

to determine with accuracy the exact number of nests in a tree, nor could we be at all sure if the number of birds constituting this combination colony as the estimates ranged from over 200 pairs to less than 150; to be conservative we felt sure there were 50 pairs of the Night Herons and 100 pairs of Little Blues, while six or seven nests in a tree was the maximum count.

The two species were somewhat segregated but the Night Herons seemed to have invaded the territory selected by the Little Blues though there was no line of separation. The ground and foliage above were well whitened throughout; but it was noted that very few discarded egg shells of the Little Blue Herons were to be found under the trees where the main body of the Night Herons were nesting while shells of the Night Herons' eggs were elsewhere rather numerous mingled with those of the other species.

Some nests may have held eggs at this time although none could be seen through the frail structures but our guide informed us that a week earlier he had seen eggs as he viewed the nests from the ground.

Many young birds were out in the tree-tops, some still in the nests and several hanging dead, suspended on twigs or in crotches where they had fallen. The return of *Florida caerulea* as a breeding bird in Delaware is a noteworthy event.—C. J. PENNOCK, *Kennett Square, Pa.*

**The Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) in the North Carolina Mountains.**—Definite records of the occurrence of the Little Blue Heron in the highest parts of the North Carolina mountains are apparently scarce. It seems worth while, therefore, to record the fact that we observed a single individual in the white plumage on July 30, 1930, at Blowing Rock, N. C., at an altitude of about 4000 feet. We observed the bird at close enough range to see the greenish yellow legs and to note that the white was not smoked with slate except at the tips of the primaries. After that date the bird was reported to us as staying for about a week in the neighborhood where we saw it, feeding back and forth between Cone's Lake and Chetola Lake. There are few, if any, bodies of water in the State as high as these two little lakes, and no higher point at which this Heron might reasonably be expected to occur.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, S. C.* and JAMES J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

**Little Blue Herons in Barry County, Michigan.**—Mr. Corsan of the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary reported the presence of six white herons at Mud Lake near Delton, in Barry County, Michigan, and on August 24, 1930, Richard E. Olsen, H. A. Olsen and I visited this lake. To our surprise there were eighteen of the white birds which proved to be Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*), accompanied by several Great Blue Herons and three immature Black-crowned Night Herons, another uncommon Michigan Heron. We could approach to within thirty feet of the birds before

they would fly, thus with the aid of 10× binoculars we noted the greenish colored legs and the bluish tips to the primaries when they flew. One individual showed much more blue here than any of the others but it was visible on all to some extent.

The lake is surrounded with a shallow marsh and this was the place where the Herons were feeding with as many as twelve boat loads of people fishing only a short distance away. When they were frightened they would fly down the lake to another marshy place only to return in a few minutes.

The Olsen brothers had previously located several of this species in Jackson County and knew the bird well.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek Michigan*.

**American Egret at Bellevue, Michigan.**—On August 24, 1930, Mrs. E. Peterson, H. A. Olsen and I found a fine specimen of the American Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*), two miles south of Bellevue, Michigan. It was feeding about a large muddy lake just over the county line in Calhoun County. The bird was nearly as tall as a Great Blue Heron, was pure white in color, had a yellow bill and black legs and feet. At one time it was within fifty yards of us.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek, Michigan*.

**Snowy Egret at Cape May, N. J.**—On August 30, 1930, I located a flock of American Egrets and Little Blue Herons on a pond near the lighthouse, at Cape May Point, N. J., a favorite resort of these birds all through the summer. Desiring to obtain a closer view of them I worked my way through the dense growth of cat-tails which surrounded the pond and emerged on the edge of the open water. There were two of the large Egrets and twenty of the Little Blues while in front of me not over twenty feet away stood a Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*) probably an immature bird, at any rate without plumes. It stood on a mud lump with its bright yellow toes spread out conspicuously and in strong contrast to the black tarsi. When the bird turned sideways or walked away the back of the tarsi were seen to be yellow a fact that I have noticed in these birds in the South but which does not seem to be sufficiently emphasized in our books. While the bill is black and more slender than in the Little Blue Heron, the bird slightly more slender and the neck more prone to be curved, the differences are not so readily made out when the birds are at a greater distance with the feet covered by the water. The bill of the Little Blue frequently looks black when in shadow and also the tarsi, while the tarsi of the Snowy Egret often look yellow or greenish when seen from the side or rear, or in flight.

Careful study of the white Heron flocks at Cape May for over ten years with the Snowy Egret always in mind has failed to reveal its presence until now and I am inclined to think that it did not occur. There was a single bird recorded from a few miles farther up the coast a few years ago and