

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

having the boys alternately flush them and withdraw while they settled down again, I was able to mark rather closely the point of departure and return. We examined dozens of nests in this area, high and low, and found nothing but young night herons or eggs.

At our next visit on July 13, there were still four birds, but one pair fed on the marsh throughout our stay and were obviously not nesting. The other pair was even more reluctant to be driven away than before, and repeatedly returned to the vicinity when we were within twenty feet of the flushing point. The young night herons were either flying or climbing in the treetops by this time, and in the dirt and confusion we missed the Little Blue Heron's nest, although we must have passed under it a dozen times.

On July 28, an adult flushed from the usual spot as soon as Frederick went in, and this time circled low overhead, croaking in a subdued harsh tone. It was still necessary to flush her once more, but twenty minutes later a bit of white fluff waving above the rim of a flattened nest ended the search. It was close to the trunk of a large cedar tree, about ten feet from the ground, and contained four young birds of which one was notably larger and better feathered than the others. All showed white feathers coming through on the back, and the greenish-yellow legs were entirely different from those of the young night herons.

On July 30, David L. Garrison and E. A. Benchley, Jr., visited the nest with us. All the young birds had grown fast, and two of them left the nest at our approach to scramble higher in the tree. August 6, David A. Aylward was there with us and took a series of pictures which amply substantiate the record. The most advanced bird was well feathered, and showed plainly the diagnostic slaty tips to the primaries. On August 9, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Tousey helped band three of them and took additional pictures, but the largest was so nearly ready to fly that we were unable to catch it. At our final visit, August 22, with Mr. and Mrs. Hervey B. Elkins, the two adults and one flying juvenile were feeding in the marsh close by. As we approached the nest one of the adults attended us overhead, croaking repeatedly, and we felt sure at least one more juvenile was nearby in the treetops. The 'runtiest' of the brood hung dead near the nest, its neck caught in a crotch.

In view of the excellent pictures and the number of people who saw these birds, and the evident possibility of their becoming regularly established, it seemed unnecessary and unwise to collect specimens. This decision was further justified on June 7, 1941, when Frederick and Chisholm found two mated pairs back at the site of the previous year's nesting, and both solicitous. The boys visited the island at weekly intervals and determined that one nest at least was in a small group of pitch pines and cedars, but again it proved difficult actually to locate the eggs. On July 13, however, we found three young birds about a week old. There were three pairs of adults in the rookery at this time, of which only one pair was completely indifferent to our presence. I have not made a complete search of the literature, but in going through the more obvious sources have not discovered any recent breeding record for the Little Blue Heron north of southwestern New Jersey, on the Delaware below Camden. Even old records seem to be entirely lacking north of New Jersey.—JOSEPH A. HAGAR, *Massachusetts Department of Conservation, Boston, Massachusetts.*

Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Wisconsin.—A first record for the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*, in Wisconsin was made May 15, 1941, at Kern