

several records for the middle or northern States during the past season are pleasing evidence of the return and increase of this beautiful species.—WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia*.

The Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*) near Washington, D. C.—Two individuals of the Snowy Egret were seen by the writer at Four Mile Run, Virginia, August 23–25, 1930, and in addition two others were seen at Alexander Island, Virginia, August 24, 1930. One immature specimen was collected August 25 at Four Mile Run and was placed in the U. S. National Museum. It might be mentioned that the anterior portion of the tarsus was black and the posterior pale greenish-yellow, this being clearly discernible in the field. The toes were yellow, which is characteristic of this species. Previously, this species had been known in the Washington region from a single specimen, taken about 1841.—WILLIAM HOWARD BALL, 1861 *Ingleside Terrace, N. W., Washington, D. C.*

Snowy Egret and Other Birds near Media, Pa.—It may be of interest to report that on August 16 at Springfield Reservoir, near Media, Delaware Co., Pa., the writer observed a Snowy Egret. The very clear morning sunshine made it possible to distinguish nearly every detail, especially of color.

It was studied at a range of twenty-five to thirty feet as it stood on a gravel bar. I later observed it in flight and while feeding. Attention was at once attracted by the contrast between its yellow feet and blue-black tarsi, making it easily distinguishable, even at a distance, from the young of the Little Blue Herons with which it was associating. I also noted the yellow area at the base of its blue-black bill, the surface of which appeared to have more luster than that of the Little Blues.

I could not be sure of any contrast in size as compared with Little Blues, but its actions were more sprightly and alert. It stood more erect with gracefully curving neck, seldom straightening it out as the Little Blues so often do.

It was again observed on August 23 by Mr. John Gillespie and the writer and again on August 27 by Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Julian K. Potter.

On account of the drought the reservoir has apparently attracted an unusual number of Herons and Sandpipers. Although the larger Egrets were the first to arrive on July 7, they disappeared before the end of the month, while the Little Blues increased in number during August, sixty being the highest number observed on one trip.

The Least Sandpipers appeared July 6 but soon left. Pectoral Sandpipers and Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs appeared July 17, while on July 31 Mr. John Gillespie and the writer observed Stilt, Pectoral, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, also about six hundred Semi-palmated Sandpipers together with a number of Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs.

On August 5 Mr. Gillespie and the writer noted two White-rumped Sandpipers, while on August 16, the writer noted one Red-backed Sand-

pipers and five Western Sandpipers, the latter observed at close range while associating with Semi-palmated Sandpipers.—V. A. DEBES, 1209 Folsom Ave., Moore, Pa.

Egrets, and Little Blue Herons in Wisconsin.—To my knowledge there have been no authentic Wisconsin records of the Little Blue Heron since 1848. At that time Dr. P. R. Hoy collected one in Racine County and Thure Kumlein preserved the decomposed wing of another. The Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*) is reported as having been more or less common in the southern half of the state many years ago, but the last one observed was recorded by Professor Warner Taylor at Madison about 1925.

With the above facts in mind it was indeed interesting to learn on July 29 that four white birds of the Heron kind were observed at the Hustisford millpond. Investigation revealed them to be Little Blue Herons in the white plumage. I immediately published this fact in a state-wide newspaper, hoping that local sentiment thus created would react in the birds' favor. The result was that I had reports of the birds from many different localities, but so far none farther west of Milwaukee than Burlington, nor north of Pensaukee. Wherever possible I personally ran down all reports other than those from authentic sources.

At Burlington our informer took us to a roadside "pot hole," where we found two Egrets and four Little Blue Herons quietly feeding in company with Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, and American Bitterns. Suddenly all took wing but one Little Blue Heron whose attempt at a "take-off" ended in an awkward sprawl on the water. We released it from the vice-like grip of a small snapping turtle which had caught it by the foot. The bird was none the worse for its ordeal and was banded and liberated.

On the Fox river just south of Waukesha, Paul Jones took us to six Little Blue Herons and four Egrets. One Little Blue Heron was observed on Moose Lake, two on Lake Poygan, two at Pensaukee, three at Lake Winnebago, one at Big Muskego, and one was observed near the shore of Lake Michigan by Mr. Clarence Jung. Two of the Little Blue Herons that I collected proved to be males and two Egrets were females. It seems logical that this sudden influx or wandering northward, can either be attributed to a natural overflow from breeding grounds or to the devastating drought in southern states which has dried up many of the feeding areas. I find that most of the birds appeared about the middle of July. All of the Little Blue Herons observed were in the white plumage and none was in the intermediate stage. An unusual number of Wood Ducks have made their appearance in the Milwaukee area. In localities where they were formerly rare or at least quite uncommon they can now be numbered by dozens and in some cases hundreds. Mr. Jung and I first noticed this increase about the middle of May.—O. J. GROMME, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis.*

The Sarus Crane of Falmouth, Mass.—The Sarus Crane on the Whittamore estate at Quissett, Falmouth, Mass., which was the remaining