

habit is not without a parallel among the other birds of prey.—GEORGE MIKSCH SURTON, *Pennsylvania State Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.*

Crow Alighting on the Water.—While on a Duck hunting trip on December 19, 1925, on Seneca Lake, an unusual incident occurred which was witnessed by myself and my two friends who were in the blind at the time.

We had watched the Crows from a nearby roost flying over the blind to the western shore of the lake and in the afternoon when the Crows returned we took passing shots at those which came within range. While looking out over the water for one which might prove a suitable target our attention was attracted to a bird flying very low over the surface and straight towards us. We were all certain it was a Crow but it suddenly stiffened its wings and dropped into the lake! About ten seconds elapsed before it took flight again and continued on its course coming directly for our blind as before. During the time the bird was in the water I did not take my eyes from it. As it drew nearer we all prepared to shoot and not until it had flown directly over the stools and around one side of the blind did we realize that it *was* a Crow and not a Scoter or a Cormorant or any of the many other things we had thought when we saw it drop into the water.

I have endeavored to explain the incident to myself in many ways—that the bird might have lit on a log or some other piece of floating debris; that he might have been flying all of the time and only appeared to have been resting on the water; or that he might have been one of the water birds already mentioned—but all my theories are unconvincing. The water was not rough enough to prevent him from being in view all the time and if he had alighted on some floating object it would have been apparent. As for the identification I can only say that I have studied birds for fifteen years.

I have since talked with Mr. Louis A. Fuertes and he has told me of twice seeing a Great Blue Heron alight in deep water. I would be glad to hear from any observers who have had similar experiences or who can offer any other explanations to my observation.—R. M. CHASE, *Sigma Phi Place, Ithaca, N. Y.*

The Blue Jay in eastern Massachusetts.—I cannot do better than begin this screed with a quotation from Mr. Burleigh's article on "Breeding Habits of Georgia Birds" in the last July 'Auk.' In commenting on the Blue Jay Mr. Burleigh says that "in the North it is a bird of the woods, with a natural curiosity in the ways of man but suspicious of any intimacy and during the breeding season shunning civilization as much as possible." He goes on to say that the Jay in the South apparently has lost "this shyness" and is as much a bird of the town and even cities as the English Sparrow. Well, this, too, is just what the Blue Jay is in this section of