

along the west shore of Cuttyhunk, on the Weepecket Islands, and off the Fairhaven shore. The great majority of these were immatures, but on the smallest of the Weepeckets was a sprinkling of fully adult birds whose behavior approached that of nesting pairs. Although we found no nests, it is possible a colony is in process of formation.—JOSEPH A. HAGAR, *Massachusetts Department of Conservation, Boston, Massachusetts.*

**Cormorants killed by lightning.**—In 'The Auk,' vol. 58, page 91, 1941, Frederick C. Lincoln gives one of the "few substantiated cases" of birds being killed by lightning. The record concerned some 33 pelicans so done to death near Nelson, Nebraska, on April 4, 1939. The writer was not aware of the scarcity of authentic reports of such happenings, but, upon reflection, realizes that such is the case! While it undoubtedly occurs at times, there must be few occasions when an observer is on the spot at the right moment. Therefore, in view of this, so ably brought out by Mr. Lincoln, the following should be of interest as it is of undoubted and absolute accuracy, and happening so closely on the appearance of the above note, is the more striking.

On April (curious coincidence) 11, 1941, a portion of Low-Country South Carolina was visited by a heavy electrical squall, accompanied by a decided precipitation of hail. Most of the disturbance centered in parts of Charleston County. At Point Farm, Wadmalaw Island, four gentlemen were inspecting a large field of cabbage about 2 p. m., when the squall broke. A flock of birds was passing overhead at the time. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning, instantly followed by a "terrific clap of thunder" split the cloud, and four birds were seen to fall headlong from the flock. Three of the four were picked up dead. One fell in a thicket and could not be found. These proved to be Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax a. auritus*), in good spring plumage as they possessed "a puff of feathers like a small top-knot above each eye" according to one of the observers.

The birds were definitely identified by Rev. T. A. Beckett, Jr., of Wadmalaw Island, to whom they were taken. This gentleman has a well-deserved reputation in knowledge of natural history, and has been known to the writer for many years. It is through him that the above information was made known to me, and it constitutes, as far as I know, the first such instance for this area.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. 1, Charleston, South Carolina.*

**Little Blue Heron nesting in Massachusetts.**—On June 21, 1940, my son, Frederick A. Hagar, returned from a visit to the Black-crowned Night Heron colony at Tilden's Island, Marshfield, with the report that at least two or three adult Little Blue Herons (*Florida c. caerulea*) were in the rookery and refused to be driven from a certain rather restricted portion of it. I was there myself the next morning and soon located four birds which gave every indication of being two mated pairs. We determined to make a thorough search for a nest, and enlisted the assistance of my nephew, Donald Chisholm Hagar, Jr., as an additional beater. Our first try on the morning of June 23 was not fruitful except that we worked out a method which later proved successful. We found that the birds could always be flushed from the immediate vicinity of a clump of large red cedars on the eastern slope of the island, and that soon after our withdrawal they would return to the tops of these trees, stand guard a few minutes, and eventually drop down into the tangle of cat-briers, wild-cherry bushes and sumac which formed the undergrowth. It was impossible to see anything from close at hand, but by standing far enough out in the marsh so that the herons paid me no attention, and