

Florida Cormorant from Dismal Swamp, Virginia. A Correction.—A female Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax a. auritus*), No. 15998 in the collection of the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, was secured by Dr. Paul Bartsch in the Dismal Swamp, Virginia, June 18, 1897. The wing measures 12.10 inches and the exposed culmen measures 2.32 inches. This specimen was recently identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser.

In an account of the birds found in the Dismal Swamp during trips made in 1897 and 1899 (Osprey, V, Nos. 3, 4, and 5, 1901) Bartsch recorded the Cormorant found there as *P. a. floridanus*, probably on the basis of this specimen.

Dr. J. J. Murray, who has recently revised the list of Virginia birds, wrote me that this record by Bartsch was the only Virginia reference to *P. a. floridanus* and asked me to publish this correction.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) in Central New York.—On August 4 and again on August 12, 1933, I saw a Little Blue Heron in Cicero Swamp near Clay, N. Y., ten miles north of Syracuse. Both observations were made about 6:30 in the evening. Cicero Swamp is a marsh partially timbered and part cat-tails covering several thousand acres. The bird was flushed each time from beside a small pool among the cat-tails, and was observed at a distance of not more than five rods with 8x glasses.—CHAS. J. SPIKER, *State College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y.*

American Egrets in Michigan. Southern Michigan had an invasion of American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) during the fall of 1933, nearly every pond, lake or stream with lily pads and shallow water having from one to ten or more pairs of them which is something new for this territory. On August 6 a pair camped near my cottage at Portage Lake, Mich. Ten days later they were joined by eight others when they retired to a more secluded spot at the other end of the lake. By September 5 the group had increased to fifteen. Similar reports have reached me from several nearby localities. I had seen none of these birds until two years ago and never so many as this.—EDITH K. FRY, *Jackson, Mich.*

Second Broods in the Mallard Duck.—Data of varying completeness on about two hundred Iowa wild Duck nests for the 1932 and 1933 breeding seasons, gathered by the Iowa State College wild life research staff, plus information on nearly as many more from other mid-west states and covering a greater period of years, give no indications of the occurrence of second broods under indubitably natural conditions. It is true that wild ducklings of different ages are often seen and "flappers" are now and then reported early in the fall; these, however, on the basis of evidence at hand, may be far more convincingly explained in terms of late nesting starts and successful second attempts after earlier egg clutches had been abandoned or destroyed.

Many examples are to be had, nevertheless, of semi-domesticated Mallards of wild stock bringing off second broods. Dr. J. G. Dickson, of the University of Wisconsin, recently pointed out to me that two of the Mallard hens belonging to the flock resident the year around at the Nakoma Spring pond, Madison, had raised their first broods to practically adult size and were again on the water with very small ducklings July 10, 1933. In these particular instances he was able to keep track of the identity of the two hens through distinctive plumage peculiarities. Living adjacent to the Nakoma Spring, Dickson has had the Ducks under his care and observation from the inception of the flock.

The original birds of this flock were hatched from wild eggs in 1927 by Professor J. G. Halpin of the University Poultry Department. Fall migrants soon joined this nucleus and stayed, finding safe quarters with food and open water all winter. Fifty to one hundred and seventy five Ducks have habitually frequented the place the past four years. Birds were given unmolested access to the grounds and were permitted to lead lives as independent as they wished. A very few call Ducks (at least two were known to breed), kept with the flock in 1931 and 1932, provided the only detected chance for any contamination of the wild blood, aside from individuals of unknown origin which were always coming in from the wild.

Of course, we have scant means of ascertaining the genetic composition of wild Mallard populations, especially in view of the propensity of wild birds to mate with barn-yard Ducks, and the undoubted assimilation of a certain amount of part-tame hybrids by wild flocks. A one-eyed Mallard shown me by J. M. Eheim, Hutchinson, Minn., observed to be incubating a clutch of eggs on August 19, 1932, after having raised a brood that season, was a bird which had flown in from the outside to station itself in the vicinity of a lake-side farmyard; where such birds as these come from we can hardly say.

Dickson's notes give as earliest laying dates for the Nakoma birds, April 12, 1929; April 4, 1931; April 10, 1932; March 4, 1933. This, to be sure, may not tell us everything as to the beginning of substantial reproductive effort, but I recall having remarked, during three years personal stay at the Dickson residence (1929-32), that Duck nests were scattered all over the grounds a month or more in advance of the time that nests of birds living wholly in the wild could be expected to appear. Dickson believes that there has been, since the establishment of the flock, a progressive annual advancement of the main breeding season.

Logan J. Bennett, who handles the major part of the waterfowl studies for Iowa State College, found that the first of the forty four wild Mallard nests under observation in 1933, at Ruthven, Iowa (latitude similar to Madison, Wis.), had eggs about April 28, and that the laying season had not gained appreciable momentum prior to the second week of May.

In so far as the breeding season of fully wild Mallard populations, as dated, runs approximately six weeks behind that of the man-pampered

birds which have furnished the conspicuous examples of second broods, it seems that such fecundity in nature must be of quite rare incidence.—PAUL L. ERRINGTON, *Dept. of Zoology-Entomology, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.*

Goshawk Breeding in Cheshire County, New Hampshire.—Glover M. Allen in his 'Birds of New Hampshire,' speaks of the Goshawk (*Astur a. atricapillus*) as: "—probably a regular breeder . . . from the White Mountains northward," and gives two breeding records south of the White Mountain region. At Dunbarton (1897) a female was shot on her nest; and on July 21, 1902, at Alstead (Cheshire County) a nest with two nearly full grown young was discovered;—"the nest was placed in a small pine at a height of thirty-five or forty feet." (See Auk, 1903, pp. 211-212.)

Since I can nowhere find a later record, the following nesting at Marleboro may be considered as the second recorded for the county:

While on a fishing trip along a stream two miles back of the Marleboro granite quarry on the Mount Monadnock road (Marleboro to Jaffrey) Mr. J. W. Smith was attacked by a Hawk and fought it off with the creel and butt end of his fishing pole. He returned later—May 24, 1933—with a gun, and, when the Hawk again attacked him as before, shot the bird. It proved to be the female Goshawk; and the nest was easily located thirty feet up in a pine tree. The three young, still in the white natal down and probably about two weeks old, were collected. The birds and nest were taken to Mr. Luman Nelson and were preserved in a habitat group which may be seen at his bird museum at Winchester.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

The Golden Eagle in North Carolina.—In the 'Birds of North Carolina' by T. Gilbert Pearson and C. S. and H. H. Brimley, the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*) is given as occurring in the mountainous regions of the state, and as being rare in the eastern portion.

There are very few definite records of this bird for the state, and as it is much less common now than formerly, definite records are of increasing interest. On September 30, 1933, on Pine Mountain about seven miles from Asheville at an altitude of about 3,500 feet we twice saw one of these Eagles, presumably the same bird. It was seen first early in the morning, and again early in the afternoon at a place about a mile distant.—AUSTIN H. AND LEILA F. CLARK, *Washington, D. C.*

Yellow Rail at Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., Mich.—A male Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) was flushed by a group of bird students in the Convis Township Marsh twelve miles east of Battle Creek, Michigan, April 30, 1933. The white wing patches were easily observed. Later after several minutes of extensive search C. J. Henry saw it squatting on the ground, almost at his feet and we reached down and picked it up. The bird is now in my collection.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek, Michigan.*