

28 contained three eggs. The nests were constructed of dead cottonwood branches from one-eighth to one-half inches in diameter. The lining consisted of strips from the inner bark of the cottonwood.

Both Cooke (1884-5) and Keyes and Williams (1889) stated that the Cormorant formerly nested in northern Iowa, but Anderson (1907) was unable to find any recent records. This is an addition to the list of breeding birds of Iowa as recently enumerated by the writer (Oölogist, LI, 1934, pp. 50-66).—PHILIP A. DuMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

**A Great Blue Heronry in Massachusetts.**—For many years, the existence and location of a breeding colony of Great Blue Herons (*Ardea h. herodias*) in Massachusetts has been a closely guarded secret. Even the late State Ornithologist, E. H. Forbush, seems to have known nothing about it. His late assistant, J. A. Farley, passed near it several times and remarked the suspicious number of Herons he saw summering in its general region, but apparently never discovered it. We found it on July 12, 1932,—hearing the outcries of the young Herons and getting a local boy to guide us through the pathless forest to the spot. He said it had existed at least since 1920. It was known, we learned, to a few, but very few, ornithologists. This year the secrecy surrounding it has broken down, at least in its vicinity, and it is vaunted as a local attraction and visitors are taken to see it; but even so we prefer not to locate it more definitely than to say it is in Worcester County near the border of Franklin County. The clamor of the young in late June and early July can be heard for miles, and of course the parents are often seen flying towards the heronry with distended throats. (Some of the fish they bring are astonishingly large!) A youngster, fledged but seeming unable yet to fly, was caught on the ground, June 25, 1934, and banded; but attempts to band the young in the nests are highly undesirable. Most or all of those "grounded" before they can fly must fall victim to bob-cats, foxes, etc. We have asked the bird-students of the region to do all they can to protect the colony from mere curiosity-seekers. There are only 18 or 20 nests, and too much publicity may easily make the birds go elsewhere even if no harm befalls them.—AARON C. BAGG, *Holyoke, Mass.* AND S. A. ELIOT, JR., *Northampton, Mass.*

**A Colony of Little Blue Herons in Norfolk County, Virginia.**—The Audubon Association has been interested for some time in locating breeding colonies of Herons in Virginia. Recently a report came to Dr. T. G. Pearson of a large colony established only this year at Fentress, Norfolk County, Virginia, seventeen miles south of Norfolk. At his request I made an investigation of this colony on June 22, 1934, taking with me Major R. P. Carroll of Lexington. While we found that the reports as to variety of species and number of birds had been greatly exaggerated, the colony was large enough to be of some interest. The only species present was the Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*). We made a careful survey and found about four hundred nesting pairs. The colony

covered an acre in a large growth of small loblolly pines. It was on high ground, near a highway, several miles from any water. The Dismal Swamp lies about ten miles south, and the Chesapeake-Albemarle Canal four miles north. A few nests still contained eggs, and some had small young, but in most cases the young birds were in the trees, although none were yet on the wing. From the top of one pine I counted 250 young birds in sight within thirty yards. In the circling flock of adults only four or five were in white plumage. This is the only colony in the state of which I have definite knowledge at present. The first wandering Little Blue Herons that I have seen up-state during this season were two white birds in Nelson County, within sight of the mountains, on July 3.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia.*

**Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) in Wisconsin.**—On July 26 and 27 I observed eighteen Little Blue Herons in the immature or white phase in the swamp at Golden Lake, Waukeshaw County, Wisconsin, about thirty miles west of Milwaukee. Their light green legs and small size eliminated any possibility of confusion with either the Snowy or American Egrets. They were very tame and easily approached.—C. M. FLOYD, *2220 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, Wis.*

**Recent Duck Records in Southwestern New England.**—*Chaulelasmus streperus.* GADWALL.—A female was surprised in a small, shallow marsh in Hadley on the extraordinary date, May 13, 1934, and identified by Ludlow Griscom. It was with a male Baldpate. The following evening both birds were again there and gave me close views. No white was visible in the Gadwall's wing, only a central gray patch; but she had no vinaceous color, and her neck was thinner than the Baldpate's.

*Mareca americana.* BALDPATE.—The just-mentioned, late (May 13-14) drake was the only Baldpate seen this spring in western Massachusetts, though around Hartford, Conn., several were observed at the usual season. Similarly in the fall of 1933, only one was observed at Northampton, a male which spent the period October 10-22.

*Mareca penelope.* EUROPEAN WIDGEON.—Thrice, now, I have seen ducks in Arcadia sanctuary, Northampton, which I felt sure were of this species, but until I had seen others on Long Island last winter I did not care to record them, as they were not in the plumage of the adult male. However, the warmly ruddy head of the female and the small amount of white in her wing are unmistakable field-marks for one who knows well the more familiar ducks. The dates of my observations are Nov. 4, 1931 (when I was within 30 feet of the bird as she swam toward me out of the bushes), Oct. 19, 1933 (when I watched one through a 25 x telescope), and May 22, 1934,—a date only credible in the light of the Baldpate and Gadwall records just given. This bird flew past me, very low and near, in perfect light, and exactly corresponded to the other two in the long, reddish neck, slender wing-white, and peculiarly buoyant, tipsy, easy flight.