

built their nest in a eucalyptus tree on a branch overhanging one of the ponds, at least thirty feet above the floor level. When we first discovered the nest, an American Egret male bird, which we had had in the cage for several years, was occupying it. As we had recently had a second American Egret shipped in from Panama, we hoped for a few days that this nest might belong to the white birds, the male bird having displayed symptoms of home making each year during the nesting season. Closer observation convinced us that the nest was really that of the Reddish Egrets. Two eggs were laid but one was pushed from the nest and destroyed. During the period of incubation, the American Egret shared the vigil with the two Reddish Egrets. When he would approach the nest, usually about nine o'clock in the morning, he always carried a stick in his mouth and, as he got close to the edge, whichever one of the real owners was incubating would stand up and accept the stick from him and lay it on the edge of the nest. It would then fly down to the feeding ground with apparent confidence that the nest would be properly cared for in its absence. Before settling down to cover the eggs, the white Egret would pick up his stick and work it carefully into the nest on the outer edge. This is the habit with the Reddish Egrets under the same circumstances. This ceremony was performed many times regardless of which bird was going on relief duty. The arrangement seemed perfectly amicable. The white Egret took his turn both in feeding and brooding until the young Egret was ready to leave the nest.—BELLE J. BENCHLEY, *Zoological Garden, San Diego, Calif.*

Egrets at Quincy, Ill.—During the last several years I have noted repeated reference in 'The Auk' to the sporadic appearance of egrets throughout the northern states. Until 1928 such a visit was of occasional occurrence along the Mississippi River this far north. However, during the last three years, American Egrets have increased until during August of this year it was a common sight to see numbers of them fishing from almost any sand bar. Associated with them were numbers of Great Blue Herons and also some immature specimens of the Little Blue Heron.

On August 30, 1931, I watched more than thirty of the immature Little Blues (*Florida caerulea*), settle about an inlet of a river sand bar. The following week I was called to the river front by the city engineer. With his surveying instruments, I was able to count eighteen American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*), three Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias herodias*), and several of the immature Little Blue Herons. They were feeding on a mud bar across the river.

Yesterday I visited the Duck Island Hunting Club on the Illinois River and talked to the keeper who says that for three years the "Great White Cranes," as he called them, have been very numerous. To verify this he took me to Buckbrush Lake where I counted 168 Great Blue Herons, 64 American Egrets, two Little Blues, and some American Bitterns (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), either standing in the shallow water or upon the shore.

I am giving this information because I feel that the appearance of the Egrets and immature Little Blue Herons has become a regular occurrence, at least as far north as the fortieth parallel of latitude. Reports from other sections of the country show the decrease in appearance of Egrets during 1931. Certainly this cannot be said to be the case here along the Mississippi River.

There are no nesting records to report for the egret, although I recently discovered a rookery with half a hundred nests of the Great Blue Heron and half a dozen of the Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax dilophus dilophus*) and have a record of a pair of American Egrets seen on Lima Lake as early as June 7, 1928.—F. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Ill.*

European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) in Essex Co., Massachusetts.—On November 22, 1931, a large party of observers noticed four ducks on the upper basin of the Artichoke Reservoir in West Newbury, a fine locality for our rarer wild fowl. I had with me one of the new very powerful Zeiss telescopes with three oculars on a revolving disk, and setting it up on its tripod, we soon found that the ducks were Baldpates. While looking at them I discovered a pair of Green-winged Teal sitting on the beach, and noted the pretty clean gray effect of the male and his chestnut head. For twenty years I have carefully examined all drake teal, well seen in North America with the hope of finding a European Teal. On this particular occasion I suddenly registered the fact that my teal lacked the conspicuous white bar on the side of the breast in front of the wing, and more careful study showed the presence of the characteristic longitudinal white stripe on the scapulars. The teal persisted in squatting on the beach, often facing us, but occasionally would rise and waddle a few feet only to squat again. Whenever a side view was obtained, the absence of the breast bar was very conspicuous, but the scapular stripe was inconspicuous unless the bird was actually walking. The party consisted of Messrs. Francis H. Allen, C. E. Clarke, George Perry, and R. J. Eaton of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and John H. Baker of the Linnæan Society of New York. It took some time, but most of us managed to see both points, including the brothers of two of the party, who were not experienced students of birds. After twenty minutes or so, a flock of ten Green-winged Teal suddenly appeared and circled about the basin. They were immediately joined by the two other teal, and all twelve darted off to the south. There is, of course, no knowing to what species the female belonged. I have been familiar with the European Teal in life for years, was thoroughly conversant with the differences between the two species, and recognized the identity of the bird immediately. There is no previous record for Essex County, but according to Forbush, there are three specimens from Massachusetts, and at least three other records for New England. He describes the bird correctly in his 'Birds of Massachusetts,' but by a curious lapse, the distinguishing characters of the two species are reversed in the paragraph on "field marks."—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*