

the species as "not uncommon during the migrations, usually mixed in flocks of *E. pusillus*, but sometimes in small companies by itself." There seems to be little doubt that while more recent publications have taken exception to this statement for lack of supporting evidence, directed effort and more field observation would probably support it as valid.—KARL E. BARTEL, *Blue Island*, and FRANK A. PITELKA, *Lyons, Illinois*.

Passenger Pigeons recorded by Pike in 1806.—There is an interesting account of the nesting of Passenger Pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in the journal of Zebulon Montgomery Pike ('Exploratory Travels through the Western Territories of North America,' 1811). Inasmuch as this account is not included in Mr. A. C. Bent's life history of this extinct bird (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 162), it may be worth while to republish Pike's notes. While descending the Mississippi River, in 1806, he wrote under date of Monday, April 28: "About ten miles above Salt River we stopped at some islands where there were pigeon roosts, and in about fifteen minutes my men knocked on the head, and brought on board, about three hundred. I had frequently heard of the fecundity of this bird, but never gave credit to what I then thought to approach the marvellous; but really the most fervid imagination cannot conceive their numbers. Their noise in the woods was like the continued roaring of the wind, and the ground may be said to have been absolutely covered with their excrement. The young ones which we killed were nearly as large as the old; they could fly about ten steps, and were one mass of fat; their craws were filled with acorns and the wild pea. They were still reposing on their nests, which were merely small bunches of sticks joined, with which all the small trees were covered."

The Salt River is well above the junction of the Missouri and the Mississippi, and the location Pike gives would probably be a few miles below the site of the city of Hannibal, Missouri. Mr. Bent does not include Missouri among the States in which nesting colonies of pigeons occurred, and it would seem that State has a just claim to such a distinction.

Early writers gave very few specific nesting dates, so these notes from Pike's journal may be of value in that they give the day and month on which he visited the colony. April 28 seems surprisingly early for nesting Passenger Pigeons, and especially for the birds to have large young. Pike seemed to have had the ability of including a great deal of information in a few lines of copy; in the above notes he gave the specific dates of his observation, a rather definite location of the nesting colony, a good account of the great numbers of birds, information regarding the size, condition, and food of the young, and a description of the nests.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado*.

Smooth-billed Ani nesting in Florida.—In 'Florida Bird Life,' (p. 290) Arthur H. Howell says of the Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*), that "the ani is not known to breed in Florida, and little seems to be known of its habits there." Perusal of 'The Auk' since the publication of Howell's book (1932) has failed to throw additional light on the status of this species other than Semple's reference to a small flock which he took to be examples of *Crotophaga ani* at Miami Beach in February 1937 (Auk, 54: 391) in which no allusion was made to nesting. R. J. Longstreet noted birds at the Dry Tortugas also, but took no specimens. Therefore, it seems that the following is the first record of the actual breeding of this species in Florida and in the United States. I am indebted to my friend J. Earle Moore, of Miami, Florida, for the privilege of recording it.

This highly interesting occurrence took place in the yard of Mr. Charles Lange, at