

**Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*) and Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*) in Michigan.**—On August 18, 1930, W. B. Purdy of Milford, Michigan, informed me that he had seen six White Herons north and east of Mt. Clemens, Michigan, in a swamp along the road. The following day I visited the locality and saw only five, which were identified as immature Little Blue Herons. While talking with a resident of the region, he informed me that about fifteen of the birds had been in the vicinity for about two weeks.

One was collected on August 20. On August 24 we spent most of the morning trying to photograph them, but they were so wary that it was impossible to get close enough to them with only a ten inch lense. Fourteen Little Blue Herons were seen at one time.

On August 21 the game warden reported that he had seen White Herons on two nearby lakes. A search around both lakes on August 26 revealed twelve birds on Pontiac Lake, but none on the other. A farmer, whose property bordered the end of the lake where the birds stayed, informed me that the birds had been there about a month, and that some of the same birds were there last year. Of the twelve birds seen, five were Egrets and seven were immature Little Blue Herons, in company with several Great Blue Herons, many immature Black-crowned Night Herons, and a few Green Herons.

On September 1 some rather indistinct photographs were secured with a fourteen inch telescopic lense. On September 14 only one Egret was seen, though the game warden reported about fifteen on the fifteenth of September.

Again on September 19 W. B. Purdy reported seven Egrets at a pond about a half mile from Milford.

We visited the spot on the 11th and again saw them. Two days later we again visited the pond, but it was then dry, and the birds had gone elsewhere.

Eighteen were later reported to be on an estate about seven miles from Milford, but I was unable to obtain permission to go on the grounds.—W. BRYANT TYRRELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.*

**White Herons at Lincoln, Mass.**—On August 25, 1930, I surprised a flock of sixteen White Herons on the western shore of Sandy Pond at Lincoln, Mass., just opposite the small wooded island. They scattered across the water in all directions, singly or in twos or threes but later I saw a number of them in a large tree near the edge of the water on the de Cordova estate near the boat house. The two or three which I was able to see clearly had black legs. Some days later I again visited the pond, but the Herons had disappeared.—AUSTIN H. CLARK, *U. S. National Museum.*

**Notes on the occurrence of *Ajaja ajaja* and some other Species in**

**Florida.**—I was much interested in Mr. Thomas E. Winecoff's account, in the October issue of 'The Auk,' of the relative abundance of Roseate Spoonbill at Marco, Florida. I must confess that after a somewhat hasty search of recent 'Auks' (which collectively appear to contain as much information on Florida birds as is, at present, available), preliminary to an unexpected trip to Florida in August 1929, I was quite inclined to share Mr. Winecoff's impression that the Spoonbill is now a rare bird on the Florida peninsula. For instance, Mr. Donald Nicholson, the veteran collector and ornithologist of Orlando, refers to the species as a veritable "will-o-the-wisp" though I afterwards learned that this phrase characterized his personal experience with the birds rather than the species' actual status on the peninsula.

It so happened that during the latter part of August 1929, Mr. Irving Kassoy, my brother Richard and I had a week at our disposal in Florida. We spent our time driving down the west coast to Fort Meyers, thence across the Tamiami Trail and down the keys to Key West, and back on the east coast to Lake Okeechobee, Orlando and so north. We had resolved to "see as much of Florida" as possible in that short time and consequently our trip was rather hurried,—we covered about 2300 miles during the week and "birding" was correspondingly sketchy.

On August 22, we developed engine trouble on the Trail and stopped at a filling-station to have the condition remedied; the station operated in conjunction with that of the South-west Mounted Police (called the "Palm Hammock station") at a point about twenty miles west of Everglade, the Barron Collier development, some distance below Fort Meyers. While repairs were under way, we engaged several of the men about the place, in a conversation about birds. Incidentally, we were frequently impressed with the remarkable interest in, and knowledge of the local bird-life which the average Floridian seems to possess. These gentlemen were, by no means, exceptions. It developed that they had never heard of the Spoonbill but knew the "Pink Curlew" well, and assured us that it was merely a matter of "running down towards the Gulf" to see some of the birds. This we did without delay and after about an hour of rough going, we arrived at one of the numerous estuaries surrounding the Gulf, just before dark, and to our great pleasure, saw an unmistakable Spoonbill on an exposed flat some distance from us, feeding near a few Little Blue Herons. We returned to the spot early next morning and saw two Spoonbills in flight, on the edge of a flock of White Ibises. Unfortunately time did not permit a more extended investigation of the locality but the local inhabitants assured us that the species is, by no means, rare in and near what is now known as Collier County, Florida, and that in spring the birds are frequently present in large numbers, in this vicinity. There seems little reason to question these statements, particularly in view of personal verification of the proper identification of the birds.

On August 21, a flock of six Swallow-tailed Kites was observed in the

Everglades, which happens to be somewhat later than the departure date for the species, as given in Bailey's book of Florida birds. On the 27th, an Upland Plover was flushed from the Kissimmee Prairie region, which, the same author lists as rare in the state. On August 30, a fine adult Sooty Tern was observed off Hatteras, N. C. which seems worthy of record here.—JOHN F. KUERZI, 978 Woodycrest Ave., New York City.

**Columba squamosa at Key West.**—That veteran ornithologist J. W. Atkins, whose residence at Key West, Florida during the past forty odd years has resulted in securing numerous records of the occurrence of West Indian birds from that islet, has sent to the American Museum of Natural History the head of a specimen of *Columba squamosa* which was shot on the Key West Lighthouse reservation May 6, 1929.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History*.

**Note on the Passenger Pigeon.**—The following is an extract from a letter written to me by Philip B. Woodworth of Chicago, October 14, 1930, describing his early recollection of the Pigeons at Saginaw Bay, Michigan. The fire referred to occurred in the autumn and the birds being widely scattered at that time could hardly have been destroyed by the flames.

"Passed through Saginaw in 1867 (2 years old). We settled near the mouth of the Pigeon River on Saginaw Bay, and the famous Pigeon roost was on our land. Saw Pigeons knocked down with brush, gathered into barrels and presented to boat crews at the lumber dock. As a child I fed and played with wing hurt Pigeons on the floor of our home. In my opinion the forest fire of 1871 was the beginning of the end. Saw some stragglers at the old roost in 1885 and 1886. Other game birds, such as Wild Turkeys, were quite common up to the second fire in 1881."—W. B. MERSHON, *Saginaw, Michigan*.

**Black Vulture (*Coragyps urubu*) in New Jersey.**—On May 22, 1930, driving south through the Pine Barrens to Vineland, N. J., large numbers of Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) were seen circling over the burnt areas devastated by widespread spring fires. The birds evidently found the carcasses of mammals killed by the blaze an attraction.

Near New Egypt, I noticed one Vulture with a smaller span than the others near at hand. Its wings were shorter and broad for their length and on the outer half of the wing was an area or patch of whitish, showing both above and below. The tail appeared shorter, not extending as far beyond the rear "wing line," this being very noticeable as the bird soared overhead. It soared frequently but when flying its wing beats were more rapid than those of the Turkey Vulture. The wings when the bird soared, while curved upward slightly at the tip, were not lifted as high as in the soaring Turkey Vulture or in the Marsh Hawk.

I watched this bird for some time at rather close range and in varying light. At times the under parts seemed lighter than the upper surface