

In an endeavor to ascertain the local status of the American Egret in the adjacent territory to the north, we investigated the banks of the Mohawk River between Niskayuna village and a point three miles east of it on the afternoon of August 20. Here within the space of one hour, 5.30 p. m. to 6.30 p. m., we observed a total of eighteen egrets. All were standing motionless or feeding along the low cat-tail bordered banks and inlets. This section is from four to seven miles west of the junction of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers at Cohoes about nine miles north of Albany.

Our late-August records for the Albany region may, then, be summed up as follows. In a two-hour period between 11.30 a. m. and 1.30 p. m., on August 15, we observed, flying over the Hudson River and feeding in bordering marshes, a total of twenty-five American Egrets within a distance of twelve miles; eighteen of these were in one small marsh. Three days later, between 3.40 p. m. and 7.10 p. m., we observed, in the same territory, at least fifteen different individuals; possibly some of these were birds seen on August 15. And, between 5.30 p. m. and 6.30 p. m., on August 21, we observed at least eighteen different individuals along a three-mile extent of the Mohawk River some thirty-five miles northwest of the locality of the preceding observations and from four to seven miles west of the Hudson River.

It is altogether likely that other swampy shores and inlets in both the upper Hudson and the lower Mohawk Rivers harbored comparable numbers of American Egrets unseen by us. This probable condition when taken in conjunction with our own actual counts and the observations of others would appear to warrant the conclusion that, seasonally and locally at least, this egret is considerably more common than usual. Perhaps it is not too much to hope that it will increase unmolested and that its breeding range may even be extended into New York State.—DAYTON STONER, *New York State Museum, Albany, New York.*

**American Egret in Quebec.**—On September 14, 1937, fourteen American Egrets, (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) were observed by the writer, feeding in the marshy upper reaches of the South River (tributary of the Richelieu River), six and a half miles north of the international boundary, in the Province of Quebec, Canada. This flock was kept under constant observation for two and a half hours, and presented a picture which it is not often one's privilege to see in eastern Canada. Unfortunately the duck shooting commenced next day, with the result that the flock was disturbed and thought to have left the district. However, a check-up on their movements revealed that they had split up into twos and threes, and could still be seen at widely separated points.—J. D. CLEGHORN, *McGill University, Montreal, Canada.*

**American Egret and Anhinga nesting in Oklahoma.**—Until May 11, 1937, it was not known to ornithologists that *Casmerodius albus egretta* and *Anhinga anhinga* bred in the State of Oklahoma. On that date a local guide took my daughter Constance and myself to visit a heronry of "White Cranes" about 7 miles south of Eagletown, McCurtain County, in the southeastern corner of Oklahoma. Here we found several American Egrets and Anhingas on nests, besides many Ward's Herons (*Ardea herodias wardi*) and one pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons (*Nyctanassa v. violacea*); great numbers of Turkey and Black Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*, *Coragyps a. atratus*) were also present. The guide said that "White Cranes" had nested in the region for many years, but that he had not seen an Anhinga before.

The next day he took us to Forked Lake to visit a heronry exclusively of "White Cranes," but not a bird was to be seen, for much of the cypress had been cut the previous summer while the young were in the nests. On learning that the same

thing was to happen to the "Buzzards' Roost Cypress Brake" during the present summer, we got in touch with the Tulsa Audubon Society, with Dr. Paul Sears of the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Charles Gould of the National Park Service and Mr. A. R. Reaves of the State Park Board; through the efforts of these gentlemen, the owner agreed not to cut the cypress this year. Messrs. Hugh Davis and Orrin Letson of Mohawk Park, Tulsa, made several trips to the heronry; by means of 85-foot rope ladders they scaled the cypresses and took splendid pictures of the birds. They calculated the numbers of nesting birds as follows: Anhinga, 10 pairs; American Egrets, 15-20; Ward's Herons, 30-40; Green Herons (*Butorides v. virescens*), 4; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1 pair.

We certainly hope that Oklahoma will take steps to preserve the nesting place of these rare birds and also some tracts of the ancient and beautiful cypress which is fast disappearing before the lumberman's ax.—MARGARET M. NICE, 5708 Kenwood Ave., Chicago, Ill.

**Snowy Egret in West Virginia.**—During the month of September, 1936, a Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) spent most of the time at Lake Terra Alta, Preston County, West Virginia, a small artificial body of water, located on top of the Alleghany Plateau, at an elevation of about 2700 feet. Several parties of observers from West Virginia University visited the lake during the month to see this bird, which was, apparently, an adult. The black bill and legs, yellow feet, and entire absence of dark feathers in the wings were checked many times, as the egret had a favorite perching tree, to which it would almost invariably fly when alarmed, allowing a fairly close approach.

There is one previous West Virginia record for this species, a specimen taken by Bibbee along the New River, on the Virginia border. This is the first record for the species from northern West Virginia.—MAURICE BROOKS, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.*

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron breeding in northern Illinois.**—The Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*) apparently has not been found nesting in Illinois since the 1870's when it was reported by Robert Ridgway to be nesting near Mt. Carmel (E. W. Nelson, Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club, 1: 43, 1876) and by Otto Widmann opposite St. Louis, Missouri (Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis, 17: 56, 1907). Thus it was with considerable surprise that on June 4, 1936, at DePue, Bureau County, accompanied by L. G. Brown of Griggsville, Illinois, I located two nests of this species in an Illinois River Great Blue Heron colony of some four hundred nests. At that time both nests contained four eggs, which were being incubated. During the ensuing month I photographed the young and adult birds, obtaining two good photographs of an adult bird at the nest. One fledgling, removed for purposes of study, finally died, and was deposited in the Chicago Academy of Sciences. The remaining seven young birds were banded by Karl E. Bartel of Blue Island, Illinois. C. T. Black, Assistant in Zoology, University of Illinois, aided in collecting the young bird studied.—FRANK C. BELLROSE, *Ottawa, Illinois.*

**Scoters on Lake Lynn, West Virginia.**—Since West Virginia has no natural lakes and very few extensive artificial bodies of water, the occurrence within the State of any of the more maritime ducks is something of an event. The following notes seem worth recording.

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, *Melanitta deglandi.***—On the morning of October 24, 1936, northeastern West Virginia and western Maryland had a very heavy flight of wild-