

bird was immediately recognized as a Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) in adult plumage. Although the sun was obscured by clouds the hour was early and the light good, and as the trees at that date were still devoid of foliage an excellent view was obtained. The uniform heavy gray underparts and wings, the black and white head striping were noted, and with the aid of binoculars the pendant head plumes and yellow crown were plainly visible.

There is only one other published record of this species for the state, that of a breeding pair at Licking Reservoir in 1928.—JAMES BRUCE, *Wooster, Ohio*.

**Abnormal Sets of Heron Eggs in Coastal South Carolina.**—During banding operations carried on by Mr. E. Milby Burton and the writer amid the Heron rookeries of the low country of South Carolina, our interest has been aroused by the not infrequent finding of large sets of eggs in one particular colony. Some of these have already been recorded in 'The Auk,' (Vol. XLVI, 555 and Vol. XLVII, 576) both instances coming from a marshland rookery located near James Island, Charleston County, S. C. While banding in this same rookery during the current season, seven more abnormally large sets were found, six of six eggs and one of eight eggs; the owners of these nests were not actually seen on the eggs but Herons of three species were on the island, viz. Snowy, Louisiana and Little Blue.

It seems strange that this small island, about three or four acres in extent, should be the only rookery in the low country examined by us to exhibit these abnormally large sets. In the cypress swamp colonies this has never as yet been noted. If it is a result of two females using the same nest why is not this done in other localities? Only this salt marsh hammock has revealed such a habit, if habit it is.

One other nesting abnormality transpired during July 1931, in the finding on a bank in Stono Inlet, of a nest containing five eggs of the Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*) and three eggs of the Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*).—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.*

**Nesting of the Sandhill Crane in Calhoun County, Michigan.**—On May 3, 1931 I visited the marsh in Convis Township, Calhoun County where the Sandhill Cranes (*Grus mexicana*) were found during the month of August, 1930. Here after many hours of wading among cat-tails and reeds I flushed two Cranes. They flew low, allowing an especially good view of their coloration, then alighting down in the swamp where their loud rolling call could be heard for some time. Soon one returned to a spot only about four rods from me where she walked along drooping her wings with a quivering motion as if to draw me away from a nest. A short search did not reveal the nest so I returned early on the morning of the 5th. Almost as soon as I appeared in sight, near where the birds had been two days before, a single bird rose in front of me and as before flew down the marsh uttering the peculiar call. It required only a short time

to locate the nest, a flat mound of sedge, about three feet in diameter, built among the clumps of sedge and reeds. There were two eggs, one of which was an oval shape while the other was more elliptical. The former, when measured, later, proved to be 94.5 x 60.75 mm. and was a pale buff streaked with long splotches of brown, lavender and darker buff, which extended along the whole length of the egg but was more concentrated near the large end. The other egg was darker in color with the spots more definite in outline and placed around the large end almost in a wreath. It measured 93.5 x 61.5 mm.

For some reason the birds deserted the nest during the week May 10-17 but when I returned on the 24th they were found in a spot farther down the swamp where they were probably nesting again although I did not search for the nest.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek, Michigan*.

**Notes from Southern Alabama.**—I should like to record the second occurrence of the Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) in Alabama. On April 12, 1931 the wings of a bird of this species were picked up on the Alabama Gulf Coast south of Foley. They were sent to the Biological Survey and there identified. Howell in his 'Birds of Alabama' says: "The only Alabama record is that of a specimen shot by E. G. Holt from a flock of nine at the west point of Dauphin Island, July 27, 1913."

Another rare species for Alabama was noted twice by Duncan McIntosh, who on April 6 and 23, 1931, saw a male Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). Howell has one record from Alabama, a male "seen by Dr. A. K. Fisher, May 13, 1886, in the northern suburbs of Mobile."—HELEN M. EDWARDS, *Fairhope, Ala.*

**Notes on Bird Life in Southern Florida.**—On April 26, 1931, I called at the camp of the warden in charge of the Shark River country, and found that he had moved over to East River, off White Water Bay. There was practically no bird life along Shark River or any of its tributaries (all of which I visited) as far as I could go in a skiff. I did not see anything but scattered flocks of Herons (Louisiana and Florida Blues). There were several flocks of Teal and a few Fish Eagles.

We went the entire length of White Water Bay and through Coot Creek into Coot Bay, without seeing any signs of bird life except a few Bluebills and Sheldrake. We also observed one Fish Eagle's nest where they were feeding the young, at the entrance of White Water Bay.

We then went to East River. I went up as far as I could go in a cruiser—about one mile from White Water Bay. There were a few Herons on the flats and with my glasses I could see quite a number of Wood Ibises circling four or five miles farther up the stream. It was this rookery that the warden was protecting. I was told that the birds had all moved farther back into the Everglades on account of food conditions.

The route through White Water Bay and Coot Bay was the one formerly used by the plume hunters to reach the rookery I described previously. It can now be reached through the drainage canal, east of East Cape.