was apparently made by birds engaged in fighting to which, however, considering their numbers, and the way they were crowded together, they were but little prone. Indeed as a rule they seemed to be, as they looked, peaceful, gentle creatures.

About five per cent of these Herons were immature Birds in
i.e. in plain Brown plumage without occipital plumes. Brown pl.
From the behavior of these Brown birds we were pretty well satisfied that they were breeding although we obtained no positive evidence to support this conclusion.

Under a great many nests we found the shells of freshly broken eggs. A pair of Red Squirrels probably accounted for this but Crows may have assisted. We shot one of the Squirrels.

Nycticorax nycticorax

1895 Mass.

May 17

Bornstable. Visited the Neck in company with C. Bangs. We found the Herony of 1894 deserted; not a bird in or near it. The nests showed little deterioration

but a great many of the pines in which they were built have partially or wholly died since last summer. Can this be the result of the "whitewashing" they receive from the birds' excrement?

About half-a-mile up the point (ie to the north) the birds had established a new Herony of about the same extent as the old one and in similar woods saw that nearly all the trees were pitch pines. We estimated the nests at about 1000 and the birds at a little over 2000.

Fully ten per. cent of the birds were in brown plumage. Most of the nests that we climbed to contained four or five eggs but we saw a good many birds bringing sticks in their bills. There were no broken eggs beneath any of the nests & no signs that any of them had been visited. The Herons however, were rather shy & were nervous than last year. Probably their eggs were not so far advanced in incubation but we did not take or examine any of them.

There seemed to be only one pair of Crows on the Neck and we saw no Red Squirrels this year.

Nycticorax g. naevus

1896

Penobscot Bay, Maine.

July 6

Stinson's Neck, Deer Island. An adult bird on a rocky point near a fish weir. Cowbird songs they are common about the weirs but this is the only bird we have seen there for.

" 11

Two on a rocky point near the mouth of Fish Creek. 5 P.M.

" 12

One flying over the Cove in front of the Emersons' in evening twilight

Mr. Ralph W. Knight told me (July 16) that late last month Mr. Jordan found a large colony of Night Herons breeding on Pickering's Island. was a small colony of Great Blue Herons. There were fully 200 Night Heron nests he said but all that he examined (except one with 3 added eggs) contained young. Knight is inclined to think that Jordan made some mistake as to the island for he (Knight) examined Pickering's Island thoroughly on May 16th last without finding any Herons except A. brodiaei.

" 16

Stinson's Neck. In spruce woods near the point where the road crosses the bar to the main island Benjamin Duffin & Alvah Emerson heard 2 Night Herons making a great outcry. Going to the spot they found on the ground a young bird with its head eaten off but quite fresh. There were also some egg shells of a Heron's egg. In a tree (Spruce) directly over the spot was a nest of Thrush. A Heron flew off as they approached. They saw but one living bird & could find but one nest.

Uncommon Birds at Hatley, Stanstead
County, Quebec. -

Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*)
mounted specimen shot at Fitch Bay about
twelve miles from Hatley.

J. H. Mosley, Hatley, Que. -

Auk. xxxvi. Jan. 1918. p. 84-85.

specimen was shot eight years ago.

New Species of Birds described as St. John's

On Jan 4, 1887 at St. John's was captured

a Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*)

Montagu Chamberlain

Auk, 4, July 1887. p. 264.

St. John's, N.S.

Harry Austen shot a Night Heron in young plumage;
at Halifax N.S. about Nov. 18.

O. & O. XIV, Jan 1889 p. 14

Notes.

Shot a Black-crowned Night Heron on July 4th, at
Cold Harbor, Halifax. It was in full plumage. H.
Austen.

O. & O. XIV. Aug. 1889 p. 124

Kentville, Nova Scotia

1890

"Not long since I had sent to you
for mounting the young of the Black
crowned Night Heron. I have never known
one taken in this vicinity before.

W. L. Bishop Oct. Sept 17/90

Nycticorax nycticorax naevius

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 447.

67. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.

— Regular migrant, rather rare in spring, May 24 to June 14; young birds
August 8 to 27. In 1900 Mr. J. Hughes Samuel recorded Night Herons
from August 1 to October 12.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

Maine

93. *Nyctiardea grisea naevia* (Bodd.) Allen. NIGHT HERON.—“Not
common” at Houlton.

Bull. N.O.C., 7, July, 1882, p. 151

Moosehead Lake, Maine *Nyctiardea grisea*

Mr. Free of Moosehead Lake has
a young bird killed at the lake (by
appt. of Mr. Hardy, May 15, 1884.)

Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 8-29-1865. R. D.

Nyctiardea ~~grisea~~ nivea [!] "Night Heron" - Rather scarce.

Nyctiardea grisea nivea. - ^{1 shot} Aug. 20 Rye Beach, N. H. 1869.

Nyctiardea grisea nivea. - ^{2. v. a.} Aug. 1, 13 Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Nyctiardea grisea nivea. - ^{1 shot 2 shot} Aug. 14, 20, 23 Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

Nyctardea niva

Wintering in Mass.

Lamb shot a Night Heron to-day in the yellow-pine woods by the brook on the Coolidge farm. I have heard of no others this winter.

Watertown, Mass

Feb. 11, 1882

Mass. (near Concord). 1887

1887

May 28^{1^{im}}

June 2¹ - 3¹ - 4¹ - 6^{2nd} - 7^{1^{ad}} - 12¹ - 16¹

July 24² - 31¹

Nyctardea niva

Mass. (near Concord).

MAY 28 1887

Saw an immature Night Heron on the river near the tent. It was very tame allowing me to get within 30 yds. as it sat in a willow

Nyctardea niva

1882

Nyctardea g. niva

East
Watertown
Mass.

February 11

"Up the Charles River in East Watertown (Savin's wood) I saw a Red-headed Woodpecker, which I shot, and a Night Heron which C. J. Van Antwerp shot."

Exp with book C. R. Lamb

1887

Oct. 6th

Dec. 26. One shot near the Lowell place. It was a fine adult bird. All the claws were missing from both feet - probably from off.

Nycticorax grisea

Mass. (Medford)

Nycticorax grisea

1888

Dec. 25

Goodale has a young Night Heron shot as above.

18. *Nycticorax grisea* - Jan. 18th ⁶ ^{July 17th 1884} ^{Essex, Mass. 1885.}

10. *Nycticorax grisea* ^{Waltham, Mass. 1889.} ^{Aug. 5th 1889}

Birds of Framingham, Mass. which have newly appeared since the construction of the Reservoirs on Sudbury River... F. C. Brewster.

10. *Nycticorax grisea naevia*. One obtained by self, Aug., 1880.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, April, 1881, p. 127

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Nycticorax nycticorax naevius (Bodd.), Black-crowned Night Heron. Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 138

Night Heron shot in Boylston, Dec. 30, 1890.
C. K. Reed.

O. & O. XVI, Jan. 1891, p. 15th

Winter Birds in South-eastern Mass.
Harry G. White

8. *The Night Heron*. This Heron is considered to be rare in winter at this point, although Mr. Brewster tells me that they spend the winter regularly at Fresh Pond, Cambridge. A Night Heron was shot at this place, on December 26th, by Mr. O. Grinnell and another was seen by the writer on January 1st. It was also reported at Naushon on January 24th. The Great Blue Heron is said to have wintered at Wood's Holl, but it was apparently absent during the three winter months this season. At Naushon it was common in November and Mr. Chisholm noted it as late as the 22d of that month, when one was seen.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 83-84

Nycticorax g. naevius

Falmouth, Mass.

1895-

July 11 heard shortly after dark 12^{do} 16^{do} 17^{do} 18^{do}

21^{do}

July 21 a bird circling high in air over
a pond at 5.30 P. M. the sun
was brightly on the water.

Nycticorax nycticorax naevius. near Cambridge.

"With regard to the locality near Fresh Pond, of which Nuttall speaks some conversation arose. The President remarked that the Blue and Green Herons, which Nuttall found in the same vicinity, were now entirely gone. He had lately visited the heronry. There were this year eight or nine pairs only of the Night Heron. Only one nest was ready for the season, at the time of his visit. The number of the birds was gradually decreasing, and before many years the spot would be quite deserted". (MS. Record of Harvard Nat. Hist. Soc. for May 10, 1850. Library Mus. Comp. Zool.).

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Myctophaga nattereri

June 4th Fairfield

24th in - Bolton Hotel,

Myctophaga nattereri was
found at the Bolton Hotel
on June 4th. The great
number of these birds were
found in the hotel & the
birds used to come there in large
numbers feeding in the trees on the
roof of the hotel but most of them
were killed by the boys who
were in the hotel and by the
city authorities who take the
birds from the hotel in numbers.
The birds were seen at Fairfield
on June 4th in the woods & flew
off to the hotel. The birds at
Bolton Hotel were seen in the
in the top of a dead tree on the
corner of an artificial pond. Both
of the latter were seen on the
1st of June.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. F. Merriam

181. *Nyctiardea grisea naevia* (Bodd.) Allen. NIGHT HERON.—I have seen a Night Heron that was shot at Crown Point (in Essex Co.) on Lake Champlain. There were two of them together, and both were killed.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 128

We had good luck on Gardiner's Island
and got a lot of Night Herons' eggs.

Moses B. Griffing. Shelter Island N. Y.
May 24. 1883.

Q. & O. VIII. Dec. 1883. p. 95.

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 5, *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*, (202).
Black-crowned Night Heron.

O. & O. XI, July, 1886, p. 109

Auk, XIV, Apr., 1897, p. 227.

Some New Records from Central New York.

Nycticorax nycticorax naevius.—Mr. Maxon has a full plumaged male of this species which was taken in a steel trap set for muskrats, near Higginsville. Mr. Klock, an Oneida taxidermist, reports several females (or young?), from Oneida Lake.

Egbert Bagg, Utica, N. Y.

Some Birds of Unusual Occurrence
in Orleans Co., N. Y.

Nycticorax nycticorax naevius.—BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—The late Alfred Myhill of Medina once took a specimen from a marsh along the lake shore. The mount is now, with the rest of his collection, in the possession of his father, Mr. William Myhill of the Ridge Road.

Neil F. Posson,
Medina, N. Y.

Auk, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 193-6.

Notes on the birds of Madison County, New York,
with especial reference of Embury's recent list.

2. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.
—Not mentioned in the list; may be put down as an occasional transient visitant (See Bagg in Auk, XIV, 227, 1897).

By William R. Maxon

Auk, XX, July, 1903, p. 263.

✓ 2/7 ^{with} Pile pine 12 ft.
 95- ⁹⁵ near top of trunk
 Fork of trunk about branches
 nest large & very neat
 of sticks lined with pine needles
 & bank grass. (taken)
 all were eggs looked alike & I think
 were laid ~~the same~~ ^{by the same} bird
 nearly all the nests that we
 examined were what was
 was the entire size of the birds
 increment. From that we took
 found rough handling remarkably.
 Indeed they were much stronger
 and stiffer than the nest of a
 Crow or Hawk. Nearly all
 large, deeply hollowed and usually
 lined but an exception was a
 nest containing 2 eggs which was
 scarcely larger than & quite as solid
 & fleshy built as the nest of a
 Green Heron.

1894

Night Heron's nests

taken at Bonnetab Neck
May 18 1894

May 18
✓ 1/5- patch pine 13 ft in front
main stem 5 ft below top
of tree lined with beach grass
deeply hollowed & well made but
much smaller than average nest taken

1/4 patch pine 2 ft
in very top of tree. sticks
lined with beach grass
with nest branch

3/4 Guava oak 15 ft. among
fine twigs in top of tree. nest
wholly of sticks fine over
lining. Ex. diam 2 ft diam of
cavity 7 in. depth of cup 3 1/2 ft.
total int. depth of nest 12 in.
as large as Crows. Challenged all over

1/4 patch pine 20 ft. near top
of tree all out of rising branch
among fine twigs. well lined
of sticks lined with beach grass
deeply hollowed, substituted, neat

✓ 1/2 ^{with nest} patch pine 12 ft.
near top of tree
fork of thin stout branches
nest large & very neat
of sticks lined with pine needles
& beach grass. (taken)
all were eggs broken & I think
were laid ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~nest~~ ^{nest} ~~was~~
nearly all the nests that we
examined were abandoned
was the entire size of the birds
incubated. Then that we took
found rough handling remarkably.
Indeed they were much stronger
and stiffer than the nest of a
Crow or Hawk. Nearly all
large, deeply hollowed and heavily
lined but an exception was a
nest containing 2 eggs which was
scarcely larger than & quite as rudely
& flimsily built as the nest of a
green Heron.

7/5 Pitch pine 20 ft between stumps
✓ upright fork of main stem
best large whorl of sticks
4 nests in tree 2 with 5 eggs, one
with 4 eggs, one 2 eggs, first taken

8/5 Same tree 20 ft in fork of
8/4 upright branch. Sticks lined
with pine needles

✓ 7/4 Pitch pine 20 ft. against
main stem near top. Of
8/4 sticks lined with beach grass
& pine needles. A very large nest

8/5 Pitch pine 30 ft. near top of
9/5 tree in fork of upright branch
a very large nest. 6 in. depth 12
in. width, 4 in. - cavity 9 in. wide x 4 in. deep.
Of sticks lined with stems & roots of
beach grass

✓ 2/7 Pitch pine 12 ft.
9/5 ^{with} near top of trunk
7/4 fork of thin stout branches
nest large & very neat
of sticks lined with pine needles
& beach grass. (taken)
all were eggs, 6 or 7, 1/2 in. & I think
were laid by the same bird
nearly all the nests that we
examined were white washed
over the entire side of the birds
at present. Then that we took
found rough handling remarkably.
Indeed they were much stronger
and stiffer than the nest of a
Crow or Hawk. Nearly all
large, deeply hollowed and smoothly
lined, but an exception was a
nest containing 2 eggs which was
scarcely larger than & quite as bulky
& flimsily built as the nest of a
Green Heron.

9/4 Pitch pine 7 ft.
 K. in top of tree on umbrella
 14 top branches. A smallish nest
 of twigs bound with beach grass
 stems & roots. Well hollowed
 & neat like all these nests
 The lowest nests in ^{hollow} ~~hollow~~ ^{at point} ~~at point~~ ^{same way}

10/4 Pitch pine 8 ft. in
 8/4 top of tree. Nest like 9/4
 Eggs small & covered with
 blood stains. No other laid
 by young bird

11/5 Pitch pine 25 ft on spreading
 H/5 branches in top small nest
 nest lined with small twigs
 & roots

✓ 12/7 Pitch pine 12 ft.
 95-1-1 ^{with} ~~with~~ ^{with}
 8/7 ⁸⁰⁰ ⁸⁰⁰ near top of tree the
 Fork of three stout branches
 nest large & very neat
 of sticks bound with pine needles
 & beach grass. (taken)
 all four eggs looked alike & I think
 were laid ^{the same} ~~the same~~ ^{by the same} ~~by the same~~
 nearly all the nests that we
 examined were whitewashed
 was the entire size of the birds
 increment. Then that we took
 stood rough handling remarkably.
 Indeed they were much stronger
 and stiffer than the nest of a
 Crow or Hawk. Nearly all
 large, deeply hollowed and busily
 lined but an exception was a
 nest containing 2 eggs which was
 scarcely larger than ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{quite} ~~quite~~ ^{as} ~~as~~ ^{subtle}
 & flimsily built as the nest of a
 Green Heron.

Night Herons Breeding on the Marsh

While collecting on the marsh I noticed many Night Herons, and enquired of the hunters and trappers if they found any nests in the trees on the islands in the marsh, but they did not, but had found the nesting place on the marsh. I went for them with a boy for guide. We rowed up a channel as near the place as possible, when they began to leave their nests in the grass and rushes. When forty rods off we left the boat and waded. The bogs are a kind of floating sod, with two or three feet of mud and water under them, and sink at each step. The first nest was in the rushes and built of rushes, about one foot high and about the same width, with just hollow enough to keep the eggs from rolling out. Other nests were in the grass, but most of them were in the cat tail flags, in holes which had been burned in the dry time. The nests in the flags were built of pieces of flags, both leaves and stalk. Those in the grass were built of rushes and flags. The nests contained from one to five eggs each, but mostly three—two sets of five and a number with four. I took about forty set that day—the larger sets were incubated, but about half were fresh. I went a second time to the marsh and got a lot of eggs.—

Delos Hatch, Oak Centre, Wis.
O. & C. VII. Mar. 1893. p. 23

On a Collection of Eggs from Georgia. H. B. Bailey.

85. *Nyctiardea grisea naevia*. NIGHT HERON. — Nests in trees; eggs four, sometimes five. April 14.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, Jan. 1883. p. 42

**Distribution of the Black-Crowned
Night Heron in Illinois.**

J. E. Dickinson. No. 3.

Summer resident; abundant. Arrive April 5th; leave October. Breeds in colonies in oak groves adjacent to swamps or creeks. Nest placed from 25 to 45 feet high—composed of dead sticks. Sets found from May 10 to early June. Has found nearly hatched young and birds building in same colony on May 27th. Set, 4 to 5; 6 eggs average 2.10 x 1.50; largest, 5.04 x 1.51, smallest, 1.99 x 1.54; color of eggs, blue. Common names, "Qua bird," "Quak," "Shite Poke."

F. A. Gregory. No. 3.

Summer resident. Not common.
Breeds in colonies.

Nests in second growth timber from 2 to 3 feet high, of twigs loosely laid together. Eggs may be seen from below.

Full sets found May 12.

Sets, 3 to 5; 4 average.

Measurements, 2.01 x 1.51, 2.04 x 1.52, 2.00 x 1.50, 2.02 x 1.50. Average, 2.02 x 1.51.

Color, pale bluish green, but are much stained and dirty as incubation advances.

W. E. Pratt. No. 6.

June 30, 4 young.

(As this is his only note of the nesting of this bird in Lake and Cook counties, we may

Has not found, except as a migrant. (Has been taken in the county on "Spoon River" and "Indian Creek" frequently, but does not breed.—A.C.M.)

W. S. Strode, M.D. No. 33.

Has not met it.

W. S. Cobleigh. No. 33.

Summer resident. Arrives about the first

of May; found in small numbers. Not breeding in 33.

found along the Illinois river and mes.

ts 3 to 4; eggs measure 2.15 x 1.45. fical, pale bluish-green.

J. E. Loucks. No. 34.

grant. Not common; has only found the spring. Does not think it breeds.

S. Meixsell. No. 36.

is not met it.

C. Pearson. No. 40.

en occasionally; was formerly plentiful.

Charles Wells. No. 45.

is not met it.

L. Jones. No. 75.

summer resident, from April 20 to Sept.

Common in the bottom lands and ps. Nests, but no notes taken.

B. Vandercock. No. 77.

is not found it.

C. Elliot. No. 88.

is not met it.

W. Rearden. No. 92.

it known.

Widmann. Old Orchard, Mo.

grant. Near St. Louis from April 16

. None later than May 5.

Wilo Smith, Jr. St. Louis.

is no experience with it.

P. Foir. Wayland, Mo.

is never met it.

Artis Wilson. Davenport, Iowa.

summer resident; common along streams, ponds sheltered by woods.

Arrives last of April, leaves first of September. Probably breeds. No good breeding place in vicinity.

"*J. & O.*" July and August, 1884.

"List of Birds collected near St. Louis, Mo.," Julius Hurter.

"Black-Crowned Night Heron, summer sojourner."

Ridgway. "Birds ascertained to breed at Mt. Carmel." Given by E. W. Nelson, in 1875, Bulletin of the Essex Institute.

Black-Crowned Night Heron: Rare.

7. 91
THE LARGEST HERONRY. A very important discovery from an ornithological standpoint was made recently by Dr. William E. Hughes, the well-known ornithologist of Philadelphia, who is now with Lieutenant Peary's expedition to Greenland and the arctic seas. Dr. Hughes has found the largest heronry existing within the knowledge of any scientist, in Valley Hills, a place near Valley Forge, Chester Co., Pa. It is certainly much larger than any heronry ever discovered in this country, and Dr. Hughes says no book on ornithology that he has been able to peruse gives a heronry of so many nests. In 1888, Dr. Hughes was on a little scientific expedition through Chester County. When he passed through Valley Hills he discovered on the trees of a small copse about 100 heron nests. The nests were rather imperfect, and it could be seen that the birds had just begun to settle there. In April last, Dr. Hughes, accompanied by Dr. McCadden, a taxidermist of Philadelphia, determined to visit the interesting copse at Valley Hill to see how the herons were coming along. Much to his surprise he found the trees literally covered with nests. Mr. McCadden assisted him in counting the homes of the birds and found they numbered over six hundred. In the following month Dr. Hughes returned to the heronry and found that the many eggs he had seen on his April visit had hatched and the young herons were there in great quantity. As far as Dr. Hughes has been able to ascertain, the greatest number of nests found in any heronry in this country and given in ornithological books has been less than one hundred. It was at Blue Rocks, Berks County. [Philadelphia Press.]

THE CAMBRIDGE TRIBUNE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1890.

Bird shot by K. V. S. Howland on board ship.

Two Latin-school lads, who look forward to Saturday as the one day in the week when they may have a good time without let or hindrance, took a small rifle and a box of BB cartridges along, last Saturday, as a promoter of their scientific knowledge. They are both interested in ornithology, and both shoot well for youths of their age. They secured several specimens of minor consequence, and at last one of them spied in the top of a tall fir tree—little more than half a mile from Harvard square—a creature large enough to awaken all their enthusiasm. "Zip!" went the rifle, and a great bird, wounded, flew noisily from the tree. In its unequal flight to earth it struck the window of a laborer's cottage, and a frightened man and woman instantly appeared. One lad grasped the struggling bird by the neck, the other seized the gun, and the speed they made in getting away from that house would have secured their reputation on any running track. A bottle of chloroform finished the work of the bullet, and the boys were delighted to find that they had captured a fine male black-crowned night heron, measuring forty-four inches from tip to tip. Three hours of hard work followed, at the end of which they were in possession of a specimen so neatly prepared that it might well give satisfaction to collectors much more mature and experienced. *As have never seen one. THE*

Red heronry in question was in Norfolk county, Mass., until the present year; the birds have now, however, taken up their abode elsewhere, because of the almost ceaseless persecution they have suffered. The species was the Night-heron or Quawk (*Nyctiardea Gardeni*). The bird is by no means as graceful as the other herons in figure, being thicker, with a larger and clumsier neck; as to color, however, it is quite handsome, being white, slate, and lilac. It has the long nape feathers characteristic of the herons, rolled, as usual, into the likeness of a tube. The place in which they have hitherto bred is a swamp, wet, and difficult of access, with no turf to set foot on, owing to the shade of the swamp-cedars with which the quagmire is covered, whose slippery, mossy roots furnish a doubtful footing in some cases, and a formidable obstacle in others. The certainty of "slumping" through the moss, thereby going into the thick slime above the knees, the probability of missing one's footing, and going down, full length, on breast or back, and the prospect of hard and disagreeable work in climbing to the nests, are among the allurements to the herons' paradise. The birds undoubtedly built there in 1861, though they were not found until June, 1862, when a gunner, breaking in upon their fancied security, shot over twenty for sport, threw them into a pile, and left them.

All, of course, who cared for natural history, who were few; the idlers, who were more; and many who had

was in a hurry, and he managed to bring out
 two hundred dramatic works. Dr Emery has
 one mania—driv-a-brac. He built a pretty sea-
 side house at Villiers-sur-Mer, where he spends
 the hot months of the year. Mme. D'Emery
 is a notable housewife, and her husband, as
 he writes his plays, submits them to her judg-
 ment. He is now busy at a sensational drama
 in five acts. [Paris Correspondent, London
 Truth.]

Advertisement.
How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any
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THE ENCAMPMENT OF THE HERONS.

BY W. E. ENDICOTT.

AN account of an encampment of the Herons may not
 be uninteresting to such as have never seen one. The
 herony in question was in Norfolk county, Mass., until
 the present year; the birds have now, however, taken up
 their abode elsewhere, because of the almost ceaseless per-
 secution they have suffered. The species was the Night-
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 into a pile, and left them.

All, of course, who cared for natural history, who were
 few; the idlers, who were more; and many who had

A Trip to a Heronry.

June 7, I visited, in company with a friend, a tract of land inhabited by Night Herons, in the southern part of Rhode Island. Even at that comparatively early date, most of the nests contained young birds, and those too, nearly full grown. As our visit was limited to the short space of an hour, we were content to obtain a few eggs and birds, and not to explore the whole place, which probably covered several acres of land. The entrance to the swamp was a narrow cow-path, on each side of which the briars were so closely interwoven that one was hardly able to penetrate.

As we came towards the heronry, numerous cries of "quaek," "quaek," were heard, and the birds immediately left the nests and hovered over the place. On glancing at the trees within, we could see numerous nests, with young birds stretching their long necks over the sides. The trees mostly chosen were maples, and every tree contained from six to twelve nests. At the foot of the trees, egg shells, dead fish, and here and there dead birds were to be seen. The lower parts of the tree and the ground below, were covered with the incessant droppings, and the whole place seemed to have been whitewashed.

I first climbed one of the trees and soon was down with several sets of four eggs. We found this to be the usual number; of ten there were but three. A look at us two creatures on coming down from the trees would have made the most sober person laugh. I appeared to have been painted white from head to foot, while my companion was as bad. However, as we were "rigged out" for the occasion, we soon were used to the sight and smell. We obtained one beautiful specimen of a male Heron, and admired the neat plumage of this otherwise disgusting bird.

To give some idea as to the number of the nests and eggs, I would say that I

could frequently reach from one tree to another and take two or three sets of eggs. The young Herons were exceedingly vicious, and upon our appearing at the nests, they would dart their huge bills towards our faces and make queer noises.

Several Snowy Herons were seen but we could get no shot at them. Arriving home, on counting the eggs, my share came to just eighty, thirteen of which were sets of four, the rest sets of three and single eggs. A correct estimate of the number of the nests in the place could not be made, but it certainly went into the thousands.—

H. A. Talbot, Providence, R. I.

O. & O. 18, July 1884, p. 80-81.

Night Heron's Nest.

BY J. M. W., NORWICH, CONN.

May 17th, I made my annual visit to the heronry at the east end of Fisher's Island, and two small fish baskets full of sets were taken, which was a small per cent of the eggs noted and will not cripple the usefulness of the colony. This heronry is not regularly harried and some seasons gets off scot free.

Fisher's Island is in Suffolk County, N. Y., is not commonly accessible from Greenport, and is an hour and a half's sail from the Connecticut shore. Formerly large, its population has fluctuated greatly of late years. In 1877 I found it reduced to fifteen pairs, but persecution ceasing for a few years, it rapidly increased and in 1882 it was at its maximum. The enormous nests then fringed even the low bushes on the outside of the circular swamp, and on being suddenly disturbed the birds rose like a great cloud. That year it was impossible to tell the number of birds, but this season, on coming out from the swamp I counted one hundred and fifty individuals perching on the tree tops and with those flying and covering eggs, and by a close computation of the nests, the colony is not less than six hundred to-day.

Entering the swamp, no nests are now found till one penetrates three rods from the outside, none at present can be reached from the ground but they are all in the tops of swamp maples and a few red cedars at an average height of sixteen feet. No empty nests were seen, May 17th, and no foot-prints or abrasions on trees, so this was the first visit this year. Though single eggs and pairs were found, yet there were many young at this early date. It was easy to tell the nests which held squabs by the broken egg shells below, and not difficult to pick out fresh sets by the spare lining of the tree trunks, and by the small quantity of ordure beneath the nests. Four was the average set, but five were not searce, the proportion of large sets being about one in nine. No clutch of six was seen, no suspicion of markings, and owing to the long dry spell, the eggs were free from nest-washings. Incubation ran evenly through

their Exodus. By Samuel Lockwood. p. 23-35, Jan. 1878.—An interesting pop-
"Nyctiardea gardeni Baird." *Amer. Naturalist*

s. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—
ake during the last days of May. There
ies in the cañons of the upper Verde and
resident in the Verde Valley. *Auk*, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 57
Mearns.

S. T. Denton. *Ibid.*, No. 2, pp. 9, 10.
ment. *Rand. Notes Nat. His.* II
By Curus. *Ibid.*, July 24, p. 500.
Nyctiardea gardeni. *For & Stream.* XXII

. By Henry Hales. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 6.—
by the writer at Ridgewood, N. J.

on the Marsh. By Delos Hatch. *Ibid.*,
rushes of a marsh in Wisconsin. *O. & O.* Vol. VIII

July 1887.]

AND OO

the advanced sets and the great majority of the nests with young examined held four. Fresh sets were told by a slight roughness, apparent by lightly running the finger tips over the surface. The series was of marked uniformity in size and shape and quite uniform in color. No egg had an excess of pigment nor did any clutch approach the white type. Nests holding lusty young, which were probably built in cold April weather, were large, substantial and well-hollowed structures; while those just built, were of the summer style of architecture, or flat form type and the eggs could be seen from below.

On first entering the swamp, I climbed isolated trees, but soon learning to group my nests would ascend only for three or more sets. To show how Floridian was the quantity of eggs here, I will add that I came down repeatedly with thirteen eggs in my baskets, and on my last ascension could look around on the adjacent trees and count forty-five eggs.

The white of a heron's egg is apt to be leathery when cooked, but the yolk is palatable and at the proper age the young birds are good for the table.

By sailors and the shore-dwellers the birds are only known as "Quawks," and the lovely Snowy Herons seen here sparingly on the migrations are called "White Quawks." One year, when the whole season was forward and the migrations early, I recorded this community of waders in full breeding activity May 6th; the young were shortly reared, and there was a fair proportion of second clutches June 4th. As the young are out of the nests before the summer excursionists swarm these shores, and the wanton shooter now meets with legal discouragement, this heronry bids fair to keep up its numbers for many years.

O. & O. XII, July 1887 p. 112-113

A Trip to a Heronry.

June 7, I visited, in company with a friend, a tract of land inhabited by Night Herons, in the southern part of Rhode Island. Even at that comparatively early date, most of the nests contained young birds, and those too, nearly full grown. As our visit was limited to the short space of an hour, we were content to obtain a few eggs and birds, and not to explore the whole place, which probably covered several acres of land. The entrance to the swamp was a narrow cow-path, on each side of which the briars were so closely interwoven that one was hardly able to penetrate.

As we came towards the heronry, numerous cries of "quack," "quack," were heard, and the birds immediately left the nests and hovered over the place. On glancing at the trees within, we could see numerous nests, with young birds stretching their long necks over the sides. The trees mostly chosen were maples, and every tree contained from six to twelve nests. At the foot of the trees, egg shells, dead fish, and here and there dead birds were

of the woods. The nest was very nearly completed when it was partially destroyed by a storm, but they immediately began to set to work to repair damages and in a short time had it ready for their third set. I was now pretty sure of securing the third set, but was doomed to disappointment; for on visiting the place, May 15th,

is lighter and more exquisitely delicate even than in the rest of the Terns, the black cap

Night Heron's Nest.

BY J. M. W., NORWICH, CONN.

May 17th, I visited a heronry at the two small fish which was a size and will not come on. This heronry and some seas

Fisher's Island is not commonly known, and is an hour and a half out shore. For several days the water fluctuated greatly, and I found it reduced to a mere puddle, and in 1882 it was almost entirely covered with mosses and mud on the outside, being suddenly covered by a great cloud.

When the number of herons coming out of the nest was about a hundred and fifty, and what a luxury is in store for them when they tree tops and invest in a surgeon's needle to replace the time-eggs, and by a honored variety. The common needle punches the colony is a hole in the skin and when drawn through to the eye sticks, because the eye and thread are till one penetrates larger than the hole. Then the hole is torn none at present larger and the thread dragged through until a but they are a feather or a little cotton catches on it and it and a few red sticks again; it is then pulled back, the offend-sixteen feet. ing material taken off and a new start is made. 17th, and no We all know how aggravating this is, having so this was experienced it many times.

single eggs: In the surgeon's needle there is a great improvement, a sharp point with a broad, flat easy to tell the blade, which cuts a hole large enough to let broken egg shells the eye and thread pass easily and obviating pick out fresh subsequent entanglement.

tree trunks, a beneath the nest but five were sets being absent was seen, no to the long distance nest-washing

LOGICIST

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suddenly to the ground and saved itself from its dread enemy by taking refuge in an old tin can. After the hawk had passed the sparrow came out of its improvised fortress and flew away in safety.

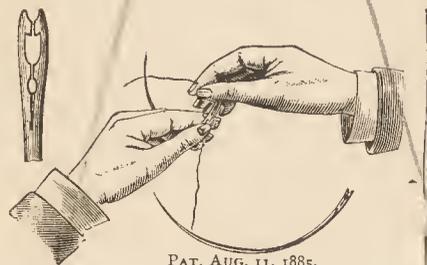
A new Needle for Ornithological Use.

BY W. E. SAUNDERS.

Readers of the O. AND O. who use ordinary needles for sewing their birdskins do not know what a luxury is in store for them when they invest in a surgeon's needle to replace the time-eggs, and by a honored variety. The common needle punches the colony is a hole in the skin and when drawn through to

the eye sticks, because the eye and thread are till one penetrates larger than the hole. Then the hole is torn none at present larger and the thread dragged through until a but they are a feather or a little cotton catches on it and it and a few red sticks again; it is then pulled back, the offend-sixteen feet. ing material taken off and a new start is made. 17th, and no We all know how aggravating this is, having so this was experienced it many times.

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PAT. AUG. 11, 1885.

F. G. OTTO & SONS, SOLE AGENTS.

But last fall was introduced into the market.

101. *The Night Herons and their Exodus.* By Samuel Lockwood. American Naturalist, Vol. XII, pp. 23-35, Jan. 1878.—An interesting popular account of experiences with "*Nyctiardea gardeni* Baird." *Amer. Naturalist*

Mountain Birds of Arizona.

Nycticorax nycticorax naevius. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Several were shot at Mormon Lake during the last days of May. There are several rookeries of this species in the cañons of the upper Verde and its tributaries. It is a permanent resident in the Verde Valley. *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 57

1023. *The Night Heron.* By S. T. Denton. *Ibid.*, No. 2, pp. 9, 10.—Account of one kept in confinement. *Band. Notes Nat. Hist.* II
917. *A Visit to a Heronry.* By Curtis. *Ibid.*, July 24, p. 300.—Locality, Massachusetts; species, '*Nyctiardea gardeni*.' *For. & Stream*, XXII

O, and O.

272. *Night Herons in Winter.* By Henry Hales. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 6.—Habits of a tame individual kept by the writer at Ridgewood, N. J.

697. *Night Herons Breeding on the Marsh.* By Delos Hatch. *Ibid.*, p. 23.—Nesting in the grass and rushes of a marsh in Wisconsin. *O. & C.* Vol. VIII

Nantasket, Mass.

Nycticorax nycticorax

1885

Fishing by daylight.

July 13.

On the extensive mud-flats near the steamboat landing at Nantasket I saw two adult Night Herons stalking busily about at 8.15 a.m., the morning being clear, still and very hot. The steamer that I was on passed within less than 100 yds. of both birds but they paid no attention to it. They were evidently fishing for I saw them make several thrusts into the shallow water & lift mud. Probably they fish at low tide here regardless of the time of day. I saw a single ad. July 17 in the

Cambridge, Mass.

Nycticorax nycticorax

Dr. Samuel Cabot tells me that about 1832-35 when he was in College there was a large herony of this species on the Fresh Pond marshes at the point where the Lexington branch of the Lowell R. R. now bisects a grove of birches, oaks, and maples. The growth on this tract was then very heavy and several hundred Night Herons bred in the taller trees, chiefly white pines (Notes taken after a talk with Dr. Cabot, January 18, 1885)

Maple Swamp, Cambridge.

Cambridge, Mass.

Nyctea

Dr. Samuel Cabot tells me
1832-35 when he was in College
a large throng of this species
Pond marshes at the point where
Lexington branch of the Lowell
bisects a grove of birches, oaks, and
The growth on this tract was
heavy and several hundred
bred in the taller trees, chiefly
(Notes taken after a talk with
January 18, 1885)

Tame Night Heron.

BY HENRY HALES.

A few years ago I sent a short communication to the ORNITHOLOGIST AND OÖLOGIST in regard to the hardness of Night Herons (*Nyctiardea gardeni*). As my experience with my pet Heron was pleasant to myself I think perhaps it may interest some of your readers.

Being presented with a pair of Night Herons, I kept them but a short time in confinement, and then gave them their liberty, which was as soon as they appeared able to take care of themselves. Living on a farm near a fine meadow, with a creek and some woodland, they had a good opportunity to start in life on their own account, particularly as wild birds of the same species were often heard near by.

In about three weeks one bird disappeared but the other remained. We called him Jack, to which he always responded, especially if hungry. We fed him on fish and meat, mice, hazlet etc.; in fact, nothing of animal food came amiss to him. He made his headquarters in a flower and kitchen garden in front of my house. His sight was to all appearance as sharp by day as at twilight, but during the latter he was very lively, often taking a flight for a mile or more in circles around the place or visiting a pond in the edge of the meadow near the house, or another duck pond in a poultry yard close to the barn, within seventy-five feet of it and about thirty from a hen house, where he could always find frogs, of which he was very fond. At night he roosted in a pine tree close to the front of my house, not often

flying after dark. During the morning he would come to the door and wait for his breakfast, following any one of the family and calling loudly for his food. After eating he would take a position on a fence post, or limb of a tree, standing on one leg with his head drawn close down to his shoulders, as motionless as a statue; but should he not get enough to satisfy his hunger he was active and restless; he would then follow the cat into the kitchen if she had a mouse and watch her to see if she would lay it before her kitten, should she do so he would snatch it and fly off to his tub of water, soak it and swallow it whole. He would even go to the kitten's box, turn over the bed to look for mice, as the mother cat would sometimes hide them there, as she supposed from Jack.

He often spent longing hours over some young quail I had in a wire enclosure. Occasionally he would fall in love with a young chicken, and one day when a little neglected, he swallowed a half grown bantam, so large for his stomach that he could not down the legs, as he rested on a post with the bird's feet sticking out of his mouth till the body digested sufficiently for the feet to follow. His appetite was not one of the daintiest, especially if fish was on the bill of fare. At one meal he once swallowed nine large smelts.

One thing worth noting was his perfect fearlessness of cats and dogs. At times, when basking in the sun a dog would run up to him; he kept perfectly motionless till the dog came close enough, when he would strike at his face with such effect as to astonish the dog, who

would immediately give Jack a wide berth afterwards, in consideration of retaining his eyesight. He would never let a chance slip at our own dog or eat should they pass close enough for Jack to get a poke at their sides.

He preferred to sleep on the tree all winter, not showing the least appearance of suffering from cold in the severest weather. He fed freely from our hands and was fond of being noticed by any of the family, answering by a *squawk* when spoken to, and would follow us all over the place.

When spring came, Jack wanted to build a nest and carried up a lot of sticks into his tree and made a platform of them but did not finish the nest. During the next September, after having had him fifteen months, another Heron probably the same that left us, visited him nightly for several weeks, alighting by the pond and calling his well-known *squawk*. One morning Jack was missing and we heard no more of them.

The following summer a Night Heron, (no doubt the same Jack) alighted on my barn roof in company with a young one only half grown, to the great consternation of the poultry which from their shouts of alarm called my attention to the Herons. The old bird flew down to the little pond in the poultry yard followed by the young one, which it left there, seemingly to shift for itself, as it stayed there several weeks till full grown. To our delight the old bird occasionally visited it, and when he flew over would always answer when we called Jack. The young bird was so tame that if he was disturbed he would merely fly into a tree that overhung the pond and wait till all was quiet and then resume his position in the edge of the pond watching for frogs. The next year the old bird repeated the same thing, bringing another young one, but the pond drying up in about a week after, the young one left. The next fall I filled up the pond as a sanitary measure and the next summer saw no more of the Herons.

Several things are worth noting in this affair. In the first place, if it was merely a question of food, the further pond offered greater inducements; was it a matter of protection or force of habit, or both, that induced the bird to quarter his young one in the yard? No wild Heron would light on a barn and then fly to the pond so near buildings and surrounded by lots of poultry, but no ducks. The poultry did not trouble him, as he waded far enough from the edge to be out of their way.

Another singular thing was the remarkable tameness and contented manner of the young birds in stopping there, for while attending to the young chickens, one was very often near the pond. Is this a habit of the species, taking their young, only half grown, to a place suitable for them to find their own food and shift for themselves? If this is generally the case, it is a singular habit worth noticing.

pp 73-74. O. & O. XII. May. 1887 p. 73

violaceus

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

1890 Florida,
Mar20-Apr1 Suwanee River.

Found sparingly along the entire course of the river, but nowhere abundantly, until we were within eight or ten miles of the Gulf. Below this point the bottom was from three to six or seven miles in width, and intersected by innumerable narrow, winding creeks which extended back from the river to a distance of from one to three or four miles. In many places the trees, chiefly cypresses, green ashes and sweet gums, extended their branches out over the water from the opposite banks, until their tops actually interlocked, forming complete arches of foliage which almost wholly excluded the rays of the sun, and beneath which the light was dim and subdued even at noon-day. In such reaches, we were almost certain to find the Yellow-crowned Night Herons. They never congregated in colonies, but it was by no means uncommon to start two or three pairs within the distance of as many hundred yards when the conditions were particularly favorable. Their nests were easily discovered, for they were almost invariably built in conspicuous positions near the ends of long horizontal branches directly over the water. I examined several, but all were empty, although a bird was sitting on one of them.* They were formed of sticks rather neatly and compactly arranged, and averaged from 12 to 15 inches in diameter. They were deeply hollowed for Heron's nests, and neatly lined with fine twigs. It was impossible to see through any of them from beneath.

When found during the day-time, in the retreats just described, the Yellow-crowned Herons were usually sitting in the branches of trees or bushes over the water, but not infrequently I started them from the ground, or saw them crouching on the muddy banks beneath the trees. Occasionally one would rise twenty or thirty yards back from the creek. This led me to suspect that they may sometimes feed by day, but I could obtain no positive proof of this. They were most uncertain in their behavior. As a rule, it was not difficult to get within long gunshot, provided one made little noise, but sometimes the bird would start a hundred yards or more ahead of my canoe, while, on the other hand, I occasionally passed within a few yards of one without disturbing it. The

** The ovaries of the birds killed at this time showed that most have them would have begun laying within another week or so, while in one or two birds we found eggs as large as Sparrows which presumably would have been laid in two or three days.*

Yellow-crowned Heron

shyer individuals could usually be shot after being flushed several times in succession, for, curiously enough, they seemed to become tame² after each flight. One evening as I was paddling down a creek sometime after sunset, when the light was failing fast, I came upon three or four of ~~these Herons~~ which allowed me to pass within a few yards of them, as they sat on dead branches over the water. At each movement which I made, they would raise and lower their long occipital plumes with a quick nervous motion. I had started these same birds on my way up the river in the afternoon, when they were very shy;—from which I infer that, like certain other nocturnal birds, they become bolder after dark.

The Yellow-crowned Heron is a much more graceful bird than the Black-crowned. It stands high and firm on its legs, the body nearly horizontal, the head and neck stretched up to its full length. I have never seen one in any of the several slouching attitudes so often assumed by the Black-crowned species. Its flight is swifter than that of the Black-crowned, and the wings, which look more pointed, are moved more rapidly and vigorously. Its notes, although similar to the Black-crown^{ed}, are all readily distinguishable. I identified three distinct cries: The first, a low, hoarse croak, repeated several times in succession, just after the bird takes wing from its perch in the daytime; the second, an exceedingly loud, harsh ~~quaw~~ or ~~quor~~. This cry is not a note of alarm, but is given when the bird is unconscious of danger, and is often repeated at regular intervals of twenty or thirty seconds each, for half an hour or more at a time. It can be heard at a distance of at least half a mile in still weather, and, in these lonely swamps, it is a peculiarly startling and impressive sound. The third cry corresponded to the ~~quak~~ of the Black-crowned Heron, but is higher pitched, rather feebler and more cracked in tone; and like it, it is uttered at regular intervals when the bird, in the evening twilight, is making an extended flight to some distant feeding-ground.

In the ~~early~~ evening and at morning about daylight, these Herons came forth from their retreats, sometimes singly, oftener in pairs, occasionally three or four together, and flew up or down the course of the main river, (where they were never seen in day-time) moving rather high in air, and uttering the cry last described. I think that most of those thus seen were on their way to or from the broad marshes at the mouth of the Suwanee, but this I was not able to verify. A wounded Heron falling into the water immediately paddled ashore, where it ~~usually~~ crouched under the bank. If it fell on the land, it would sneak off rapidly for a distance of thirty or forty yards, and hide under some fallen log or similar cover. When caught it ~~would~~ erect the feathers of the crest, open its bill widely and ~~attempt~~ to strike its captor. I do not doubt that it is capable of inflicting a severe wound, if given an opportunity. Unlike the Black-crowned Heron, however, I did not once hear a wounded bird utter any sound.

FREDERIC H. KENNARD,
Landscape Architect.
85 Devonshire Street,
BOSTON, - MASS.

Boston, Mass., Apr. 1, 1902.

Mr. Wm. Brewster,

Cambridge, Mass.

My Dear Mr. Brewster:-

I procured that bird for you, and delivered him into Clark's hands myself. Will you please accept him from me as a present? I didn't pay any fifteen dollars for him either.

I bought him of F. H. Hosmer & Co., 10-16 Quincy Market. The youth who sold him to me was Ralph Hosmer, I believe. He tells me that it came in on a Dominion Line steamer, together with a couple of snowy owls, from a man named Harry Smith of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Hosmer says he will guarantee that the bird is not a European bird, but says he does not know where Smith got him, as Smith buys birds of various gunners and trappers as they bring them in to him. Now you have the whole story so far as I am concerned. Of course the boy may have lied, but my impression is otherwise.

Very sincerely yours,

(Dict.)

F. H. KENNARD.

[Night Hawk
Taken in Nova
Scotia March
1902]

FREDERIC H. KENNARD,
Landscape Architect,
85 Devonshire Street,
BOSTON, - MASS.

Mr. Wm. Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass.

My Dear Mr. Brewster:-

Yo
anybody yet who was able
who said he had shot lot
myself morally certain t
Heron, though he happened
actually did, I am unabl

I seem fated t
and regret exceedingly h
familiar with the Yellow
ination of the other mor
smaller, more numerousl
don't want your collectio
own, though if he proves
he may still be of suffic

I was fearfully
have looked the heron up
it was, I merely knew he
thought you would probably

Haw

Mr. F. H. Kennard

Dear Sir,

I beg

April 15th in which you

shipped to Mr. C. W. Rackliffe

I beg to submit the

discovered in this locality

week ending the 29th March

receiving your letter I had

light-house keeper at

have been captured this

and are now mounted and

taxidermist, Yarmouth,

parts, having never been

x x x x x x x x x x x x

(Copy).

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*) in Nova Scotia.—It may be of interest to report that on Tuesday, April 1, 1902, while walking through the Quincy Market in Boston, I found in the stall of F. H. Hosmer & Co. a female Yellow-crowned Night Heron, in full nuptial plumage, and in a remarkably fresh state of preservation, which had been received on the previous Saturday in a shipment of birds from Yarmouth, N. S.

On looking the matter up, I found that it had been shipped by Mr. Howard Smith of Hawks Point, Cape Sable Island, and had been killed somewhere in that vicinity by Mr. R. C. Maxwell of Lower Clark's Harbor, Shelburne County, Cape Sable Island. I had a letter from Mr. Maxwell in which he told me of his killing the bird, and another from Mr. Smith, in which he writes, among other things, under date of April 21, as follows:—

"Since receiving your letter, I have learned through a friend of mine, Mr. I. K. Doane, lighthouse keeper at this place, that two other specimens of this bird have been captured this spring in our neighboring county, viz. Yarmouth, and are now mounted and on exhibition in the store of Benjamin Doane, taxidermist, Yarmouth, N. S."

It seems from this interesting information that at least three birds of this species had wandered this far north during the spring migration.—FRED. H. KENNARD, *Boston, Mass.*

Auk, XIX, Oct., 1902, pp. 396-7.

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron near Toronto.—While engaged, last year, in naming and arranging the collection of Canadian birds at the Provincial Museum in this city, I found an immature Night Heron, which proved on examination to be a young "Yellow-crowned" (*Nycticorax violaceus*). Mr. John Maughan, Jr., who mounted the specimen, has kindly looked up its record, and finds that it was taken on August 15, 1898, at his father's farm near the Woodbine, Toronto. This is, I think, the first time that the bird has been taken in Ontario, though there are one or two records of its appearance in eastern Canada.—J. B. WILLIAMS, *Toronto, Ont.*

Auk, XXIII, Aug., 1906, p. 220.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

68

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

² *Auk*, XXIII, 1906, 220.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 447.

68. *Nyctanassa violacea*. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—A young bird taken August 15, 1898, by Mr. John Maughan, is in the Provincial Museum.²

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Portland, Me.— I have in my collection a handsome adult female specimen of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*) which was shot on April 13, 1901, in Back Cove, Portland, Me. The captor was a boy. He took the bird to Mr. John A. Lord, the taxidermist, by whom it was mounted. I saw it immediately after it was preserved and also examined its body. Besides this evidence that it was taken here, I have the assurance of Mr. Lord, which alone would be sufficient. I believe the Yellow-crowned Night Heron has never before been recorded from this part of New England.— HENRY H. BROCK, *Portland, Me.* *Auk*, XIX, July, 1902, p. 285.

A Second Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*) at Portland, Maine.—A female of this species was shot at Thompsons Point, Portland, Me., April 11, 1906. It passed into the hands of Mr. Thomas James, foreman of the W. D. Hinds taxidermy establishment, and was obtained from him by Mr. Walter Rich, who very kindly gave it to the writer. The other specimen, also a female, was taken April 13, 1901, and recorded by Dr. H. H. Brock who now has it (Brock, *Auk*, XIX, p. 285).— ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum of Natural History, Portland, Me.*
Auk, XXIII, Dec., 1906, p. 457

A SECOND SPECIMEN OF THE YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax violacea*) IN MASSACHUSETTS. — Since the Yellow-crowned Night Heron was added to our New England birds by Mr. Allen's record* of an individual shot by Mr. Vickery in Lynn, Mass., in October, 1862, no additional specimens have been brought to light by the numerous enterprising observers that are so thoroughly working up our bird Fauna. It is therefore with great pleasure that I am enabled to announce the occurrence of a second Massachusetts example, which is now in my possession. The history of this wanderer, so far as it is known, is briefly as follows: On the afternoon of July 30, 1878, Mr. George Cunningham — who resides in a rather densely populated part of Somerville, just beyond the line separating that city from Cambridge — was attracted by a commotion among the Robins and other small birds in the orchard behind the house. Upon investigating the cause of this unusual excitement a large bird was seen to take flight and disappear over the adjoining fence. Shortly after this there was another alarm from the orchard, and it was found that the strange intruder had returned. A neighbor who is fond of shooting was called in, the bird winged, and after a sharp chase overtaken. It showed plenty of fight, and, to use the words of its captor, "chattered very like a monkey." It was entirely alone, and had not been seen before in the vicinity. It was sent to Mr. Charles I. Goodale, our well-known Boston taxidermist, by whom it was finely mounted. Mr. Goodale first called my attention to it while it was still in his possession, and upon writing to Mr. Cunningham on the subject he very generously placed the bird at my disposal, at the same time giving me the facts above recorded. The specimen is in the spotted immature plumage, and is apparently very young, inasmuch as many of the feathers still retain the peculiar hair-like filaments which characterize the downy stage of Herons, and which are pushed outward on the tips of the feathers that succeed. This fact, taken in connection with the date of capture, is certainly suggestive of a not very remote breeding-place, though the bird was perhaps old enough to have flown northward from the Carolinas, its nearest known breeding-ground. — W. BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

* Am. Nat., III, 637, February, 1870.

Ball N.O.C. 4, April, 1879, p. 124-125

Nycticorax violaceus.

1893.

Malden, Mass.

A pair seen at the old Malden reservoir, then a small pond, between Malden and Medford line, in the breeding season in the spring (?June) of 1893. One was shot and is now in the possession of O.D. Flood, formerly of Malden, now of Leominster.

Note furnished by Mr. John A. Farley on July 16, 1901.

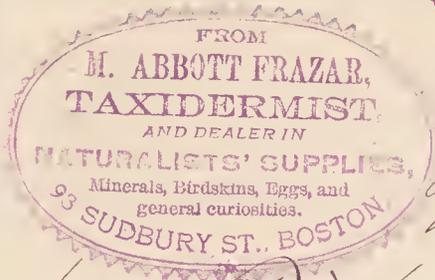
The 8th (yesterday) an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron was shot. Saw this bird and knew it myself. Is it not rare at this season in this latitude?

Frederic L. Small.

Provincetown, Mass.

[The bird above referred to was received by us shortly after it was killed, and proved to be a ♂. It is a rare visitor here and we know of but one record of a specimen being taken. — Ed.]

O&O, XVI, April, 1891, p. 64.

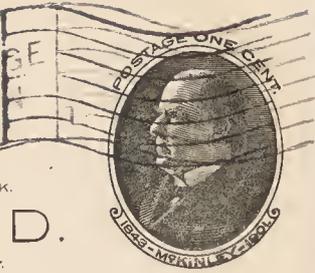


Myiarchus violaceus Mass.
Aug. 12 1904

Young of *Myi. v.* seen
in this morning.

from Prides. evidently a local
bred bird. Had one from
Gouaceta last year.

M. Frazar



THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTMARK.
POSTAL CARD.
THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

*Mr Wm Brewster
Cambridge
Mass*

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, in Rhode Island.—In August, 1892, it was my good fortune to procure a Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*), at Newport, Rhode Island. The bird was a young female, and was taken in a small grove of pine trees. When first perceived it was standing on the ground apparently unconcerned as to its surroundings. Upon my approach the bird did not appear intimidated but began to walk along slowly under the trees. It was very easily shot. This is the first one of this species that I have seen in Newport, and I think it rather a rare occurrence.—J. LIVERMORE, *New York City*.

Auk XI. April, 1894 p. 177

Dutcher, Long Island Birds.

Nycticorax violaceus. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Mr. Giraud dismisses this southern Heron with few words, merely saying, "The Yellow-crowned Heron seldom extends its visits to Long Island."¹ His statement, written in 1844, would apply today just as well, for it is only now that I am able to make my first record of this species during a period of fifteen years' collecting. Mr. A. D. Lott, one of my valued correspondents, wrote to me that a specimen of *N. violaceus* had been caught alive, in the latter part of April, in a swamp near the village of Freeport, Queens Co. He adds, "We have never seen a bird like it before."

Auk X, July, 1893 p. 266.

¹ 'Birds of Long Island,' p. 281.

Notes on certain birds of Long Island,
New York.

By William C. Braislin, M. D.

Nycticorax violaceus. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—I have recently had the pleasure of examining a specimen of this species belonging to Dr. Henry Heath, a dentist, of this city. The specimen, which has been in his possession since the day it was shot, was taken at Orient. Some years ago while staying at the home of his brother, who lives at that place, the bird was killed by a gunner, who gave it to him in the flesh. The bird was taken, Dr. Heath believes, almost certainly in October, though he admits it may have been September or November, about fifteen years ago. This is the second absolutely authentic specimen taken on Long Island, one having been previously recorded (Chapman, Visitor's Guide to the Local Collection of Birds in the Amer. Museum, 1894, p. 28). About a year ago I was kindly informed by Mr. Roy Latham of Orient of his having recently met with the Yellow-crowned Night Heron at his home at Orient and since learning of Dr. Heath's specimen, as above recorded, I have written Mr. Latham for details, which he has given me, as follows: "The Yellow-crowned Night Heron was first seen on May 4, 1905, in a shallow pond on the Salt Marsh. It was very tame and allowed one to approach to within 50 feet while it was running nimbly, picking up minnows. As I walked nearer it flew to a stake 100 yards away. When I left, it returned and stayed in the pond throughout the day. The pond is a favorite feeding ground of the Black-crowned Night Herons and the Little Green Herons. The second (or the same Yellow-crowned Night Heron) was seen on May 7, 1905, in a sheltered creek near woods. It flew into a tree close by. I studied it well from all points. It was in full plumage. I have seen them in Florida and was surprised and delighted to find this one." *Auk*, 24, Apr., 1907, p. 187.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.

Having never seen one of these beautiful birds I was somewhat surprised when, in April, 1888, my partner and I came suddenly upon one of their breeding places near Levey Lake. The place they had chosen for their nesting site was a little pond densely surrounded by tall trees and containing a thick growth of tall button-wood bushes. In these bushes, and situated at from three to five feet from the water, the nests were placed. They were thick, bulky structures, most of them having been used for a number of years. The bushes in which the nests were placed were quite tall and, the place being surrounded by tall trees, the nests were in semi-darkness the greater part of the day. No signs of bird life are visible as you first approach the place, but the moment a gun is fired they all leave their nests and with loud "quocks" fly heavily over into the trees at the other side of the rookery. They feed almost exclusively at night. At the date of our first visit (April 25), most of the nests contained complete sets of incubated eggs. The nests of last year's birds, however, contained only partially complete sets or else none at all. This lateness in nesting is doubtless due to the fact that the young birds have to build new nests, while the older ones use the same ones from year to year. The number of eggs found in a nest was generally four, sometimes only three and in a few instances six were found.

With the exception of one or two other similar places this is the only place I have ever found them nesting, and in all cases there were no other Herons found breeding with them, unless perchance a straggling Green Heron or two. Prof. Frank M. Chapman speaks of finding them nesting in isolated pairs along the creeks which flow into the Swannee River. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, like all the other Herons, upon being robbed once will lay the second time. Complete sets of their second laying may be found at from twenty to twenty-five days from the date the first sets were taken.

F. G. Pearson.

Guilford College, N. C.

Herons of Alachua, Florida.

O. & O. Vol. 17, May 1892 p. 71-72

Notes on Some Birds of Illinois,
E. W. Nelson.

10. *Nyctherodius violaceus*, Reich. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON. — "In my 'Catalogue of the Birds ascertained to occur in Illinois' (p. 386), the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is included as a 'summer visitant to the extreme southern portion of the State,' and in my later 'Catalogue of the Birds of the Lower Wabash Valley' it is given in the list of 'species found only in summer' (p. 26) as 'common?' More recently, however, we have received information, in the shape of two fine adult specimens shot from their nests, accompanied by an account of their capture, which confirms the breeding of the species in considerable numbers as far up the river as Mt. Carmel. The locality where they were found is a portion of bottom-land known as 'Coffee-flat,' where a small colony was found nesting by Mr. Samuel Turner and my brother, John L. Ridgway, on the 6th of May, 1874. Two fine adult specimens in their breeding plumage were obtained, as were also a few eggs. One nest is described as situated in a white-oak tree about sixty feet from the ground, on a branch four inches in diameter, twelve feet from the trunk of the tree, and upon so small a limb that the eggs could not be obtained. The nest was composed of sticks, the outer ones about half an inch in diameter, the interior ones finer, and so loosely put together that the eggs could be plainly seen through the nest. There were four eggs, and another ready to be laid was taken from the parent bird. The number of nests found in this locality is not stated in the letter, but another nest is mentioned which was upon a tree about fifty feet distant."

Bull. N. O. C., I, July, 1876. p. 43

On a Collection of Eggs from
Georgia. H. B. Bailey.

86. *Nyctherodius violaceus*. WHITE-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. — Nests in trees near streams of water; eggs five. May 8.

Bull. N. O. C., 8, Jan., 1883, p. 42

*Botaurus
lentiginosus*

Botaurus lentiginosus.

G. M. = Great Meadow, Concord.
B. S. = Bedford Swamp meadows
* = "pumping".

- 1889
- May
3¹/₂ (Soyon) - 5¹/₂ 1889. 15¹/₂ (Sun) - 24¹/₂ (Fax) 30¹/₂ - 31¹/₂ 1890 11¹/₂ (Soyon) - 17¹/₂ - 18¹/₂ (?) - 21¹/₂ (?) - 23¹/₂ - 24¹/₂ - 28¹/₂ - 31¹/₂ 1891.
- June
1¹/₂ - 3¹/₂ (Fax) - 7 (Fax) - 16⁴/₂ (3*) - 17²/₂ - 22¹/₂ 1889. 10¹/₂ (Fax) - 30¹/₂ 1890 1¹/₂ (Sun) - 2¹/₂ (Sun) - 3²/₂ - 1891
- "
1¹/₂ - 3²/₂ - 5¹/₂ - 6²/₂ - 7¹/₂ - 8¹/₂ Concord 1892 22¹/₂ - 4 - 4.30 P. M. 1897
- May
1¹/₂ 2¹/₂ 3¹/₂ 4¹/₂ 5²/₂ 6¹/₂ 7³/₂ (B.H.) 8¹/₂ 9²/₂ (S.H.) 10³/₂ (S.H.) 11³/₂ (S.H.) 12¹/₂ 13¹/₂ 14¹/₂ 15¹/₂ 16¹/₂ 17¹/₂ 18¹/₂ 19¹/₂ 20¹/₂ 21¹/₂ 22¹/₂ 23¹/₂ 24¹/₂ 25¹/₂ 26¹/₂ 27¹/₂ 28¹/₂ 29¹/₂ 30¹/₂ 31¹/₂ Concord 1898
1¹/₂ 2¹/₂ 3¹/₂ 4¹/₂ 5¹/₂ (S.M.) 6¹/₂ (S.M.) 7¹/₂ (S.M.) 8¹/₂ (S.M.) 9¹/₂ (S.M.) 10¹/₂ (S.M.) 11¹/₂ (S.M.) 12¹/₂ (S.M.) 13¹/₂ (S.M.) 14¹/₂ (S.M.) 15¹/₂ (S.M.) 16¹/₂ (S.M.) 17¹/₂ (S.M.) 18¹/₂ (S.M.) 19¹/₂ (S.M.) 20¹/₂ (S.M.) 21¹/₂ (S.M.) 22¹/₂ (S.M.) 23¹/₂ (S.M.) 24¹/₂ (S.M.) 25¹/₂ (S.M.) 26¹/₂ (S.M.) 27¹/₂ (S.M.) 28¹/₂ (S.M.) 29¹/₂ (S.M.) 30¹/₂ (S.M.) 31¹/₂ (S.M.) Concord 1899
- Sept.
1¹/₂ (Sun) - 1890 5¹/₂ (Sun) - 9¹/₂ - 16¹/₂ - 24¹/₂ - 26¹/₂ 1892. 4 (River bank) 9²/₂ do. 13²/₂ do. 16²/₂ do. Concord, 1893 C. (Pond P.)
2 3¹/₂ (Pond P.) 1898 B. lentiginosus
- April
19¹/₂ 20¹/₂ 22¹/₂ 23¹/₂ 24¹/₂ 25¹/₂ 26¹/₂ 27¹/₂ 28¹/₂ 29¹/₂ 30¹/₂ Concord, 1899.
- Oct.
7¹/₂ - 12¹/₂ Concord 1892 6¹/₂ 7¹/₂ 10¹/₂ Concord 1898 19¹/₂ Concord 1899.
- March
31 (Fax) 1894 27¹/₂ (Fax) Concord 1898.
- April
22²/₂ (Fax) - 25¹/₂ - 26¹/₂ - 27¹/₂ 1891 21¹/₂ 22¹/₂ 23¹/₂ 24¹/₂ 25¹/₂ 27¹/₂ 28¹/₂ 29¹/₂ 30¹/₂ Concord, 1897
13¹/₂ - 15²/₂ - 20¹/₂ - 28¹/₂ - 29¹/₂ Concord 1892 17¹/₂ Fax 1892 4¹/₂ 10¹/₂ 11¹/₂ 12¹/₂ 13¹/₂ 16¹/₂ 17¹/₂ 24¹/₂ } 1898
11¹/₂ - 25¹/₂ (Day break) 27¹/₂ (S.P.H.) - 30¹/₂ (S.P.H.) Concord 1893 25¹/₂ 27¹/₂ 30¹/₂ Concord
29¹/₂ (Fax) - 1894
17¹/₂ (Sun) 19¹/₂ (Sun) 29¹/₂ (Sun) 1895 15¹/₂ (Sun) 16¹/₂ (Sun) 17¹/₂ (Sun) 18¹/₂ 19¹/₂ 20¹/₂ 21¹/₂ 22¹/₂ 23¹/₂ 24¹/₂ 25¹/₂ 27¹/₂ 28¹/₂ Concord 1896
2¹/₂ - 4¹/₂ - 5¹/₂ - 6¹/₂ - 9¹/₂ - 10¹/₂ - 11¹/₂ - 12¹/₂ - 13¹/₂ - 18¹/₂ - 23¹/₂ - 24¹/₂ - 25¹/₂ - 28¹/₂ - 30¹/₂ - 31¹/₂ Concord 1892
- May
1¹/₂ - 9¹/₂ - 10 (Soyon) (at daybreak) 11¹/₂ - 12¹/₂ - 13¹/₂ - 14¹/₂ - 15¹/₂ - 22¹/₂ - 23¹/₂ - 25¹/₂ - 26¹/₂ - 27¹/₂ - 28¹/₂ - 29¹/₂ - 30¹/₂ - Concord 1893
2¹/₂ 3¹/₂ 4¹/₂ 5¹/₂ 6¹/₂ 7¹/₂ 14¹/₂ 15¹/₂ 20¹/₂ 26¹/₂ 27¹/₂ 28¹/₂ 1894
1¹/₂ 3¹/₂ 4¹/₂ 5¹/₂ 6¹/₂ 18¹/₂ (Sun) 19¹/₂ (Sun) 20¹/₂ 1895 3¹/₂ (Fax) 6¹/₂ 1897
- June
5¹/₂ 6²/₂ 8¹/₂ 9¹/₂ 11¹/₂ 12¹/₂ 21 - 23 - 24 - Concord 1898 I was absent from Concord between June 18 & 21st -
24¹/₂ 1899. Several days Bettens pumped engines. To June 19th.
- July
16¹/₂ - 19¹/₂ - 31¹/₂ Concord 1892 27²/₂ G. Meadow. Concord. 1893.
- Aug
31¹/₂ Concord 1892 10¹/₂ (Flying over) (Red Bridge) - 14 (River bank) 16 do. 27 do. 28 do. Concord. 1893.
5¹/₂ (Sun) 12¹/₂ (Fax) - 1894

Botaurus lentiginosus

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

- June 3 Belmont. - Dr. W. Faxon heard a Bittern pumping this afternoon on Rock Meadow. Distribution
- " 7 Wayland. - Messrs. Faxon & Loring heard a Bittern "give two bumps" of its song while flying or rather just before alighted as it was scaling down to the meadow. Pumping on wing
- " 14 Dedham. - The Faxon Bros. heard two different birds pumping on the Neponseth meadows. Distribution
- " 16 Wayland. - Spent the afternoon and evening (to 10 P.M.) on the river. Heard three different Bitterns pumping & saw a fourth. The pumping continued with few long intervals of silence from 4 P.M. to about 7.30 P.M. when with the deepening twilight it ceased. At 8.10 P.M., however, a bird pumped once but soon of the small land birds were still singing at the time. After this we did not hear a single Bittern. Evidently they are diurnal birds as far as their "song" is concerned, at least. We studied the "song" carefully and tried its effect from different positions & distances. Our conclusions are as follows: (1) The position and distance of the listener have more to do with the apparent variability of tone & accent in the voice than anything else. In fact it is probable that neither tone nor accent vary much in different birds or in the same bird at different times. Thus a "pumper" became a "stake driver" when we rowed a few hundred yards down river the change in our position, perhaps by bringing a belt of woods behind the bird, altering the quality of the voice from a deep gurgling sound to a hard resonant tone. Usually the last syllable seems to my ear the most strongly accented but when we were nearest a bird to sight the accent was evidently strongest on the second syllable. As one retreats

(Continued)

Botaurus lentiginosus

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass. } from the bird the last syllable is lost first (at
June 16 Wayland } about 500 yds. in still weather) and the song becomes
changed from pump-er-lump to pump up. The second
syllable goes next (at about 1200 yds) when the voice sounds
like boomp, boomp, boomp a distant, dull, heavy throbb,
merely. The preliminary gulps can be heard perhaps 100
yds. away under the most favorable conditions.

These observations show that the first syllable is really the
loudest and the third syllable the faintest. Perhaps
the first syllable may be said to be always the most
emphatic also.

At one time two Bitterns pumped for nearly half an
hour in the same meadow & within 200 yds. of one
another. At first one seemed to be answering the
other but finally both pumped several times in
succession together making a curious and fairly
laughable medley.

On another occasion one flew over the spot where
another had been pumping for some time. The
latter immediately rose and followed it, both birds
going out of the meadow and off over the woods.
Their flight was slow but very easy the wings moved with
long, almost graceful strokes, the neck drawn in the legs
stretched out straight behind under the tail.

On the morning of the 17th two Bitterns began pumping
shortly after daybreak in the brook meadow near the hotel.

June 22 Concord. - About noon, the day perfectly clear, a Flying &
Bittern came into a meadow near the town, feeding at
evidently ^{coming} from a considerable distance. Afterward I mid-day.
saw it rise several times and make short flights
from place to place.

Claurus lentiginosus

1890 Mass.

May 31 Wayland. A Bittern pumping this morning for about two hours after sunrise (I do not know exactly when he began), heard no others through the day until about 4 P.M. when three different ♂♂ were in full blast. They continued until the twilight deepened when all ceased. From 7.30 to 10.30 P.M. I did not hear a single note altho the night was warm and still with a nearly full moon.

Pump in early
morn & late P.M.,
not at night
or midday

I heard the preliminary "chickling" sound, which is, to my ear, ^{in what} like the pt. of the Woodcock) at fully 200 yds. this afternoon. The bird always ran it six or seven times before beginning the pumping. I got within about 150 yds. of him & searching the ground carefully with a strong glass discovered him standing among waving grass which rose almost above his head. He held his bill pointing upward at about 45° and, save for an occasional turn of the head, did not move during the 15 minutes or more that I spent watching him. He probably saw me, although I showed only my head above a belt of bushes - for he would not pump again until I had retreated several hundred yards. He heard this bird distinctly half a mile away with a belt of wood intervening between him and our position.

Chickling note

Bird seen

Distance at
which pump
can be heard.

June 5 Belmont. Faxon has heard one pumping repeatedly & note in Rock Meadows. He also heard one there in April but during most of May the bird was either silent or absent.

1891

April 22 Readville. Faxon heard two pumping this evening

" 25 Wayland. One pumping a little before sunset, the evening clear and bitterly cold with high N.W. wind & snow squalls in P.M.

" 26 Concord. One pumping from 5.30 (when I reached Great Meadows) to a little after well into the twilight. He ceased before it it became really dark and although the night was cloudless &

No pumping
after dark
although nearly

full moon warm with brilliant moonlight after 9.30 was not heard at all during the several long periods when I was awake from 10 P.M. to 2 A.M. I left Readville from 2 to 4.05 A.M. when on rising I found the East already covered with snow & showers big & two Bitterns pumping. They stopped at 5.15 about 1/2 way between

Botaurus lentiginosus

1890 Mass.

July 17 Martha's Vineyard. - On sunrise this morning the entire colony of Terns breeding on Cape Pogon beach (about 50 pairs) collected over one spot and began screaming and diving down one after another in their usual manner when mobbing some predatory bird or animal. The cause of their excitement proved to be a Bittern which I discovered standing erect in the beach grass, his bill pointing nearly straight upward, his head & neck looking wonderfully like a stake. I flushed him when the Terns pursued him hotly diving down on him from above just as King birds dive at Crows. What was he after among these dry sand-hills the eggs or young of the Terns or a field mouse of which there are great numbers? Certainly it was no place for either frog or fish.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

1891. Mass.

May 17. Belmont,--Bolles took me to Rock Meadow to see a Bittern pump. Weather clear and cold with strong N.W. wind. Bird heard as soon as we reached the meadow at 4.30. He ceased at 7.40 when the light was still strong in the west but objects on the meadow only dimly visible. The period of most frequent and energetic pumping was from a little before sunset to a little after, perhaps half an hour in all. During this period the intervals between the performances were quite regularly 37 seconds each. The average performance consisted of seven preliminary gulps or snaps and four pumps, and occupied just ten seconds. Sometimes the bird pumped only three times, occasionally but twice and rarely only once, when the time occupied was of correspondingly shortened. On the other hand, it was sometimes lengthened by the bird's repeating his usual performance without making any pause. On one such occasion we counted four snaps, three pumps, two snaps and two pumps following one another consecutively. There was another much longer double period the details of which we did note.

Our bird was first sighted at 5 p.m., and for the next two hours and a half was almost constantly under our glasses at a distance of from 75 to 100 yards. He changed his ground five times in all, twice by flying a considerable distance, thrice by sneaking off 15 or 20 yards through the grass in the following singular and highly characteristic manner. He first looked keenly about with upstretched neck, then drew down his head, at the same time crouching, and immediately disappeared. We saw nothing more of him (although we both watched carefully) for perhaps two minutes, when the long neck was slowly thrust up in the new place. It was very like the adroit disappearance and reappearance of a Grebe, with a sea of waving grass taking the place of water. It also recalls the account in old books of the manner in which the Snake Indians used to steal horses in broad daylight under the very eyes of their guard by showing themselves among the long prairie grass, and, when the guard rushed towards them, passing him under cover of the grass and reappearing in the midst of the coveted horses. Judging by the time that elapsed while the Bittern was invisible, his progress must have been as deliberate as it was stealthy. The reason for this change of position was not obvious. He may have seen or heard us twice, but the third time we were both perfectly still and fairly well hidden.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

1891. Mass.

May 17. Belmont, --

In the intervals between the pumping spells our Bittern rarely moved other than by turning his head slightly to one or the other ^{side,} or by lengthening or shortening his neck. Both motions reminded one of those of a snake, being equally slow and guarded, as if he feared or were anxious to elude observation, which was doubtless the case. When a wagon rattled in the distance or a Crow or other large bird appeared over the meadow, the Bittern would stretch up to his full length, with body plumage contracted, neck somewhat swelled, head, neck and body all in line, the bill pointing almost straight upward. If the back of the neck was towards us its shape and coloring (grayish-brown) gave it a wonderfully close resemblance to a weather-beaten stake projecting above the grass. If the yellowish-white throat and golden-brown fore-neck were presented, the resemblance to an upright bleached flag or cat-tail stalk was equally perfect. Neither stake nor flag could have remained more absolutely immovable than did the Bittern at such times. He evidently appreciated the advantage which his protective form and coloring, joined to the length of his neck, gave him for commanding an extensive view over the meadow and at the same time escaping being himself observed. The Red-wings, however, were not deceived, for every now and then one of them would discover and dart down at him spitefully. These attacks were received with calm indifference, in fact were ignored, but when a pair of Black Ducks appeared flying over the meadow with noisy quacking, the Bittern showed evident alarm, and at once concealed himself in the grass. When not apprehensive of danger, the bird's attitude was often easy and graceful, the back well arched or rounded, the breast plumage hanging down loosely, the neck well down, but the bill invariably raised above the horizontal line. The usual position however, was about midway between the two just described, the neck being stretched stiffly forward and upward and nearly in line with the sloping body. When the bird stood in profile, the long black stripe on the side of the neck was very conspicuous. The attitudes just described may be roughly sketched thus:



Botaurus lentiginosus.

1891. Mass.May 17 . Belmont.---

The pumping was performed as follows. The bird suddenly crouched until the long axis of the body became nearly horizontal, the back remaining strongly arched. At the same time the neck was shortened and thrown forward. The head was now only slightly above the line of the back, the bill almost horizontal. The contraction of the neck caused the breast to assume a swelled and rounded outline in front, while below the long, loose feathers which are attached to this part, hung down nearly to the ground, forming a sort of feather dew-lap similar to that shown by nearly all Herons when they assume a crouching posture.

This appearance may have deceived Mr. Torrey into thinking that the bird which he watched at Wayland inflated its breast. If there was any such inflation with our bird, it was accomplished before he opened his bill for the first time, and was not in the least reduced after the pumping was finished until the neck was again stretched up, when it at once disappeared.

A second or two (never immediately) after assuming the position just described the Bittern would raise its head slightly, at the same time opening its bill rather wide, then, with a forward and downward jerk, would close the mandibles sharply, repeating this from five to seven times in quick succession. The closing of the bill was invariably accompanied by very distinct swelling or gulping motions of the throat and by a noise which at times sounded not unlike the snap of a strong spring lock, at others seemed more watery in tone, like the plump of a small stone dropped into a well. The first snap was not as loud as the rest and the accompanying movement of the bill was less pronounced. The first snap was merged in the first syllable of the first pump. With the utterance of the first syllable of each pump the bill was jerked forward and downward much as in snapping but rather more sharply and the mandibles closed in the same manner just as the sound reached our ears, after the briefest possible visible and audible pause. The mandibles again opened wide, the head was flung abruptly and violently upward, the bill pointed vertically and then returned to the initial position. The second note appeared to accompany the upward movement and the third the recovery downward. The bill was opened to its fullest extent during the emission of the second note which evidently cost the bird its greatest effort and was not fully closed until the completion of the third note. When there were four pumps and seven snaps the entire performance regularly occupied just 10 seconds. The snapping continued $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ seconds, the pumping $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 seconds. The intervals of silence are usually 37 seconds.

(This & the following sheet recast in different form
and type-written)

Botaurus lentiginosus

1841 Mass.

May 17 Belmont. - Spent most of the afternoon watching a
Bittern pump in Rock Meadow, Bolton with me. The
bird was at it at 4.30 when we reached the place
and ceased at 7.40 when it was nearly dark. We
first sighted him at about 5 P.M. and had him in
view probably two hours in all. During this time he
moved his position six times, four times on foot,
twice by flying. He moved on foot by slowly drawing
down his neck and crouching until he was perfectly
concealed by the grass then breaking off under cover of
the grass and finally thrusting up his head 20 yds.
or so from the starting point. Judging by the time
that elapsed between his ~~exit~~ disappearance and
reappearance his progress must have been very slow.
He did not once show himself while on the way nor
could we detect any motion of the grass save that
caused by the strong wind which was blowing at
the time. The peculiar stealthy way in which this
change of ground was effected reminded me of
Ballantyne's account of the method by which
the Snake Indians used to approach and steal
horses under the very eye of their guards. The
description is in the "Boy Crusoe," I believe.
In the intervals between the pumping performances
our Bittern invariably stood perfectly still or at
the most turned his head very slowly to one or
the other side or with equal deliberation lengthened
or shortened ^{the movement was very like that of a snake or turtle.} his neck. His position was usually
rather erect the bill pointing well upward and
nearly or quite in line with the neck. Sometimes
the neck was stretched up to its full length and

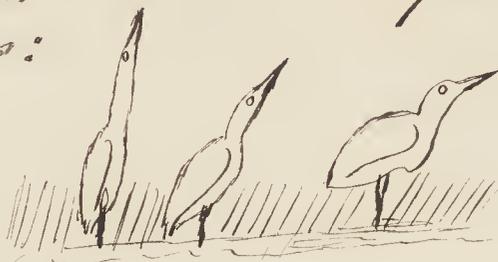
Botaurus lentiginosus

1891

Mass.

May 17
(No. 2).

Belmont. - bill, neck, and body were all in line, the bill pointing nearly vertically. This position seemed to be assumed only when the bird was alarmed or suspicious as when a wagon rumbled in the distance or a Red-wing or Swallow skimmed past. During its continuance the resemblance which the head and neck had to a ^{weather vane} ~~weather vane~~ was nearly perfect when the back of the neck was towards us; when the fore neck and throat were shown there was an equally close resemblance to an upright, blacked flag or cat-tail blade. At times the bird took an easier, more graceful attitude the back strongly arched or rounded, the neck of medium length. The head, however, was always well raised and the bill pointed more or less above the horizontal. The three attitudes just described may be roughly represented as follows:



The turning of the head and the lengthening & shortening of the neck of course resulted in attitudes more or less different from those above depicted but, ^{one or other of} the latter was, nevertheless, the usual or typical position. It was often maintained for minutes at a time without the slightest visible change of position, except when the bird went through the pumping performance. After this was finished it would at once resume its former attitude. It ~~did~~ ^{not} ~~once~~ ^{was} ~~turn~~ ^{occasionally} but, rarely turned after standing a long time facing one way and pumped facing another way.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

1891 Mass.

May 31 to North Freetown.— On reaching this place May 30th we were told by a reliable person that three nests, each with four eggs, had been found and taken by boys, there a few days before, in a cat-tail marsh which surrounds a long narrow pond in the center of the village.

In the somewhat similar but very much more extensive marshes about the Eel Pond at High Head we found *Botatus* more numerous than I have ever seen them elsewhere. During the early morning and late afternoon the males were pumping far and near, sometimes two at once, but usually one bird taking up the strain after another had finished as if answering him. One of the people living here assured me that on the evening of the 30th he counted thirteen different pumps as he came down the pond in his boat. He had three or four in hearing at once on more than one occasion. They were all around the pond, distributed very evenly. As a rule they pumped among the cat-tails where we could not see them but once a bird climbed up on something (perhaps a musk rat house) and showed us his entire body above the flags, en profile. The rounding out of the breast or dew-lap was conspicuous but we could not make out any inflation of the neck.

Quite regularly the pumping ceased before 9 A. M. and began again at about 3 P. M. lasting until the twilight had fallen. ~~There~~ No pumping was heard after dark and none during the middle

Botaurus lentiginosus

1891 Mass.

May 31 to North Inno. - of the day even when the weather was cloudy & foggy.

June 3
(No 2)

Everything that I saw here confirmed my previous impression that the Bittern is a strictly diurnal bird addicted, however, like many more melodious songsters to sounding his voice chiefly in the early and late hours of the day. At all times between sunset and dark these Bel Pond Bitterns showed an activity or restlessness which I have never noticed elsewhere. Indeed one could seldom watch the marsh for more than a minute or two at a time without seeing one or more birds rise and fly to another place while not infrequently two or three would be in the air at once. As a rule they flew singly and in different directions but several times we saw two flying in company either side by side or one following the other closely. Thus, as was usually the case, they went only a few hundred yards they rose only just above the level of the tallest flags and beat their wings steadily and rapidly, sailing a few yards just before alighting but in a straight line, and at the last dropping abruptly into the flags without first encountering the ground. During such short flights the neck was often held extended to its full length, not perfectly straight as with a Goose or Duck but slightly curved thus  and the legs stretched out straight behind.

When the flight extended the entire length of the pond (about a mile) the bird often

Botaurus lentiginosus

1891 Mass.

May 31 to North Truro... rose to a height of 30 or 40 yds.
June 3 and down in its neck and, upon reaching its
(No. 3) destination, descended in a spiral, after first
circling once or twice like a Night Heron. At
such times ~~it~~ it resembled the Night Heron
very closely both in form and motions.

Besides the pumping & its accompanying
sounds we heard two very distinct notes, one
a succession of rough croaks (ok-ok-ok-ok)
then to give a big in number given by the
rising bird when it had been surprised and
suddenly started from the flogs, the other
a harsh, nasal quawk or haunk uttered as
the bird was descending to the marsh after
a protracted flight and also on the ground
from birds concealed among the flogs. The
latter note was new to me, although it was
heard very frequently here. I take it to be the
regular call note of this species.

A Bittern flying over this marsh was invariably
pursued by one or more Red winged Blackbirds
which, using about the big bird, would deal
it a succession of vicious blows on the head
and neck sometimes alighting for a moment on
its back. These attacks were quite as violent
and energetic as those which the Kingbird
makes on the Crow. They suggest the bitterest
hatred on the part of the Blackbird and lead
to the inference that the Bittern may vary
his diet of frogs and snakes with more or less
frequent feasts on the eggs or young of the Red-wing.

1891. Mass.

May 31 North Ferris. - We shot a ♂ Bittern and dissected Vocal muscles
June 3 the vocal (pumping) apparatus carefully. Every T valves
(No 4) detail of structure, described & figured by C. J. Maynard was verified. The valves were well marked.
The gullet does not distend as far down as the junction of the neck with the breast (we blew it up with a tube) and we were both satisfied after trying various experiments that the conspicuous rounding of the breast while the bird is pumping is due to the doubling down of the neck and not to inflation although the oesophagus along the middle portion of the neck is undoubtedly much distended.

On June 1 we found two nests about 60 yds. Nests
apart in a cat-tail marsh on a point where only one ♂ was heard pumping. Both females were sitting. One started about 8 ft. the other 12 ft. in advance of us. Both rose hurriedly, voiding their olive brown excrement over their eggs and uttering a succession of croaks ōk-ōk-ōk-ōk as they flew off. They flew out of sight, going at least the entire length of the pond.

One nest, containing four eggs slightly incubated, was built in a bed of tall, dense, green flags growing in water 12 in. deep. It was composed wholly of dry, clean bleached, last year's flags forming an almost perfectly flat platform 10 inches across and supported solely by the stout erect stems of the living flags there being a clear space of about 8 inches between its bottom

Botaurus lentiginosus

1891 Mass.

May 31-
June 3
(no 5)

North Ferris. - and the water beneath. The vertical thickness of this nest was about 2 inches.

The other nest, which contained 5 eggs within a day or two of hatching, was composed of the same materials but instead of being a mere mat it was a mass of flag stalks joining a solid structure built up from the ground its top being just 6 inches above the water. It was wedged in among the upright stalks of a cluster of flags from which it derived some support.

The top measured 10 inches across and was scarcely if at all hollowed in the middle. It was in a bed of short, broken down dead flags mixed with some green ones which rose 20 inches above it. Neither nest was in the least over-arched or canopied by either dead or living flags both being perfectly open above.

Massachusetts.

Botaurus lentiginosus. (no. 1)

1892.

July 16 Concord. As I came out of the woods near Benson's landing this afternoon (at 5.30) a Bittern passed flying low down over the channel of the river and finally dropping into the belt of pickered weed on the edge of the meadow opposite my landing. I have not noted this species before since it stopped pumping (very abruptly) in early June.

July 19 As I was sailing down river this afternoon a Bittern rose from the pickered weed on the margin of the water uttering, as it flew off, a series of short hoarse croaks (œ-œ-œ or æ-æ-æ).

Sept. 9. As I was passing through the pretty reach just above Hunt's Pond I saw on the edge of the pond itself, at a distance of one hundred yards or more below me, a Bittern standing on a mass of floating vegetation well out from the shelter of the reeds and in the full glare of the bright morning sun. His position was exactly that of a fishing Tight Heron the neck being similarly stretched out and lowered so that the bill was only an inch or two above the water  He stood perfectly still for a moment then, discovering me, stretched up his neck for an instant and after taking a good look scuttled hurriedly off into the reeds. I concealed myself and watched for half an hour but he would not show himself again. This happened about 10 A.M. and confirms my previous impression that the Bittern is diurnal in all its habits.

Massachusetts,

Botaurus lentiginosus. (no. 2)

1892.

Sept. 24. Lowwood. A Bittern rose fully 100 yards in advance of me and flew out of sight in the direction of Lowwood. It started from grass a foot or more in height.

Oct. 7 As I was approaching the "Minute Man" on my way home I saw a Bittern standing leg deep in water quite outside the belt of sedge near the mouth of the Mill Brook. It was in beautiful plumage the prevailing tint a rich golden brown which made it a most conspicuous object against the pale back ground of bleached wild rice and grasses. It stood perfectly motionless in an easy attitude, the neck stretched out, the bill pointing a little upward, until I was within about 20 yards, when it suddenly turned and scuttled back into the sedge moving in a crouching attitude very like a Rail and almost as quickly.

Oct. 12 The Bittern seen today flew fully 100 yards across the river with neck extended & curved & legs dangling or rather hanging down  and alighted in tall reeds on the bank. 

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Concord, Mass.

1893. During a second visit to Davis's Hill in the afternoon

Apr.11. I went down to the edge of a little pond and started a Bit-
tern which rose 20 yards or more off from a clump of flooded
bushes and rising in a broad spiral to above the top of the
trees flew off over them instead of out over the meadows.
Had I not made sure of the bird's identity when it first rose
I should have taken it for a Night Heron when it was thus
soaring over the tall pines on the hill. It uttered no sound.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Concord, Mass.
April 25, 1898.

The first one I saw was at the pond in the
marshes and I saw it for a while for "pumping"
for a while. It was in the "pumping" only in the
early morning. The bird was very fat and it was
in the marshes and I saw it for a while.

Concord, Mass.
May 10, 1898.
May 10

A *Botaurus* was in the elm in front of the house
another one was in the morning before a good part of the coming
day was visible through my window facing S. & W. I
It had been down a while when a *Tristram* began
pumping in the marsh at the lot of our hill.
It was some time before the *Botaurus* began to
hear the next bird, a Song Sparrow.

Tristram
begin
do
fairly do

Concord, Mass.
May 11, 1898.

Another *Botaurus* was observed to be in the
on the north edge of Great Meadows. It was in the
the marshes, but it was not in the marshes
crossed but I saw it in the marshes,
at mid-day, in a large thicket and
one in the afternoon. It was in the marshes
jumping papers. The bird was in the
there was a man. I saw it in the marshes
"pumping" in the marshes. It was in the marshes
linear of birds which I saw in the marshes.

Tristram
Tristram etc
night

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Concord, Mass.

1893. As I was crossing the meadows at about 5 P.M. I stood
May 14. in towards the south shore in hopes of seeing the Bittern
which I heard there when I suddenly spied three Great Blue
Hérons. XXX After passing the Herons I discovered the Bit-
tern among some low bushes above which his^{head} and a portion of
the neck protruded. The sunlight struck full on the side of
the head and neck which exactly resembled a cluster of stems
of bleached grass. After awhile the head and neck turned a-
way from me so slowly that I could detect no motion whatever
but as the grayish crown and nape were presented in my direc-
tion they formed what looked precisely like a weathered, bark-
less stake. Indeed for a while I thought that the Bittern had
skulked off and that I was really watching a stake. At length
the head came slowly back to its first position. Then the
bill opened and shut five times in succession with a spiteful
snapping motion the white throat dilating and flashing be-
tween the snaps as if the bird were gulping in air, the usual
plumping sound accompanying each gulp. The snaps became more
and more rapid and emphatic until immediately after the fifth
and last the bird pumped three times. With the first syllable
(pump) the bill was opened wide and jerked downward a little
below the horizontal, at the next syllable (er) it was tossed
upward apparently closed or nearly so, at the last syllable

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Concord, Mass

1893. (lump) it was opened very wide and brought abruptly down to
May 14. a little below the horizontal again. The bird did not length-
(No.2). en his neck nor his crouching attitude perceptibly while pump-
ing. Indeed the motions which accompanied the sound were
much less energetic and pronounced than those which I have
observed on former occasions. The position when at rest was
about thus:-



I could not see the breast distinctly.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Canton, Mass.

Nests.

1893. We (the Bowles Bros. and I in the Punkapog meadow) saw
July 10. two Bitterns in this meadow and I was shown two of their nests.
One from which four eggs were taken this season was supported
six inches or more above the mud on grass stems bent down from
every side and loosely interlaced, there being a clear space
underneath. The other nest was built directly on the ground
on a dry mound. Both nests were in low dense grass in the
open meadow although there ^{were} thickets of bushes near by, and
both were composed wholly of grass, one of cut grass, the
other of tussock grass.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Concord, Mass.

1893. On the way up river at evening I saw just above the
Aug.16. Y-tree a Bittern standing erect and motionless on the marshy
ground a rod or two from the water in a spot where the grass
was too sparse and short to afford any real cover. The sun-
light striking on the bird's yellowish plumage made it so
conspicuous that I saw it when fully 100 yds. away. As I ap-
proached it began to crouch sinking down so very slowly that
I could scarcely detect any vertical motion but at the same
time swaying very noticeably from side to side. Its bill, all
the while, was held pointing upward at the usual angle. It
did not seem much afraid of me and I passed without causing
it to fly. It looked like a young bird.

Botaurus lentiginosus

1894 Mass.

May 25 Carton. A set of 5 slightly incubated eggs taken by J. H. Bowles Nesting

1895

Cambridge. - A Bittern appeared this Spring on the marsh bordering the west side of Glacialis Pond and for several weeks (covering most of the breeding season) pumped thru regularly. It was heard by Foxon, Hoffmann & others who have notes on the dates of its first appearance etc. There can be little doubt that it nested thru. This is the first instance that has come to my knowledge of the Bittern spending the breeding season in Cambridge but according to a friend of Foxon's - a rather old man interested in birds & living in Belmont - the species used to breed regularly in the Fresh Pond marshes 40 or 50 years ago. The Glacialis marsh has totally changed in character within my remembrance. Formerly it was an ordinary wet meadow covered with wild wash grass of moderate height. About 10 years ago the cut tail flags got in and began spreading rapidly. Now they form an almost continuous & very rank growth over practically the whole marsh

Breeding
in the
Fresh Pond
marshes

1896

Foxon tells me that a nest with eggs was found this season among the cut tails in the marsh north of Glacialis & about midway between the railroads. It was discovered I think by either Gilman or Hoffmann but Foxon visited it several times. No bird was seen near it & Foxon thinks that no male was heard pumping thru this year. The nest was apparently deserted.

1897

May 31 - Martha's Vineyard. H. K. Job found 2 sets of eggs, 5 + 3 (and broken by nest June 3 of later. (H. K. Job, July 22, 1897, letter).

Botaurus lentiginosus.

1898 Mass.

Mar. 27 Concord. Just as I was leaving the canoe in the afternoon a little below Flint's bridge a Bittern jumped twice in the meadows east of the Y-tree. When I returned an hour later he was driving stakes loudly and persistently further down the river at the Western end of Great Meadow. This is the earliest date for the arrival of the Bittern that I have ever noted. [Journ.]

1898

Apr. 4 Concord. At evening one was jumping steadily at the usual place in the south cove of the Great Meadow. This is the first time I have heard a Bittern since Mar. 27th. I am inclined to think that the bird heard on that date passed on northward that night & that the one noted this evening is a new comer. [Journ.]

May 24

Cambridge. A pair of Bitterns bred in the Fresh Pond swamps again this season. The nest containing 4 eggs was found by Alton Hathaway on the above date at the S. W. extremity of Gleason's marsh very near Concord Avenue. The nest & eggs were afterwards given me by O. A. Lathrop. Breeding in Fresh Pond swamps

1900

June 7

Cambridge. Nest with six eggs taken by Owen Duffee. The nest was among cat tails in the broad marsh between the Fresh Pond & Central R. R. tracks. The eggs were fresh. No bird was seen or heard. Duffee was told that downy boys were camping in the maple swamp & shooting thrushes for food. He thinks the parent of this nest may have been killed by them. Breeding in Fresh Pond swamps. (nest 6 eggs found)

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Ball's Hill, Concord, Mass.

1897. Late in the afternoon I saw (from my boat on the river)
Apr. 30. a Bittern opposite Birch Island. He was standing on the meadow at the water's edge. As I approached he crouched and skulked off a few yards into the grass, reminding me of an Indian by his stealthy gait. After I had passed he stood erect and presently "pumped" twice in full view.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Concord, Mass.

1898. At sunset a Bittern was pumping at short intervals in
May 6. the bushy part of the swamp behinds Ball's Hill. I thought I heard one there on the night of the 2nd.
May 7. Three Bitterns were pumping this evening, two on the Great Meadow, the third in the swamp behind Ball's Hill where I think there is likely to be a nest a little later.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Concord, Mass.

1898. At evening the Bittern in the swamp behind Ball's Hill
May 8. was pumping persistently. It is now evident that he intends
breeding there. It is a singular place, for the entire space
free from trees is not over 100 yards long by 10 to 20 yards
wide and of this less than one tenth is meadow, the other
nine tenths being covered with tall, densely-growing high
blueberry and andromeda bushes.
- May 9. The Bittern was pumping for an hour or more at evening
in Ball's Hill swamp and another answered from Great Meadow.
- June 6. The Bitterns were perfectly silent this evening (as I
was paddling back from Concord to the cabin in the rain and
darkness about nine o'clock), although two of them were pump-
ing steadily in the afternoon. There can be no question that
the Bittern is strictly diurnal in its habits although it
pumps late into the evening twilight and is usually the first
bird to begin at daybreak.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Concord, Mass.

1898. While engaged with Pat this afternoon opening a path between the ditch landing and Parker's landing, I discovered a Bittern standing erect and still in the open meadow about fifty yards off. It had probably heard but evidently did not see me. Bill, neck and body rising among the grass in a perfectly straight line and at an inclination of about 45 degrees formed a curiously close imitation of a weather-beaten and leaning stake. The feathers of the body were evidently compressed so that this part did not appear much thicker than the neck. The black stripes on the neck helped to make the bird inconspicuous by distracting the eye from the outlines of the neck and body.

After standing thus perfectly motionless for several minutes the bird would slowly draw down its neck and crouching low with the head and neck carried close to the ground would move off at a steady and very rapid walk threading its way through the rank grass so dexterously as scarce to cause any of their tops to tremble. After going ten or fifteen yards it would stop and raise its head again.

Gilbert tells me that he heard the Bitterns pumping through last week but they were silent to-day.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Concord, Mass.

1898. The Bittern alights much after the manner of a Snipe
June 25. dropping suddenly at the last with a few quick flaps of its
 wings. When flushed it utters a croaking ok-ok-ok-ok-ok.

Was it a Bittern?

1899. Early this morning two Herons, flying together, appeared
April 25. over Ball's Hill. They were almost as high up as Geese fly.
 After circling over the Great Meadow they turned back and on
 reaching Davis's Hill turned again and went off over the land
 to the westward. One of them twice uttered a deep, raucous
 note unlike anything that I remember to have heard before.
 One was distinctly larger than the other. They carried their
 legs stretched out behind and their necks well shortened.
 Through the glass I could see that they were striped on the
 under parts and that their bills were long and slender. They
 certainly were not Night Herons and I am nearly sure they
 could not have been Great Blue Herons. They looked like Bit-
 terns but I have never seen the Bittern fly at such a height
 nor heard it utter such a cry.

Seen pumping.

 A Bittern was pumping in the Holden meadow just before
May 12. sunset. I had a fine view of him and watched him for a long
 time. He crouched and shortened his neck just before he be-
 gan snapping his bill. During the snapping his throat was

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Concord, Mass.

Seen pumping.

1899. puffed out and drawn in very like a Frog's. When pumping he
May 12. threw his head forward and back but not at all forcibly. I
(2). could not see his breast. When not pumping or snapping he
stood erect and still his bill pointing upward at an angle of
about 45 degrees.  Early in the afternoon I heard a
deep, low croaking sound and running out saw three
Bitterns flying low over the river past the cabin in company.
They turned and went off over the woods on the W. Bedford side
of the river. As a rule the Bitterns fly with the head and
neck extended but these birds had their heads drawn in like
Night Herons. Cf. note under April 25.

Stamper River, Newfoundland
Botaurus lentiginosus. AMERICAN BITTERN.—One seen by Dr.
Shattuck.

Aut. XXX, Jan. 1913, p. 115

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

94. *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Montag.) Steph. — BITTERN. — "Common" at Houlton. One seen at Grand Falls.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, July, 1882, p.151

Birds within Ten Miles of Poir:
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merria.

102. *Botaurus mugitans*. AMERICAN BITTERN.—Rare. Mr. Comeau has shot several here, and tells me that they are common at Manacougan, thirty miles west of Godbout.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 239

NOTE FROM GRAVENHURST, ONT. I have lived here seven years but have not been able to obtain a Bittern until last season, when they were plentiful.

R. B. S.

Q. & Q. 1X. March. 1884. p. 36.

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador
by Henry B. Bigelow.

38. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN; MARSH HEN.—I saw two or three at Cape St. Francis, on the way south. This was just north of Belle Isle.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p.28.

Birds of Magdalen Islands.
Dr. L.B. Bishop.

18. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN.—Common summer resident, breeding in the open swamps on all the principal islands. A set of four slightly incubated eggs was taken on Grindstone Island on July 14.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.146

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

190. American Bittern. Tolerably common.

Q. & Q. XV, June, 1890, p. 37

Dwight. Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.

Botaurus lentiginosus. AMERICAN BITTERN.—A tolerably common bird in suitable localities, and known by the name of 'Mud-hen.'

Auk X, Jan. 1893. p. 7

Allen, Summer Birds of Prince Edward Island

I may add that I met with a single *Botaurus lentiginosus* at Northeast Margaree, where I spent one rainy morning.

Auk, 8, April, 1891. p. 166

Newfoundland Notes. A Trip up the
Humber River, Aug. 10-Sept. 24, 1899.

12. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN. — Abundant.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, p.71

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 446.

61. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN.— Summer resident, April 11 to Nov. 4; abundant in spring and fall; breeds (May 31, 1906).

5.
*Summer Birds of the Mining Region,
Nipissing District, Ontario.*
by Frederick C. Stubel. Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907
pa 49.

5. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN.— Common about the marsh land of all the lakes.

Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) in a Phenomenal Position at Boston, Mass.— Upon entering the Public Garden about seven A. M. on March 25, 1917, while my eyes were turned in a somewhat different direction, I was conscious of a large bird rising from a grass plot at my right. This bird by a flight of about two hundred feet alighted in a large cottonwood tree which stands beside the pond within the Garden, taking a perch forty feet or thereabouts above the ground. There it remained for full observation, assuming the statuesque attitude peculiar to the Bittern, neck, head, and bill in a straight line pointing up into the sky, and remaining motionless. Relying on its sense of self-concealment in such an attitude when in a marsh or swamp, this bird in the tree placed its reliance, as is its wont, on maintaining this attitude, and did so throughout the day. I remained in the Garden until 8.30, and when I came away the bird had changed neither position nor attitude from those assumed when it took its perch. Other observers' attention was called to this phenomenon, as I met them. And during both forenoon and afternoon friends, to whom I mentioned the occurrence at the breakfast table and who later visited the Garden, found the bird in the same position and attitude at different hours of the day. It was not concerned or disturbed upon observers' near approach to the tree or even standing directly under it, and as the tree is beside one of the principal paths of the Garden, there were passersby throughout the day. The Bittern took advantage of night, doubtlessly, to seek a more congenial location, for it was not present the following morning.

The date of this occurrence was by six days earlier than the earliest record of Bittern in Howe and Allen's 'Birds of Massachusetts,' which is March 31, 1894, when Dr. Walter Faxon observed one in the Cambridge Region (Brewster). The conditions were still wintry, although the breaking up had extended well toward the first springlike stage which really appeared two days later, when the ice was mostly gone from the pond and the earth had loosened from the grip of frost. As to the perch in the tree taken and maintained with full assurance of self-concealment, life-long ornithologists here, such as Mr. William Brewster and Dr. Charles W. Townsend, state that they have never seen a Bittern perching in a tree or bush. Dr. Townsend, however, writes me, "One day last summer at Ipswich in a rain storm I saw a Bittern standing on top of a small haystack near my house. He presented a curious and unusual appearance, and I made a note of it." And Mr. Chapman in his 'Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America,' p. 220, in comparing herons and bitterns states, "Herons perch and usually nest in trees; Bitterns rarely or never do." It is presumable, therefore, that the occurrence of Bittern perching in a tree may have been previously noted by observers, but, perhaps, such an occurrence as this bird in the Public Garden perching throughout the day and remaining for hours undisturbed and unconcerned in its typical statuesque attitude is unprecedented.— HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

Auk, vol. XXIV: 1917. pp. 476-477.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

94. *Botaurus lentiginosus*, (American Bittern.)

This bird was frequently heard in a marsh near Flagstaff Lake, where I think it nested. They were not observed in any other section.

O. & O. XI. Dec. 1886. p. 178

Botaurus lentiginosus. - ^{See 2 p.} Aug. 13 Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.

BITTERN.—On Dec. 11, 1881, I obtained a fine Bittern, (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) which rose from some rank grass on a piece of boggy ground I was passing over. Examination showed that one wing had been broken but was entirely healed. This, perhaps, may explain why it was detained until so late in the season.—S. Albert Shaw, Hampton, N. H. **O. & O. X, Feb. 1885. p. 30.**

Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885

32. Botaurus lentus - Brood 5 imm. Caught in our meadows

Great Id. Mass. ~~1885~~ 1886.

Nov. 21-23. 19. Botaurus lentiginosus - 2 ♀. At sunset flying
along creek.

Mass. (Hyannis)

Botaurus lentiginosus

1886

Nov. 21

At sunset saw one start from a bed of
tall sedge and fly, low down, along a salt
creek.

Mass. (near Concord). 1887

1887

May 8³/₄ - 13⁷/₄ - 17¹/₄ - 23¹/₄

June 2²/₄ - 3¹/₄ - 6³/₄ - 8²/₄ - 12¹/₄ - 16³/₄ - 17¹/₄

Aug. 13¹/₄ ^{seen flying}

* booming
Botaurus lentiginosus

Mass. (Ipswich)

Botaurus lentiginosus

1888

Later occurrence on salt marsh.

Nov. 8

In the evening twilight saw one flying
low over the marshes (salt) near the mouth
of Ipswich river. The flight of a Bittern
is characteristic; the wings are beaten much
more rapidly than a Heron's.

Breeding on Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

Mr. Howard Norris of Cottage City tells me that
he found a nest with 1 egg in a marsh on
the edge of Great Lisbury Pond.

Botaurus lentiginosus

Notes. Belchertown, Mass.

April 11th, '85, one Bittern,

G. L. Kent.

O. & O. X, Oct. 1885, p. 160

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Botaurus lentiginosus (Montag.), American
Bittern. Summer resident, rare. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 128

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn, G. H. Coues

52. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. BITTERN. — One specimen seen.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

141. *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Montag.) Stephens. BITTERN. — Breeds,
and not rare.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 234

AN AMERICAN BITTERN, (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)
was brought to me on the first of Dec., killed
about two miles south of our village. The bird
was a male. I have not seen anything of the kind
before in this locality so late.—A. Myhill, Me-
dina, N. Y.

O. & O. X. Jan. 1835. p. 13

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paibe, Jr.

May 10, *Botaurus lentiginosus*, (190). Ameri-
can Bittern.

O. & O. XI, Aug. 1836. p. 125

Birds Tioga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

497. American Bittern. Very rare. One
was brought to me to mount. This is the
only one that has been seen in these parts.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 86

Notes concerning certain Birds of Long Island.
by William C. Braisted, M. D.

Botaurus lentiginosus. A Bittern, shot at Rockaway Beach, Nov. 10,
1900, was found on dissection to have been in life a veritable mouser.
The stomach contained the remains of at least two meadow-mice, besides
other large pellets of fur, in all respects similar to those one finds in the
stomachs of owls. In consideration of the fact that the Bittern receives
no protection under the laws of our State, this seems worthy of mention.

Auk, XIX, April., 1902, p. 146.

**Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven D-ane.**

I have in my possession a wing of the American Bittern with one secondary quill pure white. Mr. R. L. Newcomb of Salem, Mass., who shot the bird, states that the rest of its plumage was normal.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p.30

cellulose highlands.

May 3, '59.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

Least-flycatcher

Tigra
notis

appeared with me on the 29th, and Mr. Faxon found them on the 27th. He tells me that he saw swifts last year April 19th! This year he found none in April. He saw a Parula warbler on the 1st inst. A single Chastelle was singing here on the 30th

on
sight
tally
in
a regularly
sion.

Faxon's experience with hooded thrushes is like mine. He saw them only twice (13th and 14th) last month - one bird in each case. I

Tigra
adous
er-loomp
in times
struck

by the watery gurgle of the cry. At a distance of three or four hundred yds. this watery sound was lost & the notes sounded hollow & deep not unlike a bull-frog's in tone. As one retreats from the spot he loses the first syllable first, the first second (at 800 yds), and

Botaurus lentiginosus

pumping of
noisy



caught a single strain of a *Protonotaria*
song yesterday morning, and saw a
single bird in the afternoon. That is
all for this month, so far. Whippoorwill
are here, but I don't know whether
or not they are early. My dates
have usually been accidental. One
solitary sandpiper May 1st.

Yesterday afternoon, at Tuttle
Swamp, I had the good fortune to
witness again the pumping of the
bottom. I was rather nearer the bird
than last year, but the performance
was not nearly so many times re-
peated, and the lower parts of the bird's
body were concealed among the young
flags. The head and neck were fully

exposed, however, and the action was re-
peated six or eight times at least.
If human eyesight is worth anything,
the bird certainly made a clicking
noise with his beak. Mr. Hardy's
bird must have behaved abnormally,
or what is more probable (as Mr.
Faxon had already suggested) he and
I are talking about two different
sounds. There is a humming noise
beside the click. I should like
to know what you think of Mr.
Hardy's statement that the apparent
inflation of the breast is only an
erection of the feathers. I confess that
I don't at all believe it, what
would he say of the pectoral sandpiper?

by the watery gurgle of the cry. At
distance of three or four hundred yds. this
watery sound was lost & the notes sounded
& deep not unlike a bull-frog's in tone. As
one retreats from the spot he loses the
syllable first, the first second (at 200 yds),

Figures
of us
on
sight
regu
sion.
Figures

above
r-look
a time
stun

(see Nelson's figure, "And. Birds, etc.",
made in Alaska p. 108) Is that
nothing but an inflation of the feathers?
The inflation may be above the stomach,
and therefore not strictly speaking an
inflation of the breast; but I believe
that there is a real inflation, and
what I saw yesterday only confirms
my opinion.

I am hoping that the least
bittern will come back to the swamp.
I saw no bittern there last year
and doubt whether yesterday's bird will
remain. No green herons yet. I
hope not to bore you with my frequent
letters. Very sincerely,
Bradford Torrey.

Mass. (Concord)

Botaurus lentiginosus

Booming at mid-day. Number of notes

MAY 13 1887

One booming at mid-day on
Great Meadows, the sun shining brightly
at the time.

On three different occasions lately,
I have noticed that this bird (three
different individuals) repeats its boom regu-
(boom-p-u-hump) four times in succession.

Mass. (Concord)

Botaurus lentiginosus

Booming

MAY 2 1887

Two males "booming" on Great Meadows
at 6 P.M. Weather thick and misty.

One bird regularly uttered the boom-p-u-hump
five times in succession, the other seven times.
I got rather near the second and was struck
by the watery gurgle of ~~the~~ the cry. At
distance of three or four hundred yds. this
watery sound was lost & the notes sounded
& deep not unlike a bull-frog's in tone. As
one retreats from the spot he loses the first
syllable first, the first second (at 200 yds),

and therefore will soon be back to the front.
I am hoping that the birds
will be seen again, and confirm
that there is a nest in the
vicinity of the front; but I believe
and therefore will soon be back to
Mass. (Concord)

Botaurus

Broning at mid-day. No

MAY 13 1887

The broning at mid-
day at Great Meadows, the sun being
at the time.

On three different occasions
I have noticed that this bird
different individuals) repeats its
(pump-u-hump) four times in

at 1000 yds. distance only a
single note comes to the ear, a
short dull thump almost,
precisely like the sound of an axe
striking on a stick.

When several very Britton
to-night I heard before each
performance a great cry a
succession of short low sounds
like the tap of a stick on a
floor. This I have never heard
before although I have been
much near a broning Britton
on many occasions.

Both these birds were well
out in the meadows among
the grass and in about four
yards of water, I did not see
either of them.

Each set of notes occupies a
little less than a second. The male
that broned first sang separately
took about half a second; the other
notes were between the notes on a
little over 1/4 second each.

In one of the little "sloughs" as we call them, a Bittern had evidently taken up its abode, and much curiosity was felt as to the location of its home. One day as I was running a line near by, something apparently very snake-like in the center of the slough, caught my eye, and turning the telescope of my instrument upon it I found it was the head and neck of the Bittern, watching our movements. A short wade through the shallow water and up she flew, disclosing her treasure, in this case three drab-colored eggs, about the size of a Guinea-fowl's. I think in the matter of rich though quiet coloring, both in its plumage and its eggs, this bird cannot be surpassed by any of our common birds, but when it comes to its "song," what a shock it is to our sensibilities.

By the way, did you ever see a Bittern while engaged in its serenade? It is a ludicrous performance. One favored me with it once within easy range of my telescope. After standing in a meditative position for some time it would slowly raise its head and stretch up its neck till its bill pointed nearly straight upwards, when it commenced by several times opening and shutting its big beak with a snap that was plainly heard, though 500 or 600 feet distant; it then uttered the characteristic notes from which it takes its common name of "stake-driver" or "thunder-pumper" and truly it seems much like pumping, for each syllable seems to originate deep in the interior of the bird and to be ejected only with the greatest muscular exertion, puffing out its feathers and working its long neck up and down, as if choking to death. After a short season of meditation to recuperate its strength, the performance is again repeated, and doubtless to its mate, engaged in her maternal duties, it is the sweetest of music.

If space permitted I might speak of other birds whose homes we discovered and whose exhibitions of bird character amused and instructed us, but the editor's waste-basket is yawning and I forbear.

FRANK H. NUTTER, Minneapolis, Minn.

The Bittern by George
 Vol. 1, No. 4, Cassin Ill.
 Apr., 1878.

Very sincerely,
 Frank H. Nutter

Minnesota

Botaurus lentiginosus

Pumping described

Melrose Highlands,

May 8. '94.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

I am
rejoiced that you mean to
go about your book. If I can
even be of the slightest help, in
any way, I shall be very
glad indeed to render it.

Since I last wrote you
I have seen another bittern
pump, this time at Wayland,
with Mr. Foxen. He was two

In one of the little "sloughs" them, a Bittern had evidently its abode, and much curiosity to the location of its home. On was running a line near by, so apparently very snake-like in the slough, caught my eye, and the telescope of my instrument found it was the head and neck of a Bittern, watching our movements. It waded through the shallows and up she flew, disclosing her in this case three drab-colored eggs the size of a Guinea-fowl's. In the matter of rich though quiet both in its plumage and its eggs cannot be surpassed by any of our birds, but when it comes to what a shock it is to our sensibility while engaged in its serene and ludicrous performance. One familiar with it once within easy range of a telescope. After standing in a position for some time it would raise its head and stretch up its bill pointed nearly straight when it commenced by several times and shutting its big beak wide that was plainly heard, though the notes were distant; it then uttered the characteristic notes from which it takes its name of "stake-driver" or "pumper" and truly it seems to pump, for each syllable seems to issue deep in the interior of the throat to be ejected only with the great muscular exertion, puffing out its feathers and working its long neck up and down, as if choking to death. After a short season of meditation to recuperate its strength, the performance is again repeated, and doubtless to its mate, engaged in her maternal duties, it is the sweetest of music.

Frank H. Nutter
waste-basket is y
amused and instri
and whose exhibit
other birds whose
If space permit

trijivous

far away and the direction of the wind was unfavorable, but as far as we could tell, the preliminary sounds were "chickens", as Mr. Hardy calls them, and not chicking of the beak. So I am "in the sands." I must try to see him again, and think it will be very difficult, if I can find an opportunity to go to W. again before the grass gets up. The railroad is a great convenience.

This afternoon, at Nahant,
(all after three o'clock with my mother)

I found a single titlark, and looked him over at short range (from twenty to forty feet) as long as I chose. I had never seen the bird but once before, and then for a few minutes only. Near him on the sand was a field sparrow, looking green enough. In the beach-grass in crossing the larger beach I startled a thrasher. He also looked green, and very homesick. Near him was a yellow red-poll warbler.
The fish golden warbler and yellow-throat were yesterday.

Troglodytes

In one of the little "sloughs" them, a Bittern had evidently its abode, and much curiosity to the location of its home. One was running a line near by, so apparently very snake-like in the slough, caught my eye, and the telescope of my instrument found it was the head and neck of a Bittern, watching our movements. I watched her for some time, and up she flew, disclosing her in this case three drab colored eggs the size of a Guinea-fowl's. I the matter of rich though quiet both in its plumage and its eggs cannot be surpassed by any of mon birds, but when it comes to what a shock it is to our sensibility. By the way, did you ever see while engaged in its serenade? Indicrous performance. One fact with it once within easy range of the telescope. After standing in a position for some time it would raise its head and stretch up its bill pointed nearly straight when it commenced by several times opening and shutting its big beak which that was plainly heard, though the feet distant; it then uttered the characteristic notes from which it takes its name of "stake-driver" or "pumper" and truly it seems to pump, for each syllable seems to be ejected deep in the interior of the throat, and the great muscular exertion, puffing out its feathers and working its long neck up and down, as if choking to death. After a short season of meditation to recuperate its strength, the performance is again repeated, and doubtless to its mate, engaged in her maternal duties, it is the sweetest of music.

FRANK H. NUTTALL
waste-basket is y
amused and instr
and whose exhibi
If space permit
other birds whose

Botaurus lentiginosus

Note on Jumping - Song

Minnesota

Botaurus lentiginosus

Pumping described

In one of the little "sloughs" as we call them, a Bittern had evidently taken up its abode, and much curiosity was felt as to the location of its home. One day as I was running a line near by, something apparently very snake-like in the center of the slough, caught my eye, and turning the telescope of my instrument upon it I found it was the head and neck of the Bittern, watching our movements. A short wade through the shallow water and up she flew, disclosing her treasure, in this case three drab colored eggs, about the size of a Guinea-fowl's. I think in the matter of rich though quiet coloring, both in its plumage and its eggs, this bird cannot be surpassed by any of our common birds, but when it comes to its "song," what a shock it is to our sensibilities.

By the way, did you ever see a Bittern while engaged in its serenade? It is a ludicrous performance. One favored me with it once within easy range of my telescope. After standing in a meditative position for some time it would slowly raise its head and stretch up its neck till its bill pointed nearly straight upwards, when it commenced by several times opening and shutting its big beak with a snapping that was plainly heard, though 500 or 600 feet distant; it then uttered the characteristic notes from which it takes its common name of "stake-driver" or "thunder-pumper" and truly it seems much like pumping, for each syllable seems to originate deep in the interior of the bird and to be ejected only with the greatest muscular exertion, puffing out its feathers and working its long neck up and down, as if choking to death. After a short season of meditation to recuperate its strength, the performance is again repeated, and doubtless to its mate, engaged in her maternal duties, it is the sweetest of music.

*The Bittern by George
Vol 1, No 4, Cassin Ill.
April, 1878.*

If space permitted I might speak of other birds whose homes we discovered and whose exhibitions of bird character amused and instructed us, but the editor's waste-basket is yawning and I forbear.

FRANK H. NUTTER, Minneapolis, Minn.

THE AUK :
A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF
ORNITHOLOGY.

VOL. VI.

JANUARY, 1889.

No. I.

THE 'BOOMING' OF THE BITTERN.

BY BRADFORD TORREY.

ON the 30th of May last Mr. Walter Faxon and I spent the afternoon in some large meadows in Wayland, Massachusetts where we had the good fortune to witness the musical performances of *Botaurus lentiginosus* under peculiarly favorable conditions. These performances, highly curious in themselves, are not described, so far as I know, in any of our standard ornithological works. Audubon had never even heard them; and neither Wilson, Nuttall, Brewer, nor Coues,—nor any of their correspondents,—appears ever to have seen them. Clearly the Bittern's reputation as a recluse—a "shady character," as Dr. Coues calls him—is well deserved. Yet even he, it would seem, feels now and then an impulse to make a show. On the present occasion, at all events, he may fairly be said to have taken the platform; coming forth from his hiding-place amid the tall meadow grass, and whether he knew it or not, offering to a pair of inquisitive Yankees as protracted and open a view as they could have desired of his most intimate mysteries.

Our first bird, and principal performer, was a pumper, not a stake-driver; that is to say, his notes resembled precisely the noise of an old-fashioned wooden pump. We were on the railway, which runs through the meadow at an elevation of perhaps seven feet above it, and after listening to the bird for some time, and discussing between ourselves his probable distance from us, we walked up the track, hoping to locate the sound more definitely.

Bittern within 50 yards called *plup-plup-plup*
hump-hump-hump, *er-hump-hump*, *er-hump*
hump-hump
The preliminary *plup* beginning slowly becoming
not unlike the *plup* of *Bittles* or *Greenall*.
The first syllable given with great emphasis, follows

Botaurus lentiginosus

Thoreau's *Excursions* p 47.

Account of "Booming". One of Thoreau's
neighbors affirmed that he saw a Bittern
spout water from its bill at each utterance
of its note.

Booming

May 8 In the meadows east of Ripley's Hill two
Bitterns were booming in the gloaming this
evening, alternating as if answering one another.
I noticed that the note *boom-hump-hump* was
regularly repeated four times or each. They
ceased entirely at about the same time with
the Thrasher & other night birds before it
Botaurus lentiginosus

Additional Notes on the Bittern.—Mr. Torrey's notes on the 'Booming
of the Bittern' interested me very much, and while in most respects my
observations agree closely with his, I hope to be able to throw light on
some particulars.

For many years I had been familiar with the hiccoughing noise which
precedes the booming notes, and had often tried to find out how it was pro-
duced; but although many times able to get within a few yards of Bitterns,
the grass and bushes among which they stood always prevented my seeing
plainly. At last fortune gave me the long-desired opportunity. One day
while quietly paddling my canoe up a crooked stream, on turning a short
bend in the stream, I came in sight of a Bittern caught by the toe in a
muskrat trap. As I was approaching him he commenced pumping, and
by taking time and working cautiously I was able to draw the stern of the
canoe within a paddle's length of him, where he allowed me to observe
him as much as I chose. This was in April before the grass had begun to
grow and he was in perfectly plain view. His motions in making the
noise were those described in the article referred to, but the first noise
was not made by snapping the beak. The bill was opened with every
noise; but the sound, which resembled the retching of a seasick person,
came from within, not from snapping the bill. The movements of the
bird were almost exactly such as the bird might be expected to make if
sick at the stomach and trying to vomit. When this noise was made
there was not much distention of the throat, but when the pumping sound
began the gullet was greatly enlarged at each noise. The idea that the
breast is expanded, is erroneous, as the breast cannot be distended. This
notion doubtless arises from the fact that the Bittern, like all the Heron
family, has long plumes which overhang the breast and by the motion of
the throat are raised with every expansion of the gullet. Between each
fit of pumping the Bittern assumed its various well-known attitudes. How
the different noises were produced I can no more tell than I can tell how
a Dusky Grouse 'booms,' though I have seen them do it within a very few
feet of me, and think they also open their bill with each noise.

I can fully corroborate all Mr. Torrey says of the fearlessness of the
Bittern in allowing cars to pass him, as I once saw one near Sacramento
stand in the tulés at the edge of the ditch and allow our train to pass
within twenty feet of him. In this case the bird stood with his bill
pointing directly upward, and doubtless trusted to his resemblance to the
dry tulé stalks for escaping observation.

There is one point on which I should like information. How do Bitterns
kill the frogs which they eat? Once in the spring of the year I took from
a Bittern's gullet, where they lay contracted into the smallest possible
space, three large-sized frogs, all perfectly dead, and none showing any
mark of violence either by piercing or pinching. Did the bird kill the
frogs first, or swallow them alive? If he killed them first, how could it be
done without leaving some mark upon them? If, as it is often reported,
frogs have been found in rock where they have been imbedded hundreds
of years without air, how could they be killed by suffocation? Besides, if
they lived only a few moments it would seem that they must tear the bird's
gullet in their struggles to escape. I hope some one may be able to give
information on this point.—MANLY HARDY, Brewer, Maine.

by a white
 paper, then
 the feet yellow
 nearly white. The
 white breast feathers
 are brownish
 in the
 day to evening
 birds are very
 noisy
 when they fly
 they utter a
 noise
 as the white feathers
 are

Botaurus Antigenus

Thoreau's Excursions p 47.

Account of "Booming". One of Thoreau's neighbors affirmed that he saw a Bittern spit water from its bill at each utterance of its note.

became quite dark. I think the species is crepuscular rather than nocturnal in habits.

Additional Notes on the Bittern.—Mr. Torrey's notes on the 'Booming of the Bittern' interested me very much, and while in most respects my observations agree closely with his, I hope to be able to throw light on some particulars.

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some particulars. observations agree closely with his, I hope to be able to throw light on of the Bittern' interested me very much, and while in most respects my

Additional Notes on the Bittern.—Mr. Torrey's notes on the 'Booming things.—B. W. EVERMANN, State Normal School, Terre Haute, Indiana. ponds and waded cypress swamps, looking for the unusual among animate seen except by those fellows who are wont to prow around secluded ties seems to show that it is a very rare bird there,—one that is not often I may add that inquiry among people in Rosey, Gibson, and Knox Coun- been killed there." Knox County," and that he has been "reliably informed of others having the dried head of one that was killed by a hunter at the Cypress Pond in birds of the year." Mr. Ridgway further says that he saw "at Mr. Carmel, tember), a considerable portion of them, perhaps a majority, being young now seen there, however, occur there late in summer (August and Sep- distinct evidence upon which to base this supposition. Most of the birds small numbers in that portion of the Wabash Valley, though I have no occur there regularly or not. I believe that the species formerly bred in am so little in that part of the country, I am unable to state whether they corner of Knox County, [Indiana], but owing to the circumstance that I more or less primarily, at times, at the Cypress Pond in the southwestern

The American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Montag).

This bird of many names is well known to all collectors in the state. It is to be doubted if anyone interested in ornithology within our borders is unacquainted with this mouth species, unless he lives in a high and dry locality. There are some quarters where the Thunder Pumper, Indian Hen, Plum Pudding, Stake Driver or Bog Trotter is not to be found on account of the nature of the surface of the land. There are many square miles of pine land where they are never seen, but this depends more on the lack of marshy tracts than on the presence of standing pine, as is plainly proven by the appearance of these singular birds in small swamp holes in the vast forests of pines found in our state.

The Indian Hen arrives certain seasons before the middle of March, but as a rule is not found before late in March or early April, and is occasionally not seen before April 10th.

The nesting does not engage the Plum Pudding's attention until late in April, although the singular vocal expressions of tender regard uttered by the male for his future partner's edification are heard much earlier. These notes are as remarkable for singularity as are the peculiarities of movements made by the songster, if I may so term him, while uttering the odd noises. The notes are of three kinds, two loud sounding series of sounds, and one low, guttural utterance, seldom heard unless one is near the bird at the time of its issuance. It has been the writer's privilege to hear these low, guttural sounds but twice, and the circumstances were such as to indicate that they were the regular call notes. The love song is singular in the extreme, and when once heard is never to be forgotten. It is performed and uttered, for the movements in uttering the noises are as singular as the notes, invariably when the bird is standing in the marsh. The sounds so nearly resemble the words *plum pudding* that the bird has received this name. These syllables are repeated from four to eight times, generally six or seven times. The accent is on *pud*, the final syllable *den* being less distinct than the other. The sounds coming from the marsh are mysterious, and seem almost unearthly. Not like the notes of any other bird of Michigan, they are easily learned, and once heard are never to be forgotten. The other name

of Stake Driver is also earned for its peculiar, well defined notes, *ka whack, ka whack*, uttered like the others in a most methodical and apparently strained manner. The bird, I believe only the male, when uttering either of its peculiar songs has a most remarkable series of movements to go through, which are ludicrous in the extreme to the observer, though seriously, and I doubt not pompously, performed by *botaurus* in his efforts at propitiating his loved one, or later, in acknowledging his success as a benedictine boss of the marsh.

As one is walking through the long dead marsh grass near the edge of the lake the peculiar sounds are heard apparently issuing from beneath one's feet, and the stroller stops and tries to locate the noise. The chances are against discovery of the exact spot, but if the bird is seen the peculiar movements are watched with interest. Either of the songs are emitted with the same apparent difficulty.

The bird, stopping his wading about in search of food and drawing himself up in a bunch, begins a weird cry by stretching out his neck in wave-like motions much reminding the observer of the contortions gone through with by a barn-yard fowl in its efforts to swallow a Tid-bit too large for its gullet.

The nest of this species, of which I have never found but one, is placed on an elevation in the marsh, and is generally surrounded by water. It is composed of dry grass and rushes, and is generally damp and soggy. The eggs, four in number, are of a bright coffee color, and of the size of a bantam's, or a little larger. The young are at first covered with down, and are most remarkable looking creatures, with big heads and a coating of yellowish or buff, fluffy down.

To me the Bittern's peculiar cry is most pleasing, and heard as it usually is, out on the marsh and in lonely haunts, the notes are doubly pleasing from their weird associations. I remember well the lines of Scott in his imitable *Lady of the Lake*, where he refers to this sneaky bird,

"Well rest thee; for the bittern's cry
Sings us the lake's wild lullaby."

It may be that the agreeable study of this pleasing poem when a child gave rise to lasting associations and memories. I have learned since that the Bittern of Scotland is, however, entirely different from our apparently stupid Indian Hen, but this cannot alter my memorizing by rhyme, or change

pleasing memories; for every bird has, to me, loving associations, and agreeable thoughts are ever generated if I will but allow my mind to wander to the grove, marsh, lake or river.

Scelopax.

Kalamzoo, Mich.

O. & O. XIV. Aug. 1889 p.120-121

Mass. (Concord)

Botaurus lentiginosus ✓

1886 Flying by day

June 9

Yesterday afternoon at about 4 O'clock the sun
 shinning brightly at the time I saw two different
 Bitterns take long flights across the Great Meadows.
 One flew nearly a mile; the other passed over
 me nearly out of gun-shot it was so high. The
 flight was fine and direct and nearly like a
 light Heron's but the wings appeared more pointed
 and were perhaps moved more rapidly.
 This noon, the sun very hot at the time, I
 saw another Bittern take a similar flight over
 the Sudbury River meadows. In no one of them

**The American Bittern in Oswego
 Co., N. Y.**

BY C. C. MAXFIELD, WILLARD, N. Y.

The Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), is as far
 as my observations go, not a very abundant in-
 habitant of Oswego county, although found
 under favorable conditions in most of the
 swamps of the county, but rather hard to find.
 Several have been taken in a swamp three or
 four miles directly north of Phoenix. This
 place is not more than half a swamp, but is
 composed of extremely swampy woods, and
 also many acres of meadow that is annually
 overrun with water, some of which remains
 the whole year. There is a small creek run-
 ning through it.

I secured a fine specimen, a male, in the
 spring of 1885, in a very small swale, which is
 completely dried up in the summer months,
 and of not more than two or three acres in ex-
 tending a very handsome set of eggs and the
 after great exertion, I was well repaid by se-
 curing a very handsome set of eggs and the
 with my little feathered friends. However,
 I had little means left for transacting business
 (at this time of the year swarming the woods)
 tree and my hands battling with the mosquitoes,
 began. With my legs entwined around the
 limb was reached I saw my work had only just
 was a very difficult tree to climb and when the
 ground, on the first limb of a lofty maple. It
 soon discovered a nest some forty feet from the
 apparent distress, I examined more closely and
 "Ich," and thinking some cause existed for its
 species. It kept up a continual "Ich," "Ich,"
 of a tall tree. At first sight, I knew it was this
 I saw a little bird perched among the branches
 ing up more from curiosity than anything else,

Rail's nest was found, containing ten eggs, all
 slightly incubated; no fresh ones.

The Bittern usually rests in some marsh, ad-
 jacent to a stream of water or swamp. Nest
 composed of dry and green grass in about equal
 proportions. Nest is raised above the surface
 of the ground from six to eight inches and
 completely covered over with dead, dry grass,
 only leaving an opening in one side for the en-
 trance of the bird.

The nests found in this vicinity, for the find-
 ing of which we are indebted to Benj. F. Hess,
 have only contained two and three eggs, all of
 which were fresh, showing a possibility of the
 sets not being full ones.

The eggs are of a light creamy, brown color,
 and vary somewhat, but the average with us is
 2.10 x 1.63.

O. & O. XII, Nov. 1887 p. 189.

The Nuptial Plumes of Bitterns: A Correction.— In the last number of 'The Auk' (Vol. XXVIII, Jan., 1911, p. 100) I quoted, from an article written by Agnes M. Learned and published in 'Bird-Lore' (Vol. X, No. 3, May-June, 1908, pp. 106-108), a paragraph relating to the white nuptial plumes of the American Bittern. This I characterized as "rather curiously incomplete," failing to notice that it is led up to and made perfectly intelligible by two or three lines which occur above it on the same page in the midst of matter not closely kindred. They run as follows: "Here we saw, one perfect Sunday morning in June (the 9th), the Bittern; but not as we had seen him before, for on his back he wore two clusters of beautiful white plumes that fluttered softly in the morning air."

I trust that Miss Learned will forgive me for overlooking this essential and gracefully worded passage. How I could have done so is difficult to understand for I read her article no less than three times — as I thought, with care. Apparently my eyes see Bittern plumes better in Concord bogs than in printed text; but then light within doors is no longer what it used to be, as every oldish person knows.— WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

Auk 28. Apr-1911 p. 256.

The American Bittern Nesting on Long Island, N. Y.— Previously the American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) has been classed as a transient visitant on Long Island, since, heretofore, no definite record of its nesting there has been forthcoming. Though the breeding range of this species includes New York State, and though the area of Long Island has been perhaps the most attentively examined by bird students and sportsmen, it has not heretofore been recorded as a nesting bird there.

Giraud wrote seventy years ago (Birds of Long Island, N. Y., 1844) of this species on Long Island in his pleasing manner; of its habits and comparative scarcity, but makes no mention of its nesting. George N. Lawrence in his 'Catalogue of Birds observed on New York, Long and Staten Islands, and the adjacent parts of New Jersey,' merely lists the bird, without remark of any sort. Mr. Dutcher's notes on the birds of Long Island in Chapman's 'Handbook' 1894, and subsequent editions mention no record of its breeding, but give its status as "common transient visitant."

In my 'List of Birds of Long Island' (Abstr. Proc. Linn. Soc. of N. Y., 1907) I also gave its status as a common transient visitant, recording the limits of its occurrence, observed and collected to that time, in spring, April 16 (Sheepshead Bay) to May 5 (Montauk); autumn, August 4 (Shinnecock) to December 11 (Rockaway). I may say that data since collected have extended the spring arrival nearly a week earlier, *i. e.* to April 10 (1909, Seaford).

The actual discovery of a nest, eggs and young of the American Bittern on Long Island has apparently been reserved till the present year. On Sunday, June 14, 1914, Mr. Robert W. Peavey, to whom students of Long Island birds are indebted in many instances for his indefatigable enthusiasm, discovered a nest of this bittern on the part of the Great South Bay of Long Island, known as Jones' Beach, or locally, as Seaford Beach. This is one of the least frequented parts of the ocean-side Long Island beaches. The nest contained two newly-hatched young birds and two eggs. It was placed on salt meadow hay and was built up several inches above the level of the ground. Mr. Peavey flushed the bird off the nest when he was within three feet of her. The locality was one mile east of the High Hill Life Saving Station near the back or bay side of the beach, and within a newly-established game-preserve of about 5000 acres, which is guarded by a patrolman.

It may be said that he was the less surprised in that he had been informed of the unusual occurrence of one or more "Look-ups," as they are named in this part of Long Island, by Nelson Verity, one of the veteran gunners of this locality, and had himself seen an American Bittern on June 7 on Seaford Creek, almost within the limits of the village of the same name.

It is safe I think to say that the bird as a breeding species is exceptional on the whole of Long Island, as well as in this restricted locality — Seaford region, since Mr. Peavey has spent a day each week for many summers in this place, and his own observation as well as the testimony of the baymen of the region make its occurrence here in the nesting season altogether unprecedented.— WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Auk XXXI. Jan. 1915. p. 97-98.

The American Bittern.

The well-known American Bittern is a common summer resident in western New York, and may be found breeding along sluggish streams, ponds, and swamps often in large numbers.

In this locality the Bittern is generally known as "Stake-driver" or "Thunder Pump," receiving its names from the peculiar noises made by the bird which at times resemble that of driving stakes, then again that of pumping.

A tract of low land known as the Tonwanda Swamp, lying along the line between the counties of Orleans and Genesee, seems to be a favorite nesting place for this bird.

During the breeding season the male may be heard from morning till night at frequent intervals, his "pumping" making the swamps ring, and it may be heard a long distance.

The Bittern arrives in this locality during the first week in April, and stays until late in the fall.

The Bitterns, like the Herons, get their food in the vicinity of water, and are seldom seen to alight in fields far away from a creek. Their food consists mostly of frogs, toads, and small minnows which they are experts at catching.

The American and the Least Bittern both breed here, but owing to the retiring habits of the latter it is seldom seen, but, however, the former is far the more common. The time of the breeding of this bird seems to be very indefinite, as fresh eggs may be found from the latter part of April until late in June.

The nest of the Bittern is generally hard to find, being placed in tall, rank grass which covers the ground and hides the nest. The nest is seldom placed elsewhere than upon low ground that is covered with water part of the year, although they sometimes build in open fields after the grass has grown to a good height. When found in low places the nests are placed on the ground or upon decaying vegetation lying in shallow water.

The nest is made of coarse, dry grass and weeds that are dragged together by the birds, and lined with finer material of the same kind. Sometimes the grass and weeds overhanging the nest are drawn together above it, completely hiding the nest and eggs.

The eggs are four or five in number, generally five, and of a uniform drab in color. As soon as the eggs are hatched, the parent birds, occupy their time in carrying food for their

young, and they will fly from morning until night, from some pond or creek to the nest with food.

During incubation the female will not leave the nest until nearly trodden upon, making it a rather difficult task to find the nest by flushing the bird.

The number of Bitterns that breed here depends largely upon the season. During a wet season, especially in May, they breed in large numbers in the Tonwanda Swamp, but if the season be dry and hot their numbers are greatly diminished.

Two years ago I found my first Bittern's nest. While wandering about on a marsh, I chanced to stop within a few feet of the nest, and as I did not see the bird she did not offer to fly, but to my "good luck" when I started I went towards the nest and she flew off. I examined closely the surroundings of the nest and found signs which I thought would aid me in finding another nest.

The next year, while crossing the same marsh, I saw signs similar to those around my first nest. I began hunting at once and soon found the nest a few rods from the place where I first noticed the presence of the birds. Both these nests contained five eggs each.

Elmer J. Gillett.

Barre Centre, New York.

[My experience leads me to believe that these eggs are very commonly a set.— J. P. N.]

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 87

990. *American Bittern in Pembrokehire.* By Cecil Aug. 1883, p. 341.—Taken at St. David's in October, 1872, recorded "with doubt at the times," in 'Land and Water,' way. **Zoologist, VII**

988. *Uncommon Birds near York.* By C. D. Wolste p. 128.—Records "an American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) at Welbury." **Zoologist, VII March, 1883.**

992. *American Bittern in Sussex.* By W. Barrer. *Ibid.* 1884, p. 68.—A female was taken near Amberly, Sussex. **Zoologist, 30, 1883.**

Mountain Birds of Arizona.

Botaurus lentiginosus. AMERICAN BITTERN.—Breeds commonly in suitable places throughout these mountains. It was especially abundant at Mormon Lake, where it finds a most congenial home.

53. *The American Bittern, Botaurus minor (Gm.).* By Everett Smith. *Ibid.*, XI, p. 283.—A detailed account of its habits, as observed by the writer, at various localities in New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. **Chicago Field**

1944. *Topographical Oölogy.* By Frank H. Nutter. 'The Oölogists, Exchange,' Vol. I, No. 4, April, 1888.—*Buteo pennsylvanicus, Accipiter cooperi, Botaurus lentiginosus.*

342. *American Bittern.* By Guy C. Rich. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 77.—As observed at Saratoga, N. Y. **O. and O.**

497. *A many-named Bird [Botaurus lentiginosus].* By J. E. Todd. *Ibid.*, XVII, pp. 431, 432.—Reference to its various vernacular names. **Amer. Naturalist.**

put on over some other shade, a reddish tinge showing through in the centre. This led me to try an experiment. First using a piece of white silk dipped in water, I tried to remove the lavender; a little rubbing made it appear rather darker. Not satisfied, I then took my sharpest scalpel and carefully cut off the marking. Every shave, as fine as it was, made the lavender blotch darker, until I finally cut down to a dark reddish-brown with a very dark brown spot in the centre. Still continuing the scrape, my brown began to lighten up. Thinking it about time to let up scraping, if I wanted any shell left, I laid down the scrapel and put the egg back into the box, scraped spot up, which was a plain lavender when I started to scrape, but now it had a dark brown centre with a light brown circle around it which was in turn enclosed with a lavender circle; then came the buff ground color. Taking the other egg and treating it in a similar manner the same result was obtained. Some of the lavender spots do not have brown under them.

Has it ever been proved beyond doubt how the Wood Pewee and Hummingbirds attach the lichen so tightly to their nests? I am aware that some argue that it is wound on with spiders thread; others, again, seem to think that the bird uses a sticky fluid, which is secrete, similiar to the Eave Swallow.

Any reader of the O. & O. who will furnish the latter it is seldom seen, but, however, the former is far the more common. The time of the breeding of this bird seems to be very indefinite, as fresh eggs may be found from the latter part of April until late in June.

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The eggs are four or five in number, generally five, and of a uniform drab in color. As soon as the eggs are hatched, the parent birds, occupy their time in carrying food for their

990. *American Bittern in Pembrokehire.* By Cecil Smith. *Ibid.*, Aug. 1883, p. 341.—Taken at St. David's in October, 1872, and previously recorded "with doubt at the times," in 'Land and Water,' by Mr. Greenway. **Zoologist, VII**

988. *Uncommon Birds near York.* By C. D. Wolstenholme. *Ibid.*, p. 128.—Records "an American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), shot at Welbury." **Zoologist, VII March, 1883.**

992. *American Bittern in Sussex.* By W. Barrer. *Ibid.*, VIII, Feb. 1884, p. 68.—A female was taken near Amberly, Sussex, Engl., Nov. 30, 1883. **Zoologist,**

Mountain Birds of Arizona

Botaurus lentiginosus. AMERICAN BITTERN.—Breeds commonly in suitable places throughout these mountains. It was especially abundant at Mormon Lake, where it finds a most congenial home.

Mearns, Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 57.

53. *The American Bittern, Botaurus minor (Gm.).* By Everett Smith. *Ibid.*, XI, p. 283.—A detailed account of its habits, as observed by the writer, at various localities in New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.

Chicago Field

1944. *Topographical Oölogy.* By Frank H. Nutter. 'The Oölogists, Exchange,' Vol. I, No. 4, April, 1888.—*Buteo pennsylvanicus, Accipiter cooperi, Botaurus lentiginosus.*

342. *American Bittern.* By Guy C. Rich. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 77.—As observed at Saratoga, N. Y.

and O.

497. *A many-named Bird [Botaurus lentiginosus].* By J. E. Todd. *Ibid.*, XVII, pp. 431. 432.—Reference to its various vernacular names.

Amer. Naturalist.

Notes on the American Bittern
(*Botaurus lentiginosus*).

One day during the last week in August two boys drove up to my window, one of them inquiring with considerable interest if here was where the man lived that stuffed birds. With fully as much interest I assured him that such a man lived here, and at the same time put down my pen and was out to see what the boys' box contained. Just such boxes had often brought me specimens which I prized very highly, as well as many which were not so valuable.

I found the boys had a perfect living specimen of the American Bittern. They said they had found it along a creek and had stunned it with a stone, but it completely recovered after they had taken it. This bird is not very common in this (Wabash) county. I decided to keep it alive for a week and watch its habits. It was given free use of an empty room.

The commonest attitude it assumes is pointing its bill upward about thirty degrees from the perpendicular, or stealthily creeping along the floor, or like the Heron in repose, its neck drawn up, the bill pointing somewhat above the horizontal. The flashing eye, together with the streaks about it and elevated feathers, give the bird a very fierce appearance, and when compelled to do so it can use its sharp, sword-like bill to considerable effect in defending itself. However, its gurgling, blowing noise and fierce appearance do its best service, probably, in defence from its enemies.

It has a curious, steady, weaving to and fro motion when standing, stealthily looking from side to side, never making a quick motion unless compelled to do so, and only reluctantly then. Its movements are rapid enough, however, to be quite effectual when seizing its prey,—indeed they are very quick. It frequently stands for several minutes without moving in the least, except its eyelids.

The ruffled feathers greatly enlarge the appearance of the bird. It, too, appears to delight in seeming much larger than it is. Heron-like, it frequently stands on one leg for some time. When standing in this attitude it will not change the position of its feet even though it may wish to look at all points of the compass; its long neck and ready use of it enabling it to look in any direction desired without a change of position.

When on short rations it refused to eat the large potato moth I gave it, or a beetle, or

fresh beef or grass. Fish and frogs seemed the most toothsome food I furnished it. The old story was so fresh in memory that I could not resist the temptation to place the fish on a flat surface and then in water. Of course I found out, as everybody else has, that there was little or no difficulty in taking the food without the water, although I could easily imagine there was some virtue in it.

The dead fish I gave it, ranging from two to five inches in length, were scarcely torn at all before swallowing. A few hasty, hound-like gulps was all the attempt made at mastication. The live cray-fish, however, was pierced and bitten until it in some measure ceased struggling, before it was swallowed, but from the uneasiness of my Bittern I judged Mr. Cray-fish was not behaving very well after he had been swallowed.

Next a green frog (*Rana virescens*) was given it. When this luscious green morsel was spied sitting there Mr. Bittern cautiously moved towards it and instantly seized the body of the frog midway, using those sword-like mandibles to such effect that life was soon extinct. Considerable care was taken to kill this specimen. Even the legs must have the bones broken repeatedly, especially the long hinder ones. Then, with only slight inconvenience it was swallowed whole, causing a considerable distending of the esophagus for a few minutes.

Quite a variety of common names have been applied to this bird; among them are, Indian Hen, Stake Drive, Bog Bull and I have heard it called Thunder Pumper, although this name is also applied to a fish. It was probably a confused idea of this last name which caused the boys to reply, when asked what they had, that they were not quite sure about it but they thought it was a "Pump Sucker."

A. B. Ulrey.

North Manchester, Ind.

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52. *Letters on Ornithology.* By Dr. Elliott Coues.—Letters No. 19—30, treating of the habits and distribution of the following species: "The Curlews of North America," *Ibid.*, XI, p. 170; "The American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Gm.)," p. 200; "History of the Red-breasted or Cinnamon Teal, *Querquedula cyanoptera*," p. 218; "The Snow Goose, or White Brant, *Anser hyperboreus*, Pall.," p. 233; "The American Coot, *Fulica americana*, Gm.," p. 270; "The Wood Ibis," p. 283; "The Solitary Tattler; Wood Tattler (*Totanus solitarius*)," p. 301; "Semipalmated Tattler; Willet; Stone Snipe (*Totanus semipalmatus*)," p. 315; "Bartramian Sandpiper or Tattler; Upland Plover (*Actiturus bartramius*)," p. 332; "Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites rufescens*)," p. 348; "Great Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)," p. 365; "The Great White Egret (*Ardea egretta*)," p. 380.

Chicago Field

General Notes

Notes on the American Bittern.—Late last September a female *Botaurus lentiginosus* was discovered by some boys upon the margin of a small pond at a short distance behind my residence. It was a most unusual locality for the species to occur, and its coming there appeared to have been due to the fact that the bird was exhausted by long flight. After flying a few yards it was easily captured, and was brought to me alive, without having received any bodily harm whatever. Next morning it had recovered no little of its strength, and it was remarkable to observe how noiselessly and with what ease it could fly about a furnished room without overturning any small object of furniture. It gracefully flew up from the floor and perched upon the curtain rod of a high window, where it sat for an hour or more in a characteristic position, as motionless as a statue. If approached when upon the ground, it eyed you keenly, assumed a squatting posture, widely spread out the feathers at either side of the neck, while it slightly raised those of the rest of the body and its wings; and finally, when it considered you within the proper distance, drew all its plumage close to its body and delivered, as quick as a flash, a darting blow with its beak. This thrust, I am sure, is generally given with sufficient violence to pierce one nearly through an eye, even were the lid instinctively drawn down to protect that organ. By such a blow it can easily stab a large frog through and through its head, impaling the creature upon the end of its beak,—a feat I have seen the bird perform. A loud blowing noise accompanies this attack of the Bittern, which varies in its intensity, —depending apparently much upon the degree of anger to which the bird has been excited by its tormentors. My captive behaved much in the same way when held up by the legs in front of another person, and one had to exercise great care to avoid its quick and well-delivered thrusts. At the end of three or four days, it having eaten nothing up to that time, nor drunk any water, I offered it a live medium-sized frog to try its appetite. It promptly laid out that poor batrachian by a few telling stabs given with its beak, sending one home every time the animal moved a limb. Immediately after killing it, it was picked up with the bill, and throwing back its head the bird attempted to swallow the morsel. In this it failed after several trials, and finally abandoned it for good and all. This Bittern lived twelve days without ever having eaten a single thing or swallowed a drop of water. It passed several thin, cream-colored evacuations from the bowels every twenty-four hours, and died, apparently without any pain, in a squatting position, absolutely unruffled in plumage, on the evening of the twelfth day—a plucky fowl to the instant of its death.

There is one very interesting point to observe here, and it is the fact that the lower the position a bird occupies in the system the greater the length of time it seems to be enabled to go without partaking of any nutriment whatever. Gannets and Cormorants will live nearly a month without either eating or drinking anything, while on the other hand any of the small Passeres will succumb in a few days to such treatment. In this connection it is important to note that many lizards will live several months without consuming a morsel of food or a drop of water. This may be another particular in which the lower birds approach their reptilian kin.

While dissecting this Bittern with the view of saving its skeleton, and observing what else I could in its anatomy, I found that it possessed a peculiar arrangement and modification of the vertebræ and certain muscles in the upper third of the neck, much as we find it in *Plotus anhinga*, and in a less marked degree in Cormorants, the Gannets, and Pelicans. This modification, which is associated with the power of the birds mentioned (especially the Darters and Bitterns) of giving a quick thrust with the beak, has been well described by Garrod, a paper among his 'Collected Scientific Memoirs,' and by Donitz, and is well worthy of close study and comparison. Garrod does not mention having observed it in *Botaurus* and its allies.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Takoma, D. C.*

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