

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.*

**The Black-bellied Plover in Center County, Pa.**—The rarity of the Black-bellied Plover in the interior counties of Pennsylvania makes it desirable to place on record the capture of a specimen near State College, Pa., on Sept. 3, 1909. At the time of its capture the bird was in company with a small flock of Killdeers on a small hillside above a swamp. The bird is a young male and is at present in the collection of the writer.—RICHARD C. HARLOW, *State College, Pa.*