

up almost at once, with ascending and descending birds in the air constantly. Such a scene was presented off and on during the entire two months.

It would seem that the ibises could easily have swallowed their catch on the ground, but they would apparently always leap upward as soon as they withdrew the crayfish, and this was the signal for the grackles to attack. That the latter were highly successful was evident. It seems strange that this habit has not been noted before in many investigation trips in that area, and it is too much to suppose that it is of immediately recent development. One of the writer's visitors suggested that here was a factor in the general rarity of this species.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Soc., Charleston, South Carolina.*

Birds imprisoned by a snowstorm.—An unusually severe and unseasonal snow-storm swept across the north-central States on November 11, 1940, to terminate a mild fall season. The storm commenced with a drizzling rain which changed in turn to sleet and snow with the falling temperature which reached a minimum of 10° F. during the night. The 42-mile wind accompanying the snow produced a blinding blizzard. Wildlife in general suffered a heavy mortality in many sections of the State.

Near the town of St. Peter, Nicollet County, Minnesota, there are seven caves excavated in the sandstone bluffs along the Minnesota River. To escape the storm, many birds of different species resorted to one of these caves for shelter. During the course of the storm, the cave entrance was blocked by drifting snow, imprisoning the birds. Immediately following the storm, Mr. Charles Meyer, who operates the caves as a tourist attraction, removed the snow barrier; and, upon entering the cave was confronted by these many birds flying about excitedly in their confine. He stepped out and to one side of the cave and allowed the birds to escape, attempting to identify and count them as they left. He noted thirteen Ring-necked Pheasants, nearly two dozen Bob-white, three Cardinals, two Robins, a number of Chickadees, several Downy Woodpeckers, and what he called "small woodpeckers" which may well have been White-breasted Nuthatches which were common in the vicinity.

The aggregate of different species in one cave would lead one to believe that the birds were thoroughly familiar with the cave and its protective potentialities.—G. N. RYSGAARD, *Minnesota Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

A noteworthy concentration of birds.—The responses which animals sometimes make to conditions or situations affecting their well-being are sometimes striking, occasionally abrupt and frequently transitory. Recently I encountered such a response as represented by the group-feeding of several species of birds. The celerity of the response, the degree of participation therein and the sudden cessation thereof by these birds in the locality concerned was so conspicuous that the facts pertaining thereto may well be made a matter of record.

About 4.00 p. m. on March 14, 1941, while looking for early-spring birds some fifteen miles northeast of Albany, New York, I noted a conspicuous dark-colored patch on a nearby, open, snow-covered hillside. Inspection at closer range indicated that earlier the same day, several loads of stable manure had been thickly distributed over an area approximately 30 feet wide by 250 feet long. Detailed examination with binoculars revealed the presence of a considerable assemblage of birds that had been attracted to this place on account of food, principally in the way of waste grain, thus suddenly rendered available in a region still covered with