

was mostly along the shore of Chesapeake Bay from Cedar Point to Point Lookout and up the Potomac River to Piney Point.

This locality is very low and the greatest height is not over twenty feet above sea level. The greater part is under cultivation, with many large tracts of the virgin timber, mostly large yellow pines and quite a few white oaks. On April 29, while collecting sets of the Fish Hawk (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*), we saw a great many Vultures roosting in the dead chestnut trees on the east side of Harpers Creek. Thinking them at first to be the Turkey Vulture, we did not pay much attention to them, but as we came close by they flew around and we immediately recognized them as Black Vultures (*Coragyps urubu*). Having had considerable experience with this species in the coastal region of southern Texas, Carolinas, and Florida we were absolutely certain of our bird.

The same time in 1922 Mr. A. Ernest Sikken, Hyattsville, Maryland, and I collected twenty miles farther south and we succeeded in finding a very handsome set of two eggs of this species. The set was taken April 29, on Mr. W. H. Ridgell's Farm, Deep Creek, St. Mary's County, Maryland. The eggs are typical and handsomely marked with chocolate to reddish brown of different tints with a wreath of underlying markings of lilac and lavender spots, while one egg is evenly spotted over the entire surface. Incubation was fully one-half completed. The nest was in a very large white oak stump, in a cavity about two feet below the level of the ground.

1923 we again collected on this tract and found the birds had occupied the old nest. This set was heavily marked and both eggs well matched and was fresh on May 3, 1923.

This stump had been used for many seasons by a pair of Turkey Vultures, but they shifted a hundred feet back in the woods under a large fallen tree.

The Black Vulture nests quite plentiful in this county, as I have seen it at various places. While after *Haliaetus leucocephalus* in February 1924 at Aquia, Stafford County, Virginia, I saw nine Black Vultures flying towards the Potomac River just at dark. This locality is only forty miles from Washington, D. C.—EDWARD J. COURT, *Washington, D. C.*

A Set of Three Eggs of the Turkey Vulture.—May 4, 1924, I found a set of three eggs of the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) in Prince George County, Maryland. The eggs were resting on a well matted carpet of dry leaves on the ground under an overturned bifurcated root stump of a large dead chestnut tree, the stump being densely covered and draped with honeysuckle vines. The entrance to the nest was on the northwest side, facing a heavily pine wooded knoll. Leading to the entrance was a well defined path about five inches wide obviously made by the Vultures themselves, extending for some four or five feet through the mass of honeysuckle vines covering the ground for that distance in front of the entrance. Just inside and crosswise to the entrance lay a primary feather of one of the Vultures. The area about the nest for something like half an acre was overgrown with honeysuckle vines running over the ground and

shrubby and up the few scattered saplings. The parent bird had emerged two or three feet from the nest and was about to spring into the air before I realized that its nest was near. The eggs were uniformly slightly incubated and are well up to the normal size of eggs of this bird, measuring in inches 2.89 x 1.90, 2.82 x 1.86, and 2.57 x 1.90. The two larger eggs are remarkably alike in arrangement of their pigmentation, which is quite evenly dispersed over their surfaces. On the smaller egg the splotches are consolidated in a pronounced wreath at the larger end. I am informed that the egg collection in the United States National Museum does not contain a set of three eggs of this species.—ROBERT W. WILLIAMS, *Washington, D. C.*

The Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) at Cape May, N. J.

—Continued intensive study of the bird life of a favorably situated locality will result in the recording of an astonishing number of rare species or better, perhaps, species which have strayed from their proper habitat. The discoveries of Arthur T. Wayne at Mount Pleasant, S. C., constitute a case in point.

Beginning with the season of 1920 the writer with the aid of the members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club has made an intensive study of the avifauna of Cape May, N. J., a region pretty well known, in a general way, from previous observations but never studied carefully. The results have been most interesting and such species as the Gray and Arkansas Kingbirds, Louisiana Heron, Wood Ibis, Yellow-throated Warbler, etc., have been added to the list of Cape May birds. The location, at the southern extremity of a narrow peninsula with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and Delaware Bay on the other, is probably on the path of two lines of flight for migrating birds and this as well as its latitude, about opposite Washington, D. C., doubtless make it an excellent spot for the occurrence of straggling individuals of southern species.

That the possibilities of the locality are not exhausted was evidenced on May 30, 1924, when members of the D. V. O. C., on their annual field trip to the region, observed a full plumaged adult Mississippi Kite. The writer and Mr. Julian K. Potter caught sight of the bird simultaneously as it sailed over an orchard about two miles north of Cape May City and close to the Bay shore. We at once realized that it was something with which we were entirely unfamiliar. At a distance, when we could see only the edge of the wings, its action, as it faced the strong north-west wind that had been blowing all day, recalled the efforts of a Laughing Gull under similar circumstances but as it approached us we saw immediately that we had to do with a bird of prey and one of different plumage from any with which we were familiar. The peculiar habit of tilting up so that the entire upper surface was brought into view attracted our attention and brought into prominence the jet black square cut tail which stood out in contrast to the rest of the plumage. The pale gray head, which appeared almost white as the sunlight struck it, was also conspicuous and the bicolored wings, the anterior portion