

It is interesting to note that Mr. Bent (Life Histories. Bulletin No. 130, p. 287) quotes Audubon as saying that the estimated speed of these birds is 100 mph. or more; but favored with being in a unique and interesting position for observation of the birds in flight, I can not confirm this observation.—CHARLES S. WEISER, 105 West Springettsbury Ave., York, Penna.

**Summering Eiders off the Massachusetts Coast.**—It will doubtless be of interest to record that on July 30, 1930, I found a pair of American Eiders (*Somateria m. dresseri*) in full breeding plumage at a point near Stone Horse Shoals on the Monomoy Peninsula. I first found them asleep on the beach and was able to approach to within fifty feet before they took alarm. They were apparently associating with a large flock of mixed scoters.—LESTER L. WALSH, 532 Spring Ave., Ridgewood, N. J.

**A Pennsylvania Black-crowned Night Heron Colony.**—Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*), for many years have maintained a heronry on McCormick's Island in the Susquehanna River opposite the upper end of Harrisburg, Pa. The island is one mile long and densely wooded except for a farm in the center. It is said to have been there for three generations at least.

Five years ago we saw the herons nesting in the tops of tall red birches but for the past four years they have occupied a small clump<sup>a</sup> of white pines. This year we found 150 nests in the white pine trees, 13 in scrub pines, 3 in wild cherries and 15 in red birch trees. In 134 white pine trees there were single nests but eight others had two nests each. The nests in the birches were forty feet above ground, in the pines about fifteen feet.

The white pine trees had from nine to twelve whorls of branches, most having ten or eleven. The ages of white pines are computed as from three to five years more than the number of layers of branches. In 53 trees examined the nests were on the top layer of radiating branches of sixteen trees, on the second layer in 27, on the third layer in 24 and fourth layer in 6. The first 16 were certainly built this year, and most if not all the nests on the second layer of branches. The lower thirty nests may have been built last year. All the trees were numbered for future study as to the reoccupation of nests. Doubtless many nests are destroyed by the weather but we found 36 old nests which seemed to have withstood the storms.

The census showed 145 occupied nests, of which 135 were in 122 white pine trees. The shells of 231 heron eggs were found on the ground beneath 122 trees, from one to four per tree. Occupation was determined by the appearance of the trees. Eighty-one were greatly whitened by the excreta of the herons, and 61 showed no discoloration. Ten of the 81 showed no egg shells on the ground. One showed excreta and no egg shells but the nest contained a fledgling. Among those trees showing no excreta upon the branches or ground, four held nests with young birds. The presence or absence of egg shells, or excreta, are evidently not absolute indications of the occupancy of a heron's nest.

Fifty young Night Herons were banded, B661226 to B661275 on June 7 and 10, 1932. While banding the birds we counted 74 live young birds in 33 nests, but since some birds were then able to escape from the nests we believe a very few may have walked away while we were climbing up, although we watched for this. On a later trip the number of dead birds found suggested that the infant mortality rate was about one per cent. None of the dead birds had any band. In one nest were an enormous dead frog and two downy dead birds.

An American Egret was seen in the tree tops with the Night Herons but no Egret nest could be found. This date was several weeks ahead of the regular appearance of migrating Egrets.—H. B. WOOD, M.D. AND MERRILL WOOD, *Harrisburg, Pa.*

**American Egret in Eastern Ontario.**—Mr. R. J. Rutter, secretary of the Brodie Club of Toronto, and I visited Weller's Bay on the north shore of Lake Ontario, on June 5, 1932, and were fortunate enough to see an American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*). Mr. W. E. Saunders informs me that there have been two or three records for the north side of Lake Erie, but this is the first so far as I can ascertain for the eastern part of Ontario. It was wading about with five Great Blue Herons in shallow water near the edge of the sand bar, it seemed slightly smaller and its wings moved somewhat faster in flight.

This individual lingered in Prince Edward County until the first week of September.

During August I received information of another seen in the vicinity of Owen Sound, near Georgian Bay, which would seem to be the northern limit for this wanderer from the South.—JOHN TOWNSON, *The Toronto Globe, Toronto, Ont.*

**American Egret in Lewis County, West Virginia.**—In view of the scarcity of published records of American Egrets from this state, it seems well to record two specimens seen during August, 1932, along the West Fork of the Monongahela River, on the grounds of the State Four-H Camp at Jackson's Mills, Lewis County, W. Va.

A single bird was seen first on August 12, another on August 14, and two together on August 15. Both were watched closely through high-power binoculars, and their large size made them unmistakable. One evening a group of boys had assembled on a knoll above the river, and were treated to the spectacle of an American Egret and a Great Blue Heron in company.

Doubtless Egrets occur more or less regularly each summer along the larger streams of the state, but they seem to have escaped observation up to the present. Worth noting was the abundance of other members of this family at Jackson's Mills this season, Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, American Bitterns and Least Bitterns having been noted in some numbers.—MAURICE BROOKS, *French Creek, W. Va.*

**Oil Gland Usually Tufted in *Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*.**—In discussing "The Oil Gland and Its Tuft," (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.,